

FROM THE SHOW  0

## A Hotel That Eliminates Fees, More Pet Peeves, and the Hope Flight Foundation

BY [THE TRAVEL GUYS](#) · AUGUST 31, 2014



We've talked a lot of the show about how hotels are copying the airlines and charging their guests all kinds of creative fees to pump up profits. But we've found a hotel that's doing the opposite. They eliminated resort fees of all kinds. The GM of the [Whiteface Lodge at Lake Placid](#) joins us to explain how less can be more.

Mark has a list of the [ten ways hotels annoy their guests](#). We bet some of your pet peeves are on the list. There's big run in Old Sacramento through Monday and we have details.

Finally, many times we think of travel as only being for business or pleasure. Sometimes it can save a life. The [Hope Flight Foundation](#) is making life easier for Northern California children and their families who need to care for them.. Hope Flight provides air transportation for sick kids. We introduce you to a company that is doing a lot of good in and around our community.

## Highlights

- [Whiteface Lodge at Lake Placid](#)
- [10 Ways Hotels Annoy Their Guests](#)
- [Hope Flight Foundation](#)
- [Mayor says 'ridiculous' parking signs must go](#)
- [Mimicking the airlines, hotels get fee-happy](#)
- [Carlsbad Caverns National Park & the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta](#)
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## Adirondack is 6 million acres of New York beauty

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By STEPHEN EDWARDS

Special Contributor

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The water was so still, it was difficult to tell where the glittering sky ended and the reflecting lake began. The only signs of a faint horizon were the silhouetted trees and a mountain rising in the distance to my left.

I was enjoying the evening's light show from the sloping, embedded rock extending from my shoreline campsite into this mirrored surface.

My eyelids were growing heavy, so I retreated for the night, falling asleep to the hypnotic sounds of a neighbor's crackling campfire and the soft landing of falling leaves. All was well and restful until a pack of howling coyotes across the lake broke the silence around 2 a.m. For the next hour, I struggled to keep my mind at ease while their calls moved southward.

By the time I had reconciled my fears of ravenous canines attacking, a more pressing concern arose: the plunging footsteps of a larger animal, presumably a bear or moose, in the water no more than 20 feet away.

Brazenly grabbing my flashlight and 6-inch knife, I zipped open the tent door. Hooves pounded on the earth in response, seeming to head in my direction.

When I finally caught her eyes, they appeared as petrified as mine — a doe, frozen in my light's ray. One of us lifted a tail in fright, but I won't disclose which.

### More than a deck chair

This could've been a scene in any of the great American landscapes — Grand Canyon, Great Smoky Mountains, Yellowstone, Yosemite or Glacier national parks. Instead, I was backpacking in a wilderness area larger than these Big Five combined, and one that remains relatively ignored by anyone outside the Northeast.

Most people have heard of the name Adirondack. It is often associated with the low-sitting chair composed of wood planks and wide armrests.

Adirondack Park, on the other hand, is a 6-million-acre pocket of dense forest in upstate New York. It's dimpled with 3,000 lakes and ponds and home to the state's highest concentration of tall mountain peaks.

In a delicate balance between man and wild, not all of the park is remote woodlands. About 100,000 people live within its footprint, making this more of a natural backyard playground.

An abundance of cascading waterfalls, dense patches of birch and maple and native red-eyed common loons share the same habitat as quaint towns and rolling landscapes reminiscent of neighboring New England.

Hidden in the northern valleys is Lake Placid, one of only three cities in the world to host the Winter Olympic Games twice. But this is far from a one-season town, as Main Street's cafes, restaurants and shops buzz during weekends year-round with a mix of empty-nesters, families and young athletes hopping from storefront to storefront.

The surrounding forest is sprinkled with 46 mountains reaching 4,000 feet or above in elevation.

Together, they're part of one of the oldest peak-bagging traditions in the country — conquering the 46ers.

For Texans more familiar with Colorado's sky-scraping 14ers, these might sound like laughable hills. However, with near-Gulf Coast humidity in July and 3,300 feet of ascent over rugged terrain on the way to Mount Marcy (5,344 ft.), the challenge is anything but trivial.

### Just outside

Farther northeast (and technically not in the park, but it might as well be), cycling fans and wine lovers alike can enjoy picturesque Lake Champlain on the Adirondack Coast Wine Trail near Plattsburgh.



The 33-mile route was one of four signed into law statewide last October. It features seven wineries, including Elfs Farm Winery & Cider Mill, which offers hybridized grapes that are bred to withstand shorter growing seasons and more extreme temperatures on their way to producing a sweet or semisweet finish.

Scattered along the way are acres of aromatic apple orchards, including those at Chazy, the largest McIntosh orchard in the world.

Yes, the largest. That's something this region seems to do well. There may not be any grandiose canyons or half-domed vertical cliffs of limestone, but it does pack more parkland under one name than anywhere else in the Lower 48.

*Stephen Edwards is a freelancer who grew up in upstate New York.*

### When you go

Daily flights from Dallas-Fort Worth to New York's state capital, Albany, are available on United and Delta, all requiring one connection. From there, the southern border of Adirondack Park is within 30 minutes.

