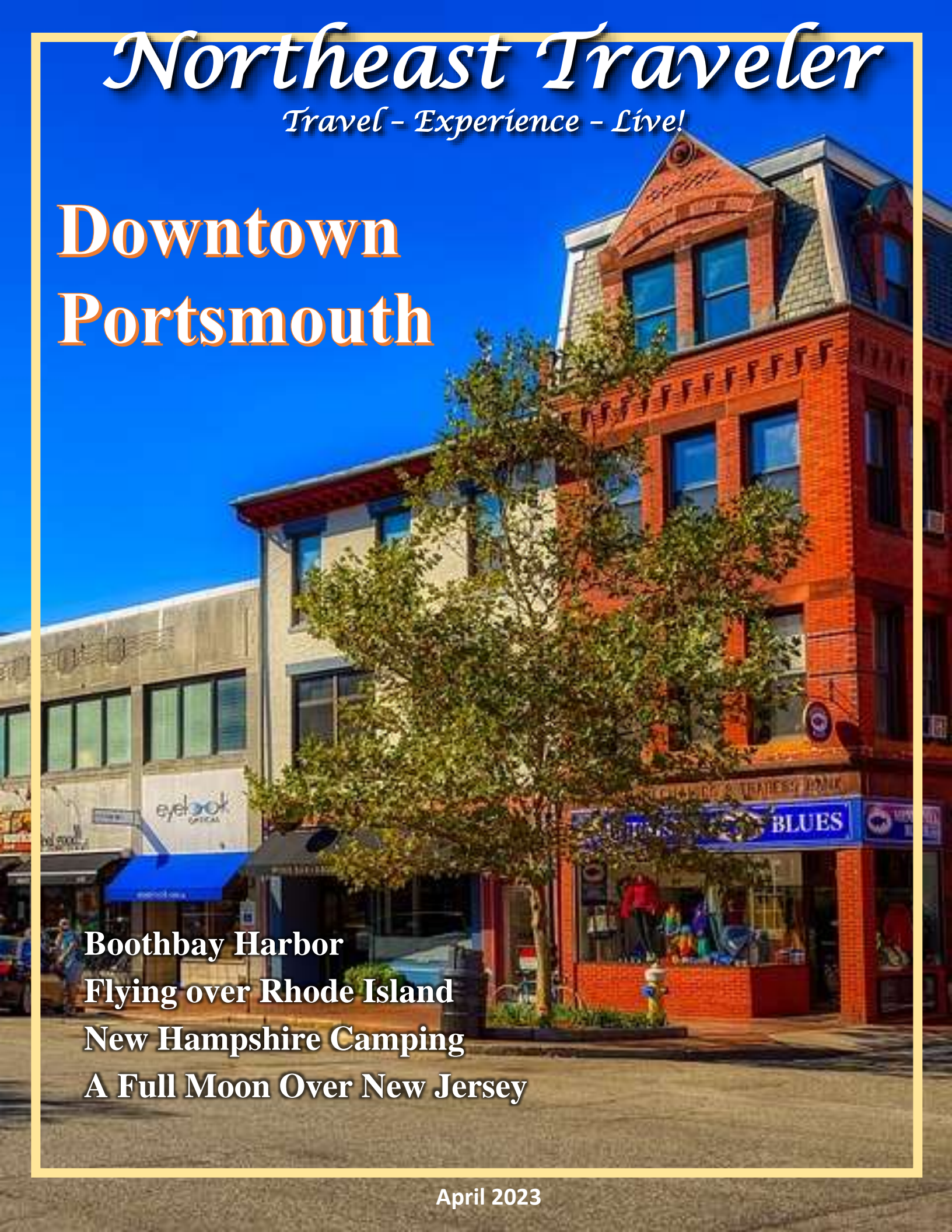


# *Northeast Traveler*

*Travel - Experience - Live!*

## **Downtown Portsmouth**



**Boothbay Harbor  
Flying over Rhode Island  
New Hampshire Camping  
A Full Moon Over New Jersey**

April 2023

# *Northeast Traveler*

## **Northeast Traveler Magazine**

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Northeast Traveler  
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Paul Pence  
Two Days Isn't Enough For  
**Downtown Portsmouth**



4

Debbie Stone:  
Taking It Easy In  
**Boothbay Harbor**



26

Kathleen Doyle  
New Hampshire Camping  
**Again and Again**



37

Paul Pence  
Piloting a Private Plane  
**Flying Over Rhode  
Island**



42

Nantucket's Celebration: Three Million Daffodils

21

Putnam's Place for Art

49

Full Moon Over New Jersey

53



# Two Days Isn't Enough For Downtown Portsmouth

By Paul Pence



*Portsmouth New Hampshire's  
walkable downtown and harbor  
area is the perfect blend of modern  
hip urban and small town cozy.*



**Strolling through the charming streets of downtown Portsmouth, New Hampshire, my wife and I couldn't help but feel like urban, small town, and hip artsy culture all blended together to create something special. We were clearly in a city's downtown, but there were no towering skyscrapers. The classic New England main street vibe still existed with the colorful shop fronts encouraging us to visit boutiques and cafes and art galleries and gift shops, but they carried a the modern-urban hip feel you'd expect from a university town. Classic architecture like the repurposed warehouses now lofts and apartments and museums and music venues showed a lively city life, but juxtaposed with carefully-preserved historical buildings,**

