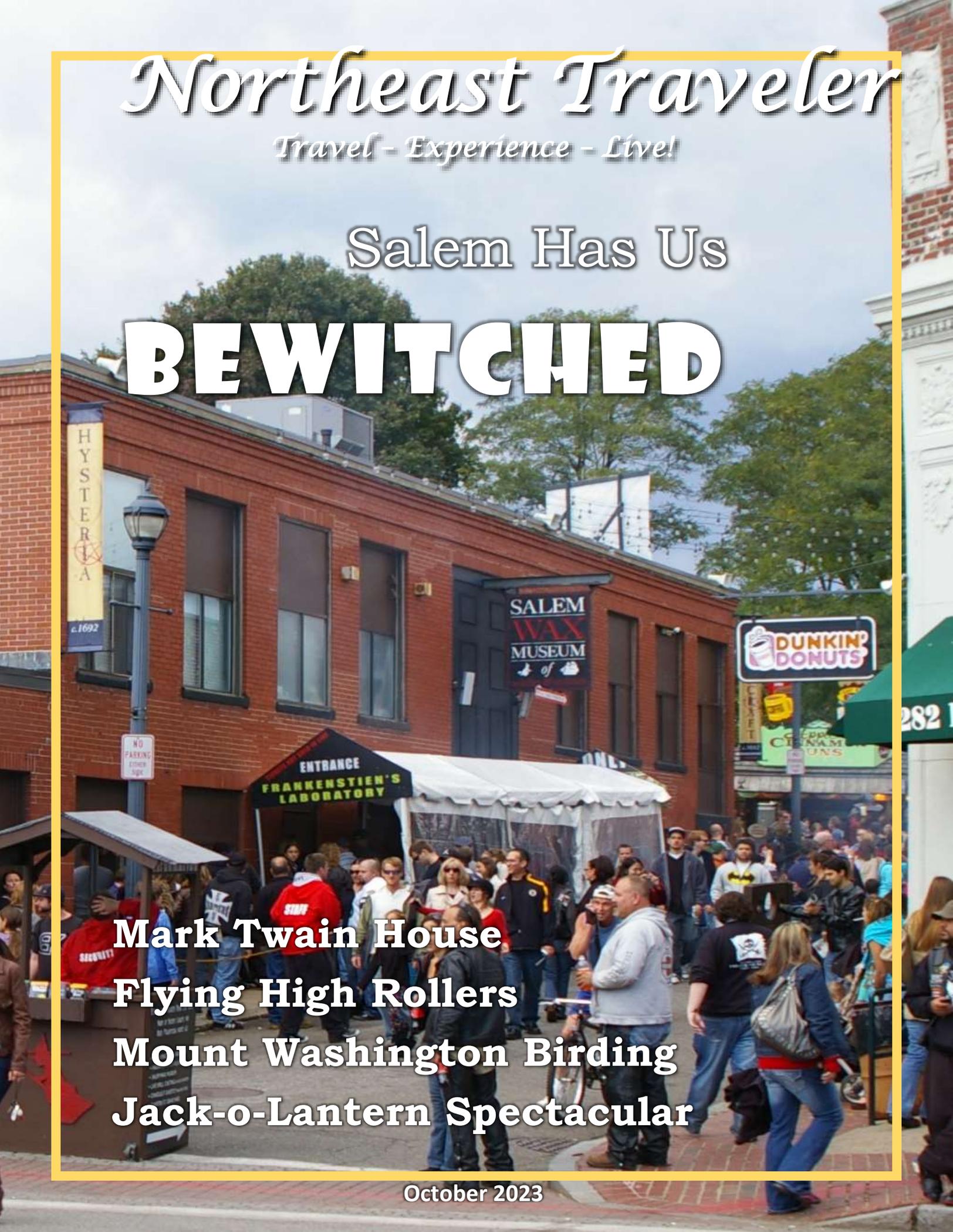


# *Northeast Traveler*

*Travel - Experience - Live!*

Salem Has Us

## **BEWITCHED**



**Mark Twain House  
Flying High Rollers  
Mount Washington Birding  
Jack-o-Lantern Spectacular**

October 2023

**Salem Has Us  
Bewitched**  
Debbie Stone



**Jack O' Lantern  
Spectacular!**  
Linda Eagleson



**High Flying High Rollers  
Borgata**  
Paul Pence





29

**A Literary Journey  
Mark Twain  
House**

Micheal A. Walsh



81

**Where Ice Cream is  
Born**

**Ben & Jerry's**

Debbie Stone`



89

**A Jillion Ways to  
Explore Philly**

# *Northeast Traveler*

## **Northeast Traveler Magazine**

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All travel involves risk.  
Confirm directions and critical  
information before traveling.  
Be aware of health, weather,  
and other concerns.

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Traveler Magazine



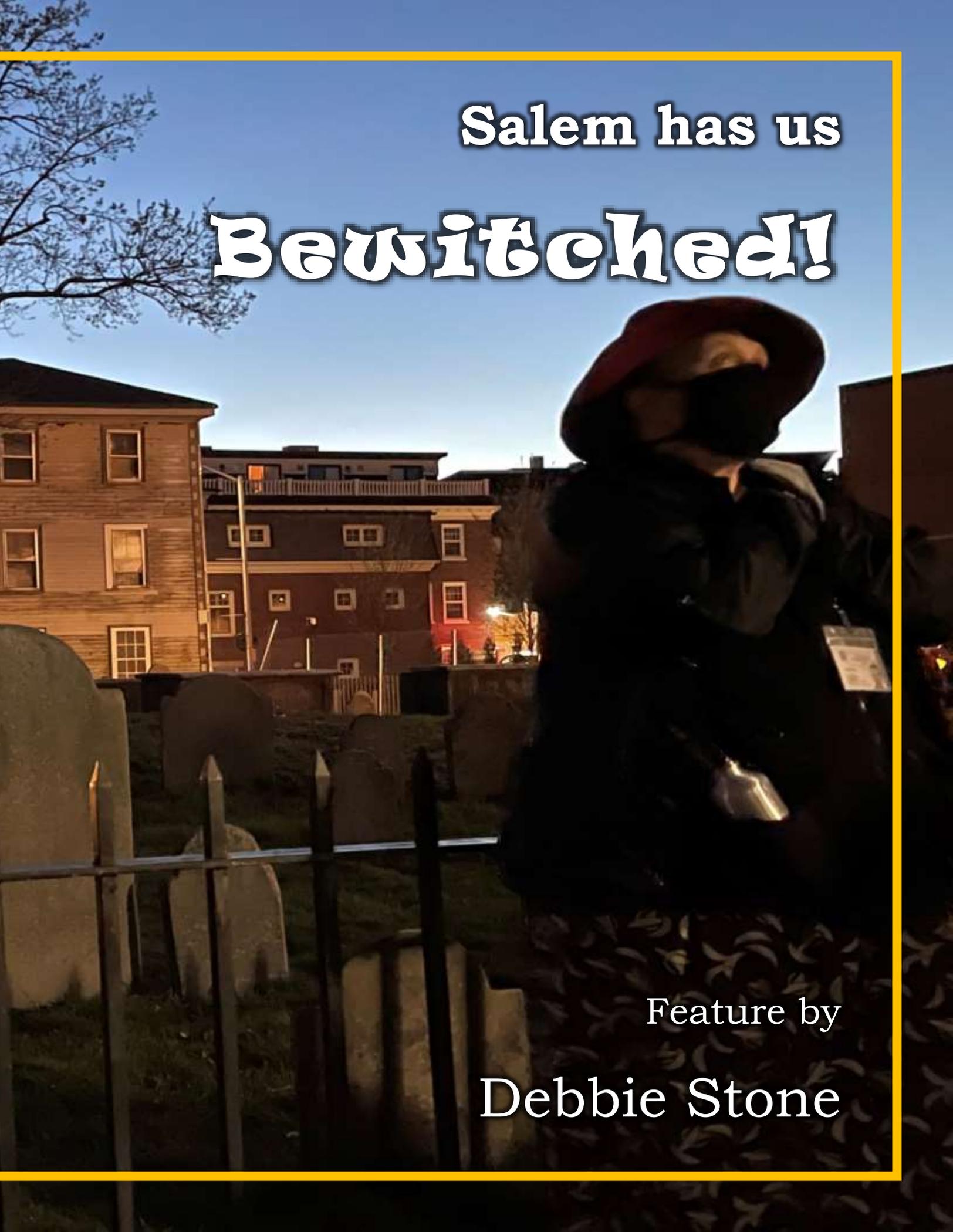


# Coney Island Beach

Photo by Bruce Emmerling



***History, tragedy, and a whole lot of fun makes Salem a great place for an autumn jaunt!***



# Salem has us **Bewitched!**

Feature by  
**Debbie Stone**



**T**

**he first tarot card the psychic at Pentagram turned over was a sun, which I was told signifies optimism, success, vitality and fun. She then proceeded to tell me I would have several opportunities coming my way soon. One would be career related; the other not. And a third was going to be a distraction I should not undertake.**



**Other cards she chose indicated good health and awareness, as well as increasing strength in the wake of grief. She was right on the mark with this one, as my father passed away last fall.**

Tarot card readings are part of Salem's streetside fun at Halloween.

It was an auspicious start to my visit to Salem, one of our country's most historic towns and a destination I had tried to visit twice in the past. Three times really was the charm.

Most visitors to Salem are drawn to its well-known witch history. They primarily come to see the attractions that focus on a very dark period of time in the town's past. Along the way, however, they discover that the city is a many-faceted destination.

For a great overview of the town, take a narrated tour on the Salem Trolley. In one hour, you'll get a crash course on nearly 400 years of history. Points of interest

include the Witch Trial Memorial, House of Seven Gables, Salem Witch Museum, Witch Dungeon Museum, Salem Witch House, Pickering Wharf, Salem Maritime Site, Winter Island, Chestnut Street, and more. The trolley works as a shuttle, too, so you can get on and off at any one of 14 stops.



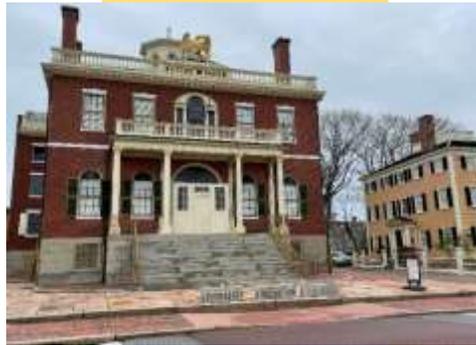
The tour is informative and entertaining, with colorful tales of key people and pivotal events. You'll learn that Salem was among the first permanent settlements established in the country, having been founded by a band of Puritan fishermen under the direction of one Roger Conant. The town eventually became a maritime powerhouse and leading port. A

third of all ships in the country were built here and the city became very prosperous as a result.

Eventually, however, ship-building declined and other industries took over, particularly leather tanning and textile.

Your guide will point out various buildings, homes, shops and statues, providing context to each. You'll ooh and aah as you drive by the massive, stately Federal style mansions in the Chestnut Street District. Designed by Samuel McIntire, known as the "architect of Salem," these handsome beauties are very photogenic.

You'll also pass by the Ye Olde Pepper Candy Shop. Put it on your list to visit, as it's



Salem's trolleys are a great way to see the town and see the sights.



the oldest candy store in the country and you'll definitely want a tasty souvenir. According to our guide, Oprah is a fan of the place and orders boxes



of chocolate turtles each month to give as gifts.

At nearby Winter Island, there are bunkers that stored ammo during WWII, as the place served as a military installation. Get your leis ready as you drive by the island's own Waikiki Beach, sans the tropical breezes.

I also highly recommend doing the A.M. Coffee Walk with Salem Food Tours. Owner Karen Scalia combines her passion for food with history, and gives a great orientation to the city, past and present. She is a wealth of knowledge and has the inside scoop on all things Salem.

You might be surprised to learn that Salem is a town of firsts. The country's first millionaire, Elias Derby, was from Salem and this is where Alexander

There's  
more to  
Salem than  
just  
Halloween.

Graham Bell completed the first successful long-distance telephone call. The city is also the birthplace of the U.S. National Guard and it's where Parker Brothers produced the game "Monopoly."

The Coffee Walk covers Salem's spice history, too – a period that spanned the end of the American Revolution to the War of 1812. Thanks to Captain Jonathan Carnes, who sailed into town from Indonesia with a load of pepper, Salem became the center of the spice trade in North America.

To conclude the tour, you'll visit Salem Spice for a spice and olive oil tasting session. Of the spices and seasonings I sampled, the Alderwood Smoked, Chipotle



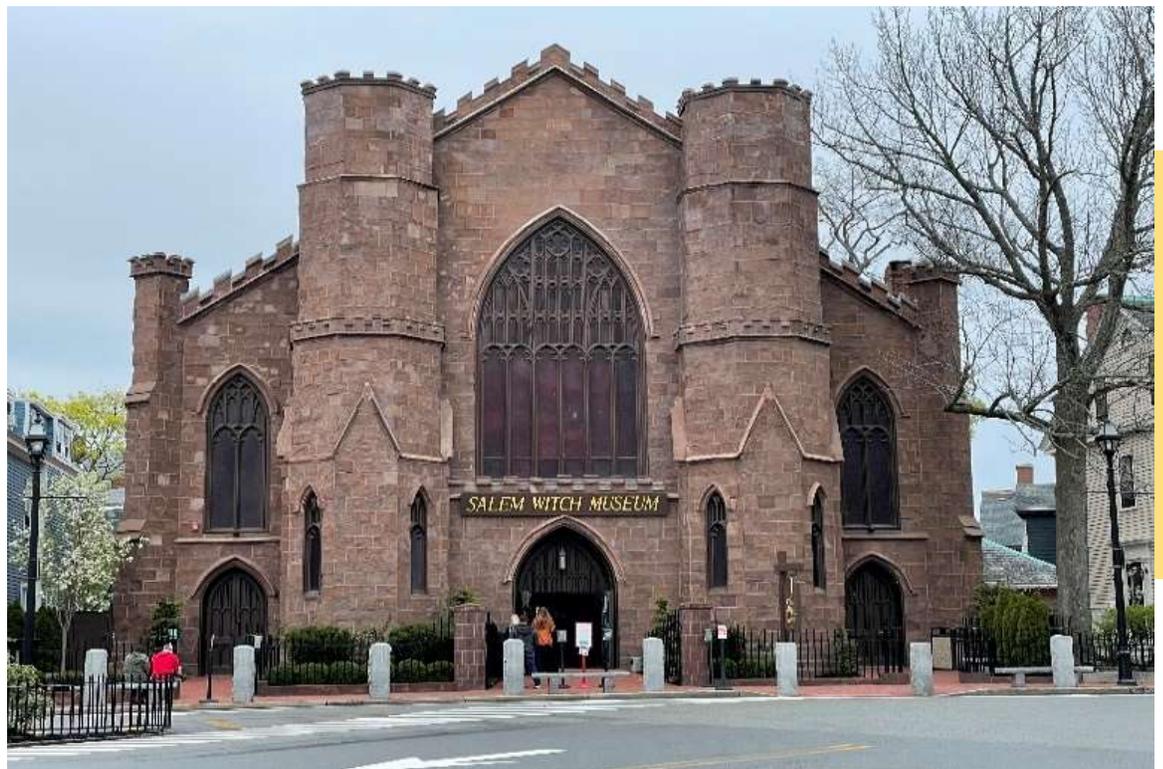
Honey Rub, and Amchur were my favorites; the latter which is made with green mango and has a tart citrus essence. And I waxed poetic over the Cranberry



## Pear White Balsamic Vinegar.

The most popular witch trial-related attractions are the Witch Museum, Witch Dungeon Museum, Witch Trials Memorial and Witch House.

