

The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD

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Skip the mimosa-sloshed brunch crowds this Mother's Day, and give Mom what she really wants: a weekend away from her quotidian grind and dulling demands. It's time for a rest and relaxation escape for the hardest-working person you know. Here are four splurge-worthy destinations for Mom; you know she deserves it!

Washington Hotel (603-278-1000, www.omnihotels.com/hotels/bretton-woods-mount-washington), a grandiose Renaissance Revival building with its pure white façade, striking red roof, and wraparound porch, we're captivated. The sprawling hotel, built by Old World artisans and set in the shadows of the Presidential Mountain range, continues to impress. We can imagine a lineup of horse-drawn carriages at

sort is historic yet modern (Wi-Fi, TVs, game room, restaurants, swimming pools, state-of-the-art spa), elegant but not pretentious, old but polished. There's not a wear or tear in sight.

Rooms are tidy and basic, with cushy beds and comfy linens; it's the public spaces and the great outdoors that beckon. The light-filled Conservatory is a favorite place to linger and relax, perhaps with a cup of coffee

ute treatment with a seven-jet Vichy massage shower, a triple exfoliation, and a light, hydrating massage. She'll forgive all that worry you've caused her through the years.

Relax, s'il vous plait!

You may not be able to afford to send your Mom to the French countryside, but Mirbeau Inn and Spa at The Pinehills in Plymouth (877-647-2328, www.mirbeau.com/pine)

body-spirit well-being, without being too New Age-y. It's more about slowing down and savoring the good life: a fine glass of wine, a well-prepared meal, a 100-minute massage, a morning meditation walk.

The pampering continues in the rooms, which have dark woods, deep, jewel-colored fabrics, gas fireplaces, walk-in showers, and soaking tubs. Book your Mom a suite overlooking the gardens, where she

rounding a large stone fireplace and heated foot massage pool. There's an outdoor terrace, too, with a whirlpool and bar. If Mom is feeling energetic, there's golf on two championship, 18-hole courses, as well as a full roster of daily fitness classes. Your Mom's stay will undoubtedly include dinner at The Bistro & Wine Bar, enjoying dishes like the Burgundian Escargot, Filet au Poivre, Grilled Swordfish Provençal, and Truffle-Stuffed Gnocchi.

Set sail

The winds and tides determine where the historic J. & E. Riggin schooner sails on its cruises out of Rockland, Maine (800-869-0604, www.mainewindjammer.com). All your Mom has to do is sit back and enjoy the scenery: rocky coastlines, busy harbors, secluded coves, and tiny fishing villages.

"Where we go is anyone's guess," says Annie Mahle, co-owner of the J. & E. Riggin. "It's so beautiful here and we have so many choices for anchoring, that it really doesn't matter where we end up. It's about the discovery and delight in the journey, not how far or fast we go."

The rebuilt 1927 two-masted schooner, a designated National Historic Monument, holds 24 passengers and six crew members. Three-, four-, and six-day cruises are offered; days are spent sailing Penobscot Bay and the watery wilderness of midcoast Maine, with time ashore each day to explore a pine-studded island or a small New England seaside town. And while the scenery is tops, guests also rave about the food, prepared by Mahle, a chef, cookbook author, and food columnist. There will be wood-fired breads, homemade chowders, and dishes inspired by what's available from local fishermen and farmer's markets, as well as a traditional lobster bake on a secluded island.

The J. & E. Riggin also hosts specialty sails, including cooking, quilting, photography, and popular knitting cruises, with on-board instructors.

"While every trip aboard the Riggin is unique, the knitting cruises offer a special opportunity to connect with like-minded folks," says Mahle. But she adds, "You don't need to know anything about knitting to sail with us on our knitting trip. There's no pressure to participate if you just want to come along for the sailing, scenery, and the gourmet meals."

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J. & E. Riggin schooner sails out of Rockland, Maine.

