

Northeast Traveler

Timeless Elegance In Vermont

**Connecticut History
Rockport on a BLUSTERY Day
Refinement in the Real New Hampshire**

November 2021

Northeast Northeast Traveler Traveler

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Confirm directions and critical
information before traveling.
Be aware of health and other
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Timeless Elegance (and More!)

Woodstock Inn

Story and Photos by
Debbie Stone

Audubon effortlessly glided from a nearby perch, making a beeline for my heavily gloved arm. He snatched up the beef bit and then proceeded to use my limb as his throne, while the paparazzi took pictures. He knew he was a good-looking guy and soaked up the attention. Occasionally, he would eye me and engage in an intense staring contest. I was instantly smitten with this striking creature.



Audubon is a four-year-old Harris's Hawk, one of several birds of prey at New England Falconry in Woodstock, Vermont. This type of southwestern raptor is known for its long legs, long tails and broad markings. It's a cooperative hunter and more sociable than other

hawks.

Jessica, our falconer guide for this unique experience, led the group through a demonstration, while sharing a wealth of knowledge about birds of prey and this ancient 4,000-year-old sport. The session included handling and free-flying a trained Harris's Hawk.

Audubon, we were told, possesses telescopic vision and has the ability to zoom in and out with his eyes. He can read a newspaper one football field away and a headline from two fields. And he's very smart, alert, and quick to anticipate the actions of those around him.

We had fun watching Audubon test Jessica, just like a tot or teenager does with his/her parents. He would pretend not to listen to her whistle and instead go grubbing for snails and slugs, which he eagerly snarfed down. He was

obedient most of the time, but took delight in knowing he could shape her behaviors. And he most definitely liked showing off for his adoring admirers.

Each individual in the group had numerous opportunities to handle Audubon during the hour-long session. Being up-close and personal with such a powerful bird was a thrill and a definite highlight of my visit to Woodstock. This experience was one of several that guests of the Woodstock Inn & Resort can arrange during their stay.

The Woodstock Inn's sterling



reputation precedes itself and the photos will make you drool. And when you actually see the place for the first time, I guarantee you'll do plenty of oohing and aahing.

The property seamlessly blends elegance with laidback comfort, and takes pride in its attentive service and authentic Vermont hospitality. Its stately appearance, plush accommodations, beautifully landscaped gardens and divine food make it a magnet for visitors to the Green Mountain State.

The inn cherishes its New England history and heritage. Its roots can be traced back to 1793 when Captain





Israel Richardson built one of the first lodgings – Richardson’s Tavern – in the newly designated town of Woodstock. The place changed ownership over the next fifty years and was eventually renamed The Eagle Hotel.

Flash forward to the late 1890s when the new Woodstock Inn was constructed on the site of the original Eagle Hotel. It was notable for its grand architecture, expansive verandah and more than a hundred guest rooms.

In 1967, Laurance Rockefeller, a conservationist with a penchant for creating eco-friendly resorts,

bought the inn. However, the place needed major renovations for modernization and it was determined that the feasible solution would be to tear it down and build an entirely new property.

Since the opening of the new hotel, there have been subsequent revisions, additions and upgrades, inside and out, but its charm and character have been retained.

Upon entering the inn, you’ll be greeted by a living room style lobby, complete with an oversized wood-burning fireplace that’s ideal for curling up in front of with a good book, a libation, or a coffee to

start your morning. There's also a number of other rooms, including a handsome library, that provide more intimate spaces for quiet conversation or contemplation.

As for accommodations, you'll have options, including the famed Collection Guestrooms, themed suites that celebrate Vermont. The Sugar House room, for example, is all about the state's maple syrup and comes complete with maple syrup-colored walls and native plant paintings. The Alpine room has vintage skis, poles and even an antique sled.

I stayed in one of the Tavern

Wing Suites, and loved the cozy sitting room, as well as appreciated the large bathroom with plenty of places to put all my necessities. It seems the older I get, the more lotions and potions I require! For those who want to bring Fido with them, the inn also offers pet-friendly garden level rooms.

When it's time to eat, head to the inn's Red Rooster for an unforgettable meal or two. The award-winning restaurant is known for its farm-to-table, fresh cuisine and seasonal menus. Chefs get their produce from the inn's nearby Kelly Way Gardens, working with





the master gardener to select ingredients for their innovative dishes.

This organic garden specializes in unique and heirloom varieties and has over 200 types of veggies, 50 different herbs, flowers, berries, orchards, honeybees and even a mushroom glen. During the summer months, the place hosts tours, events, tastings and dinners.

When I ate at the Red Rooster, dinner entrees included such specialties as Grilled Atlantic Salmon, Seared Georges Bank Scallops alongside Braised Short Rib of Beef, Veal Osso Bucco, and Mustard & Herb Crusted Rack of Lamb. And for vegetarians, there was the Crispy Cauliflower Vegetable Bowl. I wanted to try some of the scallops, but also have the veggie bowl, so the kitchen gracefully accommodated my request by putting the scallops in the bowl. Very tasty!