It's hard not to notice the Witch Museum, as the building, an historic church, is very imposing. The

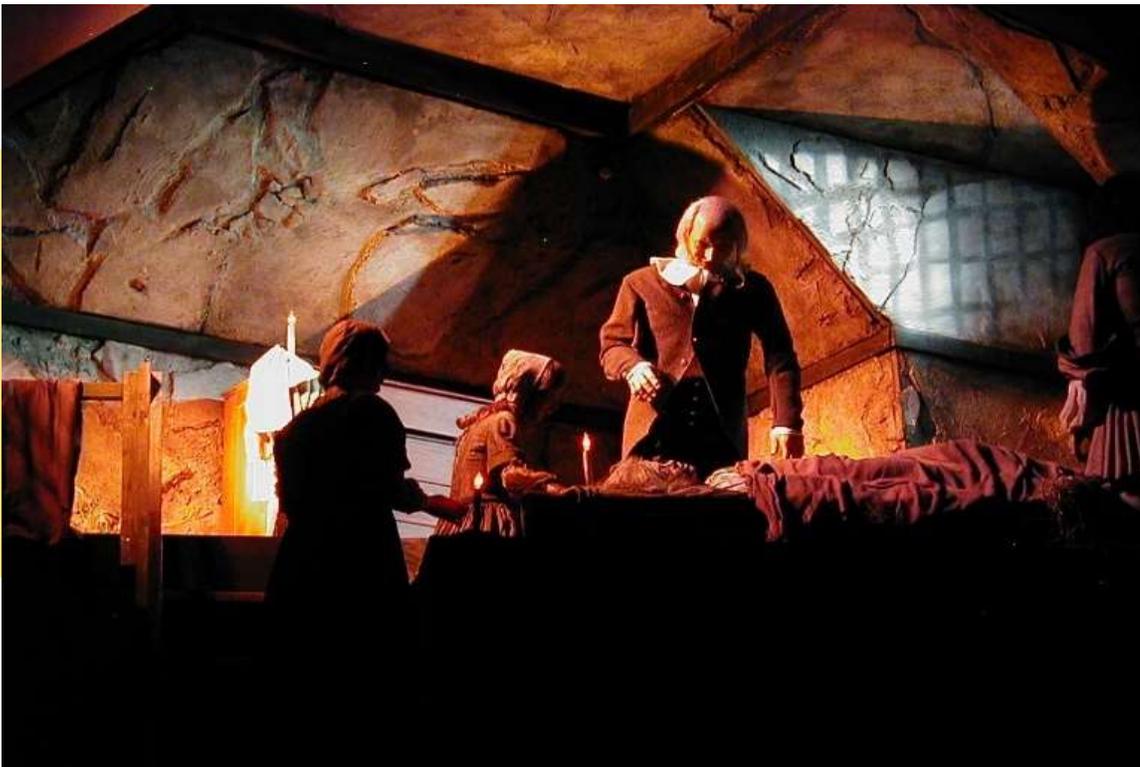


museum was created to help people understand the true story behind the events of 1692.

The Salem witch trials were incited by mass hysteria among the area's deeply religious populace regarding witchcraft in their communities. Two young girls, Abigail Williams and Elizabeth Perry, started the

chain reaction after having uncontrollable fits of rage. A doctor diagnosed witchcraft as a possible ailment, which spurred more women to act similarly. Fingers were pointed and within months, nearly 200 people were accused of the crime of witchcraft on the basis of insidious lies, suspicions and ignorance.

Learn about the events of the Witch hysteria at the Witch Museum.



The colonial governor of Massachusetts, Governor Phips, created a special tribunal to deal with the matter. Nineteen of the condemned were executed by hanging and one was pressed to death by stones. Several others died in prison awaiting their fate.

Over time, the public grew tired of the trials and

several began denouncing the prosecutions. Governor Phips ceased the proceedings, not because of public pressure, but because his wife became a suspect. He ultimately pardoned the guilty in 1693.

In the first part of the museum, visitors sit on benches in a darkened room, as they watch the aforementioned events unfold via the use of thirteen life-size stage sets. The sets are complete with figures, lighting and narration, offering an immersive presentation.

The second part of the museum provides background on the development of witchcraft beliefs in Europe, explains the evolution of the image of witches and then discusses the terrifying aspects of modern-day witch hunts.

In the Witch Dungeon Museum, you'll be treated to a live reenactment of one of the actual witch trials, adapted from 1692 historical transcripts. The presentation brings to life the horror of those unjustly accused and the hopelessness of their situation against a system



that did nothing to protect them. It's followed by a guided tour of a recreated dungeon with all its abject and inhuman conditions.

The Witch House is the 17<sup>th</sup> century home of Witch Trials Judge Jonathan Corwin, who lived here with his family for over forty years. It's the town's only remaining structure with direct connection to the terrible events of 1692 and as such, is one of Salem's most recognizable and photographed buildings. Contrary to its name, there were never any convicted or accused witches living in this house. The place, however, is rumored to be haunted.

A visit to the Witch House is a step back in time to the lifestyles, furnishings and architecture of this period in history, with insight into the particular events of 1692. You realize how easily someone could be accused of witchcraft in colonial America. Salem's populace was comprised of Puritanical, intolerant people with a deep-seated fear of

The Witch  
Dungeon  
Museum  
helps you  
understand  
the  
conditions  
in which the  
accused  
were  
subjected  
to.



the devil. Anyone who stood out, acted differently or wasn't part of the mainstream society had a target on his/her back.



## **I was most impacted by the Witch Trials Memorial.**

The memorial is strikingly simple, yet incredibly powerful. At the entrance are inscriptions in stone of the victims' protests of innocence. A three-sided granite wall creates a perimeter; within which are stone benches bearing the names and execution dates of each of the twenty victims. It's an enduring tribute to these individuals, who chose death rather than compromise their personal truths.

Two of my favorite nonrelated-witch attractions in Salem are the House of Seven Gables and the Peabody

Essex Museum, or PEM as it is often called. The House of Seven Gables, or the Turner-Ingersoll Mansion, is a colonial, large timber-framed home that is best known for being the setting for distinguished author Nathaniel Hawthorne's celebrated novel of the same name.

A Salem citizen, Hawthorne spent his formative years living in the community before returning later in his life with his wife, Sophia. The town and its history had a profound impact on him and served as inspiration for a number of his books. The author was so ashamed of his Puritan ancestors and their unsavory actions that he changed his name from Hathorne to



The Witch Trials Memorial is a powerful reminder of the horror of the era.

The House of Seven Gables was Hawthorne's actual home, not just the name for his novel.

Hawthorne to distance himself from them.

Built in 1668, the house went through different renditions and various owners before it was inherited by Hawthorne's second cousin, Susanna Ingersoll. Hawthorne used to visit his cousin and became very familiar with the home. Later, it became the property of Caroline Emmerton, a philanthropist and preservationist, who worked to restore its original appearance.

The site, which also includes Hawthorne's birthplace and two other dwellings, is designated a National Historic Landmark District. Before or after your tour, take time to meander around the grounds and admire the lush gardens, as well as the lovely seaside views.



The Peabody Essex has the distinction of being the oldest continuously operating and collecting museum in the U.S. It possesses a staggering number of works of art and culture, from maritime and American art to Asian, Oceanic, and African collections.

PEM actually comprises three campuses, Salem being the main hub. Centered on the historic East Marine Hall of 1825, the museum has had various additions over the years and now includes 33 other buildings, 24 of which are historic houses. It also boasts the only complete Qing Dynasty house outside China.

The Yin Yu Tang was home to the Huang family for more than two hundred years. By the mid 1980s, the house stood empty. As part of a cultural exchange agreement, the museum was able to obtain the

The Peabody Essex Museum has historical artifacts from Salem as well as Asia.



building. It was dismantled and shipped to the States, trucked to Salem, where it was meticulously reconstructed and opened to the public in 2003. Visitors can do a self-guided tour of the place and gain a unique perspective on Chinese art, architecture and culture, while imagining eight generations of the dwelling’s inhabitants going about their daily lives.

I spent much time perusing the museum’s



collection of “Salem Stories.” This exhibit is a compilation of vignettes about the people, places and events that shaped the area, with paintings, sculptures, manuscripts, artifacts, even a specimen of an ancient leatherback turtle, and more.

You’ll definitely work up an appetite seeing all the sights in Salem. Good to know that the town boasts a vibrant culinary scene. Seafood reigns supreme, which

is always music to my palette.

Chowder and lobster are mainstays on many restaurant menus in town. Red's Sandwich Shop has a Lobster Mania selection, where you'll find this tasty crustacean in rolls, quesadillas, grilled cheese sandwiches, mac n' cheese, on flatbread pizzas, in sliders, and more. The decision-making process is agonizing!

Dining in Salem is an experience of its own.



I had memorable dinners at both Turner's Seafood at Lyceum Hall and the Adriatic Restaurant. At Turner's, it's all about New England fresh, local, catch of the day fare. The place boasts an authentic shuck and serve oyster bar plus it has a seafood market right on site. Offerings are extensive with everything from Baked Stuffed Shrimp and Haddock Marsala to Fish Cakes and Tuna Sashimi. I'm

still dreaming of the Clams Casino and Crab Pie I devoured. Staff are friendly and provide attentive service in this upbeat, casual establishment.



Mediterranean-inspired fare is the specialty at warm and inviting Adriatic. The menu features brick oven pizzas, pastas and fresh seafood. My husband and I shared a Bag of Munchkins (lobster, corn and scallion fritters) to start, then split the salmon and risotto with shrimp. For dessert, we settled on the Pistachio Rose Water Cake. We scraped our plates clean, then proceeded to walk off our meal on Salem Night Tours’ “Haunt and History Tour.”

As we strolled the streets, our guide regaled us with spooky legends and purported hauntings of various buildings in town. It was a full moon that night, which heightened the eerie quality to the experience and upped the goosebump ante.

You can shop till you drop in Salem, especially if you're looking for magic and occult-themed items, or Halloween merchandise.

Harry Potter fans will want to make a beeline for Wynott's Wands, where handcrafted magic wands have been elevated to an artform.

When it comes to accommodations, you'll be pleased to know that Salem has a variety of options. As history played a dominant role during my visit, I chose to stay at the Hawthorne Hotel, a member of Historic Hotels of America. Adjacent to Salem Common and walkable to all major attractions, this iconic property has been a landmark in town for a century. Architects



Shopping in Salem can lead you to some exotic and unexpected discoveries.

consider it a classic example of the Colonial Revival style.

Deciding upon the hotel's name was a no brainer back in 1925, due to the fact that it was located near three buildings with connections to eminent author, Nathaniel Hawthorne: The Mall Street home where he wrote the *Scarlett Letter*, the Herbert Street residence where he grew up, and his birthplace on Union Street, which was subsequently moved to the House of the Seven Gables complex.

Many generations have fond memories of celebrating special events in the Hawthorne's Grand Ballroom. And over the years, the place has attracted numerous celebs, including Bette Davis, Johnny Cash, Robert de Niro, Jennifer Lawrence, Walter Cronkite, Presidents Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush, Colin Powell and more. But its fame really skyrocketed when Elizabeth Montgomery and Dick Sargent, and the rest of the cast of the popular T.V. show, "Bewitched," stayed





This statue commemorates the filming of an episode of the 60's sitcom "Bewitched" in Salem.

at the hotel to film scenes for "The Salem Saga."

There are framed photos of the event and even of the menu created by the hotel's chef to commemorate the occasion, with such dishes as Green Goulash Stew (fish chowder), Fried Salamander (fried shrimp) and Eye of Newt Ambrosia (zucchini squash).

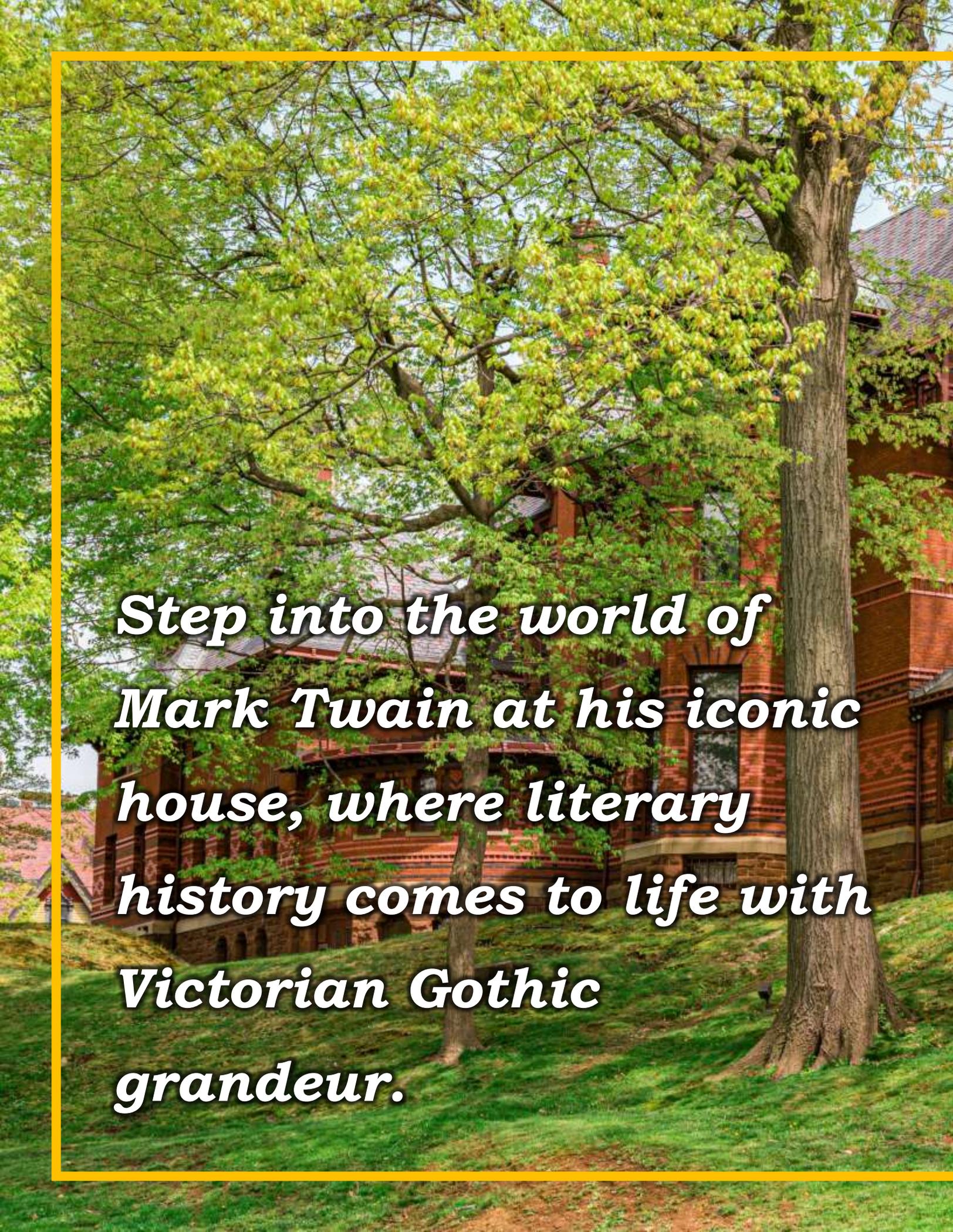
The hotel offers spacious, well-appointed guest rooms with comfy beds, a classic-style lobby, two on site restaurants (Tavern and Nathaniel's) and free parking; the latter which is always appreciated. I found the staff to be exceptionally welcoming and patient with my many questions.