Black-fly season, a monthlong period of summer dominated by the pesky bumblebee-size bugs, lasts from mid-May through early June, when the snow has also dissipated at high elevation. Fall foliage can peak anytime from mid-September to late October, depending on which portion of the park you are visiting.

### Where to stay

**Whiteface Lodge:** Rustic opulence oozes from this hidden gem, located in the woods 1 mile from downtown Lake Placid. Adults can enjoy an innovative bar program at the Kanu Lounge, while the kids can play in a game room that includes a two-lane bowling alley. There are 94 one- to three-bedroom suites, nightly s'mores around a natural wood fire under the stars, and a Lake Placid beach-front exclusive to guests. [thewhitefacelodge.com](http://thewhitefacelodge.com)

### Where to visit

**Lake Placid Pub & Brewery:** The three-story lakeside brew house underwent a major renovation in 2012. Among six house beers on tap is the favorite of locals and visitors alike, the award-winning Ubu Ale. Regular tours are offered on Saturdays at 4:30 p.m.; other times are available upon request. [ubuale.com](http://ubuale.com)

**Elfs Farm Winery & Cider Mill:** This family-owned establishment works with nearby State University of New York at Plattsburgh to produce some of its hybridized grapes, most recently the Beaujolais-styled pinot hybrid called Marquette. Elfs has also been increasing production of cider, including the popular bourbon-barrel-aged and strawberry-infused versions. [elfsfarm.com](http://elfsfarm.com)

### Where to gear up

**The Mountaineer:** It'll be difficult to find more knowledge about the local hiking trails and conditions than from the crew at this locally owned mountain shop based in Keene, a small town located on the way into Lake Placid from the east. [mountaineer.com](http://mountaineer.com)

**High Peaks Cyclery:** Plan, buy supplies and rent bikes for any Adirondacks cycling excursion at this go-to shop located on Main Street in Lake Placid. [highpeakscyclery.com](http://highpeakscyclery.com)

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# 10 Delicious Daiquiris to Make Your Summer Complete

By FOX News Magazine, August 15, 2014



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**T**here's one drink, overflowing with smooth rum and sun-kissed citrus fruit, which can instantly awaken every single taste bud with its bold sweet-meets-tart flavor.

**READ: The A to Z of Forgotten Cocktails**



Add all ingredients in a mixing glass. Add ice to mixing glass. Shake and strain into martini glass. Garnish with a lime wheel.



(Mixologist Zachary Blair of Whiteface Lodge in Lake Placid, New York.)

## MOUNTAIN SIDE MANGO DAIQUIRI

### Ingredients

- 2 oz. white rum
- 1 oz. mango syrup
- 2 oz. saffron, mango and cardamom juice
- .75 oz. lemon juice
- 3 candied lime twists
- 1 oz. strawberry liquor puree (1/2 oz. pureed strawberry and 1/2 oz. Fragoli Strawberry Liqueur)



## Preparation

Blend all ingredients, except for the strawberry liquor puree, with 10 oz. ice. Place strawberry puree in bottom of coupe glass. Pour mango mix into coupe for swirling effect.



(Jade Bar at Sanctuary at Camelback Mountain in Arizona.)

## LOLA'S DAIQUIRI

### Ingredients

- 2 oz. fresh pineapple juice infused with ground cinnamon
- 1 oz. fresh orange juice
- ½ oz. simple syrup
- 2 oz. Bacardi Rum
- 1 charred pineapple slice



# Some hotels are ditching the much-maligned resort fees

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Bucuti & Tara Seashore Resorts, an adult-only luxury home on Aruba's Eagle Seashore, say that friends were obtaining fed up with resort charges. Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts

The Whiteface Lodge, an all-suite luxury home in Lake Placid, New York, gave up vacation resort fees. The Whiteface Lodge

Previous Subsequent

At any time considering that lodges started tacking on vacation resort service fees to place prices, attendees have been kvetching on comment cards and in TripAdvisor opinions.

"Guests loathe, hate, dislike vacation resort fees," states Barbara DeLollis, the Washington D.C.-based mostly hospitality expert who established Vacation Update.

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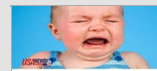
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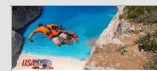
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Usually thought of the most insidious of resort fees, the resort cost is a necessary charge not involved in the marketed prices that ostensibly addresses features these types of as your morning newspaper or entry to the pool or health club.

But guest complaints can fall on deaf ears in an market where vacation resort expenses and surcharges make up an at any time-increasing slice of the earnings pie. Inns in the U.S. collected an believed \$2.one billion in service fees in 2013, about double the amount from a 10 years back, according to analysis from the Preston Robert Tisch Center for Hospitality, Tourism and Athletics Management at New York University.

A lot of luxury properties that cost a resort charge will also cost for Wi-Fi, valet parking, and in some cases even self-parking. They may possibly demand you to stop by the spa and use the sauna or steam area, or to make s'mores by the fire pit.

In excess of the a long time, many friends and business gurus have come to be resigned to motels charges being right here to continue to be. "Resort house owners are utilised to the revenue that arrives in from them, so they are gradual to give them up," suggests DeLollis.

In truth, it's exceptionally complicated to locate illustrations of qualities that have bitten the bullet and given up on the nickel and diming. And but when a lodge does choose the leap of faith, it can flip out to be a really excellent transfer.