The restaurant has a good wine selection, as well as some creatively crafted cocktails with names like the Robert Frost, Vermont Apple, No. 14 Maple Old Fashioned and Quechee Quench-er (named for Quechee Gorge, Vermont's little Grand Canyon).

Make sure you save room for the Vermont Maple Cake, Chocolate Coffee Pave or the Vermont Artisan Cheese Tasting Plate. Then waddle on back to your room, or better yet, take an evening stroll around the gardens and work off some of those calories.

You can also opt to dine at the Richardson Tavern, another of the inn's establishments. A crackling fire awaits in this casual eatery where seafood stew, chowder, cheese fondue, salads, steak frites and more await your palette.

If you're itching for some activity and can drag yourself away from the relaxing confines of the inn, you'll be delighted to hear that Woodstock and the surrounding Green Mountains area is rich in recreation and outdoor adventure. Talk to those in the know at the resort's Activity Center. The helpful staff will set you up with maps, guides, recommendations, complimentary Village Cruisers and more for all your hiking and cycling needs. There are actually sixty miles of trails that wind through the village.

One of my favorite places to walk was at nearby Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National



Historical Park, with its peaceful colonial carriage roads and iconic covered bridges, amid a verdant setting.

Additionally, the inn's staff can arrange fly fishing lessons, schedule a tennis or tee time, reserve a falconry session or point

you in the direction of local attractions like the Billings Farm & Museum, the aforementioned Kelly Way Gardens, Middle Covered Bridge and Simon Pearce's flagship glass workshop, just to mention a few.

The Billings Farm & Museum is





free to guests of the inn and is an easy half mile walk away. It's a working dairy farm and museum of Vermont's rural past, with educational exhibits, animal barns, an 1890 farm house and Dairy Bar, featuring Vermont-made ice cream, Billings Farm cheddar

cheese and other assorted goodies. Vermont is a dairy lover's dream – my kind of state!

Return to the inn to soothe sore muscles and get pampered in the luxurious, 10,000 square-foot spa, featuring a menu of treatments using locally sourced products.





With a great experience at the inn, and looking at all the classic, picture-perfect New England style homes that dot the streets, I had no problem picking out a few I would move into without hesitation!

For more info, visit www.woodstockinn.com

About the Author:

Debbie Stone 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.



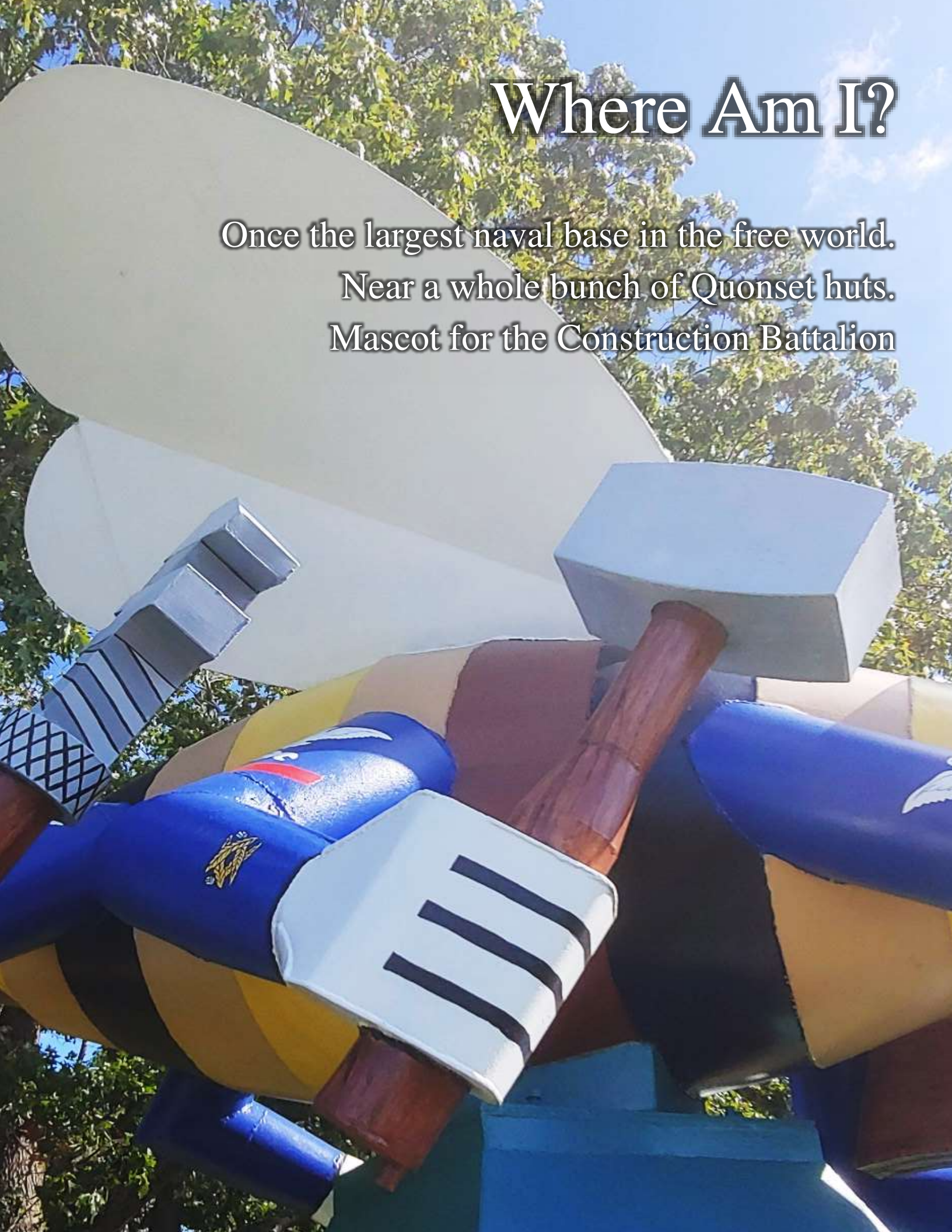
Take a dip in the outdoor swimming pool or soak in the hot tub.