**For more information:**

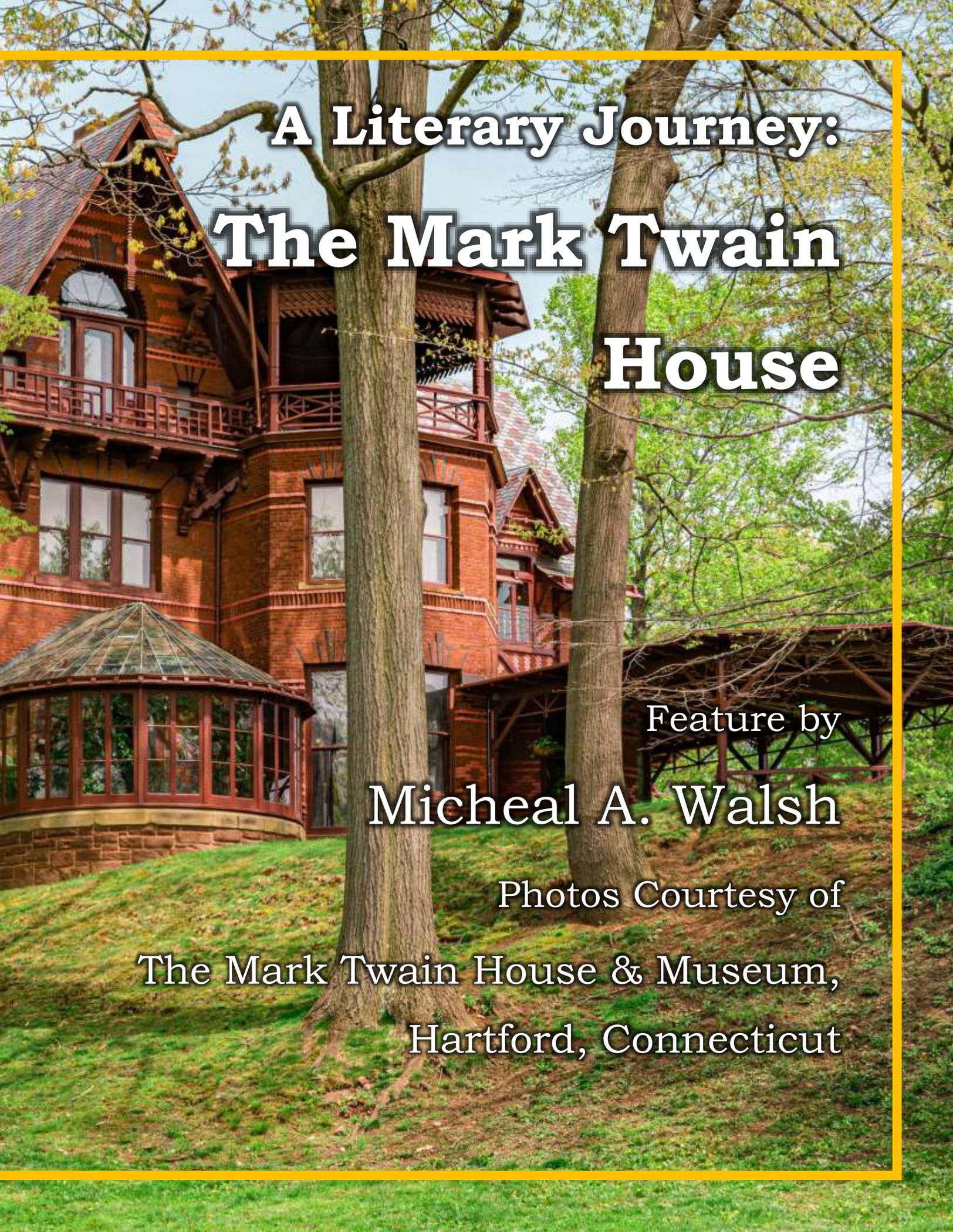
- [www.salem.org](http://www.salem.org)
- [www.hawthornehotel.com](http://www.hawthornehotel.com)

The historic Hawthorne Hotel makes a great home base for exploring Salem. (Photos courtesy of the Hawthorne Hotel)



A large, leafy tree with vibrant green and yellow leaves stands in the foreground, partially obscuring a large, multi-story Victorian Gothic house in the background. The house features intricate brickwork and a prominent chimney. The scene is set on a grassy hillside under a clear sky.

***Step into the world of  
Mark Twain at his iconic  
house, where literary  
history comes to life with  
Victorian Gothic  
grandeur.***

The background image shows a large, ornate red brick house with a prominent gable and a sunroom. The house is surrounded by trees and a grassy lawn. The text is overlaid on the image.

# A Literary Journey: The Mark Twain House

Feature by

Micheal A. Walsh

Photos Courtesy of

The Mark Twain House & Museum,  
Hartford, Connecticut



S

**tanding in Mark Twain's library, you're transported into a realm where words flowed freely, where literary masterpieces took shape. It's a glimpse into the creative genius of Samuel Clemens.**

The room exudes reverence and inspiration with dark, polished wood paneling cocooning creativity. Gaze upon the intricately carved wooden fireplace, its mantle



adorned with family photographs, where perhaps Twain found solace on chilly New England evenings. Built-in bookshelves, stretching from floor to ceiling, cradle volumes of timeless literature and travelogues, a testament to Twain's curiosity.

Amidst it all, his writing desk, where literary classics found their birth, serves as a captivating focal point. Here, under the warm glow of Tiffany-designed stained glass windows, one can only

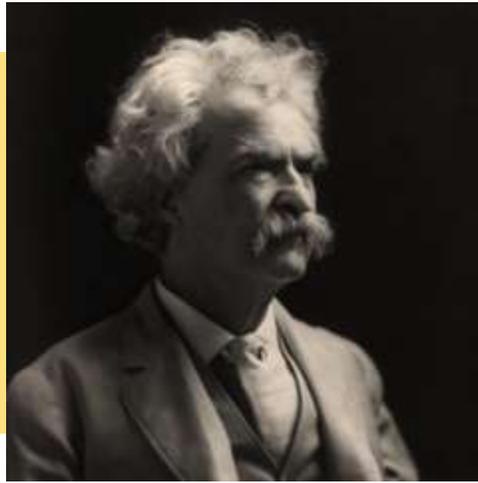
imagine the twinkle in Twain's eye as he spun tales of adventure and the American spirit.

The Mark Twain House's significance extends beyond the library, offering a window into the life and enduring impact of Samuel Clemens, better known as Mark Twain. This historic gem offers a unique window into 19th-century America's cultural and historical context. Guided tours and curated exhibits provide intimate insights into Samuel Clemens' life, portraying him as a literary giant, husband, father, and a man grappling with his era's complexities. A magnificent

Mark Twain's library where he wrote Tom Sawyer.

Previous – The Mark Twain House and Museum's exterior is stucco.

(Photos by Alana Borges Gordon)



example of Victorian Gothic architecture, this house testifies to the opulence and craftsmanship of the 19th century.

**And, of course, it offers insight into the man who gave us a unique perspective on life in America in the 1800's.**

Before the iconic pages of "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" were penned in the grand library of the Mark Twain House, Samuel Clemens, better known by his pseudonym Mark Twain, embarked on a journey that would shape American literature. Born in 1835 in Florida, Missouri, Clemens grew up in the small town of Hannibal, later serving as inspiration for his fictional settings in many of his works.

After a brief stint as a printer's apprentice, he set his sights on becoming a riverboat pilot, a pursuit that would introduce him to the world of the Mississippi



Mark Twain's name harkened from his days as a riverboat pilot. He lived with his family in this house from 1879 to 1894.

River and provide the basis for his pen name, "Mark Twain," signifying safe navigation waters.

Twain's career in journalism commenced as he worked for newspapers in various cities, including New York and San Francisco. His humorous and satirical writing style quickly gained recognition and popularity, culminating in his first major literary success with the publication of "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" in 1865. This short story catapulted him into the literary limelight.

Twain's literary success afforded him the opportunity to travel extensively, chronicling his adventures in travel narratives such as "Following the Equator." These travels broadened his horizons and enriched his storytelling with a wealth of cultural experiences.

In 1873, Twain and his wife, Olivia Langdon Clemens, purchased the house on Farmington Avenue in Hartford, Connecticut, which would become the iconic Mark Twain House. This period marked the height of his literary output, and the house served as a



sanctuary for his creative endeavors, including the creation of his most celebrated works.

Yet, Twain's life was not without its challenges. He faced financial difficulties due to investments in failed business ventures, including the Paige Typesetting Machine. The

family's personal life was marked by both joy and sorrow, with the tragic loss of their daughter Susy in 1896 and financial troubles that soon followed.

A visit to the Mark Twain House in Hartford offers a unique opportunity to step back in time and become immersed in the world of Mark Twain, one room at a



time. Guided tours provide an intimate exploration of the various rooms within this historic mansion, each brimming with artifacts and stories that offer profound insights into the life and times of the famed author.

The journey commences in the entry hall, a magnificent space where visitors are greeted by an imposing staircase and richly adorned woodwork. This grand entrance sets the stage for the opulence that awaits within the house, offering a glimpse into the

The tour begins with the stunning entry and stairs.

(Entry and statue photo by Photos by Alana Borges Gordon, Stairs photo by John Groo)





architectural beauty of the Victorian Gothic style that envelops you.

However, the true heart of the Mark Twain House lies within its iconic library, a hallowed space where literary magic came to life. Here, Samuel Clemens, writing under the pen name Mark Twain, penned many of his celebrated works. The room exudes an aura of creativity, with ornate bookshelves filled with volumes from his personal collection and his desk, where literary





The library is the true heart of the house, but it takes all of the rooms to make it a home.

(Library photo by Alana Borges Gordon, Dining, billiards, and living room photos by Franck C. Grace)

classics found their birth, serving as a captivating focal point.

Venturing further into the house, visitors encounter the elegant dining room, frozen in time as if awaiting the next family meal. Adorned with period-appropriate furnishings and décor, this room provides a window into the family life of the Clemens family, where literary gatherings and spirited conversations were a common occurrence.





For those intrigued by Twain's leisurely pursuits, the billiards room provides a fascinating glimpse. This space was designed for relaxation and entertainment, where one can almost imagine Twain and his friends engaged in friendly games of billiards, laughter filling the air.

The Mark Twain House is more than a glimpse into the author's literary life; it's a portal into his role as a father. The children's nursery, adorned with toys and period-appropriate furnishings, offers a touching narrative of family life and the adventures of the Clemens daughters, painting a more holistic picture of the man behind the famous pen name.

Throughout the house, visitors enjoy the captivating beauty of stained glass windows by Louis Comfort Tiffany. These intricate windows add an extra layer of artistry to the already impressive architectural details, infusing the space with an ethereal quality.

A wealth of artifacts and personal touches grace the house, ranging from photographs of the Clemens family to some of the author's cherished belongings.



These tangible connections bring to life the people who inhabited this space and the era they lived in, bridging the gap between history and the present.

Guided tours of the Mark Twain House are expertly led by knowledgeable docents who weave historical narratives with personal anecdotes, portraying Twain as a person with hopes, dreams, and complexities beyond his written words.

Exploring the Mark Twain home gives you a better understanding of the man and his era.

(Photos by Alana Borges Gordon)

But it is more than a historical tour; it's a chance to engage with Mark Twain's legacy through various activities. Literary enthusiasts can attend author lectures and readings inspired by Twain's influence. On Mark Twain's birthday, visitors join festive ceremonies and themed activities.

Book launches and signings introduce new works related to Twain. The house hosts theatrical performances, film screenings, and workshops inspired by Twain's style. Occasional symposiums delve into Twain's life and impact, while holiday events add a festive touch. Rotating museum exhibits shed light on different aspects of Twain's life and legacy.

There is even a chance for a select few to sit in Twain's library and write as they channel him as their personal muse.





Every visit is special. Who knows, you might even be allowed to write in the library!

(Photos by Alana Borges Gordon)

The special events, a beautiful garden, and a modern gift shop added to the house tour make the experience even more rewarding.