"It was one particular of the smartest selections we made," states Chris Pulito, common supervisor at The Whiteface Lodge, an all-suite luxury property in Lake Placid, New York. Nearly three many years back, the plush Adirondacks vacation resort commenced wanting at methods to enhance guest expertise by including worth and enjoyable protocols.

Initial to go was the resort fee, which had been \$forty a night time for a a single-bedroom suite and greater for larger lodging. "We commenced to receive favourable comments practically quickly," suggests Pulito. "We did at a single issue cost for spa utilization and we received rid of that. We did not incorporate breakfast in the area price and we included that." Amid the vast array of exciting complimentary features at the Whiteface Lodge are a bowling alley and a 56-seat film theater that screens loved ones-pleasant flicks a few times everyday. Even the popcorn is free of charge.

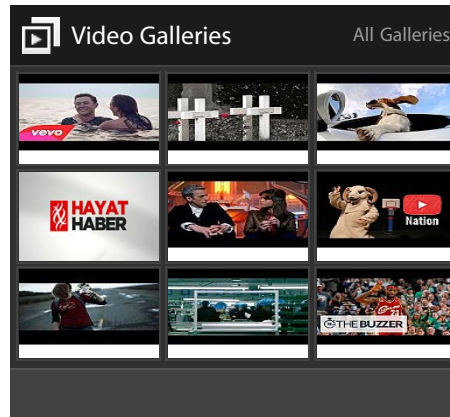
"The comments we get are unbelievable," suggests Pulito. "Guests really feel greater about currently being here because when they get there they by now have a selection in their head about what they are heading to invest per night time, and that variety does not get exponentially larger for trivial items."

One more vacation resort with no regrets about dropping its resort payment is Bucuti & Tara Seaside Resorts, an grownup-only luxurious home on Aruba's Eagle Beach front. "People get so aggravated by further expenses," states Ewald Biemans, the resort's operator and controlling director. "We applied to get feed-back that guests required us to get rid of them."

So, about a yr back, Biemans built the selection to get rid of the resort charge and bundle additional worth into the base rate. Now 1 flat level involves lodging, breakfast, Wi-Fi, taxes, assistance, and even nearby cellphone phone calls.

"When you shell out a higher room rate, and then you have to pay \$fifteen a day for Wi-Fi and one more \$35 for the breakfast buffet, guests turn out to be dissatisfied," says Biemans.

Both of those The Whiteface Lodge in Lake Placid and Bucuti & Tara Resorts in Aruba lifted their



prices rise a bit when they dropped their vacation resort service fees. And in both equally situations, a person danger was that other competitive resorts would now show up significantly less pricey in comparison—at least right up until it is time to check out out.

But there's a whole lot to be said for transparency. "Guests really appreciate being aware of how much they are going to have to fork out," says Biemans. "I've stayed in inns exactly where the space charge is almost doubled by all the added costs by the time you examine out. We do not give our guests any surprises when they check out."

"We seriously pay back consideration to as a lot of of the luxury visitor services scientific tests as we can get," suggests Pulito, who sees an easing of charges as just portion of the benefit equation. Just after tackling surcharges, he and his team investigated techniques to additional rest the guest expertise at the Whiteface Lodge.

"We in no way billed for valet parking but we applied to give a ticket," states Pulito. "But research exhibit it leads to strain. From the minute you pull into the lodge, you're afraid of dropping the ticket and not having your motor vehicle back." Now when a guest requires her auto, she can basically phone the front desk and the valet will pull the auto about.

The Whiteface Lodge has even taken absolutely free Wi-Fi a phase more. "Even if it is no cost, it shouldn't be challenging," states Pulito. "So we got rid of the logon monitor and password to make accessing the Web seamless."

What Pulito phone calls the 'resort-inclusive experience' is about maximum value and relieve of use of all the features. "When you want to make s'mores by the fire pit, you really don't have to go acquire a kit first," he claims. "When you go fishing below, you really do not have to indicator out a fishing pole at the trout pond." As a consequence, he claims, guests expertise a additional tension-totally free and hospitable remain.

It turns out that a little bit of excellent karma can generate massive, tangible success. "All these changes have compensated off in each individual measurable way probable, including elevated earnings," states Pulito. "Not only have our previous guests become more recurrent site visitors but we now get additional and a lot more new attendees by means of referrals instead of by way of pricey internet marketing campaigns. Company return and explain to their good friends, and it pays for by itself several occasions above."

Suzanne Rowan Kelleher is the relatives vacations skilled at About.com.

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## Some hotels are ditching the much-maligned resort fees

By **Suzanne Rowan Kelleher**

Published August 12, 2014

FoxNews.com



Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts, an adult-only luxury property on Aruba's Eagle Beach, say that guests were getting fed up with resort ▲

Ever since hotels began tacking on resort fees to room rates, guests have been kvetching on comment cards and in TripAdvisor reviews.

“Guests hate, hate, hate resort fees,” says Barbara DeLollis, the Washington D.C.-based hospitality expert who founded [Travel Update](#).







Often considered the most insidious of hotel fees, the resort fee is a mandatory charge not included in the advertised rates that ostensibly covers amenities such as your morning newspaper or access to the pool or gym.