With the resort's convenient in-town location, you'll be able to amble down Main Street at your leisure to the numerous shops, galleries and restaurants. Definitely check out Gillingham's General Store, a fixture since 1886, where you can find traditional, nostalgic and specialty items. And if you're looking for local, artisan made crafts and jewelry, stop in at Collective.



Where Am I?

Once the largest naval base in the free world.
Near a whole bunch of Quonset huts.
Mascot for the Construction Battalion





Just off Post Road and 104 in North Kingstown, Rhode Island you'll find the Seabee museum and its iconic fighting Seabee, the mascot of the Naval Construction Battalion. Originally designed by Frank J. Iafarte in 1942 as a symbol for the US Navy's Construction Battalion, This sculpture was built in 1971 based on his drawings.

DAVIS
ORIGINAL







Touch, Hear, and See Connecticut History

**Photos Courtesy of
Visit Connecticut**

While you can't travel back in time, you can travel to Connecticut to experience a wide variety of historical and interactive getaways. Connecticut is proud to be the home of one of America's most famous novelists, an interactive museum exploring 11,000 years of Native American history, and colonial homes dating to the early 1600s, with tours for many of the state's "oldies but goodies" readily available. Here are ten great choices to make history come alive in Connecticut.



Experience Connecticut's Seafaring Past

Mystic Seaport has been a maritime destination since the 1600s, with over 600 vessels constructed along its coast. Visitors can relive its prosperous past in a re-created 18th century coastal village that includes period buildings complete with historians, musicians and storytellers who make history come alive.

The Seaport also boasts the nation's leading maritime museum, which includes the world's largest collection of maritime

photography and artifacts. Guests can also see how it all started at the Seaport's working preservation shipyard, where craftsmen still use the same tools and trades as workers of centuries past





Connecticut Redefines the Home

In the 1950s, the town of New Canaan, known for its "conservatism" suddenly became avant-garde when five architects, known as the "Harvard Five," used the idyllic natural surroundings to create works of modern art. The result: a definitive juxtaposition of scenery that provoked the theories of architecture and art.

Perhaps the most recognized home was also the first to be completed in the series, the Glass House, built by renowned architect, Phillip Johnson, offers

scheduled tours. The New Canaan Historical Society has a year-round exhibit about the moderns.

When Dinosaurs Roamed... Connecticut?

Opened in 1968, the Dinosaur State Park in Rocky Hill is Connecticut's claim to pre-historic times after an accidental discovery of the largest dinosaur track site in North America. The kids will delight in the surrounding park nature trails and the Dinosaur State Park Arboretum, containing more than 250 species. Have the kids



participate in several of the activities for children including fossil boxes, scavenger hunt and making a dinosaur track bookmark - the perfect keepsake!

History Loves Company: Historic Inns

Spend the night in a Revolutionary War encampment, sleep in the chambers of an 18th century judge or indulge in the summer home of a 1902 steel magnate. Renovated or restored, these Connecticut inns are more than just a warm bed; they are

living history. 3 Liberty Green Bed and Breakfast in Clinton, built c. 1734, retains its colonial charm.

For history buffs, this site was once a militia muster field visited by Generals Washington & Lafayette

Having received several accolades, including the AAA Three Diamond Approval Rating, The Bee and Thistle Inn in Old Lyme has a significant place in local history. Built in 1756 as a residence for Judge William Noyes and his family, the inn opened to the public in 1930.





