



Kenny Chesney has performed at Indian Ranch in Webster.

The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD



The Maine lobster has fans around the world.

SHUTTERSTOCK/PAUL BRIGHTON



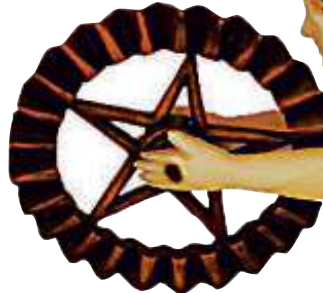
Daniel Chester French's 1875 Minute Man Statue in Concord.

ISTOCKPHOTO



A pie crimper carved out of whale ivory, circa 1871-76.

NEW BEDFORD WHALING MUSEUM



COOPER NEILL/GETTY IMAGES FOR DCP

Extra-curriculars for summer break

By Jon Mael
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Boston empties out every summer, when thousands of college students head home. This eases traffic, opens seats on the T, and drastically increases the number of Craigslist ads for sublets in Allston. But students staying in Boston for internships and other obligations, as well as recent graduates, are able to spend the summer in New England for the first time. If that sounds like you, here are some great outdoor destinations less than a tank away from the city.

TAKE IN SOME HISTORY ON THE COAST

Everyone knows Massachusetts is a hotbed of history, but fewer are knowledgeable about the state's whaling industry. The profession now extinct here was a way of life in 1800s New England, and it's celebrated at **New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park** (33 William St. [visitors center], New Bedford, 508-996-4095, www.nps.gov/nebe). Whaling was critical in 18th- and 19th-century America, where the oil was used in many processes and to fuel lamps, which is why New Bedford is referred to as "The City That Lit the World." The park spans a 13-block historic district in the heart of the city and includes sites such as The Seamen's Bethel, a chapel fishermen and whalers would visit before going to sea. It was visited by Herman Melville in 1840 during his brief stay in New Bedford before he set sail on the voyage that would inspire "Moby-Dick," and the pew he sat in is marked. Additionally, you can see the Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum, an 1834 mansion which housed important figures in the whaling industry. The **New Bedford Whaling Museum** has one of the world's largest collections of whaling and maritime history artifacts and is steps away from the visitors center.

CHOW DOWN ON MAINE LOBSTER

Maine and lobster are forever linked in America's culinary consciousness, so much so that you can be anywhere and order

Start your summer in
new hampshire

PEACE AND QUIET,
JUST A SHORT DRIVE AWAY



PLAN YOUR GETAWAY
Visit www.mtwashingtonvalley.org or call 800-367-3364



Maine lobsters online. The cold waters off the coast of New England's northernmost state are the perfect breeding ground for the crustaceans, and it's widely accepted that they are among the best in the world. Maine may seem worlds away from Boston, but Ogunquit, a great lobster town, is only 77 miles from the city. Small lobster shacks dot the popular weekend destination, serving

fresh catches right out of the Atlantic. While you're in Ogunquit, make sure to head to the beach, one of New England's best.

OUTDOOR CONCERTS IN WEBSTER

Indian Ranch (200 Gore Road, Webster, 508-943-3871, www.indianranch.com) is a unique concert venue, operating only in the summer. The amphitheater, open since 1946, sits on the shores of Webster Lake (technically Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg) and has earned a devoted following because of its intimate atmosphere. While the venue hosts performers from multiple genres, it's best known for country. George Jones, Kenny Chesney, Willie Nelson, Keith Urban, and countless others have graced the Webster stage over the years. Indian Ranch claims to be the "Country Music Capital of New England," and it's hard to argue with that.

SPEND MORE THAN A MINUTE

The "Shot Heard Round the World" is immortalized in paintings, poems, and Schoolhouse Rock. The moment has been part of American lore for so long, people don't realize that there's an actual spot where the shot was fired. The shot we all associate with the phrase, the alleged first Revolutionary shot to kill a British soldier, was fired at North Bridge in Concord on April 19, 1775. Hours before, the first shots of the conflict had been fired in Lexington, killing eight colonists. North Bridge is now a part of **Minute Man National Historical Park** (174 Liberty St. [visitors center], Concord, 978-369-6993, www.nps.gov/mima). The park boasts walking paths, and "Battle Road," a 5-mile trail where you can retrace the steps taken by the colonists and British soldiers 240 years ago. You can see where Paul Revere was famously captured, Hartwell Tavern, which stood the day of the battles, and Ralph Waldo Emerson's former residence, which has also been beautifully preserved.

Jon Mael can be reached at jmael2014@gmail.com.