J. & E. RIGGIN

NAVIGATING OPTIONS FOR MOM ON HER DAY

From the ocean to the mountains, here are four splurge-worthy spots

A seaside sojourn

It's nearly impossible to improve on the in-your-face, ocean views at the aptly-named Cliff House Maine, perched on Bald Head Cliff in Cape Neddick (855-210-6901, www.destinationhotels.com/cliff-house). Fresh off a multimillion dollar renovation, this resort, set on 70 acres of waterfront property, has sweeping vistas of open ocean and the scenic rocky coastline. Suggest to Mom that she arrive as early as possible. Even if her room isn't ready, she can drop her bags and head to the 9,000-square-foot luxury spa, which just opened this year. She can relax and warm in the steam room and sauna, before sinking into a cushy chair in the Sanctuary lounge, to sip on tea and soak up the views of the rolling waves pounding the jagged jumble of granite rocks below. Of course, you've included a spa treatment, right? We'd suggest the 80-minute Salt of the Sea or Seacoast Rose massage, or the very calming Water body treatment with an exfoliation of sea salt crystals, aloe, and deep sea algae.

The resort's new, chic design is in harmony with the setting, with contemporary nautical touches, like framed sand dollars, rings of rope, and porthole windows. Hues mimic the coastline: ocean blues, sand beiges, and granite grays. Rooms are as clean and crisp as the seaside morning air in Maine, repeating the nautical theme, and including modern amenities, like free Wi-Fi and large screen TVs.

On warm evenings, Mom can linger on the terrace for drinks, before dining at The Tiller restaurant, with New American dishes (lobster mac and cheese, seared Maine salmon and grilled aged strip steak), and killer ocean views. Or, while in Maine: she may just go for steamed lobster at Nubb's Lobster Shack, also on site.

A grand escape

No matter how many times we come around the bend and catch a view of the Omni Mount

the grand entrance, bringing the rich and famous from New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, during the early 20th century; it was one of the finest, most luxurious hotels of its day.

Your Mom won't arrive by carriage (though the resort offers horse-drawn carriage rides around the property), but when she enters the massive, historic lobby, with Tiffany transoms, brass fixtures, and an enormous fieldstone fireplace, she may feel elite. This palatial re-

in the morning, or a glass of champagne as the sun slips behind the mountains. The cozy Princess Room is a favorite place for afternoon high tea or drinks before dinner in the classy main dining room.

Outdoor adventures abound: golf, archery, rock climbing, river tubing, hiking, biking, fly fishing, horseback riding, and more. After playing outdoors, send Mom to the spa for the Mount Washington Signature Body Ritual, a 75-min-

hills-plymouth) may be a welcomed, close-by substitute. Located in the Pine Hills Golf Club community, this peaceful oasis is less than an hour's drive south of Boston. The small cluster of buildings, housing 50 rooms and suites, a AAA Four Diamond restaurant, and a full-service, award-winning spa, is designed to resemble a French country estate, overlooking a Monet Gardens-inspired pond and pretty plantings. The vibe is relaxed with a focus on mind-

can contemplate her getaway agenda. A visit to the spa is a must; it's well-known in the area, drawing from the local golf community, but also a popular spot for couple and girlfriend retreats. There are 14 treatment rooms with warming fireplaces, and a slew of therapies, like the Crushed Cabernet Scrub, Honey and Wine Wrap, and the French Clay Detox. Mom might not want to ever leave the spa's unique Resting Area, with lounge chairs sur-

HERE

OYSTER FARM TOURS

Calling all oyster lovers! If you've ever wanted to learn more about growing, harvesting, and processing these tasty bivalves, here's your chance. Island Creek Oysters has just released its Duxbury farm tour schedule dates through September. Guests meet at the farm, board a vessel, and tour the production with an oyster expert on Duxbury Bay (at right). Includes an unlimited amount of freshly harvested Island Creeks. Tours sell out quickly on a first-come, first-served basis, and reservations are made exclusively on the website. Make sure to wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather. \$80 per person. shop.islandcreekoysters.com/pages/farm-tours?mc_cid=73d3672918&mc_eid=8f7ef55c28