Before Broadway, there is Goodspeed

Since 1876, the Goodspeed Opera House has been entertaining locals and visitors alike

A foundation built for William Goodspeed's love of theater, the opera house has shined its spotlight on several highly acclaimed works

of theater including the original production of *Man of La Mancha*, *Shenandoah* and *Annie*. Today, it continuously remains at the forefront of musical theater having achieved two Tony Awards and international fame. Nineteen original Goodspeed productions have transferred to Broadway, receiving more than a dozen Tony Awards.

Freedom Afloat: The Freedom Schooner Amistad

For those on the *Amistad*, freedom began in Connecticut. The Freedom Schooner *Amistad* in Mystic is a recreation of the original 136-ton, 129-foot-long schooner - essentially, a floating classroom. The replica has even made the journey to Europe and Africa to educate visitors on the transatlantic slave trade. Departing from Havana, Cuba, in 1839, the





passengers aboard staged an uprising for freedom that would become among the most famous in history. The Connecticut court determined, in an unprecedented ruling, that their transport was in fact illegal and returned the passengers home to Africa. For March and April visitors may view the Amistad at the Mystic Seaport Museum Shipyard while it is undergoing renovations. Starting in May and continuing through June, the Amistad will be visiting Connecticut ports and will be available for public sails and overnight sails.

Shine a Light on Connecticut's Seafaring Past

Let the lights guide the way at the Sheffield Island Lighthouse and Nature Trail Tour in Norfolk. These lighthouses served as beacons of light for countless fisherman returning home from the open seas. The Sheffield Island Lighthouse has been in operation since 1868 and is now listed with the National Register of Historic Places. Visitors can climb up the light tower and see period furniture showcasing what life was like in the 19th century for lighthouse keepers





Visit the Oldest Stone House in New England

Welcome to 1639. The Henry Whitfield State Museum, New England's oldest stone house, welcomes visitors to experience life in the 17th century

The house was erected by Reverend Henry Whitfield, who, born in England, joined the mass exodus of others leaving for the New World seeking religious freedom. With its massive chimneys and steeply pitched roof, the house is filled with authentic 17th to 19th century furnishings

Explore the Culture of Connecticut's First Inhabitants

Travel back in time 11,000 years to explore the history of the Pequot tribe. At the award-winning Mashantucket Pequot Museum in Mystic, experience the lives of the tribe through all the senses

Watch a recreation of a caribou hunt, hear the crackling of fire, grinding of corn and native tongue of this noble tribe and participate in an excavation as part of the museum's archaeology program



Visit the Birthplace of Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer

Samuel Clemens, also known as his more famous pen name, Mark Twain, lived in Hartford from 1874 to 1891 and his home is now a recognized historical landmark. The Mark Twain House was where Twain created the legendary characters of Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer. Avid fans of one of the most influential American writers can pick up a brochure highlighting 17 stops in greater

Hartford from Cedar Hill Cemetery, where Mark Twain's contemporaries are buried, to State Street Landing at the Connecticut River, where Twain frequently boarded steamboats bound for New York

More Info:

- Connecticut Tourism 1-888-CTvisit (1-888-288-4748) or log on at www.CTvisit.com
- Mystic Seaport www.mysticseaport.org or (860) 572-5315.



- Dinosaur State Park
www.dinosaurstatepark.org or
(860-257-7601).
- Glass House (866) 811-4111.
- 3 Liberty Green B&B (860) 669-0111.
- Bee and Thistle Inn (860) 434-1667.
- Godspeed Theater
www.goodspeed.org or (860) 873-8668.
- Sheffield Island Lighthouse
www.seaport.org or (203) 838-9444.
- Freedom Schooner Amistad
www.amistadamerica.org or
(203) 495- 1839.
- Henry Whitfield State Museum
www.whitfieldmuseum.com or
(203) 453-2457
- Mashantucket Pequot Museum
www.pequotmuseum.org or
(800) 411-9671.
- Mark Twain House
www.marktwainhouse.org or
(860) 247-099





Adair Country Inn and Restaurant Refinement in the Real New Hampshire

Story and Photos by Paul Pence

Driving north from Rhode Island, we push through the Boston's extended suburbs that dwindle away as we venture deeper into New Hampshire. Further north, we discover the part of New Hampshire that exists to serve tourists -- the attractions around Lake Winnepesaukee, the ski resorts, and the natural wonders that make hiking and camping in the White Mountains a thrill. But north of the White Mountains, beyond the ski resorts and the bustling communities that serve them, New Hampshire returns to its rustic roots. It's peace, quiet, and wilderness around Bethlehem -- not at all where you'd expect to find a four-diamond country inn.



That's where we found the Adair Country Inn and Restaurant, an amazingly upscale country inn with an award-winning restaurant featuring fine dining in a casual atmosphere.