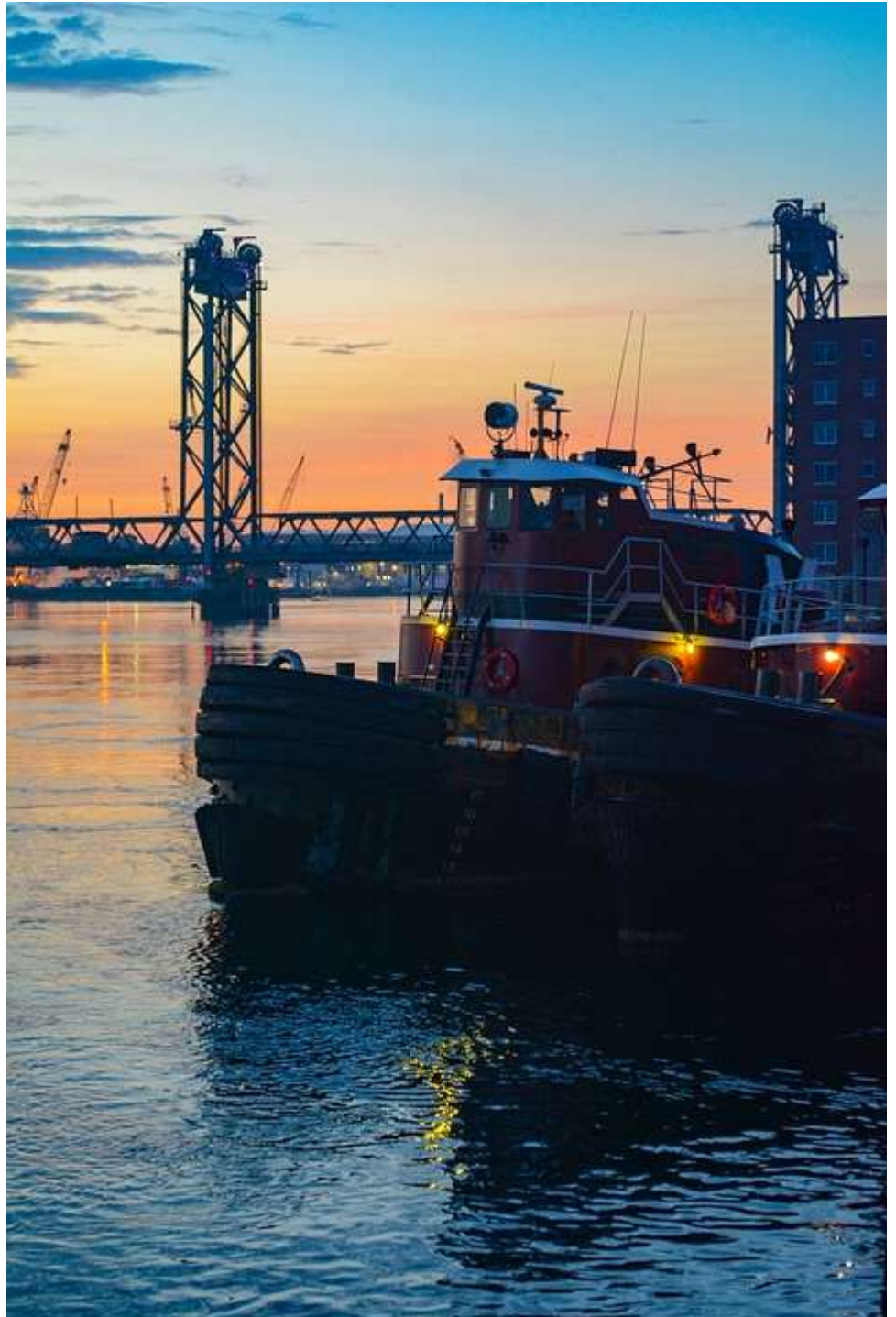
## it was a city that hasn't lost its small town heritage.

The walkability of downtown Portsmouth was an unexpected part of the trip. The city's compact size and pedestrian-friendly layout puts just about everything a city dweller could want to see, easy to explore on foot, from the historic landmarks to the modern attractions. We could have parked our car for the weekend and left it untouched until we left and still never have seen everything that Portsmouth has to offer.

Portsmouth sits in the southeastern corner of New Hampshire, along the Piscataqua River that forms the border between New Hampshire and Maine. I-95 runs along the west side of town and three major bridges cross the river to Maine.

As one of the oldest settlements in the region, Portsmouth's layout reflects its colonial roots, with a

grid of narrow streets and alleys that wind their way through the historic downtown. This compact street grid makes it easy to explore the town on foot, with most of the major landmarks and attractions



located within a few blocks of each other.

Beyond its historic center, Portsmouth features a modern commercial district that stretches along the Route 1 Bypass to the west of the downtown core. This area not only includes several shopping centers, big-box stores, and restaurants, it also has an international airport, something surprising for a city of only 20,000 people.

Despite its small size,

Portsmouth plays an important role in the region's economy and culture. As a major port city, it has long served as a gateway to the Atlantic Ocean and beyond, with shipping and fishing playing a significant role in its history. Today, Portsmouth is a thriving center of business, tourism, and the arts, attracting visitors from around the world to its unique blend of history and modernity.

As my wife and I wandered through the streets of Downtown



Portsmouth, we were immediately struck by the town's rich architectural heritage. The historic buildings that line the streets are a testament to the town's colonial roots, with their classic New England-style facades and distinctive brickwork.

One of the most iconic landmarks in the town is the North Church, which dominates the skyline with its tall white spire. Built in 1854, the church is a classic example of Federal-style

architecture, with its simple yet elegant design and Greek Revival details.

Just a few blocks away from the North Church, we came across the Moffatt-Ladd House and Garden, a stunning Georgian mansion that dates back to 1763. The house has been beautifully preserved and restored, with period furnishings and artwork that give visitors a glimpse into the lives of the wealthy merchant families who once lived there. The meticulously



landscaped garden is also a must-see, with its manicured lawns, elegant fountains, and colorful flower beds.

As we continued our stroll, we were struck by the town's many examples of 18th and 19th-century architecture, from the elegant brick homes that line Middle Street to the historic storefronts and warehouses that now house modern shops and restaurants. One standout example is the Music Hall, a beautifully restored Victorian-era theater that has been a cultural center of the town since 1878. The theater's ornate plasterwork, gilded ceilings,

and crystal chandeliers are simply breathtaking.

Another landmark that caught our eye was the Portsmouth Athenaeum, a historic library and museum that dates back to 1817. The Athenaeum's neoclassical building is a work of art in its own right, with its stately columns and elegant pediment. Inside, the library's collection of rare books, manuscripts, and artwork is a treasure trove of local history and culture.

Of course, no visit to downtown Portsmouth would be complete without a stroll down Bow Street,





the town's historic waterfront district. Here, we found a charming mix of shops, galleries, and restaurants housed in historic brick buildings that once served as warehouses and wharves.

