

# The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD

## AT CAMP, DINE OUT INSIDE

Restaurant near Lake Winnepesaukee rekindles memories and dishes of summers spent at lakes and cabins

By Ellen Albanese

GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

MEREDITH, N.H. — You're never too old for summer camp, gastronomically speaking at least. On a pretty site in the historic Mill Falls Marketplace across from Lake Winnepesaukee, Camp aims to transport guests to the summer camp of their childhoods, with bunkhouse décor and comfort foods such as "camp crackers," buttermilk fried chicken, and an updated take on s'mores.

The concept came to Diane Downing, vice president of Common Man restaurants, while she was cleaning out her horse's stall, she says. "The site is across from Winnepesaukee, and I was trying to figure out, how can I bring the lake into this place? Then it came to me — it'll be like you're in a camp on the lake." From there, Downing was off on a campaign to collect the items and artifacts that would re-create the iconic summer experience, from a wood-and-canvas canoe suspended above the bar that doubles as a rack for stemware to a moose head over the fieldstone fireplace that's on long-term loan from a customer.

There was a kerosene lamp on our pine table, which was inscribed with hand-lettered names — Dean and Tyler were here — along with sets of initials in slightly crooked hearts. Nostalgic photos of kids and families camping and canoeing decorate the walls, and red-and-black checkered wool hunting clothes hang from a hook.



Camp offers nostalgic decor, log patio furniture, and s'mores for dessert.

Servers wear black T-shirts with rolled-up sleeves and "counselor" stamped on the back. The restroom is, of course, the "outhouse." Discovering the clever camp touches is half the fun of dining at Camp: In one corner, I saw a Scotch-plaid round cooler I actually remember taking on family camping trips around the middle of the last century.

Signature dishes, our server said, are "camp crackers," classic mac and cheese, ale-battered fish and chips, and buttermilk fried chicken with apples and a gouda sauce. Camp crackers, wedges of cheddar and gorgonzola-

topped flatbread, are served on a narrow board that is so long it has to angle across the tabletop. Crispy, chewy, and tangy, the crackers are an eminently shareable appetizer. The buttermilk fried chicken cutlets, set on a ridiculously large plate of mashed potato, are light and crisp; sliced apples add sweetness and pair well with the smoky gouda.

And what's dinner around the campfire without s'mores? Camp's deconstructed version consists of a mosaic of oven-puffed marshmallows atop Hershey's chocolate syrup, served in a mini-skillet with a side of Nabisco Honey Maid Grahams. The trick is to use the crackers to scoop out a warm marshmallow, making sure to claim some of the chocolate sauce underneath.

The town of Meredith offers several attractions for visitors, not the least of which is the chance to tour Lake Winnepesaukee aboard the 230-foot M/S Mount Washington or another vessel in the Mount Washington Cruises fleet. A short boardwalk follows the lakefront to a gazebo over the water that affords a good view down the lake. The Mill Falls Marketplace has shops and restaurants, and a sculpture walk around historic Meredith Village features more than 30 sculptures by New England artisans.

**Camp, 300 Daniel Webster Highway, 603-279-3003, [www.thecman.com/restaurants-and-menus/camp.aspx](http://www.thecman.com/restaurants-and-menus/camp.aspx).**

Ellen Albanese can be reached at [ellen.albanese@gmail.com](mailto:ellen.albanese@gmail.com).



ELLEN ALBANESE FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

## HERE

### SHEEP AND FIBER ARTS FEST IN VT.

Kickoff the fall festival season in the rolling hills of Vermont at the 29th Annual Vermont Sheep & Wool Festival (Sept. 30-Oct. 1). Set in the expansive Tunbridge Fairgrounds, the week-end event showcases small farmers and handcrafters, with an emphasis on businesses that grow and create with natural fibers. Visitors can enjoy more than 70 vendors offering fleece and yarn, fiber animals, handspinning and fiber crafting equipment and supplies, and crafted wool items. Also features contests, fiber arts classes and demonstrations, shepherd workshops, herding and shearing demos, fleece sale, cashmere goat exhibit, and more. No need to pack a lunch: vendors will be selling a variety of fresh, local foods, including lamb, pizza, soups, salads, sandwiches, and desserts. A sugarhouse operated by the Orange County Maple Producers will offer maple syrup, maple creams, and more. Overnight camping is available on Saturday only. Admission \$6; seniors \$5; children under 12 \$1. Sorry, no pets. [vtsheepandwoolfest.com](http://vtsheepandwoolfest.com)