With over two hundred acres of countryside Adair is a year-around destination. You can play in the snow all winter with snow snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and in the nearby ski areas, Alpine skiing. Hiking is best in the spring

and summer. In the autumn, leaf peeping can be from the window of your guest room or through the window of your car on a country drive



On our visit, we enjoyed a marvelous dinner. It started with lobster bisque – rich and savory -- continued through a tenderloin

basking in Boursin-blue cheese butter, and ended with the crunch crust of a delicious crème brulee. Even the breakfast was a delight,

with huge fluffy popovers providing a memorable centerpiece for a breakfast of fruit, yogurt, maple granola, sausage, and a slice of thick pie-like apple pancake.

After a hike, or exploring nearby Littleton, or maybe a day of skiing, the inn hosts teatime in the inn's living room, where you can sip your tea at the fireplace and meet the other inn's patrons. Or, if it's romantic getaway and you want to be alone, you can go

down to Granite room.

Finished out in hand-cut stone blocks, the Granite Room, makes a cool retreat for relaxing with a drink in an overstuffed club chair or a game of pool on the Inn's antique table.

At night, we retired to our guest room. The Adair has nine rooms, each named for different nearby mountains, all with antique furniture and cozy ambiance. Our room, the Lafayette, overlooked



the front gardens. It had a four-poster bed, comfy reading chairs, a settee in front of a gas fireplace, and a bathroom featuring a two-person soaking tub.

The Adair was once the country home of the daughter of Frank Hogan, one of the country's leading lawyers -- but that was back in 1927, when everyone and his neighbor was getting rich from a booming stock market that promised to never end. In those days before air conditioning, people of means came to the mountains for cool air all summer. They'd take the trains from the



crowded hot cities to grand hotels where they were pampered like royalty for months on end.

But the wealthiest people would have their own homes. And because of his defense of rich and fearful clients, Frank Hogan became a very wealthy man. His clients had included the likes of Teddy Roosevelt and the owners of the Hope Diamond.

Hogan built Adair as a wedding gift for his only child, Dorothy Adair Hogan. In those days, the countryside around the home was rocky rolling hills. The tree cover in 1927 was minimal, only beginning to recover from the widespread



logging that fed the iron furnace in nearby Franconia. Wildflowers bloomed in abundance

Since then, the forests have regrown, the wildlife has returned,

and New Hampshire's original natural beauty has renewed. Dorothy lived a long and peaceful life in the stately house, welcoming presidents, actors, and sports stars to her home.

Then in 1992, the Banfield Family converted Adair into a country inn. The Banfields are people of fine taste, and the recognized that there are other people of fine tastes who would make the Adair into their mountain retreat.

The present owners, Beth and Joel Bedor continued where they left off, and developed a top-notch restaurant and oversaw renovations that made the inn's 11 rooms appealing to discerning patrons. At the



time of our visit, our innkeepers made the Adair a welcoming and romantic place to relax, they encourage visitors to hike in the inn's 210 acres of restored woodlands and experience the North Country's natural wonders up close.

The Adair Country Inn is more elegant than what you'd often expect in a country inn, blending the four-poster-and-quilts ambiance of bed and breakfasts with the luxury you'd expect if you were a guest of Frank Hogan.

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit as guests of the Inn, and felt completely pampered. We're sure you will be too.

You can find the Adair Country Inn just off I93 at exit 40. Call them at 1-888-444-2600. Or visit them online at www.adairinn.com.

N



The background image is a collage of various Tex-Mex dishes. In the top left, there is a pile of golden-brown tortilla chips. Next to them is a small blue bowl filled with red salsa. In the center-left, a glass with a blue rim is filled with a light-colored beverage, likely a margarita, garnished with a lime wedge. To the right, a white plate holds several tacos filled with ground meat, topped with cheese and lime wedges. Below this, another white plate features a serving of orange rice, a portion of brown beans topped with white cheese, and a side of grilled meat. The entire scene is set against a rustic wooden background.

Tex-Mex in the Northeast On the Border

Story by Paul Pence

With the entire northeast within driving distance of our doorstep, my wife and I have made On the Border “Our Place”. Interestingly, it’s our place for exactly opposite reasons. For my wife, a born-and-bred Rhode Islander, Tex-Mex is a novel dining experience, but for me, raised in Texas, Tex-Mex is familiar and comfortable.

It especially pleases us that On the Border has been working hard in recent months to build customer loyalty. We signed up right away for their loyalty card, which right away gave us a free combo dinner.

Then their Queso Club, with a free signature queso every visit, made our “Chips, salsa, and Margarita nights” into cheese fiestas.

When On the Border recently introduced their Smokehouse fajitas, we had to test them out. The abundance of smokey ribs and

pulled pork and shredded brisket and sausage was more Tex than Mex, but to my Texas-trained palate, it was perfect comfort food.

My wife enjoyed her spicy shrimp tacos, another new addition to the menu, along with her margherita.