But guest complaints can fall on deaf ears in an industry where resort fees and surcharges make up an ever-growing slice of the revenue pie. Hotels in the U.S. collected an estimated \$2.1 billion in fees in 2013, about double the amount from a decade ago, according to research from the Preston Robert Tisch Center for Hospitality, Tourism and Sports Management at New York University.

Many luxury properties that charge a resort fee will also charge for Wi-Fi, valet parking, and sometimes even self-parking. They may charge you to visit the spa and use the sauna or steam room, or to make s'mores by the fire pit.

Over the years, many guests and industry experts have become resigned to hotels fees being here to stay. "Resort owners are used to the revenue that comes in from them, so they're slow to give them up," says DeLollis.

Indeed, it's extremely difficult to find examples of properties that have bitten the bullet and given up on the nickel and diming. And yet when a hotel does take the leap of faith, it can turn out to be a very good move.

“It was one of the smartest decisions we made,” says Chris Pulito, general manager at [The Whiteface Lodge](#), an all-suite luxury property in Lake Placid, New York. Nearly three years ago, the plush Adirondacks resort began looking at ways to improve guest experience by adding value and relaxing protocols.

First to go was the resort fee, which had been \$40 a night for a one-bedroom suite and higher for larger accommodations. “We began to receive positive feedback almost immediately,” says Pulito. “We did at one point charge for spa usage and we got rid of that. We didn’t include breakfast in the room rate and we added that.” Among the wide array of fun complimentary features at the Whiteface Lodge are a bowling alley and a 56-seat movie theater that screens family-friendly flicks three times daily. Even the popcorn is free.

“The comments we get are unbelievable,” says Pulito. “Guests feel better about being here because when they arrive they already have a number in their head about what they are going to spend per night, and that number does not get exponentially larger for trivial items.”

Another resort with no regrets about dropping its resort fee is [Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts](#), an adult-only luxury property on Aruba’s Eagle Beach. “People get so aggravated by extra charges,” says Ewald Biemans, the resort’s owner and managing director. “We used to get feedback that guests wanted us to get rid of them.”

So, about a year ago, Biemans made the decision to eliminate the resort fee and bundle more value into the base rate. Now one flat rate includes accommodations, breakfast, Wi-Fi, taxes, service, and even local phone calls.

“When you pay a high room rate, and then you have to pay \$15 a day for Wi-Fi and another \$35 for the breakfast buffet, guests become dissatisfied,” says Biemans.

Both The Whiteface Lodge in Lake Placid and Bucuti & Tara Resorts in Aruba raised their rates slightly when they dropped their resort fees. And in both cases, one risk was that other competitive resorts would now appear less expensive in comparison—at least until it is time to check out.

But there’s a lot to be said for transparency. “Guests really appreciate knowing how much they’re going to have to pay,” says Biemans. “I’ve stayed in hotels where the room rate is almost doubled by all the extra charges by the time you check out. We don’t give our guests any surprises when they check out.”

“We really pay attention to as many of the luxury guest service studies as we can get,” says Pulito, who sees an easing of fees as just part of the value equation. After tackling surcharges, he and his team investigated ways to further relax the guest experience at the Whiteface Lodge.

“We never charged for valet parking but we used to give a ticket,” says Pulito. “But studies show it

causes stress. From the minute you pull into the hotel, you're afraid of losing the ticket and not getting your car back." Now when a guest needs her car, she can simply call the front desk and the valet will pull the car around.

The Whiteface Lodge has even taken free Wi-Fi a step further. "Even if it's free, it shouldn't be difficult," says Pulito. "So we got rid of the logon screen and password to make accessing the Internet seamless."

What Pulito calls the 'resort-inclusive experience' is about maximum value and ease of use of all the amenities. "When you want to make s'mores by the fire pit, you don't have to go buy a kit first," he says. "When you go fishing here, you don't have to sign out a fishing pole at the trout pond." As a result, he says, guests experience a more stress-free and hospitable stay.

It turns out that a little bit of good karma can yield big, tangible results. "All these changes have paid off in every measurable way possible, including increased revenue," says Pulito. "Not only have our previous guests become more frequent visitors but we now get more and more new guests via referrals instead of through expensive marketing campaigns. Guests return and tell their friends, and it pays for itself many times over."

*Suzanne Rowan Kelleher is the family vacations expert at About.com.*

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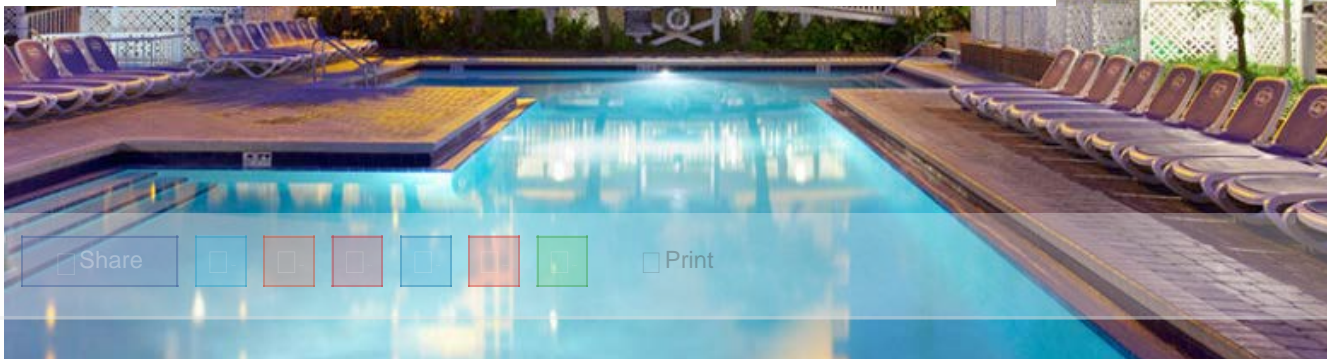
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*Tradewinds Island Grand Resort in St. Pete Beach, Florida (Tradewinds Resorts)*