As we wandered, we were struck by the vibrant mix of shops, galleries, and cafes that lined the street. The old main streets have been the center of the town's commercial life since its earliest days, and today they remain a bustling hub of activity that draws visitors from near and far.

One of the standout features of Congress Street is the array of

unique shops and boutiques that offer everything from handmade crafts and artisanal foods to high-end fashion and home decor. We stopped into several of these shops along the way, admiring the handiwork of local artists and artisans and chatting with the friendly shopkeepers who were happy to share their stories and recommendations.

Another highlight of Congress Street was the numerous galleries and art studios that dotted the street. We particularly enjoyed visiting the Discover Portsmouth Center, a beautiful gallery that

showcases the work of local artists and offers insights into the town's rich history and culture. The gallery's rotating exhibitions and educational programs made it a fascinating and engaging destination for visitors of all ages.

Of course, no visit to downtown Portsmouth's would be complete without sampling some of the delicious food and drink that the town is famous for. We passed many many cafes and restaurants along the way offering everything from artisanal pastries and specialty coffee to fresh seafood and craft beer and eventually found

ourselves at Googie's Sandwich Shoppe on State Street.

We are simple people and we greatly appreciate unpretentious, mom-and-pop eateries. This family-owned and operated shop focuses on providing locals with delicious, made-to-order sandwiches and salads in a friendly and welcoming environment.

Two hot sandwiches (a thick steamy Ruben for me and a gluten-free grilled cheese for her) and a shared bowl of tomato-basil soup later, we realized why Googies is a beloved fixture in the Portsmouth community. Its delicious food and



welcoming vibe has earned Google's functional and no-frills atmosphere, welcoming service, , great ingredients and fair prices the title of the top sandwich shop in Portsmouth for years on end.

After exploring the charming shops, galleries, and cafes of Downtown Portsmouth's historic center, we discovered the city's beautiful Prescott Park. We had taken a long meandering path to explore as much as possible of the city, but if we had taken a direct route from our lodging at the Hampton Inn the near the river at the north end of downtown, it

would have been just a ten-minute walk to the park's lush greenery and stunning waterfront views.

Prescott Park is a verdant oasis that stretches along the Piscataqua River. It is home to a variety of gardens and green spaces, including a rose garden, a butterfly garden, and a large open lawn that's perfect for picnicking or sunbathing.

But Prescott Park is also the venue for events and activities throughout the year. During the summer months, the park hosts a variety of concerts, plays, and festivals, including the popular

edia.





catch a performance by a local band during our visit, we imagine it would be a wonderful way to spend a warm summer evening, surrounded by the beauty and charm of the park.

One of the biggest regrets we had during our weekend in Downtown Portsmouth was not making it to Strawberry Banke. This 10-acre living history museum is squeezed in between Prescott

Prescott Park Arts Festival, an annual event featuring live music, theater performances, and arts and crafts vendors, drawing crowds of locals and tourists alike.



In addition to the arts festival, Prescott Park hosts a variety of other events throughout the year, including outdoor movie screenings, farmers markets, and holiday celebrations. We weren't lucky enough to



Park and the bustling streets of downtown, and is a must-visit destination for anyone interested in learning more about the city's rich history and culture.

Strawbery Banke is an outdoor museum with more than 40 restored buildings and gardens that date back to the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries.

These buildings include everything from colonial-era homes and shops to grand Victorian mansions, offering a fascinating glimpse into Portsmouth's past.

During a visit to Strawbery Banke, visitors can explore the museum's many exhibits and demonstrations, which highlight various aspects of early American life. Some of the highlights include a blacksmith shop, a woodworking shop, and a print shop, where visitors can watch artisans at work and learn about the tools and techniques used in these trades.



The museum also offers a variety of interactive experiences and educational programs, including workshops on historic cooking, gardening, and crafts. And for those who want to dive deeper into Portsmouth's history, the museum offers guided tours led by knowledgeable and enthusiastic docents.

While we didn't make it to Strawberry Banke during our weekend in downtown Portsmouth, we did take a short drive outside of



the city center to visit the USS Albacore. This fascinating museum and naval vessel is a must-visit destination for anyone interested in military history or engineering.

The USS Albacore is a retired submarine, commissioned in 1953 and served in the United States Navy for more than two decades as a testbed for submarine technology. It was notable for its innovative design, which included a teardrop-shaped hull and a powerful propulsion system that allowed it to reach record high speeds and dive deep underwater.

Today, the USS Albacore is open to the public as a museum, offering visitors a chance to explore its interior and learn about

life aboard a submarine.

During our visit, we were struck by the cramped and claustrophobic conditions

that submariners endured during long deployments, and we marveled at the complex machinery and systems that kept the vessel running.

There was a second vessel on display next to the Albacore: the "Ghost". This unique boat has stealth characteristics and is capable of super-cavitating, which means it can travel at high speeds by creating bubbles in front of its two underwater pontoons. We were amazed by the technology and engineering that went into the Ghost's design, and it was fascinating to learn about its military applications.

After seeing the Albacore, we took advantage of the convenience of our car to drive over the three

major bridges that span the Piscataqua River.

The first bridge we drove over was the Memorial Bridge, which connects Portsmouth to Kittery, Maine. This bridge has a rich history, having been built in 1923 and then replaced with a new bridge in 2013.

The new Memorial Bridge is a modern marvel of engineering, with a distinctive green color.

Next, we crossed the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge, which connects Portsmouth to the neighboring city of Dover. This bridge is much larger than the Memorial Bridge and is a crucial transportation link for the region.

We marveled at the size and scope of this massive structure as we drove over it, also imagining what it would be like when the road deck is raised so that ships can go under it.

Finally, we drove over the iconic Portsmouth Harbor Bridge, which connects Portsmouth to



the town of Kittery Point, Maine. This bridge is the oldest of the three, having been built in 1923. Despite its age, the Portsmouth Harbor Bridge is still an impressive feat of engineering, with a distinctive arched design and a commanding view of the surrounding area.

After a day of exploring





downtown Portsmouth and its surrounding areas, it was time for dinner at the Rooftop at the Envio restaurant on top of the AC hotel.

Upon arriving at the Rooftop at the Envio, we were immediately impressed by the stunning views of the city and the Piscataqua River. We opted to dine in one of the two private "igloo" structures on the outside patio, which adds an extra level of coziness and privacy for wintertime diners. During the summer tourist season, the patio will feature outdoor seating for 50.

