

# The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD



NECEE REGIS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

**L**AKE PLACID, N.Y. — Set amid the tall pine and deciduous forest of the Adirondacks, the Lake Placid Lodge is a quiet retreat and place to unplug in any season. Developed in the late 1800s, the original property was destroyed by fire in 2005 and a new lakeside lodge was built by hand in the Arts and Crafts style. Walking into the main lodge feels like stepping back to a simpler, elegant era with hand-crafted furniture, massive stone fireplaces, Hudson River School paintings, and a wraparound porch offering views of the lake.

Call it rustic-chic. The 13 rooms and 17 cabins offer log cabin simplicity with Relais & Châteaux creature comforts such as original Adirondack log furniture, featherbeds with luxury linens, soaking tubs, Wi-Fi, and fireplaces stacked with wood. (But no TVs or phones.) Several cabins near the water are dog-friendly.

## CHECK IN

# PLACID NAMES A PLACE AND AN AURA

Guests have three dining options for lake-to-farm-to-table menus developed by executive chef Truman Jones, including a private meal in the wine cellar. Lodge services include complimentary mountain bikes, yoga sessions, lawn games, canoes, kayaks, electric boats and, in winter, snowshoes. A tour of Lake Placid aboard the lodge's 35-foot mahogany Hacker-Craft is memorable. Direct flights are available from Boston to Saranac Lake on Cape Air. The lodge is a short drive from the airport — and guests can be picked up.

**LAKE PLACID LODGE** 144 Lodge Way, Lake Placid, N.Y. 877-523-2700, [www.lakeplacidlodge.com](http://www.lakeplacidlodge.com). Rates from \$599. Children must be 12 or older throughout the year, but all ages welcome at Thanksgiving, over Presidents' Day week, and in March.

NECEE REGIS



## HERE

**MUD SEASON BIKE RACE THROUGH NORTHERN VERMONT** Mud season will roll around before you know it. Sign up now for the popular Rasputitsa ("mud season" in Russian) Spring Classic, a 45-mile unsanctioned bike race (pictured above) that takes riders through some of northern Vermont's most barren terrain. The April 11 event, limited to 500 participants, draws riders of all abilities who come to navigate the mostly gravel course on road, cyclocross, single-speed, tandem, and mountain bikes. This year's race winds through small communities and rugged landscapes in and around the town of Burke, gaining 1,226 feet of elevation en route and including a singletrack area known as Cyberia. Registration has just opened. Winners receive bragging rights and high-fives, along with trophies and jerseys. Your \$50 registration fee (\$75 after midnight on Jan. 31) gets you snacks at feed zones, wa-

ter bottles along the route, a timing chip, minimal assistance in case of mechanical or other issues, and a meal and live music at the finish-line party. A portion of the registration goes to the Mary E. Wright Halo Foundation, a nonprofit organization that assists local cancer patients. [www.bikereg.com/rasputitsa](http://www.bikereg.com/rasputitsa)

**PICK (UP) YOUR APPLES AT A DOWNTOWN ORCHARD** Calling all Bostonians: If you missed getting out of the city to visit an apple orchard this fall, head to The Ritz-Carlton, Boston Common next weekend to see the hotel's Pop-Up Urban Apple Orchard. On Oct. 25 from noon to 4, you can buy farm-picked apples from the Belkin Family Lookout Farm in South Natick, and enjoy homemade treats such as apple beignets, caramel apples, mini apple pastries, and spiced apple cider. Or take home a festive tin filled with these seasonal delights (\$25-\$40 each). Partial proceeds from the urban apple orchard will go to The

Food Project, a nonprofit that aims to provide fresh, healthy, and affordable produce to underserved communities in the Greater Boston area. 617-574-7100, [www.ritzcarlton.com/boston](http://www.ritzcarlton.com/boston)

## THERE

**CHICAGO HOTEL ROOMS WITH A QUIET RUNWAY VIEW** Stay at the Hilton Chicago O'Hare Airport and you can kick back in one of the sound-resistant Runway View rooms and watch the planes come and go — hours of entertainment for all guests, and an extra thrill for little travelers. Then close the blackout curtains and get a great night's sleep. The hotel, currently undergoing a series of renovations, offers single guestrooms to two-room suites complete with a family-style dining table, living room area with Murphy bed, and kitchenette. Choose a room with or without a runway view, or even an allergen-free room. The Hilton has recently reno-

vated its meeting rooms and barber shop, and updated the pool, hot tub, and steam room. One of the best parts about staying here: Your boarding gate is just a short walk away. Runway view rooms: \$25 upgrade on standard rates. 773-686-8000, [www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)

**GET DINING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM TOP CHEFS** Find out where to eat while traveling from some of the nation's best chefs. Use the updated Chefs Feed app to find out where chefs dine when they leave their own kitchens to hit the road. The free app provides reviews of thousands of hole-in-the-wall to high-end restaurants in 25 cities across the country, including Boston, Chicago, Seattle, and Austin, Texas. It also covers Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver and London. The geo-targeted app uses your location to tell you what's trending in that city, and offers photos, comments, and reviews of restaurants. The app works on Apple devices and Android phones. 415-956-0808, [www.chefsfeed.com](http://www.chefsfeed.com)

## EVERYWHERE

**HEALTHY PACKAGED FOOD FOR ON THE GO** Whether you're packing your bags for a big trip or restocking your car's emergency kit, throw in a delicious meal or two from Good To-Go. These gourmet dishes redefine the dehydrated food category: Made with "real" ingredients, these super flavorful meals include an award-winning zesty Thai curry, a perfectly textured herbed mushroom risotto, a hearty smoked three-bean chili, and a classic marinara dish. Lightweight to pack but healthy and filling, the meals are perfect for when you arrive at a hotel or rental cottage late at night, need a no-frills roadside nosh, or want a satisfying supper on your hiking adventures. Just add hot water, reseal the bag, and wait a few minutes. The Kittery, Maine-based company, which launched last spring, is run by David

Koorits and his wife, Jennifer Scism, an accomplished chef and former co-owner of the nationally known Manhattan restaurant Annisa. \$5.75 to \$10.75. 844-484-8646, [www.goodto-go.com](http://www.goodto-go.com)

**BRILLIANT TABLET CAN STAND ON ITS OWN** Lenovo's Yoga Tablet 10 has a vibrant, full high-definition screen and front-facing Dolby speakers that make it a treat to watch movies and videos. The tablet (pictured below), which has a Qualcomm Snapdragon 400 quad-core processor and the latest Android 4.4 (KitKat) operating system, also comes with an unusual design: The battery lies in a cylindrical ergonomic grip at the base of the machine, putting the bulk of the tablet's weight on one end and making it easier to hold. The built-in stand comes in handy when you want to watch a movie (in horizontal "stand" mode) or type an e-mail (using "tilt" mode). One of my favorite features: the optional Smart Side Bar, a small right-hand menu screen with icons of your most recently used applications. The device has a 10.1-inch screen, a quick-charging 9000mAh battery, and 32GB of internal memory with a micro SD slot that supports cards up to 64GB. \$279.99. 855-253-6686, [www.lenovo.com](http://www.lenovo.com)

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