

The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD

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Opening day is huge. And we're not talking baseball. We're talking fried clams and ice cream cones at favorite New England spots that were shuttered for winter and are finally making their seasonal debuts. Many reopened in time for Patriots Day, the Boston Marathon, and April school vacation week. Other openings are staggered throughout the spring.

Here is the skinny on some clam shacks, ice cream shops, and more.

CLAM AND LOBSTER SHACKS

Flo's Clam Shack in Middletown, R.I., celebrating seasonal opening days since 1936, has re-opened for the season — Thursday through Sunday until Memorial Day when Flo's will fry those clam bellies daily. www.flosclamshacks.com

Visitors to Mystic, Conn., as well as loyal locals, will be happy as a clam to know that **Sea Swirl** opened early April for the season www.seaswirlofmystic.com

A favorite spot for lobster rolls, **the Beach Plum** on Route 1A in North Hampton, N.H., re-opened April 8. There are also 78 ice cream flavors, too. www.lobsterrolls.com

Arnold's Lobster & Clam Bar in Eastham, Mass., is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Fried clams, lobster dinners — and a bike path location. Opening day is May 12. www.arnoldsrestaurant.com

Chauncey Creek Lobster Pier, a family-run business that dates to the 1930s, in Kittery Point, Maine, opens for the season on Mother's Day, May 14. Take your boat — you can dock it at the private pier. www.chaunceycreek.com

Islesford Dock Restaurant & Gallery, a popular restaurant for decades on Little Cranberry Island, Maine, is under new ownership and will re-open June 1. "One of the many things people love about the Dock is the vibe of the place," says new co-owner Michael Boland, "and we certainly hope to keep that, which means same moss-covered shingles, same 'docky' feel inside, of course same amazing views back to Mount Desert Island." Menu faves like the Dock Chowder and Boykin Burger are also keepers — as well as the art gallery. www.islesforddock.info

ICE CREAM SHOPS

While some New England ice cream shops persevere through the winter, like Toscanini's in Cambridge, most located in seasonal destinations do not. Here's the scoop on spring openings.

Jeff Christensen, owner of Cottage Island Market on beachy Plum Island,

OPEN SEASON FOR CLAMS, ICE CREAM, AND MORE



and his dog, Summer, will debut **the Cottage Creamery**, a sassy ice cream shop that will be overseen by Hilary Larson, who formerly owned Eat Cake in Newburyport. The PI Sandy — Richardson's ice cream sandwiched between cookies — will be a specialty. Also new in the same space will be **Cottage Surf** for paddle board, surf board and kayak rentals. Opening day, May 19. www.thecottageplumisland.com

Polar Cave Ice Cream Parlour in Mashpee on the Cape started scooping

in time for April school vacation week. The friendly shop is celebrated for its frappes and sundaes, including the Polar Peppermint Twist. New this year: Lactose-free frozen drinks. www.polarcave.com

Mount Desert Island Ice Cream's two Bar Harbor, Maine, locations will come out of hibernation the third

week in April — no later than April 22. (The Portland location is open year-round). www.mdicc.com

Katie's Homemade Ice Cream in Hyannis on Cape Cod opens on April 15, — with its namesake as the new owner. Katie's mother, Julie Kimball, was the previous owner. Try the Cape Cod Sand flavor — it's got a secret ingredient. www.katiesicecreamcapecod.com

Beginning April 28, it's time to lick into a sweet avocado cayenne cone at Rococo Artisan Ice Cream on Dock Square in Kennebunkport, Maine. The

Ogunquit location opens May 12. www.rococoicecream.com

In Wilmington, Vt., **Creemee Stand** will start serving its signature Vermont Maple Creemee ice cream, made with pure Vermont syrup, on May 19. www.creemestand.com

RESTAURANT PATIOS

The Barking Crab's outdoor tent has a kick-off bash on April 25 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Toast to the Tent party will feature live music, appetizers, crabby cocktails — all complimentary. www.barkingcrab.com

Cinquecento's Rosso Patio and Shipping Container Bar in the South End opens May 1. The recycled shipping container bar has a 12-seat bar and an outdoor lounge with tables for eating. An opening patio party will take place June 8. www.cinquecentoboston.com

The buzz about **the Beehive**, a Bohemian, comfort-food restaurant in the South End on Tremont Street, is that the outdoor patio will open May 1. www.beehiveboston.com

Charlestown's **Pier 6** has a waterfront location with a roof deck and patio/deck with bar and lounge, too. Drink in the intoxicating Boston skyline views on May 1 when the patio opens for the season. www.pier6boston.com

INNS, HOTELS AND RESORTS

On Nantucket, the harbinger of spring is **Daffodil Weekend** — held this year April 28-30 — and several hotels will re-open just in time to celebrate the flower. **76 Main**, a boutique inn located a block from town (www.76main.com) and **Twenty One Broad**, a 27-room inn walkable from the Steamship Authority ferry terminal. (www.21broadhotel.com) will both open on April 27. Waterfront **White Elephant** hotel reopened on April 13. www.whiteelephanthotel.com

On Martha's Vineyard, the historic 60-room **Kelley House**, celebrating its 275th anniversary this season, re-opened on April 1 with renovated guestrooms. www.kelley-house.com And the sprawling **Winnetu Oceanside Resort** on South Beach in Edgartown opened on April 13. www.winnetu.com In Oak Bluffs, the **Summercamp**, a boutique hotel with harbor views, will open on April 28. www.summertimecamp.com