The menu at the Rooftop was a fusion of Mediterranean and New

England cuisine, with an emphasis on locally sourced ingredients. We started with three different appetizers – potstickers, capriccio, and roasted peppers. For our entrees, my wife had the baked haddock with a rye crumble while I had the filet.

Simply naming the dishes doesn't do them justice. The incredibly tender petite filet mignon was glazed with a herb-infused butter and accompanied with smashed baby potatoes, spicy pickled vegetables, and asparagus spears. Imagine the same careful preparation and presentation of



locally-sourced ingredients, all served by attentive staff.

Overall, our dinner at the Rooftop was a highlight of our weekend in downtown Portsmouth. The combination of stunning views, delicious food, and top-notch service made for a memorable dining experience. We highly recommend dining at the Rooftop, and if you can snag one of the private igloos, even better!

We lingered over dinner and our dessert of “Sticky Toffee Pudding” – a hot sweet bread pudding, almost like hot chocolate cake topped with salted caramel sauce, chopped hazelnuts, and whipped cream. We had planned to visit Jimmys Jazz and Blues Club to wrap up the evening, but after a long day of exploring and a marvelous dinner, we returned to our comfortable room at the Hampton Inn.

The next morning, we



were pleased to discover that the hotel provided a hot breakfast for all guests. The breakfast spread was impressive, with a variety of options to from oatmeal to cheese omelets, waffles, pastries, and cold cereal. The filling hot breakfast provided a satisfying start to our day.

Overall, the hot breakfast at the





Hampton Inn was a great way to start our day and provided a convenient and delicious way to fuel up before heading out to explore more of downtown Portsmouth.

Had we been there for a longer stay, right across the street is Residence Inn, which specializes in creating a home away from home. Every room has a kitchenette and clear demarcation between living and sleeping areas. Or if we had the budget, we might have been pampered at the AC Hotel.

There's so much that we couldn't squeeze in to our two-day trip... museums, events, festivals, art galleries, and an abundance of outdoor activities like kayaking

and paddleboarding on the Piscataqua River to hiking in nearby state parks.

Perhaps on our next visit. We'll have to set aside time for that. And of course we'll set aside time to explore all of the charming boutique shops and specialty stores that line the

streets of downtown Portsmouth, offering everything from handcrafted jewelry to vintage clothing along with the plethora of dining options, from fine dining restaurants to casual cafes and bistros, showcasing the diverse culinary scene of Portsmouth.

Two days isn't nearly enough to fully experience downtown Portsmouth.

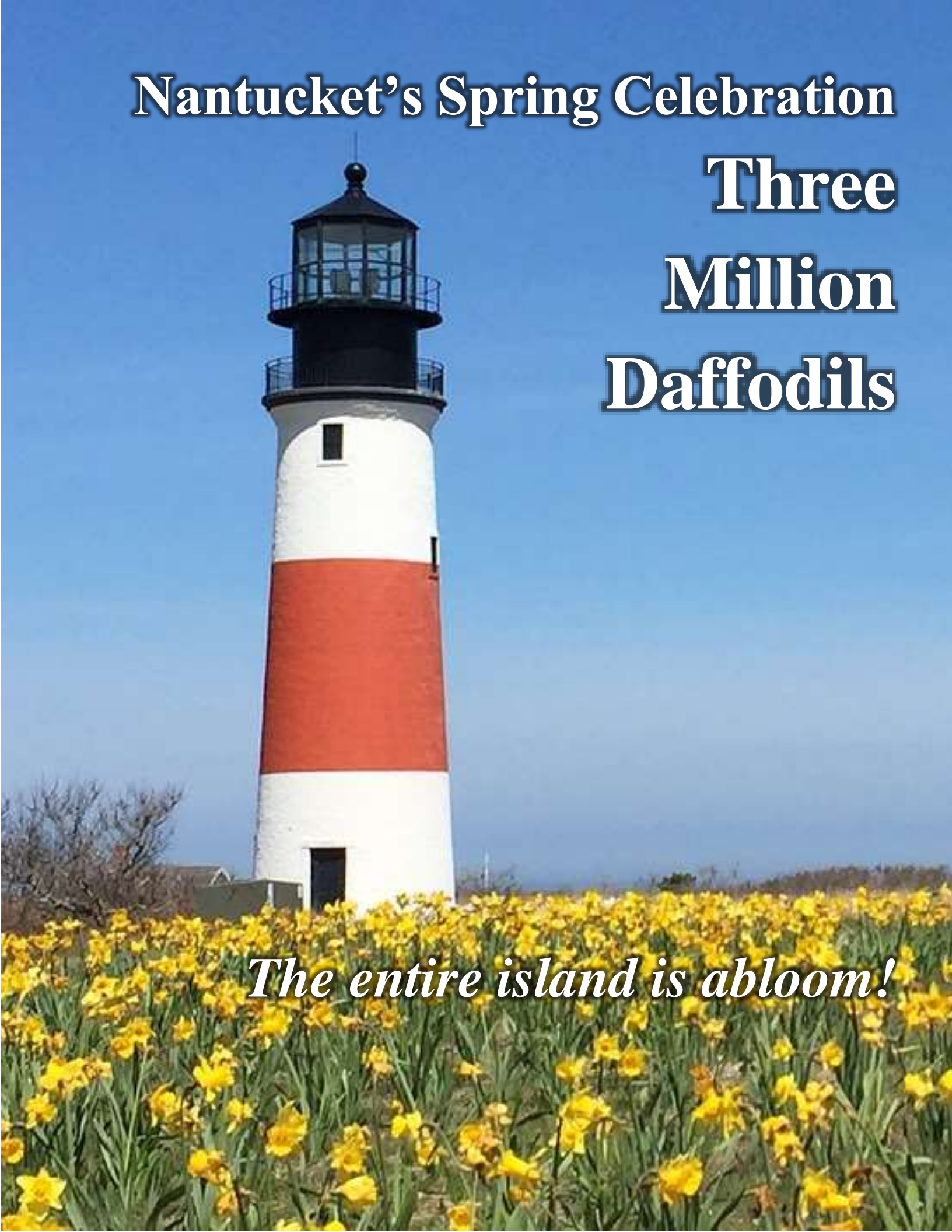
### For More Information:

- [www.goportsmouthnh.com](http://www.goportsmouthnh.com)
- [www.strawberrybanke.org](http://www.strawberrybanke.org)
- [www.rooftopportsmouth.com](http://www.rooftopportsmouth.com)
- [www.eatatgoogies.com](http://www.eatatgoogies.com)
- [www.colwenhotels.com](http://www.colwenhotels.com).