Hoping to get away for Labor Day weekend? There's still time to score a budget-friendly escape. The three-day holiday weekend is the perfect chance for one last summer family fling, as destinations and resorts around the

country roll out end-of-summer events and activities. Here's where to bid a fond farewell to summer:

### [Tyler Place Family Resort](#) (Highgate Springs, Vermont)



*[Tyler Place Family Resort in Highgate Springs, Vermont](#) (Tyler Place)*

This marvelous all-inclusive family camp-style resort in northwestern Vermont has the best children's program we've run across, with nine age-staggered groups from babies to teens and a stupendous array of activities for grownups, too. If you've got preschoolers and can turn the holiday weekend into an entire week's vacation, then you can take advantage of late-season rates and [save 30 to 50 percent off](#) your stay.

**(MORE: [Find other exciting kid-friendly getaways for the summer.](#))**

## **Whiteface Lodge** (Lake Placid, New York)

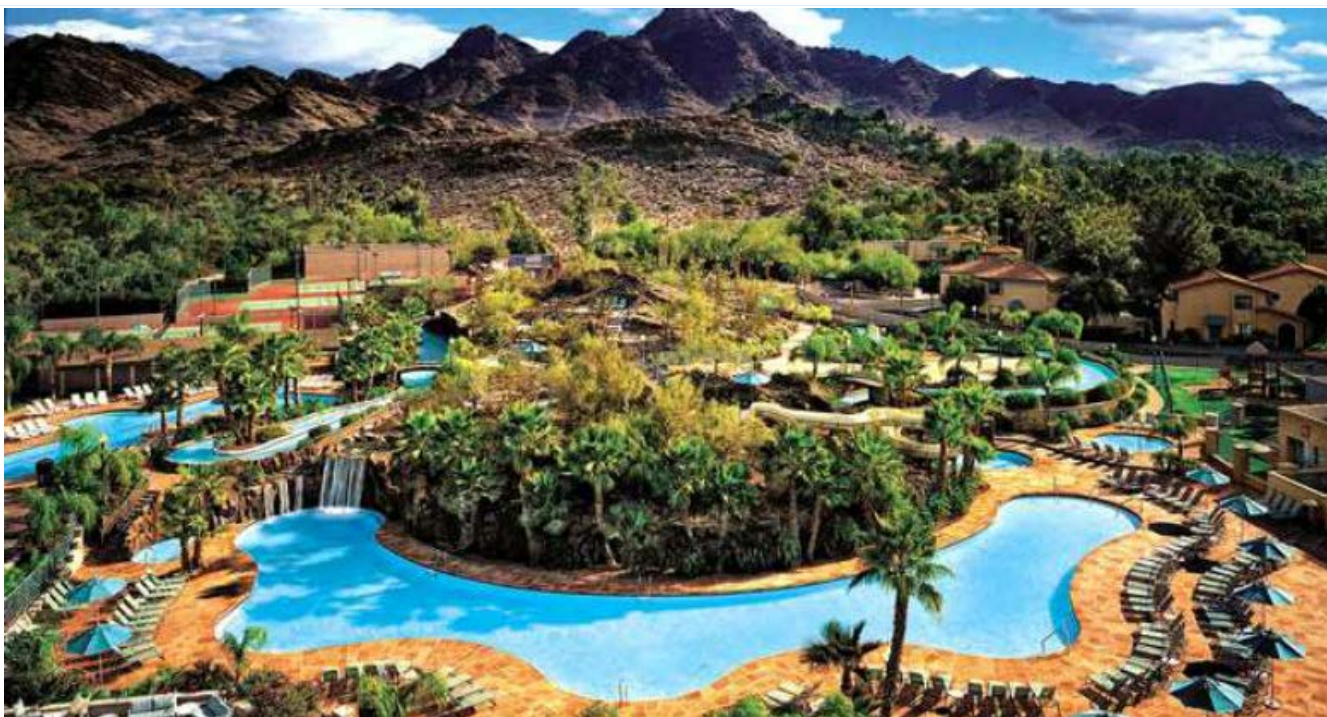


### *Whiteface Lodge in Lake Placid, New York (Whiteface Lodge)*

This grand mountain retreat—the only all-suite property in the Adirondacks—is luxurious without ever being stuffy or pretentious. Families can enjoy the heated indoor-outdoor pool, nature trails, catch-and-release fishing pond, movie theater, games room, bowling alley, nightly s'mores, and more. Book the [3-night Stay & Play Rewards Credit Package](#) and receive \$100 in daily resort credit.