And **Hidden Cove** in Kennebunkport, Maine, will come out of hibernation on May 5. The property features 20 bungalows, each with floor-to-ceiling fireplaces (just in case). www.hiddenpondmaine.com

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HERE

CAMP OR GLAMP IN SEASIDE MAINE

Seaside camping just got a retro-chic upgrade at Sandy Pines Campground in Kennebunkport. Located a half mile from Goose Rocks Beach, the campground — formerly known as Salty Acres — had a \$5 million-plus makeover that features resort amenities mixed in with an authentic Maine camping experience, including a rustic general store, lobster pound, farm stand, old fashioned ice cream cart, family-centric outdoor activities and more. The park's 320 spacious campsites cater to tent campers and RVs along with the option of purchasing a park model "tiny home." All sites feature a picnic table, fire pit, electricity, cable, water and sewage, varying per site type. Sandy Pines welcomes up to two dogs per site (with current

vaccination paperwork) for an additional per night fee. Reservations are now being accepted for the June 24 debut opening. 207-967-2483, sandypinescamping.com/

BABYMOON DEAL

IN COASTAL NEW ENGLAND Parents-to-be may want to take advantage of the new Baby-moon Package offered at Cliff House Maine. Perched atop the bluffs of Cape Neddick, with spectacular water views from every room, the newly renovated resort is a spectacular spot to enjoy one last getaway together before the little one arrives. Package includes two-night stay in luxe accommodations, welcoming mocktail (and partner's cocktail) on arrival, \$200 spa credit that can be used for prenatal massage or other treatments, and \$50 breakfast food and beverage credit, including breakfast

in bed option. Activities available both on and off-property include golfing, hiking, fishing or kayaking; swimming at indoor and outdoor pools; diverse onsite dining options at both Nubb's Lobster Shack and signature restaurant, The Tiller; and snuggling by the resort's intimate fireplace. Rates from \$369. 855-210-6901, www.destinationhotels.com/cliff-house

THERE

COUNTRY MUSIC EXTRAVAGANZA IN DAYTONA

Love country music? The 2nd annual Country 500 Great American Music Fest is taking place at the Daytona Speedway on Memorial Day weekend (May 26-28). Single-day tickets are available, however those who don't want to miss a minute of music will be able to camp out in the infield, literally inside the festival for the entire weekend. (Spaces limited; reservations required.) The Country 500 artist line-up includes superstars Blake Shelton, Kid Rock, Miranda Lambert, Keith Urban, Brooks & Dunn, Thomas Rhett, Hank Williams Jr., Martina McBride, Kip Moore, and many more. Travel packages and on-site glamping deals are available online. Tickets from \$85. 844-500-FEST, www.country500.com

CELEBRATE SOLDIERS AND VETERANS IN D.C.

Celebrate freedom and democracy at two free concerts in Washington, D.C. Taking place on the West Lawn of the US Capitol on Memorial Day Weekend (May 28) and Independence Day (July 4), the events are designed to acknowledge and honor soldiers and veterans, and make a difference by promoting personal and national healing. The National Memorial Day Concert features Joe Mantegna and Gary Sinise, along with the National Symphony Orchestra under the direction of maestro Jack Everly, and more surprise guests. www.pbs.org/national-memorial-day-concert/home/ The July Fourth event will also feature a parade of superstars as well as a fireworks extravaganza. People begin gathering around 3 p.m., bringing picnics for a festive afternoon before the concerts start at 8 p.m. Each show is 90 minutes long. If you don't make it to D.C., the concerts are broadcast live on PBS. www.pbs.org/a-capitol-fourth/home/

EVERYWHERE

COMFY AND STYLISH WALKING SHOES

Walk through all of your summer adventures with the TruFlex Slip On, Rockport's com-

fortable and stylish new shoe line for travelers on the go. With no laces to untie and tie, truFLEX Slip-On models are especially user-friendly when passing through airport TSA screening. Other benefits include a lightweight midsole that provides shock absorption to reduce foot and leg fatigue; and leather lining for moisture absorption and abrasion resistance. The high-density EVA spine, pillow-soft insole, and malleable flex-groove outsole work together to support the foot, providing shock absorption at the heel and rebound at the forefoot. Available in a variety of colors for men and women. \$120. www.rockport.com/rockport/womens-truflex



proof, custom-designed hardware, and maglatch for secure and one-handed bag closure. Backpacks, available in sizes 20L and 30L, have three flexible dividers that can be added or removed to customize organization, one anchor key tether, two weatherproof side zips, and dedicated sleeve for up to a 15-inch laptop, tablet, and documents. Backpacks \$259.95-\$289.95. Other items \$34.95-\$219.95. www.peakdesign.com/product/bags/ NECEE REGIS

AWARD WINNING GEAR

Peak Design's newly released series of photo/travel/tech bags, the Everyday Line, have earned a slew of top awards including Gear-of-the-Year awards from Popular Photography and National Geographic. But you don't have to be a photographer to use and appreciate this stylish minimalist line that includes expandable backpacks, messenger bags, totes, slings, and pouches. Features include ultra-strong Kodra fabric that is durable and weather-