### MIDWEEK GETAWAY PACKAGE IN MAINE

Looking for a midweek mini-getaway? If so, you'll be tempted to play hooky with a deal offered in Maine this fall at the Kennebunkport Inn. Travel-

ers who book two midweek nights (Sunday-Thursday) get the third night free for a savings of up to 33 percent off. Includes light continental breakfast each morning, free Wi-Fi, and bikes to explore the charming seaside town and its surrounding rural roads. Once a tea merchant's mansion, circa 1899, this centrally-located inn's casual-yet-sophisticated accommodations pay homage to its nautical past. On-site dining is available at The Burleigh, a restaurant with a seafood-focused menu from Chef John Shaw. Valid through Dec. 28. Rates from \$99 per night. 800-248-2621, [kennebunkportinn.com](http://kennebunkportinn.com)

## THERE

### COASTAL HIKES IN UK CHANNEL ISLANDS

Hike the Channel Islands, a group of remote islands that are closer to France than England, on Wilderness Travel's Ancient Britain to the Channel Islands tour (May 14-26, 2018). Offered as an alternative to over-toured destinations such as the Isle of Skye, hikers can traverse the countryside that inspired Thomas Hardy's novels, as well as

the visually stunning South West Coast Path while learning about the area's Anglo-Norman heritage, and history that includes German occupation during World War II. The itinerary includes a stop at Stonehenge at sunset, as well as the "Jurassic Coast," a World Heritage Site known for its fossil-rich cliffs. Historic accommodations include a 13th-century inn and 16th-century farmhouse. Rates from \$6,495. Includes most meals, land transportation and van support, entrance fees to sites on itinerary, and more. 800-368-2794, [www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/england/channel-islands-hiking-tour](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/england/channel-islands-hiking-tour)

### GRAND CANYON TRAIN & HOTEL DEAL

When summer crowds have departed Grand Canyon National Park, those in-the-know sign up for the Fall Getaway Package offered by Grand Canyon Railway & Hotel. Guests enjoy two nights of lodging at the newly refurbished hotel, conveniently located next to the historic train depot and a short walk from quaint downtown Williams, Ariz.; 30 percent off round-trip train tickets



et, a lightweight polyester garment bag. When folded, the bag can carry two suits; unfolded, it will hold full length dresses. Helps keep clothes clean, organized, and pressed when traveling. Includes a clear window for quickly identifying what's inside. \$17.95. [go-travel-products.com/us/bags-holders/clothing-protectors/carry-closet](http://go-travel-products.com/us/bags-holders/clothing-protectors/carry-closet)

from Williams to the South Rim of Grand Canyon in any upgraded class of service (First Class, Observation Dome, Luxury Parlor, and Luxury Dome), with onboard entertainment from strolling musicians and cowboy characters, and local lore from passenger service attendants; and two cook-to-order breakfast and dinner buffets per person at the Railway's Grand Depot Cafe. Valid through Nov. 16; new reservations only. Rates from \$485, double. 800-843-8724, [www.thetrain.com/fallgetaway](http://www.thetrain.com/fallgetaway)

## EVERYWHERE

### TAKE YOUR CLOSET ON THE ROAD

Tired of unpacking clothes that are a wrinkled mess? Go Travel hopes to solve that dilemma with its new Carry Clos-

### HASSLE-FREE CAMPING

Here's a novel idea for those who like the idea of camping, but don't actually relish the thought of finding and setting up a campsite. Tentr, a company dedicated to simplifying the camping experience, sets up fully-equipped and comfortable campsites on 15 acres or more of secluded private property with on-site swimming spots, hiking trails, and scenic vistas. Each fully equipped campsite includes a platform, safari-style canvas tent, bed, wood stove, picnic table, dry storage, Adirondack chairs, fire pit, grill, sun shower and camp toilet, so there's no need to worry about buying the right equipment, figuring out how to set it up, or packing it all in the car. Tentr has close to 300 campsites throughout the East Coast, and recently expanded to New England with sites in Connecticut and Maine. Campsites start at \$100 per night and accommodate between four and 12 campers. [www.tentr.com](http://www.tentr.com)

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