## **Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak Resort** (Phoenix, Arizona)





[Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak Resort in Phoenix, Arizona](#) (Hilton Hotels & Resorts)

Rates at this plush desert resort start at just \$139 a night with a two-night minimum stay over Labor Day weekend. Families can splash into a weekend of fun in the sun at the resort's four-acre River Ranch water park complete with a half-mile lazy river, water slide, sport pool, mini golf, and more. During the holiday weekend, families can enjoy double dive-in movies and an outdoor hoedown with music, dancing and poolside activities.

#### [Tradewinds Island Grand Resort](#) (St. Pete Beach, Florida)

This popular Gulf Coast oceanfront resort throws a beach party every Labor Day weekend that's complete with music, carnival games, and fireworks. The [Endless Summer package](#) includes a three-night stay in a deluxe guestroom, free use of a beach cabana, and tickets to the resort's Sunday beach party and fireworks.

(**MORE:** [Find more money-saving deals for your family summer getaway.](#))

#### [Resort at Squaw Creek](#) (Lake Tahoe, California)



[Resort at Squaw Creek in Lake Tahoe, California](#) (Resort at Squaw Creek)

This plush Tahoe resort offers a ton of family fun, from its four pools and 120-foot waterslide to hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, tennis, and fly fishing. Kids ages 4 to 12 can attend the Mountain Buddies program and golf-loving families can play an easy round on the front nine holes from family tees. The [Labor Day in Lake Tahoe package](#) includes a \$50 food and beverage credit.

*Suzanne Rowan Kelleher, a [family travel expert](#), contributed this to [MiniTime](#).*

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**Whiteface Lodge Goes Adirondack Green**  
**Award-winning Resort's Initiatives Help the Environment and Those in Need.**

Thursday, August 07, 2014

LAKE PLACID, N.Y. – Surrounded by the six million protected acres of the Adirondack Park – the largest publicly protected area in the contiguous U.S. states – Whiteface Lodge is mindful of the very special place it occupies in the world. From the timber used in its construction in 2005, all of which was found on-property, to its reuse of dying trees on its land as mulch and in landscaping, the rustic resort continues to strengthen its conservation commitment as awareness increases and technology improves. Among its recent meaningful green measures:



- 7,993 bars of soap (and counting) recycled and distributed to families in need. Whiteface Lodge has joined the hospitality partner program of Clean the World, which recycles discarded soap and shampoo products and distributes them in hygiene kits to children and families in need around the globe. To date, Whiteface Lodge has donated 7,993 bars of lifesaving soap.

Sweeter dreams for soldiers and pups: Whiteface Lodge also donates its gently used pillows to U.S. troops and blankets to animal shelters.

- 43,000 water bottles eliminated per year. Whiteface Lodge has installed water filters on the kitchen faucets in each suite and fills bedside water carafes nightly with filtered water. This move has eliminated the need to provide bottled water in-room. Among other negative environmental impacts, single-use water bottles represent more than two millions tons of waste at U.S. landfills. (See [thewaterproject.org](#))

- 1,200 gallons of water saved daily. The resort's laundry operation has implemented a cold-water wash that conserves propane and electricity and has reduced the amount of water used per load from 101 to 21 gallons in its 2,100-pound washers.

Don't throw in the towel: In another energy-saving laundry move, housekeeping's policy is to change linens every third day (unless the guest requests otherwise) and to replace towels only if they are left in the hamper or on the floor.

- \$95,627 anticipated electricity savings over the next 15 years. LED lights have taken the place of incandescent hall sconces, ceiling lights and lobby lights. They bring the wattage down from 60 watts to 19 watts and from 35 watts to 3.5 watts and have a life expectancy of 15 years.

The big turn-off: In another energy-saving move, housekeeping staff is instructed to turn all lights off after servicing a room.

- Zero sort recycling. Sorts back of the house cardboard, laundry pails, glass, plastics etc. via machine, making the recycling process more efficient and consistent.

Whiteface Lodge continues to target areas for improvement. Among its next meaningful green moves will be the replacement of mercury thermostats with digital versions in all 94 suites. The programmable thermostats lock to a four-degree range for guest adjustment and monitor temperatures more accurately, which will keep electricity and propane costs down considerably.



**About Whiteface Lodge**

Whiteface Lodge is situated adjacent to the alpine village of Lake Placid, New York, home to two Winter Olympics games. Conceived by a former Olympian and modeled after the Adirondack Great Camp, this rustic resort was completed in 2005. Whiteface Lodge is an all-suite property boasting 94 guestrooms, a three-story great room, Kanu, a fine dining restaurant, Kanu Lounge, Spa Cafe, 24-hour room service, a grab-and-go retail outlet featuring regional specialties, Lake Placid's only resort spa and two hand-crafted, luxury lean-tos, unique to the Adirondacks. For reservations or additional information, visit [www.theWhitefaceLodge.com](http://www.theWhitefaceLodge.com) or call (518) 523-0500.

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### Yum! Here's Where to Celebrate National S'mores Day

Pay homage to the gooey treat on August 10, 2014

By [Suzanne Rowan Kelleher](#)

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Don't cry because [National Ice Cream Month](#) just ended. Grab your chocolate, marshmallows and graham crackers and get ready for National S'mores Day on Sunday, August 10th.