**Nantucket's Spring Celebration**

**Three  
Million  
Daffodils**

*The entire island is abloom!*





**F**rom early April to mid-May over three million daffodils of every color, shape and size will bloom on Nantucket Island, a world-class resort just 30 miles off the coast of Massachusetts. This blossoming, and the advent of spring itself, is the focal point of the Nantucket Island Chamber of Commerce's Annual Daffodil Festival during the last weekend of April each year.

Originated by the late Jean MacAusland, a summer resident of Nantucket and former publisher of *Gourmet* magazine, the weekend has grown into a full-scale celebration of winter's thaw, joyous for both islanders and

visitors alike.

Daffodils adorn the island's roadsides, gardens and shop windows with blossoms of yellow, orange, white and even pale pink.

The Daffodil Festival's grand event, held on Saturday is the



cuisine served on fine china to box lunches and burgers.

Other highlights include the Nantucket Garden Club's Annual Daffodil Show,

Annual Antique Car Parade, featuring over 100 daffodil-bedecked antique cars (pre-registration necessary for participation.)

Children's Daffodil Parade and Daffy Hat Pageant and the new Daffodil Dog Parade!

Daffodils are in bloom for about five weeks - early and late bloomers from early-April to mid-May. Springtime on Nantucket brings delightful weather and offers opportunities for seal cruises and outdoor activities such as bicycling, hiking, fishing, photography, bird watching and nature study.

### **For More Information**

Nantucket Island Chamber of Commerce - 508/228-1700 or visit [www.nantucketchamber.org](http://www.nantucketchamber.org).

Nantucket is accessible by airplane or ferry - one-hour high-speed ferry services are available. Visitors are encouraged to leave their cars behind, as all activities are accessible by walking, bicycle, or taxi







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# The Custom House

THE CUSTOM HOUSE

THE CUSTOM HOUSE

BOOTHBA  
CABOB  
The Marye Cr

Artisans



# Taking It Easy In Boothbay Harbor, Maine

Feature  
By Debbie Stone



*You'll fall hard for Boothbay  
Harbor!*



**I'm on a treasure hunt for trolls at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay, Maine. Yes, trolls – five mammoth-sized creatures who want to impart lessons they've learned about trees to all who find them. And they're located deep in the forest, reached by a series of trails within this enchanting paradise.**

The trolls are actually ginormous, recycled-wood figures crafted by Thomas Dambo. The Danish man is considered the world's leading recycled-materials artist, famous for his troll sculptures. His pieces are immense and eye-popping and each invites seekers into the woodlands, while

communicating a story of conservation.

Teachings are aimed at encouraging people to save seeds and plant more trees, reduce and reuse, and become better stewards of the environment by getting to know the nature existing in their own communities. The hope is that

by sharing one's discoveries, it will help others expand their awareness and sense of wonder.

There's Roskva, who stands for the trunks, and is the heaviest and strongest of the trolls, and also the one with the best memory. Lilja, the youngest of the trolls, holds the scent of the flowers. She adores the colors and the aromas of the plants and is enamored when bees and butterflies flit among the branches. Then there's Soren, who sticks up for the branches. He's a curious one and his head is always turning and twisting in a quest to search for higher places. When the wind blows, he rejoices with a special dance.

Gro smiles with the leaves. A wanderer, she disappears every fall, but then returns to the forest in the spring. Upon arrival, she creates a feast for the forest, making sure her friends are well-fed. Last but not least is Birk. He holds the roots and is known as the

wisest and most mysterious of the trolls. He hides in the shadows, listening to the whispers of the soil, and knows everything that happens in the wild.

When you're not searching for trolls, explore the beautiful gardens, many which feature native





plants of Maine. The place is expansive, with hundreds of acres of mature forest, wetlands and a mile of tidal shoreline.

The Dahlia Garden, for example, showcases five dozen varieties of these colorful flowers. It's a stunner in bloom, as is the Rhododendron Garden, with its floral feast, magnificent waterfall and sculptures.

The Great Lawn is a lovely open space, inspired by 19th century landscape parks. One of its most distinctive features is Whale Rock, a large rock formation that rises out of the grass. And don't miss the Arbor Garden and

its lovely arbor that's draped in climbing roses, wisteria, ornamental grapes and honeysuckle.

The Native Butterfly House and Gardens is a must.

Dazzling butterflies abound amid the nectar plants, along with caterpillars munching off of their own special

smorgasbord.

Other popular areas include the Bibby and Harold Alfond Children's Garden and the Fairy House Village. Whimsical sculptures representing story characters by Maine authors dot the children's garden, along with a treehouse, coloring playhouse and





story barn. The Fairy House Village is also a magical spot for kids, who are welcome to construct ephemeral fairy dwellings using any of the available natural materials in the forest.

After you've toured this unique place, drive to nearby Boothbay Harbor. This quaint town is perhaps one of the most picturesque in Maine. You'll be captivated by its quiet coves and rocky shores, island lighthouses, boating culture, eclectic boutiques and antique shops, and dockside restaurants, serving up some of the freshest local catches. It's a place

that oozes quintessential coastal Maine allure.

A fun way to see the town is to follow the outdoor sculpture trail. There are 31 pieces installed around local businesses and within natural areas. Grab a free map and set off on a cultural adventure. As you stroll the streets, not only will you get to enjoy some interesting local art, but you'll also get to absorb the ambiance of Boothbay Harbor one step at a time.

There are actually over 200 artists in the region, which likely means the temptation to peek inside some of the town's

numerous galleries and studios during your walk will be strong. Looking doesn't cost anything and the artists are always keen to talk about their work.