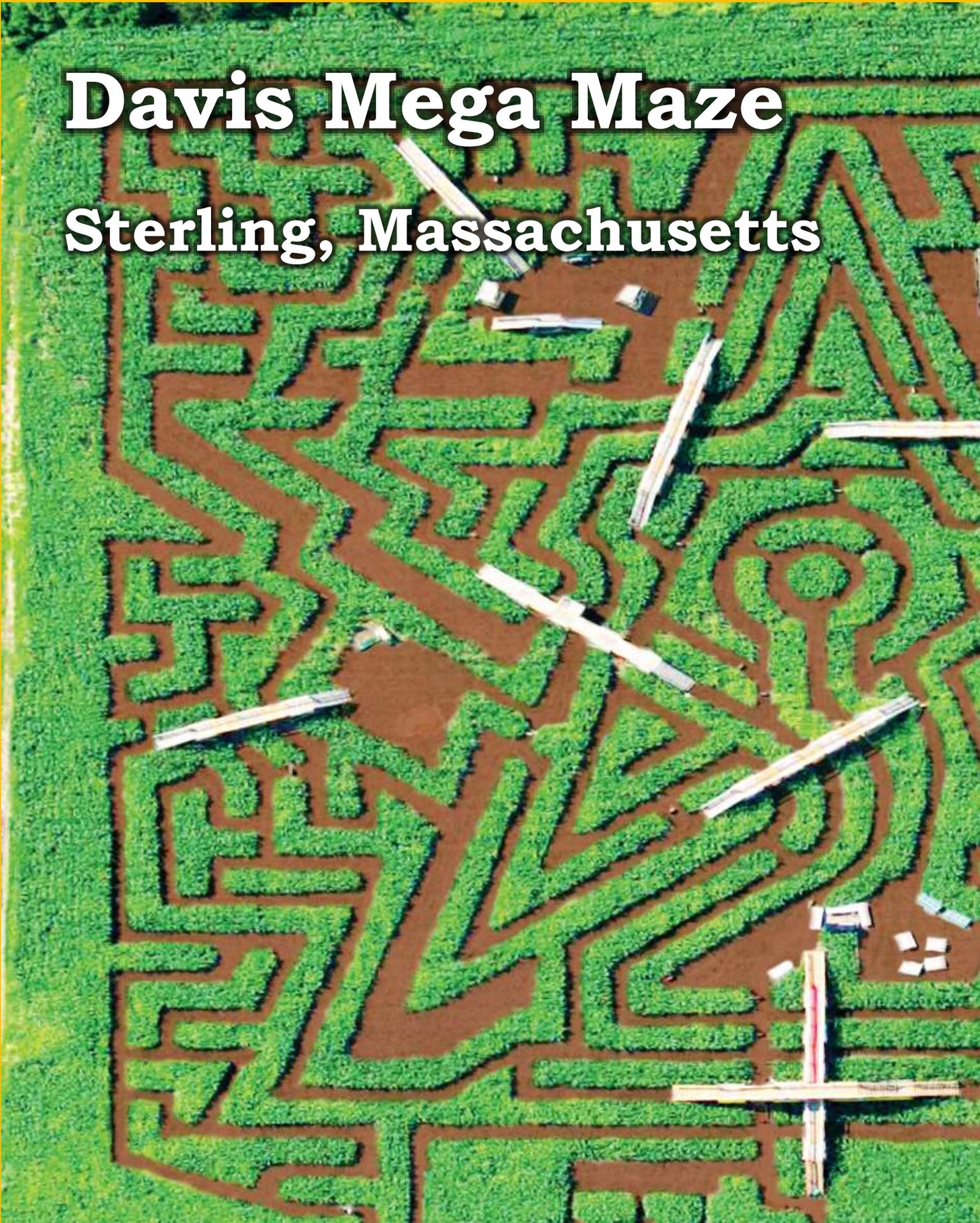
The Mark Twain House is a living tribute to one of America's literary giants. As you journey through the grandeur of Victorian Gothic architecture, explore the rooms where iconic tales were woven, and revel in the history and cultural significance of this hallowed place, one truth emerges crystal clear: the Mark Twain House is not just a destination; it's an invitation. to immerse in American literature, stand where legends were born, and feel a bygone era's pulse.

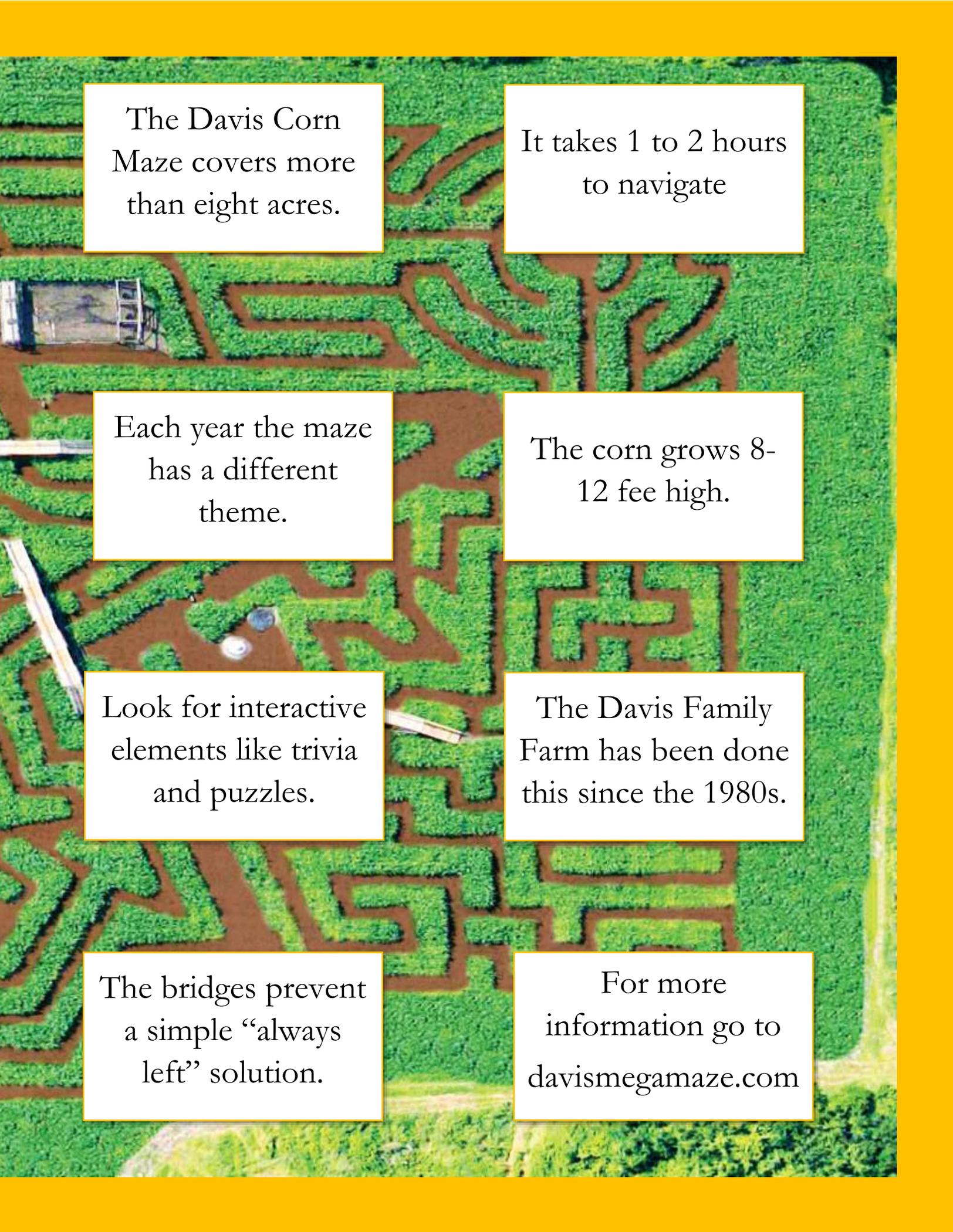
### For more information

- [marktwainhouse.org](http://marktwainhouse.org)

# Davis Mega Maze

Sterling, Massachusetts





The Davis Corn Maze covers more than eight acres.

It takes 1 to 2 hours to navigate

Each year the maze has a different theme.

The corn grows 8-12 feet high.

Look for interactive elements like trivia and puzzles.

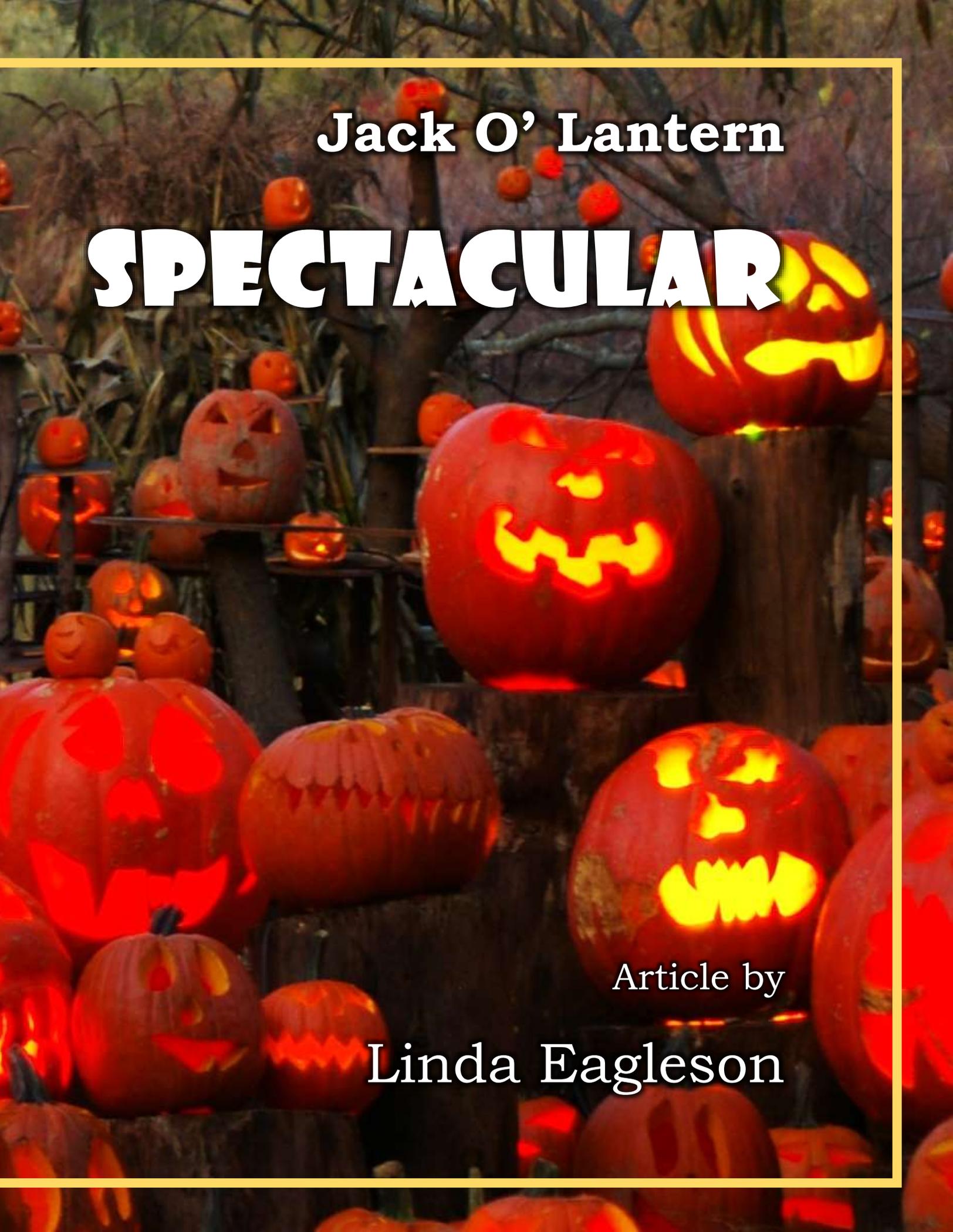
The Davis Family Farm has been doing this since the 1980s.

The bridges prevent a simple “always left” solution.

For more information go to [davismegamaze.com](http://davismegamaze.com)



***A family-friendly  
Halloween experience  
filled with more Jack-o-  
lanterns than you can  
count.***

A photograph of numerous glowing jack-o'-lanterns (pumpkins) arranged in a dark, wooded setting. The pumpkins are carved with various designs, including faces, patterns, and abstract shapes. The light from the pumpkins illuminates the surrounding area, creating a warm, orange glow. The background is dark and filled with bare tree branches and some smaller pumpkins hanging from the trees.

Jack O' Lantern  
**SPECTACULAR**

Article by

Linda Eagleson



C

**reating an atmosphere of delight and amazement, the annual "Jack o' Lantern Spectacular" at the Roger Williams Park Zoo each October is a truly inspiring demonstration of artistry and dedication.**

Each year's theme changes – One year, the theme was 'Around the World', featuring pumpkins carved into artistic depictions of places and things from around the world, from the Eifel Tower to Australian kangaroos.

But the theme didn't stop there; it featured a variety of pumpkin carving celebrating celebrities like



Ghandi and fictional characters like James Bond -- each identifiable as icons of their own parts of the world.

The event's primary artist, John Reckner, an Oxford, Massachusetts mailman, was inspired by a Vermont farm that he had seen lined with glowing jack o' lanterns.

In turn, he organized the first jack o' lantern spectacular in Oxford in 1988. There were 185 jack o' lanterns featured in this first event, all carved by local residents and displayed on a hillside behind a local school. About 300 spectators attended.

Now a resident of Rhode Island, Reckner has taken on the responsibility of organizing this event for the Roger Williams Park Zoo.

The premier presentation of the jack o' lantern event attracted more than 80,000 visitors, making it a tradition for many New England families. A team of over 30 professional pumpkin carvers spend six weeks creating the trail, developing different themes, backgrounds, and a truly breathtaking display of over 150,000 pounds of jack o lanterns, each carved with painstaking detail and artistry.

As dusk descends and the Jack o' Lanterns glow, their artistry is undeniable.



The centerpiece of the display, known as the "tree of light", is displayed in the focal point of the trail, with individual carvings of fantastically illuminated pumpkins -- hanging from trees, mounted on tree stumps, and some even emitting smoke and fire. The wonderment of the whole event would keep the family entertained and very appreciative of the monumental undertaking.

Visitors feast their eyes on scenes of famous sports heroes, celebrities, historic figures, and, of course, a wild pumpkin patch of endangered species. A very family-oriented event that will continue to entice thousands for years to come.



Pumpkins large, small, and gigantic line the walkways at Roger Williams Park Zoo.

Expect a long wait, but also expect to be entertained while waiting. Costumed characters and clowns stroll up and down the lines to help make the time pass quickly. A jazz band eases the wait once the line winds through the gates of the zoo. Booths sell glowing



and flashing trinkets, and there's a chance to purchase cider to warm your insides. There's even a large screen TV showing animal documentaries. Visiting the Jack O' Lantern Spectacular on a weeknight or closer to closing time will help reduce the length of the lines.

Come and enjoy the marvel of it all. Plan on an evening of fun and entertainment. And, don't forget, bring along a trusted friend, as this is ***Halloween!***

**For More Information:**

- [www.rogerwilliamsparkzoo.org](http://www.rogerwilliamsparkzoo.org)

# A White Mountains Tradition Returns: Halloween Town





I

**Imagine a place where the spirit of Halloween comes to life, where rustic cabins are transformed into eerie yet enchanting realms, and where the air is filled with the promise of candy, treats, and thrilling surprises.**

Halloween Town returns to the White Mountains of New Hampshire on October 21, ready to captivate



attendees of all ages with its traditional, kid-friendly, and mesmerizing celebration of the spookiest season.