If you and your kids love to [make s'mores](#) — and who doesn't? — then you'll want to include the gooey treat in your weekend getaway plans. While you can certainly make s'mores over any campfire (or even in the microwave, in a pinch), some resorts elevate s'more-making to a yummy art form by providing firepits, ingredients, skewers and a beautiful setting under the stars.

These family-friendly resorts will leave you wanting s'more.

#### 1. [The Shores Resort & Spa: Daytona Beach, FL](#)



*The Shores  
Resort & Spa*

Blessed with a spectacular location on a quieter stretch of Daytona Beach, the oh-so-plush [Shores Resort](#) delivers much for families to love, from family-friendly connecting rooms with balconies (request an ocean view) to the lovely beachfront deck with its swimming pool, cabanas, large hot tub, and firepits where families can use their complimentary s'more-making kits.

#### 2. [Whiteface Lodge: Lake Placid, NY](#)



*Suzanne Rowan  
Kelleher*

For families looking for a mountain getaway that's luxurious yet completely family-friendly, the all-suite [Whiteface Lodge](#) is a fabulous choice. The only all-suite property in the Adirondacks offers a winning array of family-friendly amenities, from the heated indoor-outdoor pool and trio of hot tubs to the games room, bowling alley, movie theater, old-fashioned ice cream parlor, tennis courts, nature trails, and catch-and-release fishing pond. In the evenings, families are invited to make s'mores around the outdoor firepit.

#### 3. [Grand View Lodge: Nisswa, MN](#)



*Grand View  
Lodge*

The historic [Grand View Lodge Golf Resort and Spa](#), located along the beautiful shores of Gull Lake is a family favorite for its huge array of activities, from watersports to 45 holes of championship golf. In the evening, the place to be is at the firepit, where you'll find s'more fixin's and grill sticks.

#### 4. [Hidden Pond: Kennebunkport, ME](#)



*Hidden Pond*

Reminiscent of summer camp, [Hidden Pond](#) is a secluded 60-acre resort in the vibrant seaside town of Kennebunkport, Maine. The resort features 16 two-bedroom cottages, 20 bungalow cottages, a Tree Spa (treatment rooms are literally eight feet off the ground, nestled among the birch trees), an on-site 800-square foot organic Farm, two pools (one for families, one adult only) and the farm-to-fork restaurant, Earth. After dinner, grab a basket stocked with classic s'mores ingredients and enjoy dessert by the bonfire.

#### 5. [Disney's Fort Wilderness Resort & Campground: Disney World, FL](#)



*Walt Disney  
Parks*

At Disney World, families can gather 'round the campfire, make s'mores and sing songs at Chip 'n Dale's Campfire Sing-a-Long at [Disney's Fort Wilderness Resort & Campground](#). Chip 'n' Dale join the nightly activities which are followed by a Disney movie in a theater under the stars.

#### 6. [Hotel Del Coronado: San Diego, CA](#)

For a gourmet twist on the humble s'more, **the Del** is the place. You can cozy up to your own private beach bonfire, tuck your toes in the sand and enjoy the classic treat with traditional graham crackers, Hershey's chocolate and jumbo marshmallows. Or





Hotel del Coronado

you can go gourmet with Ghirardelli chocolate, fresh fruit, candy toppings, flavored marshmallows, bacon and more.

**7. [Montage Deer Valley: Park City, UT](#)**



Montage Deer Valley

The luxurious **Montage Deer Valley** holds a s'more hour every afternoon around the firepit, where families can choose from marshmallows in different flavors (cinnamon, peppermint, vanilla, caramel, and pumpkin spice) as well as the classic marshmallow. The resort's famous hot cocoa is part of the experience.

**8. [Hershey Lodge: Hershey, PA](#)**



Hershey Lodge

Unsurprisingly, s'mores are a popular treat in Chocolate Town, USA. One of three official Hersheypark properties, the sprawling **Hershey Lodge** is a mid-priced choice with two pools, tennis, basketball, mini golf, and a full schedule of kid-friendly activities throughout the day. Each evening, families gather to make s'mores at a campfire alongside the hotel's small lake.



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**New York's Whiteface Lodge packages for Adirondack adventures**

LAKE PLACID, N.Y. -- Whiteface Lodge, the award-winning all-suite resort in Lake Placid, N.Y., allows guests to do the Adirondacks their way. Customizable packages bring the four-season destination to life with on-and off-property activities to enhance every Whiteface getaway.

Guests can make the most of a trip to Whiteface Lodge, tucked away in the High Peaks, with its Adirondack Experience Stay and Play Package. The package includes a \$100 Adirondack Experiences credit for stays of two nights, and a \$300 credit for stays of three nights or more, plus a \$100 credit for each additional night. The credits are redeemable on-and off-property for activities and adventures booked through the resort. Whether guests want to unwind at the Spa followed by a cocktail at KANU, or explore their adventurous side white water rafting in the Saranac River, Whiteface Lodge's Stay and Play Package gives guests the freedom to do the Adirondacks their way. Packages start at just \$550 per night for the summer season and rates also include full breakfast daily and access to all resort amenities and privileges, including, valet parking, pool, fitness center, game room, movie theater, and, on weekends, Kamp Kanu, the Lodge's supervised children's program.