Of course, you'll most likely be enticed to shop and eat. Handmade treasures abound for some great souvenirs. And with over fifty restaurants and cafes (in-season), going hungry in Boothbay Harbor is never an issue. For lobster roll fanatics (guilty!), head to Shannon's Unshelled. This unassuming seafood shack really delivers!

Boothbay Harbor has been referred to as the "Boating Capital of New England" due to the number of seacrafts in town. So, if you visit the area in summer, you'll definitely want to take one of the many boat excursions that depart right from the bustling harbor. Such trips offer an opportunity to see the surrounding islands and espy puffins, seals and even whales. Or opt to rent a kayak and paddle around the area on your own steam.

There's also plenty of hiking to be found, from easy trails to challenging treks. If you're short on time, but still want to take a







town, but historic Topsiside Inn with its laidback, coastal Maine vibe, is a standout. It was love at first sight for me, but the panoramic harbor views from the property's stunning back lawn sealed the deal.

peaceful walk in the woods, I suggest Porter Preserve. You'll meander through an old growth forest that has a stretch of shoreline on the Sheepscot and Back Rivers. Coastal views are plentiful and there's access to a small beach overlooking an island.

Charming accommodations abound in this delightful



The inn is a serene retreat, yet it's just steps from the waterfront and main street. This is a





place you want to move into and never leave. And yes, I'm planning on putting my name on one of those Adirondack chairs!

You'll have your pick of accommodations in the main house or the guesthouses with their private porches. Or up the ante and book the suite with its spacious living room, vaulted ceilings, fireplace, kitchen and master bath with soaking tub.

Topside and its owners have been recognized by several entities in the industry. Mark and Buzz were named innkeepers of the year in 2020 by Hospitality Maine and

the property was named the number one inn in the state by Downie's for 2021. The accolades are entirely well-deserved.

Every detail is accounted for, from the comfy beds and lux spa products to the sun-filled lounge areas and quiet nooks, 24-hour guest kitchen with assortment of beverages and snacks, intimate bar for those late afternoon libations, homemade cookies of the day and the delectable breakfasts.

I could wax rhapsodic about the breakfasts, which are prepared and cooked-to-order by the innkeepers, and are a showcase for local,

seasonal ingredients. Onsite gardens provide a bounty of produce and other offerings come from the nearby farmer's market.

You'll dine on such delights as banana bread French toast; lemon ricotta pancakes with blueberry compote; sour cream waffles with cherry-bourbon sauce; organic grits with Maine lobster and a

sunny-side egg; pear, potato and lentil hash with house-smoked salmon; and other signature dishes. Accompany your entrée with fresh fruit, in-house baked goods, homemade granola, yogurt and more. You'll have no problem fueling up for a full day of adventure!



### For More Information

- Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens: [www.maine gardens.org](http://www.maine gardens.org)
- Topside Inn: [www.topsideinn.com](http://www.topsideinn.com)



# **New Hampshire Camping Again and Again**

**By Kathleen Doyle**

*If you've ever done any NH  
camping then you understand why  
people return time and again to this  
beautiful state.*



## **I**f you "just want to camp" there are nearly 200 campgrounds and 1000's of New Hampshire camping sites to choose from, with or without hook-ups

You can have your pick of tent and RV sites in wooded areas or along rivers; in RV parks and resorts; family campgrounds; private grounds or magnificent state and national forests.

Of course, camping isn't just a matter of sleeping in a tent, it's also about the things you can do nearby.

Within short driving distances adventurous campers can find

rolling hills, mountains, abundant wildlife, hundreds of crystal-clear rivers, and too many lakes to count. The NH coastline, although short, is beautiful and includes Hampton Beach, ranked as the 3rd cleanest beach in the United States.

Don't forget New Hampshire's blazing fall foliage that makes October NH camping trips unforgettable.

## Outdoors, Year Round

Every season has loads of choices available for those who prefer outdoor fun on their NH camping vacation. Take a big boat cruise on one of the larger lakes or take out your own boat. Swim, water ski, fish, sail or sit on the beach.

How about a thrill ride down one of the mountain zip lines?

Snowmobilers and skiers love NH camping and there are several campgrounds open in the winter for those who like to brave the cold. Snowmobiling is very popular in New Hampshire along with skiing, snowboarding, and snowshoeing.

The opportunities to enjoy the outdoors are endless.

## Sporting Events

If you like sports, you will have access to every professional sport depending upon the time of year. Close by in Massachusetts,



campers will find the Boston Red Sox, New England Patriots, Boston Bruins, Boston Celtics, and New England Revolution. New Hampshire's own baseball team in Manchester, the Fisher Cats, a Double-A affiliate of the Toronto Blue Jays.



## Attractions

New Hampshire boasts Canobie Lake Park, a traditional amusement park for all ages which is located near the NH/MA border. Other fun attractions like Story Land and Santa's Village in the White Mountains are geared toward small children.

In the hot weather, you can cool off at Water Country in Portsmouth or Whale's Tale in Lincoln. A visit to Clark's Trading Post to see the performing bears or a ride on the Hobo Railroad is sure to delight kids from ages 1 to 100. These are

only a few of the many fun things to do and see while on your NH camping trip.

## Auto Racing in NH

Auto racing is plentiful in New Hampshire and there is some limited parking available for RV's. From spring to fall, drag racing heats up the quarter mile track with newly IHRA-sanctioned races with scheduled funny car and jet car events. Hudson Speedway and Lee Speedway, both run stock car races on the oval track every Sunday. Loudon, in the heart of the Lakes Region, is home to New



Hampshire Motor Speedway where race car fans can enjoy an occasional NASCAR event.

### **Shopping and Day Trips**

Don't forget day trips to go shopping at the outlets. Or take a drive to experience the breathtaking views along the Kancamagus. Fall festivals such as the Deerfield Fair and dozens of local weekend festivals like the

*Kathleen Doyle and her family are happy campers and spend most of their camping time in New*

ones held at Applecrest Farm in Hampton Falls attract thousands of autumn NH camping enthusiasts and tourists every year. Your NH camping experience can be anything you'd like it to be!

But most of all, if you love cooking outdoors and relaxing by the fire, or prefer a quiet dinner for two at a quaint NH restaurant, NH camping has it all.