There are 19 On the Borders in the Northeast, making it easy to find one when we are on a road trip and my wife wants a spicy, exciting dinner – or I want something that I find confrontable and familiar. Or both.





Bacon Bacon Bacon BACON!!!!

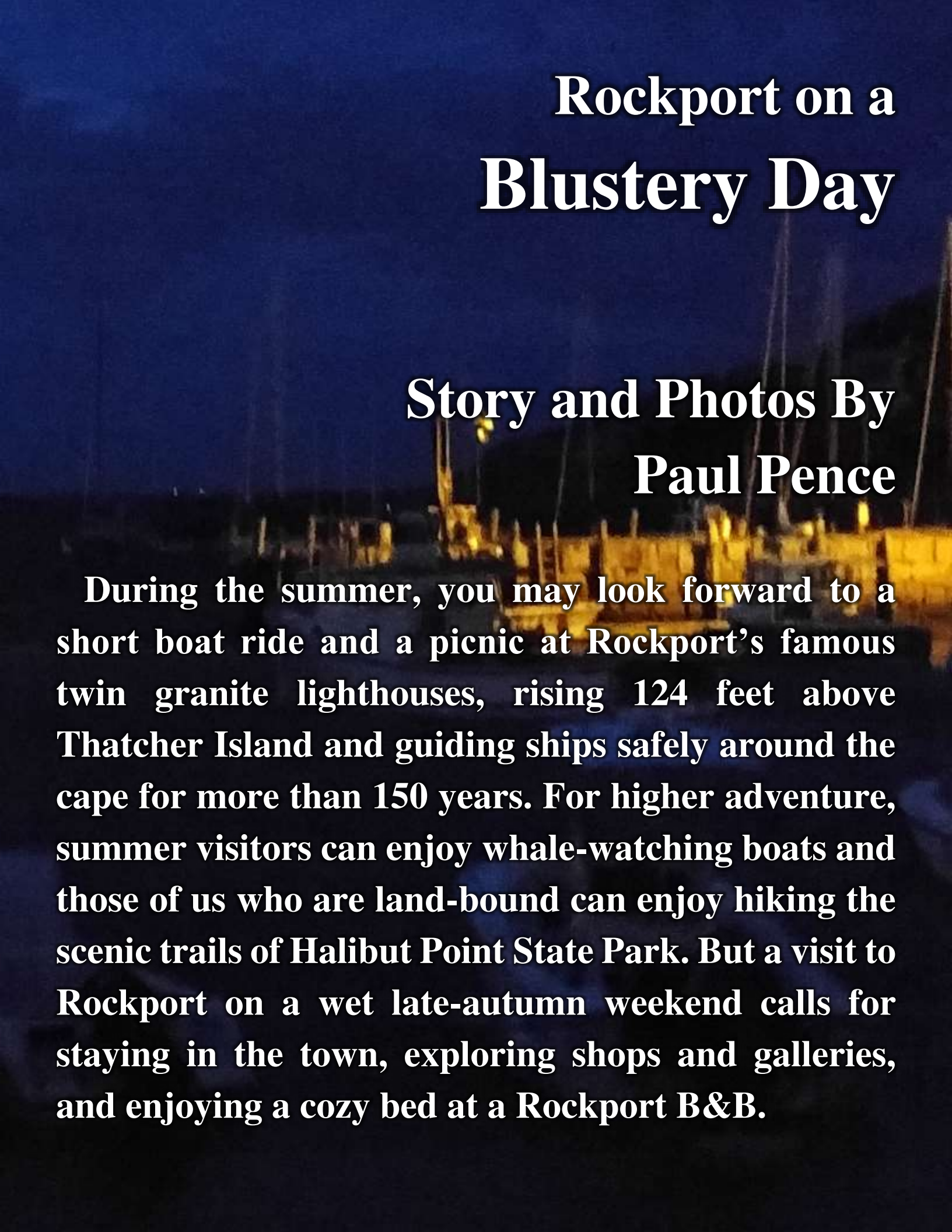
PA Bacon Fest

What's better than a plate of bacon? Two plates of bacon! Or, in this case, two whole days celebrating bacon. BACON! For those of us who think that the perfect food is bacon-wrapped, bacon-stuffed bacon on a bed of bacon, topped with bacon and a side of bacon, there's a weekend devoted to our favorite food.

Come to Easton, PA November 6 & 7 for food, music, costumes, fun and, of course, bacon! There's even a bacon eating contest, where even the losers get to eat their favorite food.

For more information, find them online at www.pabaconfest.com





Rockport on a Blustery Day

**Story and Photos By
Paul Pence**

During the summer, you may look forward to a short boat ride and a picnic at Rockport's famous twin granite lighthouses, rising 124 feet above Thatcher Island and guiding ships safely around the cape for more than 150 years. For higher adventure, summer visitors can enjoy whale-watching boats and those of us who are land-bound can enjoy hiking the scenic trails of Halibut Point State Park. But a visit to Rockport on a wet late-autumn weekend calls for staying in the town, exploring shops and galleries, and enjoying a cozy bed at a Rockport B&B.