For fans of Halloween, the wait is finally over as The Laura Foundation brings back this beloved event to East Madison, after a hiatus since 2019 due to the pandemic. Families can once again indulge in the joy of old-fashioned trick-or-treating.

Halloween Town is not just any Halloween event; it's a tradition reimaged. Stevo Harding, the event coordinator, shares, "Halloween Town has been designed with the desire to offer kids an opportunity to enjoy what some of us remember from childhood... traditional Halloween fun." It's a chance to stroll through a charming "neighborhood" of uniquely themed cabins and engage in trick-or-treating like the good old days.

Tohkomeupog, a summer camp for boys, is the magical canvas where Halloween Town is painted. Its cabins are theatrically transformed into enchanting, spooky spaces ready to delight visitors of all ages. This

Halloween  
in the  
countryside  
calls for a  
little  
ingenuity.

isn't just your ordinary Halloween carnival; it's a full-fledged celebration featuring a Kid Carnival, Food Court, Tethered Hot Air Balloon Rides (weather permitting), Entertainment, Amusement Rides, and the iconic Trick-or-Treat Trail.

The Trick-or-Treat Trail is undoubtedly the heart of Halloween Town. Picture yourself walking down an atmospherically lit pathway, guided by the flickering light of jack-o'-lanterns. This trail leads youngsters through a series of 25 Halloween-themed cabins and haunted areas, each offering delightful Halloween surprises, from candy and treats to curious knick-knacks.

Navigating the trail, over half a mile in length, you'll find it's designed with a clever twist. The cabins become progressively scarier, offering a spine-tingling experience for those who dare to explore. But don't worry; there's always an option to skip a cabin if it appears too daunting, ensuring the fun remains enjoyable for all.

Halloween Town doesn't limit itself to just one activity. The schedule is packed with entertainment to keep everyone engaged. From 3 to 8 PM, you can savor delicious bites at the Food Court, experience the thrill of the Kid Carnival, and enjoy the Amusement Rides. For those seeking non-scary trick-or-treat fun, the 'Halloweenie Walk' is open from 3 to 7 PM. And, of course, the crown jewel, the Trick-or-Treat Trail, opens from 4 to 8 PM.

Halloween Town welcomes visitors on Saturday, October 21st, 2023, in East Madison, NH, at the location of Tohkomeupog, located at 2151 East Madison

Road. The event is open to the public and offers free admission for all. However, donations to support The Laura Foundation for Autism and Epilepsy are greatly encouraged and appreciated. The event's generosity extends to its support of The Laura Foundation through various means, including proceeds from the Food Court, Hot Air Balloon Rides, Amusement Rides, and souvenir item sales, all of which contribute to the Foundation's important mission.

For those looking to make a weekend out of it, overnight accommodations are available at Purity Spring Resort, offering special rates for event attendees. Staying at the resort not only enhances the Halloween Town experience but also provides convenient walking distance access to all the event's thrilling activities. For more information on lodging, visit [purityspringresort.com](http://purityspringresort.com).

Halloween Town promises a delightful journey into the enchanting world of home town Halloween. It's a place where childhood memories of trick-or-treating come to life, where laughter and thrills abound, and where the spirit of giving shines through.

So, mark your calendar for Saturday, October 21, 2023, and join the magic of Halloween Town in the beautiful White Mountains of New Hampshire. It's an experience that promises to leave you with unforgettable memories and a heart full of Halloween delight. Don't miss it!

### **For more information**

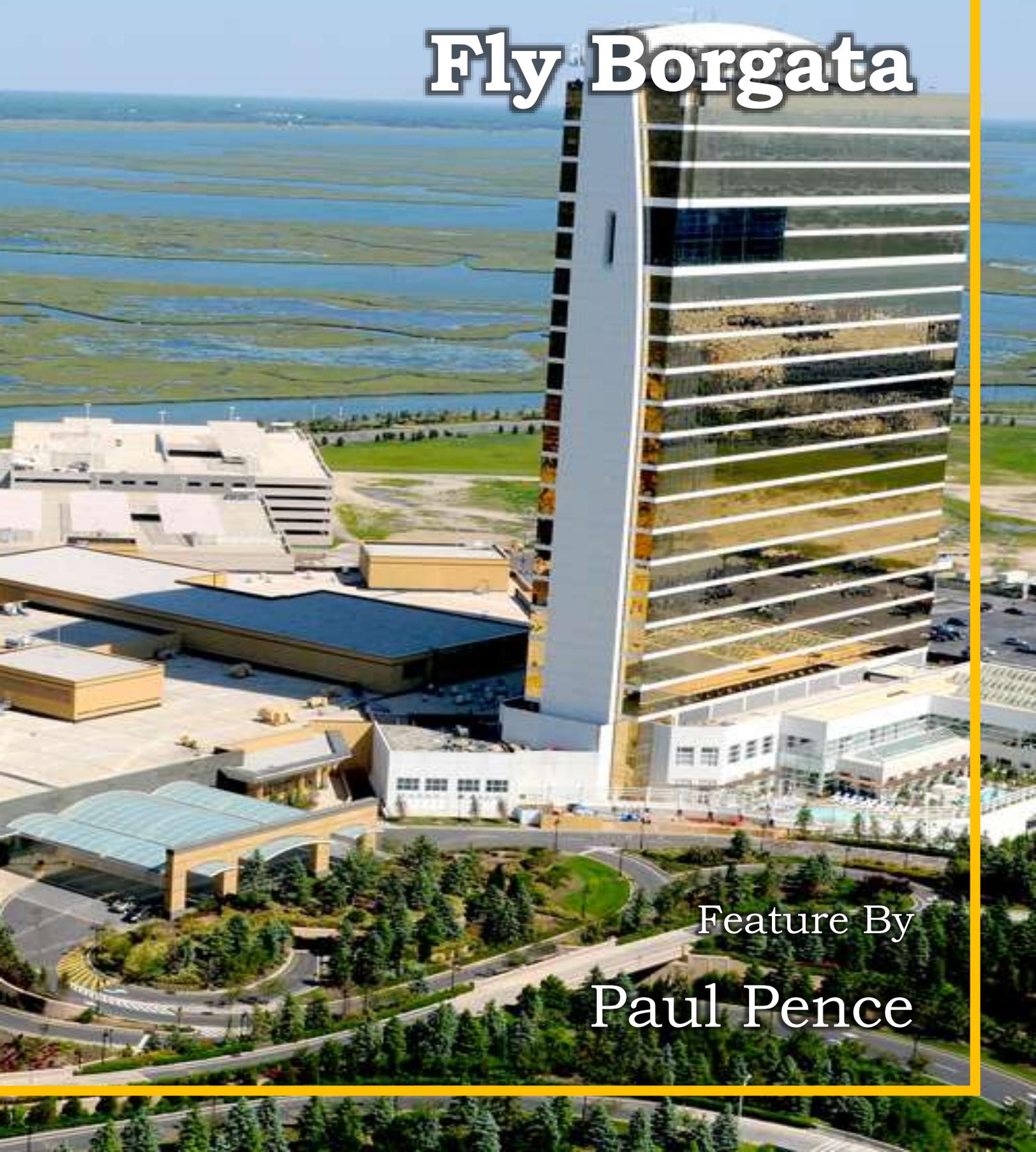
- [halloweentownnh.thelaurafoundation.org/](http://halloweentownnh.thelaurafoundation.org/)

An aerial photograph of the Borgata hotel and casino in Atlantic City. The central focus is a tall, cylindrical glass tower with the word "Borgata" written in a stylized font at the top. The tower's glass facade reflects the surrounding landscape, including green fields and blue water. Below the tower is a large, multi-story building with a classical architectural style, featuring arched windows and a prominent entrance. The surrounding area includes parking lots, roads, and other buildings, all under a clear blue sky.

**Borgata**

***A peek into the world of  
the gaming community's  
“High Rollers”... and a  
little more feet on the  
ground exploration of  
Atlantic City.***

# Sky High Rollers Fly Borgata



Feature By  
Paul Pence



**I**

**t's a rare pleasure to have that feeling of luxury and specialness that was once a huge part of air travel -- we found it as guests of Fly Borgata, who treated my wife and me to a weekend as "high rollers" at Atlantic City's Borgata.**



First Class  
luxury in a  
chartered  
Dornier 328  
jet.

In the sixties, the “jet set” were the people who had both the leisure time and wherewithal to jump on a jet plane and be whisked away to glamorous destinations. Since then, jet travel and relaxing destinations have become affordable – but at the cost of cramped tourist-class seats and cookie-cutter resorts.

The Borgata Hotel, Casino, and Spa in Atlantic City has a special service for a limited number of guests. They charter a 30-passenger jet, a Dornier 328, outfitted in first class luxury with leather seats and attentive crew members, to fly weekend guests from an array of East Coast locations.

For Rhode Island, we fly out of Northstar Aviation. With free overnight parking across the street, Northstar welcomes their visitors with a comfortable first class lounge. No long lines, no x-ray machines, shoe removal, or TSA pat-downs. In fact, I purposefully carried my

ever-present Leatherman multitool with me, just to say that I did it.

The Dornier 328 sat right outside the door – we walked to it, climbed a few stairs, and we were inside, where every seat is a cushy, comfortable, leather-covered first class seat. No little prop plane -- this is a decent sized, comfortable charter jet.

The flight took us out over Block Island before turning west, and in 45 minutes we arrived at the Atlantic City airport.

We had checked one bag, which arrived in the usual airport carousel. Then outside all of the passengers were put on a comfortable bus. Another 20 minutes and we were in Atlantic City and unloading in front of the Borgata Hotel.

The Borgata's 41-story gold glass hotel, with 2000 guest rooms and suites, was visible as soon as we



approached Atlantic City. A second gold glass tower has the sister property, the Water Club, with 800 additional guest rooms and suites.

Check-in was rapid, with the Fly Borgata guests being given VIP treatment with their own check-in desk.

Our room was on the 30th floor, looking toward the city through floor-to-ceiling windows. With crisp, modern décor, the room had all the comforts of a business-class hotel room. We were happy that the room also included a fridge, an extra comfort in keeping the weekend's leftovers edible and our sodas cold.

The hotel sits well away from the famous Boardwalk, but for most visitors, whatever is outside the casino doors is of little interest. For most visitors, the 161,000 square foot casino is the primary attraction. It includes 182 gaming tables, 3150 slot machines, a 100-seat

Borgata's gold mirrored exterior covers the tower with luxurious rooms.



racebook, and over 80 tables in the poker room.

## **The Borgata isn't just gambling.**

They also have five destination restaurants, including Bobby Flay Steak, Old Homestead Steak House, Wolfgang Puck American Grille, Izakaya Modern



Japanese Pub, and Fornelleto Cucina & Wine Bar.

We wallowed in excess at the Old Homestead Steak House, run by restaurateurs Greg and Marc Sherry, where the word beef should be spelled in all capital letters. It's Borgata's copy of the renowned Old Homestead in New York City, where they focus on the four main food groups – beef, beef, beef, and beef. My wife had the 18 ounce filet mignon. Yes, 18 ounces. And I enjoyed the Empire cut of Prime Rib on the bone.

There are eight casual dining restaurants.

- The Metropolitan – contemporary and classic

## American foods

- Borgata Buffet – a buffet of entrees, snacks, and desserts

- Bread + Butter – sandwiches and gourmet beverages

- Noodles Of The World (N.O.W.) – Japanese, Chinese, Korean cuisine

- Borgata Baking Company – accessible sweets and eats

- Long Bar – city bar-feel serving light bites and bar fare

- 28 West Bar & Bites – Euro-inspired bar featuring specialty cocktails, craft beers, and delectable small bites

- The Sunroom



Dining is a great reason to experience the Borgata.

– sun-filled lobby/lounge at The Water Club offering delicious bites

We ate a snack at Bread + Butter, a nice casual place where diners go through a line to place an order, sit at Formica tables for their meals, and are directed to leave the dishes on the table. They serve breakfast there, making an early day easier, if you need more than the coffee maker in the room.

There is also an even-more casual option – The Cafeteria – multi-concept quick service dining featuring Fatburger, Tony Luke’s cheese-steaks, Ben & Jerry’s, Panda Express, and so on.

Borgata’s 70,000 square feet of event space includes the 1,000-seat performance theater The Music Box and six signature Borgata Nightlife experiences:



- MIXX – dance club with world-renowned DJs
- B Bar – lounge centrally located on the casino floor
- mur.mur – intimate nightclub with signature bottle service and celebrity DJ's
- 28 West Bar & Bites - Euro-inspired cocktail and piano bar
- Gypsy Bar – Borgata's rock & roll and tequila bar featuring live music
- Long Bar – city bar atmosphere

Borgata has 17 retail stores, ranging from souvenirs, sundries, and gifts to shops like Hugo Boss, Vintage Wine Boutique, and Fixation Shoes & Accessories.



We didn't the chance to explore the spas, but we did find time to walk along the 1.1 mile long bayside sculpture park. Every 50 yards or so on a relaxing walk, we enjoyed sculpture and after sculpture. It circles all the way to the bridge to Brigantine Island, where the waters of the bay flow into the Atlantic.

We also discovered the jitneys -- little busses running 24/7 that open up all of Atlantic City if you need a break from playing in the casino. Sure, real high rollers would have a limo on hand, but we were happy that we had a chance to explore the famous boardwalk and beaches of Atlantic City on our modest budget.