ARTS & CRAFT FUN IN VERMONT

Heading to Vermont over Memorial Day Weekend? Kick off the summer season with old-fashioned family fun and high-quality arts at the Mayfest Arts & Craft Festival in Bennington. (May 27, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.) Now in its 32nd year, the event features more than 125 crafters, ethnic food vendors, lots of children's activities, and live entertainment. At the daylong event, you'll find artisans working in wood, pottery, glass, jewelry, and more, as well as local downtown shops, restaurants and galleries open along Main Street. No entry fee, and parking is



free. Overnight accommodations available at downtown spots including Four Chimneys Inn, Harwood Hill, Knotty Pine Motel, Paradise Inn, South Shire Inn, and Safford Mills Inn. www.betterbennington.com

THERE

WEST VIRGINIA MUSIC FEST

Those who love foot-stomping good music and exploring the great outdoors won't want to miss the 4th Annual Mountain Music Festival in West Virginia (June 1-3). The festival features more than 25 bands, including headliners Umphrey's McGee and The Revivalists, and takes place in the middle of ACE Adventure Resort, a 1,500-acre outdoor adventure property in the heart of the New River Gorge. Dozens of cabin rentals, bunkhouse beds, and tent sites are available; dining options include everything from guests' campfires to a variety of lodges, bars, and grills at the resort. Festival attendees are close to the gorge's outdoor activities such as white-water rafting, rock climbing, and mountain biking, as well as a five-acre Wonderland Water Park. Ticket packages for every length of weekend getaway are offered. 877-382-5893, mountainmusicfestwv.com

30-DAYS IN THE COLORADO MOUNTAINS

Extend your vacation from a week to a month and save with the Ultimate Vail

30-day Live-Like-a-Local package offered by the Antlers at Vail. Your monthlong sojourn includes tax-free luxury lodging in a variety of options from a studio to four-bedroom residences; complimentary lawn tickets for Bravo! Vail and Vail International Dance Festival, Vail Jazz Festival, and Vail Summer Bluegrass Series tickets (depending on event dates); complimentary bikes; loaner GoPro camera; and unlimited access to Vail Athletic Club. Available April 15-Nov. 15. Price varies by dates (peak season June 15-Sept. 15). Rates from \$1,850 for 30 days in a studio, one bedroom, or one bedroom with bunks through June 14; additional person or pet is \$250 per month. 970-476-2471, www.antlersvail.com/specials

EVERYWHERE

NEW PADDED TRAVEL PACK

Fjallraven, a Swedish outdoor clothing, equipment, and backpack company, debuts The Travel Pack, a semisoft travel bag perfect for business travel and short duration trips. Made with durable recycled polyester and organic cotton, the carry-on compliant Travel Pack features multiple compartments for organizing small items, such as a flat zippered front pocket, zippered fleece-lined phone pocket, fully padded laptop compartment, and interior organization pockets. The bag (above) unzips at the center to open and lay flat as a small suitcase, with mesh cov-



ers to hold items in place. Additional features include padded stow-away shoulder straps, padded leather handles at top and side, and main zipper that is compatible with standard luggage padlocks. Available in redwood, black, navy, and green. \$225. www.fjallraven.us/products/travel-pack?variant=31763724560

INNOVATIVE SHOES RECYCLE OCEAN PLASTIC

Before heading out on your next seafaring adventure, consider adidas's Terrex Climacool Parley Boat Shoe for men. Stylish and eco-friendly, these lightweight and breathable shoes are a collaboration between the adidas Group and "Parley for the Oceans," a leader in conservation and innovations designed to create awareness to end the destruction of the oceans. The shoes, made with yarn from reclaimed and recycled ocean plastic waste, feature knitted upper sock construction for optimal comfort in wet or dry conditions, and an outer sole that drains water, and grips wet and slippery surfaces. \$140. www.adidas.com/us/terrex-climacool-parley-boat-shoes/CM7846.html

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