*Hampshire. There's no place they'd rather be*

*[Http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Kathleen\\_Doyle](http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Kathleen_Doyle)*





An aerial photograph of a coastal lighthouse and its associated buildings. The lighthouse is a tall, cylindrical tower with a black lantern room, situated on a rocky point. To its right are several white buildings with red roofs, including a large two-story house and smaller outbuildings. A paved road curves around the buildings, and a green lawn area is visible. The ocean is a deep blue, with white waves crashing against the rocky shore. The sky is clear and blue.

# Piloting a Private Plane Flying Over Rhode Island

By Paul Pence

*Adventure is sometimes,  
very literally, in the air!*



**O**ne of mankind's greatest dreams came true for me. I flew. I climbed into a small plane, settled into the pilot's seat, taxied to the runway, took off, and in no time was sailing 2000 feet above the Rhode Island coastline at over 100 miles an hour. Of course, it wasn't that simple, I didn't actually do the take-off and landing, and the licensed pilot was right there every moment, but I did steer the plane left and right, up and down, and around a couple tight corners.

My little adventure, called an "Airman's Flight", was designed to introduce potential student pilots to the joy of flying. Not as intense as a formal flight lesson, I still

received a detailed walk-through on the pre-flight inspection and the use of the yoke, rudder, throttle, and trim controls. Sorry about the jargon there, I could have said "all



the knobs and wheels that control where the plane goes."

The teaching started on ground. "An airplane is not the best place to learn the basic concepts," said Horizon's office manager, Chris Porter. "There's a lot going on and a lot of noise."

Student pilots get 40 hours of classroom time, with extensive flying experience, but for the airman's flight, I got a half-hour of easy-to-understand instructions on what a small plane owner goes through every time he wants to fly off to Block Island or Niagara Falls.

There's no substitute for actually flying,

though. Being told on the ground that a plane has a delay between turning the yoke and when it actually begins to tilt is not the same as experiencing it in the air

Being told that the bumps and wobbles are absolutely normal and nothing to worry about is not the same thing as

seeing the calm pilot not even reaching for the controls when the plane jumps to the side. We started at Horizon Aviation's offices at the north end of TF Green Airport, in the building that lifelong Rhode Islanders may associate with Hillsgrove.





Under the watchful eye of my trainer Steve Wesolowski, I steered the plane along the ground using foot pedals to control the rudder and the brakes. Just that experience drove home the point that an airplane does not drive like a car.

We took off from the same runways the big airliners use, taking to the air in just a few hundred feet. Flying south, we were past Goddard Park and almost to Quonset Point before we settled in at 2500 feet and Steve said it was my time to fly.

Flying at 130 mph at 2500 feet feels like you're barely moving



Tilting the nose down by pushing the yoke forward a little doesn't change the altitude much, since the plane speeds up and creates more lift. A 30-degree turn may seem tame when you're sitting at home describing it to your family, but in the air, it feels like the whole plane is standing on the tip of the wing. I was so focused on the dials and the horizon line, I didn't even notice that we had traveled from Quonset to Point Judith.

Once we turned west to travel out toward Misquamicut Beach, I started paying attention to the



ground.

It was a beautiful day for flying, and a beautiful day for looking at the world from a couple thousand feet up. The views were incredible.

We circled back, across the bottom of Jamestown Island, up the eastern side of Newport, over the

Mount Hope bridge, and finally back to TF Green.

Before I flew, I had never looked out the front window of a plane in flight. Now I'm not sure I'll ever be content to look out the tiny side windows of airliners ever again.



### **For More Information**

My airman's flight was arranged through the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association and courtesy of the wonderful folks in Rhode Island's Horizon Aviation. To book your own airman's flight or to set

up a full series of flight lessons to get your certification, visit the AOPA website at [LetsGoFlying.com](http://LetsGoFlying.com) or Horizon Aviation at [www.HorizonAviation.com](http://www.HorizonAviation.com).





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and the Statue of Liberty**

**Museum of Modern Art**

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**Skip the lines at the Empire State Building!**



# Silver Circle Gallery Putnam's Place for Art

*Great art needs a great space.  
You'll find it in Putnam!*

**C**arly Martin, longtime resident of Northeast Connecticut, envisioned a fresh and inspiring space where local and regional artists and artisans could exhibit their work, sell one-of-a-kind handmade gifts and boutique items, and individuals of all ages could improve their quality of life by taking art classes. With the support of many passionate and dedicated individuals, she established Silver Circle in 2008. Since then, the Gallery has become a haven for the artistic community and an advocate for the benefits of creativity for everyone.

Carly sees herself as facilitator for the artists and community alike, creating not only a venue for

seasoned professionals, but also a launching pad for fledgling artists. Silver Circle offers a wide range of

art classes and workshops in a variety of mediums for all ages, children through adults. In a friendly, non-threatening environment that encourages everyone to find their inner artist, children and adults alike discover the joys and therapeutic benefits of creativity while building skills.

The Gallery rotates exhibits, bringing color, shape, and form to the Putnam community.

One exhibit, Transcendence: Works by George Chaplin is a prime example of the exhibits that Carly schedules at the Silver Circle Gallery. This show displayed a variety of pastel works on paper and select oil on canvas paintings.

George finds a great deal of inspiration from nature, as well as music. Once called "nature's transcendent painter," Chaplin delicately utilizes color to lure the viewer in with intense gradations of three to four colors. One of the sources of his creativity comes from the ocean of which George states, "It's a mesmerizing experience. You look at the ocean, it's constantly moving, it's always the same but it's constantly

changing."

This idea is translated into his pieces where George is able to create movement as the colors blend into one another, creating the illusion that they are vibrating off of the canvas. George has the ability to select color combinations that never overpower each other and is able to simultaneously create a sense of both excitement and calmness in his compositions.

George Chaplin received his BFA in 1958 and his MFA in 1960, both from the Yale University of Art in New Haven, Connecticut where he studied under world renown Modern artist, Josef Albers who was a student at the Bauhaus in Germany. From 1965-1971 he was the Chairman of the Painting Department at the Silvermine College of Art in New Canaan, CT and from 1972- 1991 he was the Director of Studio Arts and a Professor of Fine Arts at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut.

George's art has been purchased by the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C. and has pieces in countless private collections worldwide. He has also

participated in hundreds of national and international exhibitions and lectures since the 1960s and is mentioned in publications such as *The Art of Drawing, Color, and Who's Who in American Art*.