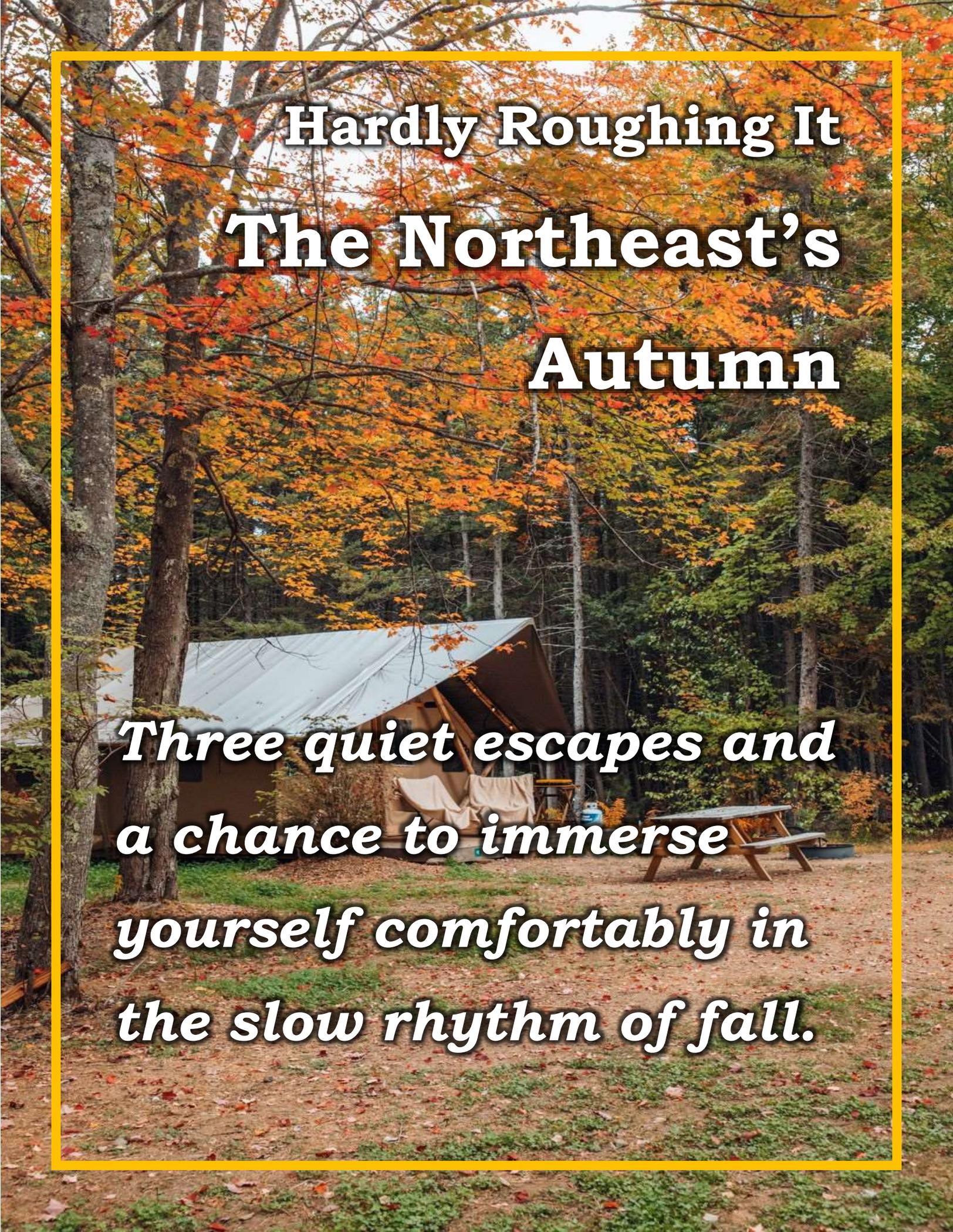
Our flight back was simple. Our bus waited outside until we were all loaded, from there to the airport to the plane, and back home to Northstar Aviation at TF Green Airport without a bit of stress and in perfect comfort.

Now the neat thing about the whole experience is that it's open to anyone. Check out the Fly Borgata website for prices and packages,

but you'll find that being flown off to a weekend getaway and being treated like a high roller doesn't require the finances of a high roller.

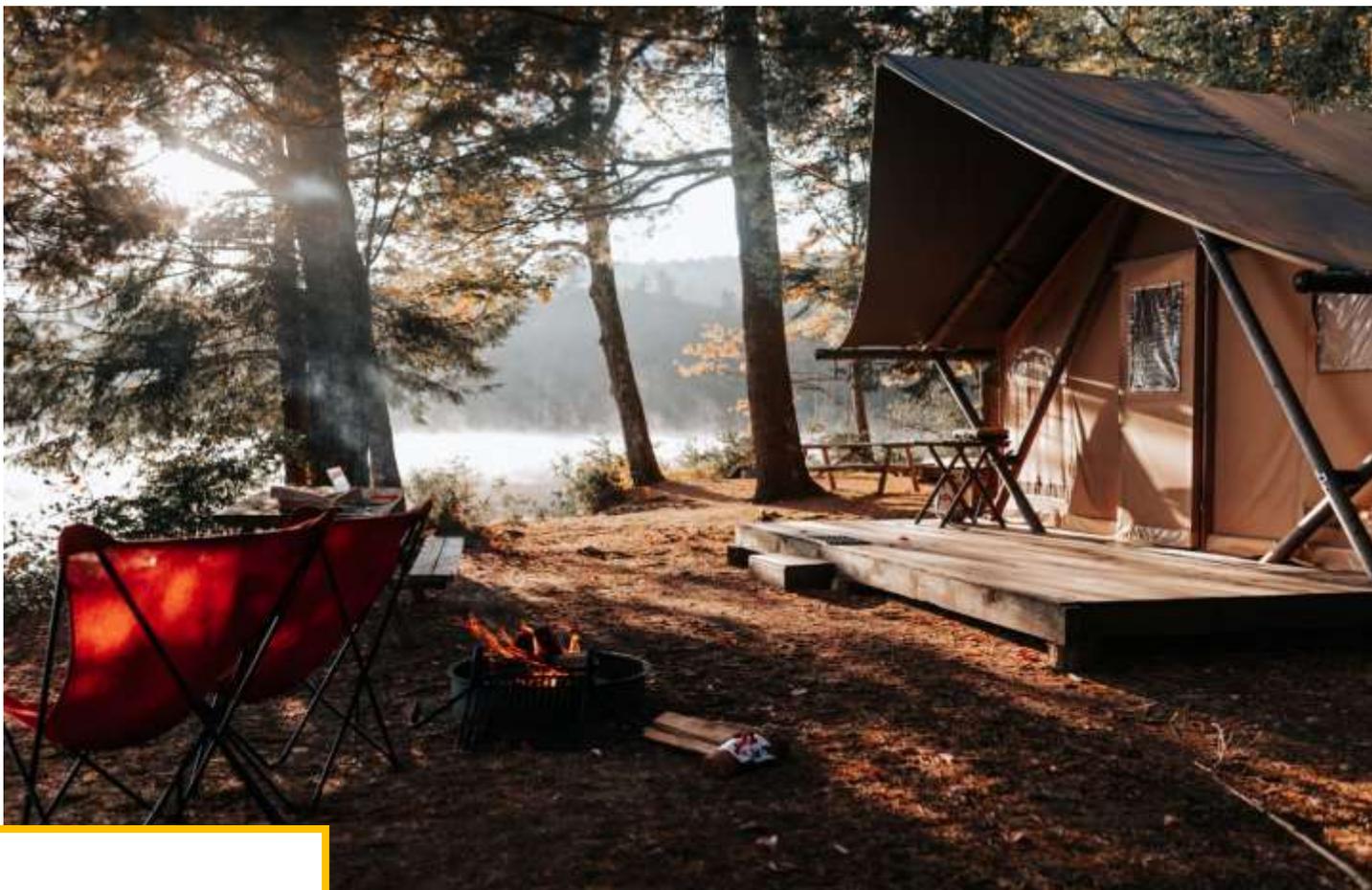
**For More Information:**

- [www.theborgata.com](http://www.theborgata.com)
- [www.flyborgata.com](http://www.flyborgata.com)
- [www.northstarpvd.com](http://www.northstarpvd.com)
- [www.artcnw.com/acsw](http://www.artcnw.com/acsw)
- [www.jitneyac.com](http://www.jitneyac.com)

A photograph of a rustic tent pitched in a forest during autumn. The tent has a white canvas top and brown sides. In the foreground, there is a wooden picnic table. The ground is covered with fallen leaves. The background is filled with trees with vibrant orange and yellow foliage. The entire scene is framed by a yellow border.

# **Hardly Roughing It The Northeast's Autumn**

***Three quiet escapes and  
a chance to immerse  
yourself comfortably in  
the slow rhythm of fall.***



**F**

**all is the season of vibrant foliage and tranquil moments in nature, and Huttopia's "prêt-a-camper" sites provide the ideal backdrop. With three prime locations for fall foliage peeping, you can immerse yourself in the splendor of the season while enjoying comfortable accommodations.**

These French woodland bare-bones glamping sites

offer an appeal to families with outdoor activities suited for all, distance and privacy, and an underlying sense of community between individuals with the shared interest of getting closer to nature.

“Glamping” a delightful blend of "glamorous" and "camping." Glamping offers the best of both worlds, allowing you to bask in the natural beauty of the outdoors while enjoying the comforts of modern life. Instead of drafty tents and sleeping bags on air mattresses, think cozy cabins and comfortable beds. It's the ultimate way to experience the great outdoors without roughing it.

What sets these "prêt-a-camper" sites apart is their ability to provide the essentials of camping without compromising on comfort. These bare-bones glamping sites appeal to families and outdoor enthusiasts alike. Each location offers a range of outdoor activities suitable for all, ensuring that everyone can make the most of the fall season. Additionally, you'll find distance and privacy in these natural havens, allowing you to fully embrace the tranquility of the season.

The retreats are tucked away on the banks of Iona Lake in New Hampshire near North Conway, in the forest surrounding Sand Pond in Southern Maine, and in the mountains of the Adirondacks near the town of Lake George., offering quiet escapes and a chance immerse yourself in the slow rhythm of fall in nature.

#### **For More Information:**

- [canada-usa.huttopia.com](http://canada-usa.huttopia.com)



# Mt. Washington B&B Birding

Story By

Paul Pence

Photos by

Mary Ann Mayer





**A**

**stay at the Mount Washington Bed and Breakfast, nestled the natural beauty of New Hampshire's North Country, isn't just a relaxing getaway, it's also a chance to experience nature up close, perhaps adding a few of the area's birds to your list of discoveries.**



The B&B sits just north of the protected White Mountains National Forest with its unique alpine habitat and a stone's throw away from the Androscoggin River, making it a great home base for any birder.

The 1853 farmhouse has been expanded over the years and spent time as a wayside inn. Since 1999, the Mayer family has run the B&B, making it a comfortable and welcoming place to be pampered.

Early birders might head out before breakfast to look for eagles and osprey flying low over the Androscoggin cruising for an unwary fish.

The osprey, sometimes called seahawks, are larger than their hawk cousins, with wings that stretch as much as six feet. They fly with steady wingbeats, sometimes cruising with bowed wings, then dive with claws outstretched.

The distinctive Bald eagles flap slowly, low over the treetops. It's less common to catch them with fish in

Bald eagles visit the White Mountains National Forest from December to March.

their talons, but for most people just the sight of the US National symbol with its wings outstretched as much as seven and a half feet is enough to declare the sight the high point of the trip.

Loons, ducks, and geese along with the occasional errant shore birds make the early morning move along quickly.



Then, with a bit of luck, a good zoom lens, and a fast shutter on their cameras, returning to the B&B to share pictures over a delicious breakfast featuring one of the B&B's specialties, like a thick almond-encrusted Amaretto French toast or a baked apple with homemade maple granola.

During breakfast, the feeders right outside the B&B windows might bring bickering hummingbirds and a variety of seed-eating meadow birds. Even without a rare spotting, the antics of chickadees and the excited flutter of colorful finches add an extra smile to a tasty

breakfast.

For the afternoon, an expedition to the slopes of Mount Washington gives a chance for birders to add an extremely rare bird to their lists -- the Bicknell's thrush nests above the 3000 foot level of Mount Washington, one of the few locations with the right combination of cold temperatures, thin vegetation, and plenty of moisture aligning with an easy access for humans.

This small brown and grey bird breeds only in the Northeast before they migrate to the Caribbean for the winter. Guided tours travel up the Mount Washington Auto Road in early June, providing one of the easiest ways to add a new star to the bird book.



Loons, ducks, osprey, and many more species inhabit the area.



Hostess  
Mary Ann  
Mayer not  
only  
provides a  
great place  
to stay, but  
also shares  
her joy of  
birding.

Dining in Gorham offer lots of choices. Of course nothing beats a well-planned and well-provisioned picnic as part of a bird-spotting hike, but come dinnertime, visitors to the area enjoy a broad selection of restaurants. The most widely recommended restaurant is SALT, with a comfortable pub atmosphere and an international cuisine that focuses on locally-sourced ingredients.

After dinner, it's time for relaxing, perhaps in the Mount Washington B&B's common areas, maybe playing a board game, or admiring the decorative quilts on the walls made by Mary Ann Mayer. Or even better, discussing your bird sightings with Mary Ann, an avid birder herself. She may suggest places to check out and stories of interesting bird sightings passed along through the bird spotter's rumor mill.

Then, bedtime in one of the B&B's seven guest rooms, each named after a local bird. Some of the rooms overlook the pond, others offer views of Mount Washington, but all are comfortable and homey.

Then, after a quiet night and well rested, it's time for yet another great breakfast and another day of being out in nature.

**For More Information:**

- [www.mtwashingtonbb.com](http://www.mtwashingtonbb.com)





# Autumn in NYC's Hidden Forest

*The Thain Family Forest  
at New York Botanical  
Gardens is a magical  
place in the autumn.*

**D**

**uring Fall Forest Weekends,  
visitors can revel in the unique  
autumnal beauty and resilience of**

**the 50-acre Thain Family Forest, the largest expanse of New York City’s original wooded landscape. Tours and other events provide opportunities to learn about this historic old-growth forest.**

Two themed discovery walks focus on the Thain Family Forest’s birds and natural history. Visitors can explore the diversity of migrating birds that find food and habitat in the Forest and learn more about ongoing efforts to make New York City a safer place for avian life.



The natural history tour provides an opportunity to appreciate the beauty of the Forest in a new light. During this one-hour walking tour, expertly trained guides will present facts about the trees as well as the history, geology, and ecology of the Forest. Visitors should wear comfortable shoes and seasonal attire for the weather.