On our autumn visit to Rockport, we stayed close to Rockport Harbor, hopping from shop to shop and having a great time.

Rockport Harbor is the location of a famous red fishing shack festooned with lobster pot buoys known as “Motif Number 1”. An artist’s colony established in the mid-1800’s tended to make the building a frequent subject of paintings, so frequently that it is considered the most frequently painted building in America. The building, sitting prominently on the end of Bradley Wharf, was

destroyed during the infamous Blizzard of ’78 and then rebuilt, technically making it a replica but no less iconic.

Over the years, the fishing shacks and maritime businesses have Bearskin Neck meets Upper Main Street at Dock Square, not exactly a square, but a junction that at least makes a good reference point.

With a chill wind blowing, you don’t stroll, you scurry along onto Bearskin Neck for shopping.

Some of the shops focus on t-shirts and nautical knickknacks, as

would be expected in a New England coastal town popular with tourists. Some of the shops have distinctly Asian merchandise.

We sought out for the shops that focused on the artisans crafting specific media – in one case, the Village Silversmith, right on the square. My wife’s taste in jewelry tends toward silver, and when she saw that not only did they create jewelry with gemstones, but also with fossils so it was hard to get her to choose one necklace over another.

Farther on the Neck, we found Bearskin Neck Leather, with high-



end leather goods, like Minnetonka moccasins and Taos Footwear boots, along with purses, belts, and hats.

We also found the Pewter Shop with fun bangles and charms and Earth’s Treasures with bright colors and beads in its jewelry.

Of course we found the shops with fudge, sweatshirts, and refrigerator magnets, then we sought out the galleries and studios. Art is subject to personal taste, so it’s good that there are so many galleries. Most tend toward landscapes – the kind of work you’d expect where Motif Number





chowder and the chef's daily seafood tasting – a trio of delicious appetizers, then continued with a delicious salad with roasted beets and heirloom tomatoes with Maytag bleu cheese. For our entrees we enjoyed swordfish with spicy pecans and béarnaise sauce and a pan roasted cod with braised leek sauce.

When the weather is rough, the outdoor and upstairs seating is closed – and if you wait too late in the season, the restaurant closes for the winter.

Roy Moore Lobster Company is another great choice for dining. There are actually two locations – within 500 feet of each other. First is the very casual, order at the counter and eat outside on the patio restaurant – on a windy, cold, wet

1 is a regular feature of inspiration. Look for the galleries all along Main Street and all the way up Bearskin Neck, sometimes

shoulder-to-shoulder with other galleries.

We sought out food too. Right at the end of Bearskin Neck is My Place by the Sea, a fine dining restaurant focusing on the bounty of the sea.

Our amazing meal started with clam



weekend only the heartiest of diners attempt dinner there. If it's that cold, the Roy Moore Lobster Company right on the square is a warmer choice. That more traditional restaurant is sometimes called "The Fish Shack", despite having the Roy Moore sign out front.

There we enjoyed mussels and lobsters, a happy and attentive staff, and a family dining atmosphere.

For our home base, we stayed at the 7 South Street Inn, a very well-appointed B&B a short stroll from the Square. The inn was built in 1766, before the Revolutionary War, and added onto since, giving it three guest rooms, each with its own electric fireplace, bathroom, and amazingly comfortable bed. Innkeepers Deb and Nick Benn have created a very welcoming atmosphere in a place with charm, history, and the right kind of coziness for a blustery day.

During the summer, the Inn has a pool for their guests, and it's a very short walk to Davis Park, overlooking the shoreline, and the Headlands overlooking the Harbor. But during a cold and blustery evening, it's a lot more fun just to snuggle up, enjoy the fireplace, and

remember the great food and the shops and galleries of Rockport.

For more information:

- Rockport (Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce)
www.rockportusa.com
- Seven South Street Inn
www.sevensouthstreetinn.com
- My Place by the Sea
www.myplacebythesea.com
(978) 546-9667
- Roy Moore Lobster Company
(978) 546-6696






The background image shows the exterior of the Hotel Benjamin, a multi-story brick building with many windows. Two flags, the American flag and a dark purple hotel flag, are flying from poles in front of the building. The street in front has some cars and a few people.

Manhattan, Ecologically The Benjamin

By Paul Pence

Behind the Hotel Benjamin's marble-clad lobby and the luxury expected from a four-star hotel, lies a special commitment to the environment. Special recycling and education programs ensure that this Manhattan hotel is environmentally friendly. In fact, the Benjamin is the first certified five-globe Ecotel in the US.