In an article about George's work for the *Hartford Courant*, it was stated that "There is something visionary about these works. Chaplin's choices of colors are

never ostentatious or bombastic, but finely tuned to achieve more lasting effects. If these later pieces can be said to have a stirring impact on the human spirit, perhaps a category of "Spiritual Abstraction" can be applied to Chaplin's art." In this way, George lets the colors take control and permits them to dictate the direction of the painting.



### **For More Information**

Silver Circle Gallery is located at 75 Main Street in Downtown

Putnam.

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



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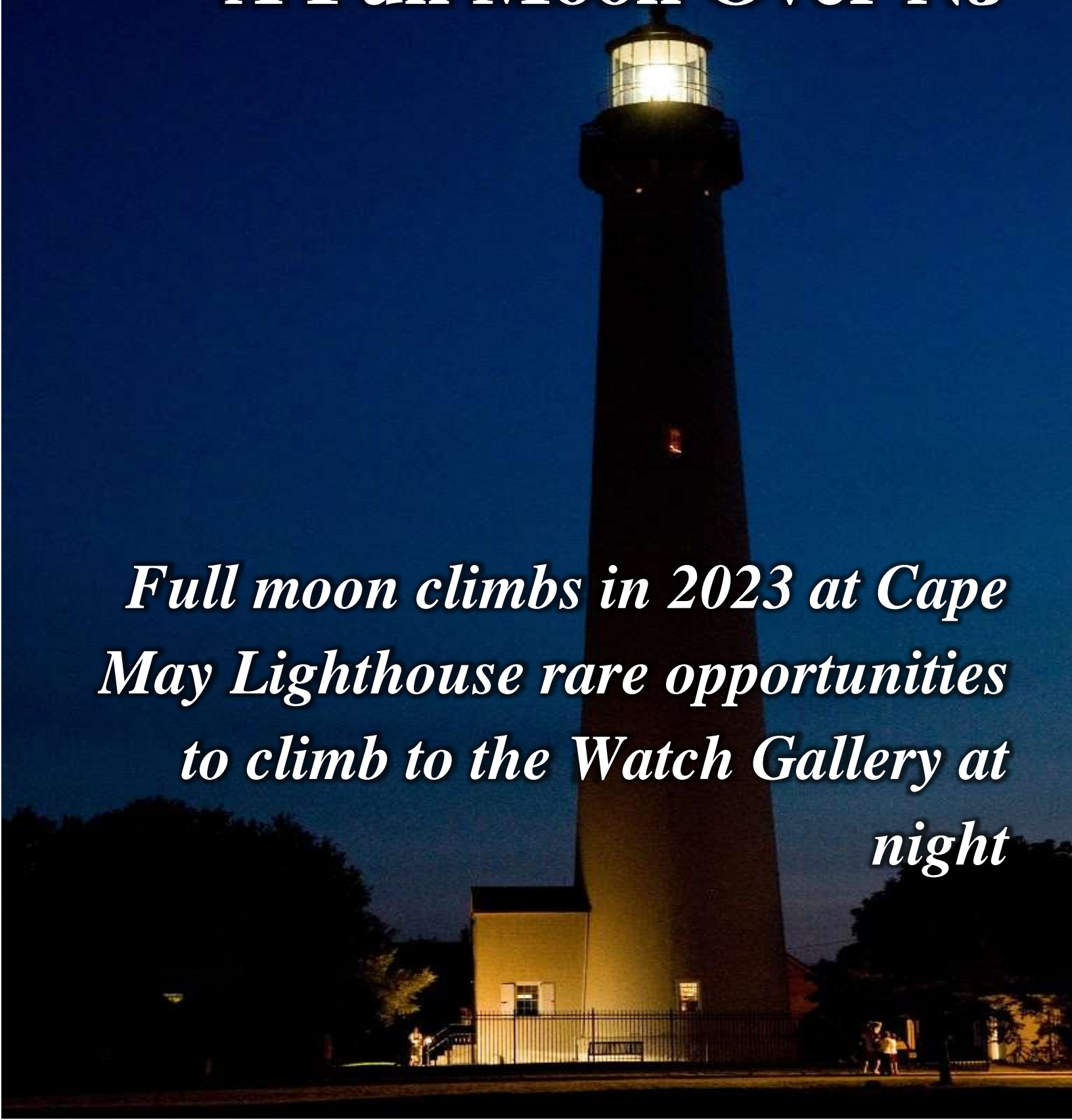
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# On The Lookout For A Full Moon Over NJ

*Full moon climbs in 2023 at Cape  
May Lighthouse rare opportunities  
to climb to the Watch Gallery at  
night*





**Cape May MAC (Museums+Arts+Culture) offers rare opportunities for nighttime climbs up the 199 spiral steps to the Watch Gallery of the Cape May Lighthouse during select full moon dates each year.**

A full moon climb is a special chance on clear nights to see the spectacular full moon in all its glory. Climbers can enjoy a nighttime view nearly 156 feet above the Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean. Interpretive panels tell stories of Lighthouse Keepers, the surrounding area, and how the lighthouse functioned historically,

and are located at landings along the way. The 1859 Cape May Lighthouse is a state historic site and the third beacon on this site. Still an active aid to navigation, it was restored and is maintained by Cape May MAC.

Since it opened to the public in 1988, more than 2.5 million people have climbed to the top of the Cape

May Lighthouse during the day. Fewer have seen the grand vista of the evening sky and the full moon from atop this majestic beacon.

The lighthouse is in Cape May Point State Park, Lower Township (next to Cape May Point Borough Hall in Cape May Point), at 215 Lighthouse Ave., and normally closes at dusk. The Cape May Lighthouse is open regularly for visiting and climbing during daytime hours. Tickets for climbing during daytime hours are

available for purchase online or on site.

Visit [capemaymac.org](http://capemaymac.org) for ticket prices and current schedule.

For information about historic accommodations, contact Cape May Historic Accommodations at [capemaylodging.com](http://capemaylodging.com).

For information about restaurants, accommodations and shopping, call the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May at 609-884-5508.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR PAUL PENCE

**P**aul 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

**D**ebbie 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.



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