Activities including poetry, science, Shakespeare, and fiddlers fill the schedule for November

**For More Information:**

- [www.nybg.org/event](http://www.nybg.org/event)





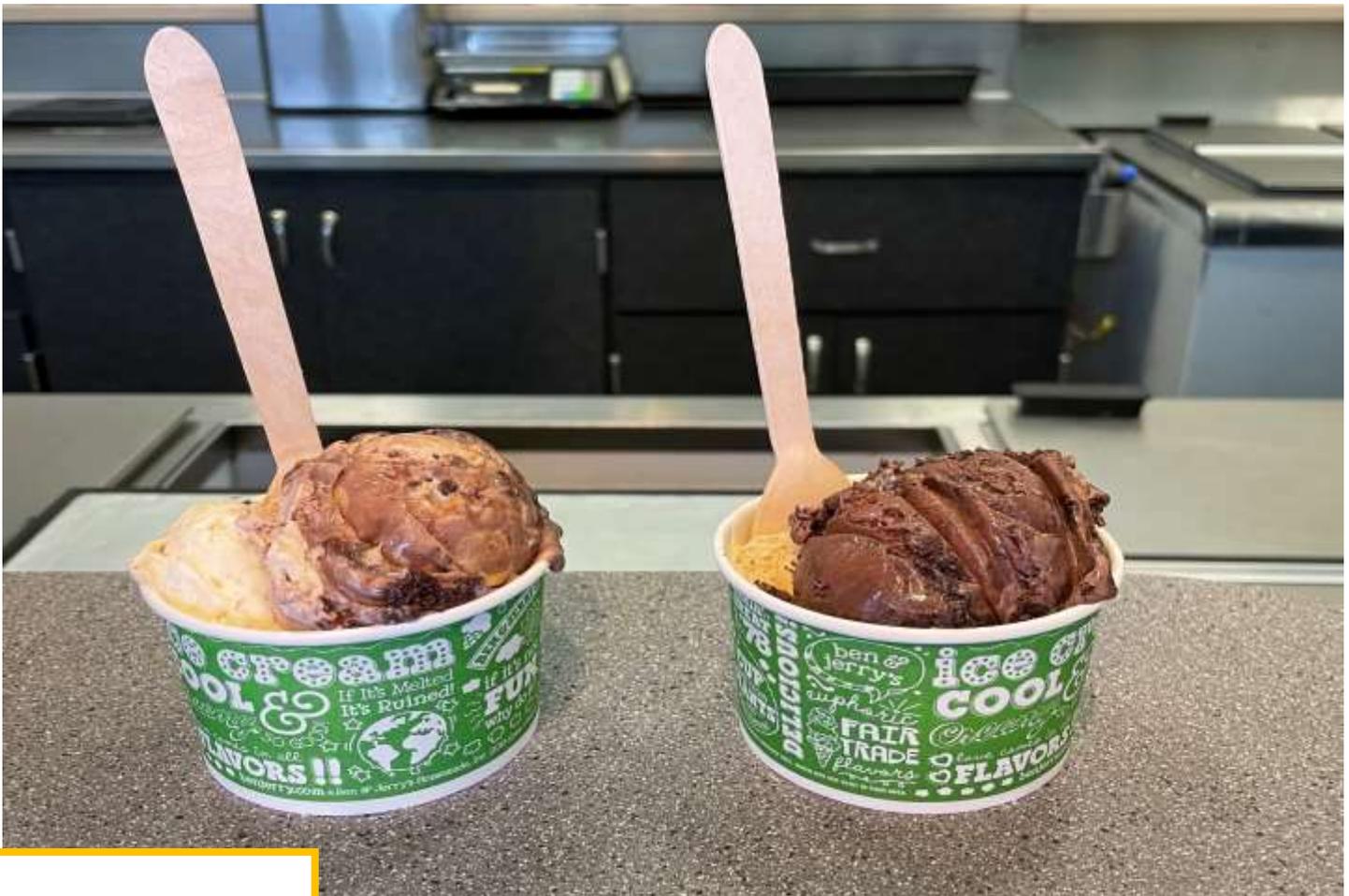
**There's a great reason to explore Vermont's Green Mountains... Ice Cream!**

# I Scream For Ice Cream Ben & Jerry's



Article By

Debbie Stone



I

**f you get to explore the charming town of Stowe and its surrounds.**

**You'll discover cute shops, quaint, covered bridges, dramatic waterfalls, lush forests, a ski and snowboard museum and one of my favorite destinations – Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream, in nearby Waterbury.**

I knew the ice cream factory was closed to tours, but I was happy to settle for a trip to the Scoop Shop to get a cone. However, I never expected there to be so many flavors. It was difficult making a decision, but my server assured me that the staff is trained to be very patient with customers! I eventually settled on a scoop of Coconut Seven Layer Bar and one of Peanut Butter Half Baked. And of course, I had to sample my husband's Coffee Coffee Buzz Buzz Buzz, and Chocolate Therapy, too.



As we tried to make our cones last as long as we could, we went to pay our respects at the Flavor Graveyard. Here's where flavors go when they die, and where you can pay tribute to the "dearly de-pinted." Erected in 1997, with just four flavors – Dastardly Mash, Economic Crunch, Ethan Almon and Tuskegee Chunk – the graveyard is now home to 35 departees.

This unique resting place is complete with granite headstones listing the late flavor's year of "birth" and "death," along with a witty epitaph explaining why it ended up six-feet under.

Ben & Jerry's receives several thousand requests each



year from fans be-seeching it to "reincone-ate" their favorite fallen

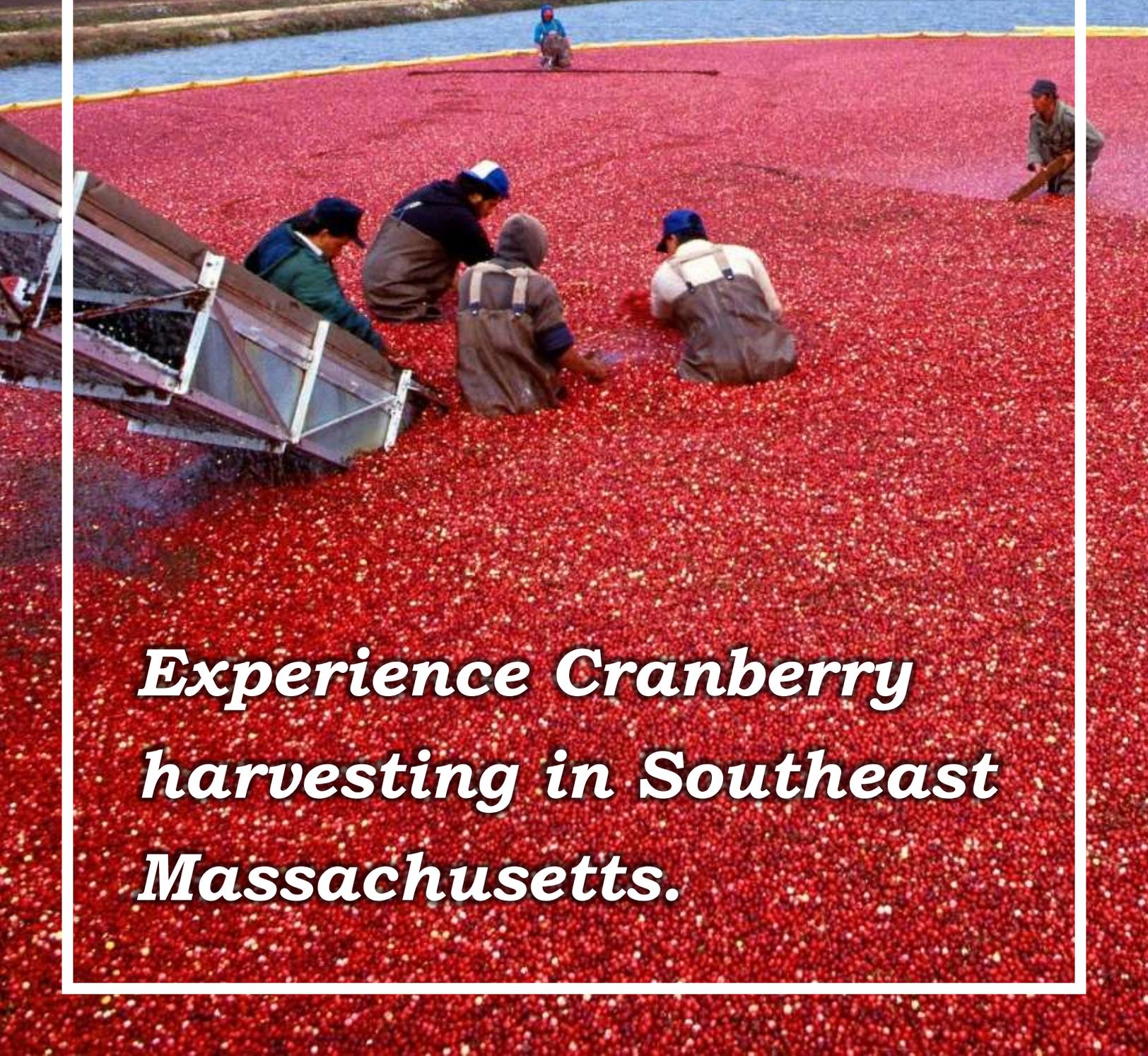
flavor. They hold out hope because once in a great while, discontinued flavors do come back from the grave!



Up close and personal with

**Massachusetts**

**Cranberries**



***Experience Cranberry  
harvesting in Southeast  
Massachusetts.***



**M**

**assachusetts is the oldest cranberry growing region in the country. Today, there are approximately 13,300 acres of commercial cranberry bogs in the state, primarily in Plymouth, Bristol, and Barnstable counties.**

The cranberry is a unique fruit, native to Massachusetts, and has become synonymous with

Thanksgiving Day celebrations across the country thanks to its role in our nation's history. Taking place from late September to early November, the cranberry harvest season coincides with the fall foliage season, providing a double dose of visual splendor.

Although the state's growers are nurture the native perennial cranberry vines the whole year through, the industry is in its most identifiable harvest month -- October.



This is the pinnacle of the growing season. The bogs are alive with activity while our growers are rewarded for their hard work with the hope of another growing season coming to fruition.

### **Where to go for a tour:**

- Annie's Crannies, Dennis
- Bensons Pond, Middleboro
- Cape Cod Cranberry Bog Tours, Orleans
- Chamberlain Farm, Berkley
- Edgewood Bogs & Cape Cod Select, Carver
- Spring Rain Farm, East Taunton





H  
AND THAT  
BACK

A woman with curly hair, wearing a light blue dress and a denim jacket, stands on a set of mosaic-covered steps. She is looking towards the right, touching a mosaic wall. The wall is covered in colorful tiles and features various words and drawings, including "ALSO ALGORGIOUS", "PRIMITIVE ART", and "IMPULSE". The background is filled with more mosaic art and some greenery.

# A Jillion Ways To Explore Philly

Photos Courtesy of  
Visit Philadelphia



V

**isitors to Philadelphia can choose from an assortment of options to explore the region, including those**



**of the air,  
automotive,  
audio, culinary,  
self-guided and  
water-based  
varieties. And  
the sightseeing  
fun doesn't  
stop when the  
sun goes down.  
Those who  
come out at  
night can join  
tours that  
feature behind-  
the-scenes ac-  
tion and, if so  
desired, spirits  
from beyond.  
Here's a  
selection of**

**tours available throughout the region.  
Come along with us and discover the  
jillion ways to explore Philadelphia!**

There's so much to see and do in Philadelphia that the question comes up, what's the best way to do it all?

(Photo by J. Fusco. Previous photo by R. Kennedy.)



## History Lessons By Day & Night:

**The Constitutional Walking Tour of Philadelphia** – Visitors get an up-close look at historic sites such as the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall during this 75-minute walking tour. It runs daily from April through November and

meets at the National Constitution Center. Private/group tours are available year-round with advance reservations. 525 Arch Street, (215) 525-1776, [theconstitutional.com](http://theconstitutional.com)

**History of Valley Forge Trolley Tour** –

This 90-minute guided trolley tour of Valley Forge National Historical Park highlights some of the key sites of the 1777-78 winter encampment. The tours take place year-round, including the December holidays (limited schedule until March). 1400 N. Outer Line Drive, Valley Forge, (610) 783-1074 [nps.gov/vafo](http://nps.gov/vafo)

**Historic Philadelphia Inc.'s Independence After Hours** – This evening walking tour visits historic landmarks and meets up with Colonial characters. The experience begins with a three-course meal at City Tavern. The Colonial host then “sneaks” everyone into the Pennsylvania State House (Independence

Hall), where Founding Fathers are discussing the Declaration of Independence. The tour runs select days, late May through October, and departs from the Independence Visitor Center. 6th & Market Streets, (215) 629-4026,

### **Horse-Drawn**

**Carriages** – Guides recount Historic Philadelphia’s past as visitors sit back in quaint horse-drawn carriages. Tickets are available at the Independence Visitor Center. 6th & Market Streets, (215) 923-



8516, [phillytour.com](http://phillytour.com)

[historicphiladelphia.org](http://historicphiladelphia.org)

### **New Americans Tour**

– Developed by VISIT PHILADELPHIA® in partnership with the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Affairs, the self-guided New Americans Tour celebrates the people, places and events that shaped America. [visitphilly.com/newamericans](http://visitphilly.com/newamericans)

### **National Park Service**

**Tours** – Rangers lead themed walking tours around Independence National Historical Park. Tour times and starting locations vary by season and are available at the Independence Visitor Center. 6th & Market Streets, (800) 537-7676, [nps.gov/inde](http://nps.gov/inde)



### **The Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia**

#### **Architecture Walking**

#### **Tours**

– These 90-minute walking tours interpret the past, present and future of the Philadelphia region as expressed through architecture, urban design and social history. Guided tours are available May through October; private tours are available year-round by emailing [tours@preservationalliance.com](mailto:tours@preservationalliance.com). 1608 Walnut Street, (215) 546-1146, [preservationalliance.com](http://preservationalliance.com)

**Historic Philadelphia, Inc.'s Tippler's Tour** –

From May through December, the over-21 set can sing along to 18th-century drinking songs, enjoy stories of the drinking traditions of Colonial times and sample a few drinks and snacks as they ramble through Historic Philadelphia with a Colonial guide. Tipplers stop at local watering holes such as National Mechanics, City Tavern, and Victoria Freehouse. Along the way, they learn important information, such as Benjamin Franklin's names for a drunk person ("nimptopsical" and "tipsicum grave"). Independence Visitor Center, 6th & Market Streets, (215) 629-4026, [historicphiladelphia.org](http://historicphiladelphia.org)

**Twilight Tours** – From mid-June through Labor Day, free guided walking tours show off Independence National Historical Park every evening starting at 6 p.m. Groups meet at the Park Ranger Desk at the Independence Visitor Center. 6th & Market Streets, (215) 597-7919, [friendsofindependence.org](http://friendsofindependence.org)

**Covered Bridge Driving Tour** –

Covered bridges serve as beautiful and historic landmarks for scenic Bucks County. Visit Bucks County offers turn-by-turn driving instructions for a self-guided tour of the county's dozen quaint bridges. (215) 639-0300, [visitbuckscounty.com](http://visitbuckscounty.com)



## Ghostly Offerings

**Ghost Tour of Philadelphia** – Do spectral spirits really inhabit Independence Hall, St. Peter’s Cemetery, the Powel House, battleship Olympia and other historic landmarks? Visitors find out when they hear the true ghost stories and visit real haunted houses during this candlelight

walking tour of Independence National Historical Park, Society Hill and Old City. Signers’ Garden, 5th & Chestnut Streets, (215) 413-1997, [ghosttour.com](http://ghosttour.com)

**Ghost Tours of New Hope** – Saturday nights from June through November,

lantern-lit tours of New Hope feature stories about the town's spine-chilling hauntings. Private tours can be arranged year-round. Main & Ferry Streets, New Hope, (215) 348-1598, [ghosttoursofnewhope.com](http://ghosttoursofnewhope.com)

**Spirits of '76 Ghost Tour** – The paranormal stories on this ghost tour are “one part history, two parts haunt.” Guests who dare to take this 75-minute outdoor walking journey see 20 of Philly's frights, including haunted historic homes and graveyards. Public tours run April through November; private/group tours and VIP ghost hunts available year-round. Tours meet at Cosi Restaurant.325

Chestnut Street, (215) 525-1776, [spiritsof76.com](http://spiritsof76.com)



**Grim Philly Twilight Tours** – Authors and professors lead these highly researched, grown-ups-only, year-round, off-the-beaten-path tours—all historic, many quite scary. Walking, tavern and riverboat tours include ghosts, Oktoberfest, speakeasies, the Jersey Devil and others. 599 Market Street, (856) 829-3100, [grimphilly.com](http://grimphilly.com)

Photo by M. Eldow.