Golf enthusiasts looking to spend some time on the green can retreat to the Whiteface Club to enjoy the beauty of the Championship Golf Course with Whiteface Lodge's 19th Hole Golf Experience. Available as an add-on to any stay through October, golfers can play the renowned 18-hole course and will also receive a cart, lunch and a drink at the Café on the Green. The add-on is \$105 per golfer and can be added to any new or existing reservation by phone or at check-in.

For reservations or more information visit [www.theWhitefaceLodge.com](http://www.theWhitefaceLodge.com) or call (518) 523-0500.

**About Whiteface Lodge**

Whiteface Lodge is situated adjacent to the alpine village of Lake Placid, New York, home to two Winter Olympics games. Conceived by a former Olympian and modeled after the Adirondack Great Camp, this rustic resort was completed in 2005. Whiteface Lodge is an all-suite property boasting 94 guestrooms, a three-story great room, KANU, a fine dining restaurant, Kanu Lounge, Spa Cafe, 24-hour room service, a grab-and-go retail outlet featuring regional specialties, Lake Placid's only resort spa and two hand-crafted, luxury lean-tos, unique to the Adirondacks. For reservations or additional information, visit [www.theWhitefaceLodge.com](http://www.theWhitefaceLodge.com) or call (518) 523-0500.

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## Opinion

August 4, 2014

### Cheers and Jeers: Aug. 4, 2014

Press-Republican

**CHEERS to Anthony's Restaurant and Bistro in Plattsburgh, Interlaken Inn and Restaurant in Lake Placid, Irises Cafe and Wine Bar in Plattsburgh, Kanu Dining Room at Whiteface Lodge in Lake Placid and The View at Mirror Lake Inn in Lake Placid for making Wine Spectator magazine's 2014 Awards of Excellence list.**

The list recognizes restaurants "offering an interesting and diverse selection of wines that are well-presented and thematically match the restaurant's cuisine in price and style."

The complete list can be seen in the Aug. 31 issue of Wine Spectator, but those five restaurants are the only local establishments to make the 2014 edition, a notable achievement.

We raise our glasses to all of them for bringing the North Country some national prestige.

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• • •

#### CHEERS to churches that make everyone feel welcome.

The nationally known Pew Research Center reported last year that the percentage of Americans who say they "seldom" or "never" attend religious services (aside from weddings and funerals) had risen to 29 percent, up from 25 percent in 2003.

The share of people who said they attend services at least once a week had dipped slightly, as well: 37 percent in 2013 as opposed to 39 percent a decade ago.

We don't think you could find a church leader of any denomination in this area who hasn't felt some concern about attendance.

So why do some people still feel unwelcome in churches if they aren't regular attendees? Isn't getting them in the door the first step to winning them over as longtime participants?

We bring this up after noticing a large banner in front of First Presbyterian Church in Glens Falls that proclaimed: "Our church family enthusiastically welcomes new members and friends."

That was followed by the church website, FPCGF.com, where a prominent section is devoted to "Visitors Welcome."

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#### Editorial

### Editorial: Getting tougher with pet thieves

Most people regard their pets as far more than an animal which with their share their home.

Posted Aug 3, 2014

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Plattsburgh, NY

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### Photo Tour: Whiteface Lodge in Lake Placid, NY

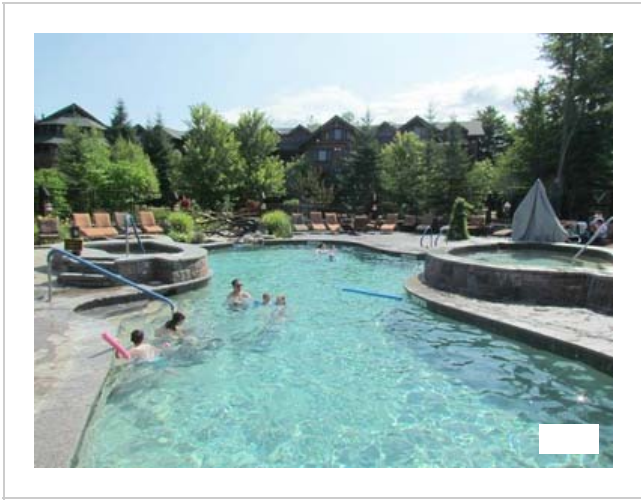
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#### Where Luxury Meets Unstuffy Family Fun



Whiteface Lodge

*Suzanne Rowan Kelleher*

Families can swim in the heated indoor-outdoor pool at [Whiteface Lodge](#) year-round. You can swim through a tunnel to get to the indoor pool. The pool decks feature two adult outdoor hot tubs and one family indoor hot tub.



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B. Goodman

**Stemulation Skin Care** has appointed Ashlee Anderson as vice president of sales. [www.stemulation.com](http://www.stemulation.com)



A. Anderson

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## TREATMENTS & PROGRAMS

**The Spa at Whiteface Lodge** has introduced The Modern Man, a variety of male spa treatments, including The Outdoorsman, a full-day spa package combining a sports massage, a facial, a hand treatment and a nutrient-packed spa lunch. [www.thewhitefacelodge.com](http://www.thewhitefacelodge.com)



**San Francisco Institute of Esthetics and Cosmetology** recently partnered with the **California School for the Blind** to offer a special afternoon of free hair and makeup services for 22 students going to their first prom on May 7. [www.sfiec.edu](http://www.sfiec.edu)