HERE

VERMONT HOSTS HOT AIR BALLOON FESTIVAL

Soar over the forested hills of northern Vermont during the Stoweflake Hot Air Balloon Festival, July 10-12. Sign up in advance for a 45- to 60-minute flight over fields and grasslands, within eyeshot of Mount Mansfield (you can also help inflate and, later, pack up the balloon). Or sign up on the spot for a 5- to 8-minute tethered ride over the Stoweflake Mountain Resort and Spa, which hosts the three-day event. The festival (pictured below) also includes face painting and children's games, music by The Thirsty Brothers, local food vendors, massages and facials for \$2 per minute, and a wine and beer garden with Sam Adams on tap. Don't miss the sun-



set launch on July 10 and July 11 at approximately 7 p.m., and the sunrise launch on July 11 and July 12 at about 6:30 a.m. Balloon rides \$275 per person, plus tax; tethered rides \$10 per person. Festival admission: \$10 for ages 12 and older, under 12 free. 802-253-7355, ext. 5538, www.stoweflake.com/activities_balloon_festival.aspx

GET OUTDOORS AT SUNDAY RIVER'S L. L. BEAN SCHOOL

Learn how to shoot an arrow, maneuver a kayak, and stay upright on a paddleboard at the L. L. Bean Outdoor Discovery Schools program at Sunday River Resort in Maine. The satellite program, the only one not operated from an L. L. Bean retail store, runs out of the resort's Grand Summit Hotel Mondays through Thursdays through Aug. 27, with all activi-

ties open to the public. Get 80 minutes of instruction for \$25, or three-hour kayak and stand-up paddleboard tours for \$69 each. Take a guided solo tour of Round Pond in Greenwood, the birthplace of Leon Leonwood Bean, who founded the clothing and outdoor gear company in 1912. Then check out Sunday River's other activities: cycle the bike park, go ziplining, play disc golf, try the bungee trampoline, hike, golf, or go for a scenic lift ride on the resort's Chondola. 800-543-2754, www.sundayriver.com/llbean

THERE

RELISH PITTSBURGH'S NEW PICKLE FESTIVAL

How pickle-crazy are Americans? So much so that we reportedly eat 9 pounds of pickles

per person each year, and our favorite ketchup-producing city now hosts a free new festival, Picklesburgh, that will feature a competitive pickle juice drinking contest. Visit Pittsburgh July 17 and 18, when the Rachel Carson Bridge will display a giant flying Heinz pickle balloon, custom built by the team that makes balloons for Disney and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. The event, sponsored by H. J. Heinz, includes how-to demonstrations on canning pickles and house-curing pickled vegetables, a selection of artisan cocktails with pickled ingredients, pickle products for sale, and live music by local musicians. More than 40 vendors will offer foods from local chefs and restaurants, with such tasty treats as sauerkraut pierogis, dilly beans, pickle-flavored ice cream, and deep-fried pickles. The event runs from 3-10 p.m. July 17, and 11 a.m.-10 p.m. July 18. 412-566-4190, www.picklesburgh.com

SEATTLE HOTEL SALUTES WASHINGTON WINERIES

Stay downtown at Hotel Vintage and enjoy one of Seattle's newest boutique hotels, a hip and classy spot that pays homage to Washington's wine country. Let the valet whisk your car to the rooftop parking lot in an elevator, stop in for the hosted wine hour between 5 and 6 p.m. daily, and then head for

your guestroom, each one of which has been named after an outstanding Washington winery. The hotel, part of the Kimpton family, is done in rich colors and furnishings — think burgundy and earthy browns with splashes of green — and whimsical touches, such as wall displays made from hundreds of wine corks, and animal print bathrobes. The hotel's award-winning restaurant, Tulio, serves creative Italian cuisine with a Pacific Northwest twist: Don't miss the smoked salmon ravioli or sweet potato gnocchi. Rates start at \$369. 800-853-3914, www.hotelvintage-seattle.com

EVERYWHERE

A THIN FOLDABLE KEYBOARD

The ultra-thin and compact Jorno Bluetooth keyboard folds down and tucks into a stylish vegan leather case that's the size of a small journal and easily fits into your travel bag. Unfold the protective case and use it as an adjustable stand to hold your Apple, Android, or other Bluetooth device. The keyboard connects to your mobile phone or tablet by Bluetooth, and has a comfortable feel and springy keys that make typing easy, whether you're taking notes or sending e-mails. It weighs less than 11 ounces with the case-stand (6.5 ounces on its own), and has keys that are only 9



percent smaller than standard keys. It charges with a micro USB. \$99. www.jornostore.com

KEEP FIT WHILE YOU TRAVEL

Taking off on a trip doesn't mean you have to leave your fitness routine behind. Hammacher Schlemmer's Briefcase Fitness Center has everything you need to maintain strength and circuit training while on the road. The clever and compact portable gym contains 40 polyurethane bands that offer weight resistance from 5 to 75 pounds, adjustable ankle attachments that help target your legs, and a set of four DVDs that guide you through 5- to 20-minute workouts. It also unfolds to create a raised platform for step-ups and other cardio exercises. Users get access to an online fitness community and personal trainers who can offer tips and information. The Briefcase Fitness Center fits in an airplane's overhead bin, and comes with a nutrition guide and training journal. It weighs 14.5 pounds, and supports users up to 350 pounds. \$299. 800-321-1484, www.hammacher.com

KARI BODNARCHUK