## Food & Film Circuit

**Chew Philly Food Tours** – These 2.5-hour tours through the Manayunk and Chestnut Hill neighborhoods treat guests to eight tastings of savory and sweet foods and includes bits of history and culture along the way. (800) 656-0713, [phillyfoodtours.com](http://phillyfoodtours.com)

**City Food Tours** – Themed tours of culinary delights include a Decadent Gourmet Tour, Ethnic Eats of South Philly, Prohibition Cocktails, Philly Pizza and Highlights of East Passyunk. (877) 413-7224, [cityfoodtours.com](http://cityfoodtours.com)

**South Philadelphia Food Tours** – South Philly is home to Chef Jacquie, the personable culinary guide who leads daily behind-the-scenes tours of the Italian Market, offering groups hearty tastes of meatballs and gravy at Villa di Roma and samples at other stalwart Italian and Mexican food vendors along South 9th Street. On Monday through Thursday evenings, she hosts a four-course progressive dinner along burgeoning East Passyunk Avenue. (610) 506-6120, [taste4travel.net](http://taste4travel.net)

**Tastings & Tours' Winery & Brewery Tours** – Those who appreciate a good drink can enjoy a carefree day at some of

the area's finest wineries, breweries, brewpubs and distilleries, all while taking in some beautiful scenery. The guided, all-inclusive, private tastings are offered in Bucks County and beyond. (484) 695-6465, [tastingsandtours.com](http://tastingsandtours.com)

**Wok 'n Walk Tours** – Chef Joseph Poon's tours of Chinatown make for unforgettable vacation stories. The private group jaunts include visits to a fortune cookie factory, an Asian grocery, a Chinese bakery and a Chinese place of worship, among other stops, and end with a meal at one of Chef Poon's favorite Chinatown restaurants. (215) 928-9333, [josephpoon.com](http://josephpoon.com)



## Aesthetic Outings:

**Brandywine River Museum of Art Studio Tours** – The Wyeths and the Brandywine Valley go hand-in-hand. Art lovers can choose from tours of the Andrew Wyeth Studio, the N.C. Wyeth House and Studio and the Kuerner Farm. Ticket prices include same-day and next-

day admission to the museum. (610) 388-2700, [brandywinemuseum.org](http://brandywinemuseum.org)

**City Hall Tours** – Covering more than 14.5 acres, Philadelphia’s City Hall is the largest municipal building in the United States—and one of the most

elaborate. The exterior features more than 250 sculptures representing people of the world and their continents—all designed by Alexander Milne Calder. The most notable sculpture is the one at the very top: a 37-foot statue of city founder William Penn. A two-hour guided tour of the building and 15-minute tower tours are offered every weekday. Broad & Market Streets, Room 121, (215) 686-2840, [phlvisitorcenter.com/cityhall](http://phlvisitorcenter.com/cityhall)

**Emergence of a Modern Metropolis Tour** – Run by the Center for Architecture and Design, this year-round, two-hour tour explores the transformation of Philadelphia from an engine of industry to a

21st-century capital of business and culture. It features the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, the Wanamaker building and the Comcast Center, among other landmarks. (215) 569-3186, [philadelphiacfa.org](http://philadelphiacfa.org)

**Hidden City Tours** – Visitors and locals who want to discover lesser-known landmarks and stories choose Hidden City Tours. Itineraries include Life & Death at Mount Moriah Cemetery, David Lynch's Eraserhead, Forgotten Broad Street and Philly Jazz Walking Tour. Schedules and meeting spots are determined tour-by-tour, and most sell out in advance. [hiddencityphila.org/events](http://hiddencityphila.org/events)



**Mural Arts Trolley, Walking and Love Letter Tours** – Aboard an antique trolley, guides relay the stories behind a selection of Philadelphia’s nearly 4,000 murals during two-hour tours, running select days April through November. Aboard the Market-Frankford Line train (called “the el” for its elevated portion) to West Philadelphia, lovers, dreamers and street art appreciators are guided past artist Stephen Powers’ Love Letters, a series of 50 rooftop murals and street-level signs, weekends January

through May and September through December. Those who prefer to view works on foot can sign up for two-hour walking tours, also offered on select days April through November. Reservations recommended. Tours depart from the Philly Tour Hub, 229 Arch Street or Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, 128 N. Broad Street, (215) 925-3633, muralarts.org

**Mural Mile** – With a map, art fans can move at their own pace. Those who opt for the mural tour go from commercial districts to residential blocks throughout Center City. The map is available online. Guided tours of the Mural Mile are also offered to explore the

compelling stories behind each of the public art projects. (215) 925-3633, muralarts.org

**Philadelphia's Magic Gardens** – Beginning at the artist's sculptural masterpiece, this one-hour walking tour highlights Isaiah Zagar's whimsical mosaics along South and Bainbridge Streets, between 8th and 10th Streets. Neighborhood walking tours run April through October.. Site tours through the mosaic installation take place November through March. 1020 South Street, (215) 733-0390, phillymagicgardens.org

**Museum Without Walls™: AUDIO** – This free tour gives people

an engaging way to experience more than 65 outdoor sculptures along Kelly Drive and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, City Hall, and throughout West Fairmount Park. Both art enthusiasts and recreational passersby can use their phones, a free mobile app, audio downloads or the website to hear three-minute interpretive segments. More than 150 authentic voices—people connected to the sculptures—reveal stories as unique as the artworks. (215) 399-9000, museumwithoutwallsaudio.org





## By Air, Water, Bike & Segway:

**Big Red Pedal Tours** – Aboard Big Red Pedal Tours, participants explore Philly by day or by night aboard a 15-passenger pedicycle. Together, the group propels the open-air “tour bus” to a series of stops around town. The daytime tour includes historic sites

such as the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall and Betsy Ross House. After dark, it’s a pub-crawl-on-wheels, stopping at three bars in roughly two hours. Come fall, riders can take hot toddies tours too. (215) 625-2509, [bigredpedaltours.com](http://bigredpedaltours.com)

### **Patriot Harbor Lines –**

Up to 45 guests board two reproduction classic 1920s commuter yachts for tours of the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers. Options include private charters, the Boat to Bartram's Garden Cruise, Hidden Architecture Cruise, Grim Philly Terror Cruise, Secrets of the Schuylkill Tour, Delaware River Harbor Cruise, Sunset Cruise, Patriot Harbor Wine Cruise, Walnut to Walnut Cruise, EcoUrban Cruise to Petty's Island and Philly By Boat Cruise. Schuylkill River tours depart from the Walnut Street Dock, and Delaware River tours leave from the Independence Seaport Museum. (267) 908-3076, [phillybyboat.com](http://phillybyboat.com)



### **Philadelphia Segway Tours by Wheel Fun –**

After hands-on training, people take off on motorized Segways. Riders choose from the three-hour Full City Tour and a two-hour Old City Historic Tour. Both options leave from the Independence Visitor Center and include the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. 6th & Market Streets, (215) 523-5827, [phlvisitorcenter.com](http://phlvisitorcenter.com), [philadelphia.segwaytoursbywheelfun.com](http://philadelphia.segwaytoursbywheelfun.com)

**Philly Bike Tour Co. –**  
These guided bike



tours feature routes through different sections of Philadelphia, including the Classic City Tour, covering main attractions such as the Liberty Bell and the Philadelphia Museum of Art; the Art is All Around Us Tour; and the Fairmount Park Historical Tour. All include a bicycle, helmet and water bottle. 2015 Fairmount Avenue, (267) 521-2150, [phillybiketours.com](http://phillybiketours.com)

### **Biplane Rides Over**

**Philadelphia** – High-flyers can choose from unforgettable 30-, 50- or 75-minute open-cockpit rides that include flying over the Benjamin Franklin Bridge and Penn's Landing, staring eye-to-eye with William Penn or catching an aerial view of the Main Line and New Hope. (800) 247-2371, [biplaneridesoverphiladelphia.com](http://biplaneridesoverphiladelphia.com)

**Ride The Ducks** – After a lively tour riding through and beyond Historic Philadelphia to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the amphibious vehicle splashes down into the Delaware River. Participants can purchase signature duckbill “quackers” as souvenirs of their 80-minute land-and-river look at the city. Tickets

are available at the departure site and the Independence Visitor Center. 6th & Chestnut Streets, (877) 887-8225, [phillyducks.com](http://phillyducks.com)

**Schuylkill Banks Kayak Tours** – Visitors receive 30 minutes of kayaking instruction before heading out on the Schuylkill River for one-hour excursions, which run most weekends and select Thursday evenings during the summer. Specialty experiences, including moonlight tours and private group tours, are also available. Departs from the Walnut Street Dock. Schuylkill Banks at Walnut Street, (215) 222-6030, ext. 100, [schuylkillbanks.org](http://schuylkillbanks.org)

**Wheel Fun Rentals** – At the Independence Visitor Center, those who prefer to tour on two wheels can rent a bike and everything else they need for a self-guided tour—route map, helmet and lock. Wheel Fun also offers guided Segway tours for those explorers who prefer a less strenuous mode of transportation. 6th & Market Streets, (800) 537-7676,





## A Bit of Everything:

**Big Bus Company** – Riders can see the sights from an outdoor seat atop these double-decker buses, or they can ride in the bottom. Passes are good for up to three days, and passengers can hop on and off at the 27 stops throughout the city. Tickets are available

online, on the bus or at the Independence Visitor Center. 6th & Market Streets, (215) 389-TOUR (8687), [phillytour.com](http://phillytour.com)

**Awfully Nice Tours** – On these intimate driving tours, visitors can customize their city or regional

experience based on their specific areas of interest, or they can choose from pre-designed options with themes such as countryside, winery, church, neighborhood and Rocky. Tours range from two-hour to full-day outings and include a personal driver/guide and pick-up and drop-off service from hotels. (215) 280-3746, awfullynicetours.com

**Philadelphia Trolley Works** – This Victorian-style trolley allows riders to hop on and off while visiting popular attractions throughout the nation's most historic area and beyond. Passes are good for up to 72 hours, and passengers can explore from 27 stops throughout the city.

Tickets are available online, on the trolley or at the Independence Visitor Center. 6th & Market Streets, (215) 389-TOUR (8687), phillytour.com

**Philadelphia Urban Adventures** – A more off-the-beaten-path approach to touring, this organization offers options such as the Food for Thought food truck jaunt through the University City neighborhood; the Italian Market Immersion tour, during which visitors meet vendors and sample their goods; Markets, Mosaics & Magic, which includes Philadelphia's Magic Gardens; the two-hour Philly On Tap, complete with local beers during happy hour; and the two-hour History in HD,

Photo by  
Bob Krist.

combining history and refreshments.

Additional options, such as the Center City Holiday Tour, are offered seasonally. (215) 280-3746, philadelphiaurbanadventures.com

**Philly By Segway** – Choose from four options for gliding through town, including one- and two-hour rides through the city, a cheesesteak tour that include tastes of five different sandwiches or a two-hour Mural Arts Program tour through Old City, Chinatown and Northern Liberties. The experience includes 30 minutes of training. Guides take photos along the way and upload them for free so people can fully enjoy the outing. 229 Arch

Street, (215) 280-3746, phillybysegway.com

**PHLASH Downtown Loop** – The PHLASH is the quick, easy and inexpensive connection to key historic attractions and cultural institutions. Making 22 stops, the purple bus is just \$2 per ride or \$5 for an all-day pass. Passes can be purchased online, at all Visitor Center locations or on the bus (exact change required). It runs every 15 minutes from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., April through Labor Day and from Thanksgiving through New Year's. From Labor Day through Thanksgiving, it operates on the weekend only. (800) 537-7676, phillyplash.com

**Watson Adventures Scavenger Hunts** – Even Philadelphia experts are sure to learn something new during a Watson Adventures scavenger hunt. Topics range from the family-friendly Wizard School

Scavenger Hunt at the Philadelphia Museum of Art to the adults-only Haunted Philadelphia and Munch Around the Market. (877) 9-GO-HUNT, [watsonadventures.com](http://watsonadventures.com)

Photo by J. Fusco.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR PAUL PENCE

**Paul not only writes many of the articles in the pages of this magazine, he is also the publisher and editor of all of the magazines in the Amygis Publishing's family of travel magazines. He loves exploring, traveling the back roads, experiencing the world, and finding what is unique and memorable about the places he visits.**



And he loves writing – poetry, short stories, essays, non-fiction, news, and, of course, travel writing.

For over 20 years, he has shared his explorations with readers in a wide variety of outlets, from groundbreaking forays into the first stirrings of the dot-com boom to travel guides, local newspapers, and television, including Runner's World, Travel Lady, Providence Journal, and Northstar Travel Media. He currently publishes and writes for Amygis Publishing's magazines Jaunting, Northeast Traveler, and Rhode Island Roads.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR DEBBIE STONE

**Debbie is an established travel writer and columnist, who crosses the globe in search of unique destinations and experiences to share with her readers and listeners. She's an avid explorer who welcomes new opportunities to increase awareness and enthusiasm for places, culture, food, history, nature, outdoor adventure, wellness and more.**



Her travels have taken her to all fifty states and nearly 100 countries, spanning all seven continents.

Her stories reach over three million readers and listeners, and appear in numerous print and digital publications, including Luxe Beat Magazine, Big Blend Radio & TV Magazine, Parks & Travel Magazine, Northwest Prime Time, Woodinville Weekly, Santa Fe Fine Lifestyles Magazine, Edmonds Beacon, Outdoors Northwest, Southwest Stories Magazine, Go World Travel and Travelworld International Magazine, among others. She can also be heard sharing her travel adventures on Big Blend Radio.

[www.NETravelerMagazine.com](http://www.NETravelerMagazine.com)



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