In 1927, the hotel began as a creation of Emery Roth, the architect whose firm went on to design the original World Trade Center towers along with dozens of other Manhattan buildings. For seventy years the hotel was known as the Beverly, and quietly went about business a stone's throw away from larger and larger hotels. What was once a jazz era landmark became run down and ready for renovation. In 1997, the hotel changed hands and began a \$30 million renovation.

From the early stages of

renovation, energy efficiency, water conservation, and waste reduction were important influences on the design specifications and equipment and product purchasing decisions. To meet these criteria, the Benjamin's architects and engineers designed and selected plumbing fixtures, showerheads, computerized controls for air conditioning and heating systems, and even a custom-designed waste chute and compactor system to handle high-tech recycling machinery.

In many ways, this conservation



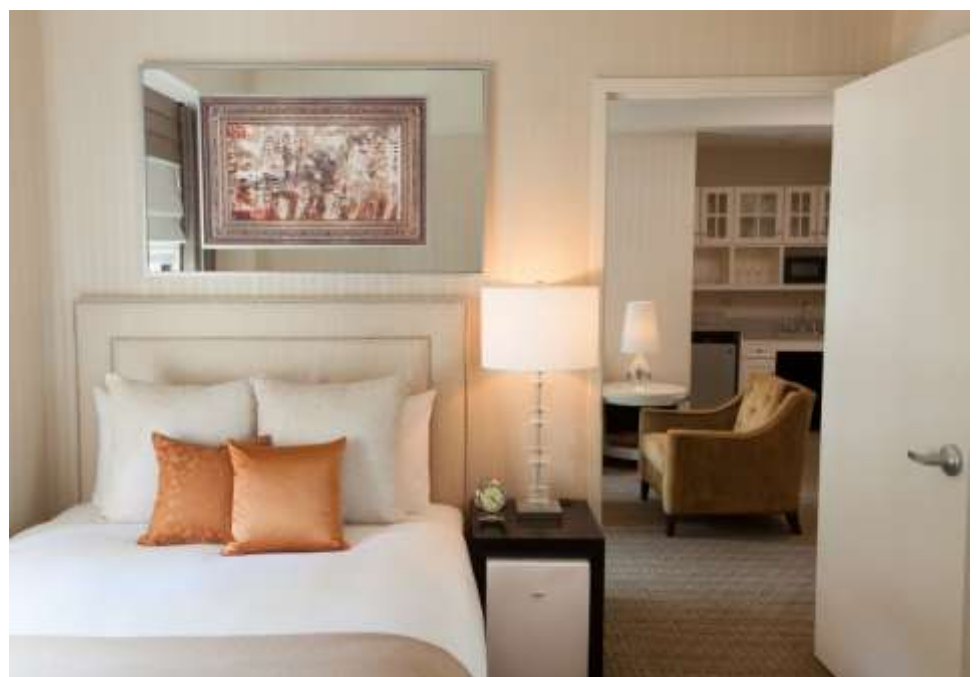
adds to the feeling of luxury rather than detracting from it. Making each room's air-conditioning and heating systems individually controlled and programmable makes the room temperature actually match what the visitor desires rather than overheating some rooms because other rooms are too cool. When it came time to choose clock radios for the room, the Benjamin chose Bose Wave radios in order to ensure luxury in addition to energy savings.

Since every room has its own fully equipped "galley", guests frequently prepare some

of their own meals. This would ordinarily mean increased waste from the rooms. But not only are there recycling bins in each galley, the housekeeping staff is trained to sort the trash for recycling, especially the two-inch-thick Sunday edition of The New

York Times.

This training extends throughout the hotel, from the kitchen to the spa, with recyclables for the entire hotel brought to the basement for compressing and bundling. It's a win-win situation for the hotel, with energy, water, and waste



expenses 30% below budget in addition to reducing the hotel's impact on the environment and offering visitors an environmentally friendly option when staying in Manhattan.

Of course, much of what makes the four-star Benjamin luxurious is unrelated to being ecologically friendly. The hotel offers 11 different types of pillows, down-

filled duvets, spa treatments, and morning newspapers. Staff are friendly and helpful, and the spa and restaurant are exactly what traveling executives demand.

For business travelers, each

room also comes with high-speed internet access, a fax/printer/copier with a dedicated fax number, three telephones (including one in the bathroom), an oversized executive desk to spread out on, an ergonomic desk chair, voicemail, and a convenient desktop power strip for plugging in laptops. There are even personal computers available upon request. Being a "boutique hotel", the Benjamin has not dedicated a huge amount of space to ballrooms, but they do boast a 12-person executive boardroom with dataports built into the table. There are also dataports





in the 110-person conference room and throughout the second-floor lounge.

And since no hotel is an island, even if it is on an island, there is Manhattan outside. With the Benjamin at 50th and Lexington, the bustling business and shopping districts of midtown Manhattan, along with being a stone's throw from Broadway and the United Nations, meaning that you can walk to your midtown meetings and entertainment, saving fuel and further helping the environment.

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