

# The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD



## CAMPING IN STYLE

BY DIANE DANIEL | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

**S**andy Pines Campground, the upscale camping community that opened in Kennebunkport, Maine, last summer, has reopened for this summer with two new “glamping” options.

In addition to up to 16 luxury “Glamp Tents” (from \$179 nightly), campers can choose from 12 “Camp Carriages” and another dozen “Hideaway Huts.”

The carriages, stylish cottages on wheels,

are fully outfitted with king-size beds, coolers, exterior window shutters, fire pits, and seating areas. Pricing starts at \$119 per night. The huts are modern-looking rustic wooden A-frames. The single-room structures also offer full-size beds and lighting, with outdoor seating areas and fire pits. Those rent from \$75 per night.

Cofounder Tim Harrington said the new designs were inspired by what he saw other countries doing with small vacation homes and camping sites, especially in the Netherlands and other European countries.

All guests — including those who hook up RVs and pitch tents in more traditional camping style — can enjoy seaside resort-level amenities. The focal point is the “Grand Lodge,” home to a general store and snack bar. Group activities include bonfires, live music, lobster bakes, movie nights, and ice cream socials. There’s also a heated saltwater pool, playground, outdoor lawn games, and watersport rentals.

Sandy Pines also promotes its “sparkling new bathhouses,” and if you’re already a camper, you’ll likely agree that those alone would be luxurious.

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**Below A**  
“Hideaway Hut”



**ABOVE A**  
“Glamp Tent” at Sandy Pines Campground



**LEFT A**  
“Camp Carriage”

PHOTOS BY DOUGLAS MERRIAM

### HERE

#### FEASTS AND FUN AT LOBSTER FEST

Celebrate all-things-lobster in the coastal town of Rockland at the annual Maine Lobster Festival (Aug. 1-5). The five day extravaganza features amateur and professional cooking competitions, a lobster crate race, a lobster-themed parade, a sea goddess coronation, live entertainment, craft and fine art vendors, a Steins & Vines tasting event, and 20,000 pounds of lobster meat. In the Marine Tent, kids of all ages have hands-on educational opportunities, including sea life touch tank and lobster trap building demonstrations. A free shuttle bus at the South Elementary School runs to and from the festival grounds every 30 minutes. [www.maine lobster festival.com](http://www.maine lobster festival.com)

#### WELLFLEET SPAT FARM TOURS

Calling all shellfish lovers! New this summer, the nonprofit Wellfleet SPAT (Shellfish Promotion and Tasting) is offering a series of farm tours designed to teach visitors how shellfish are grown and harvested in local waters. Participants will wade out to aquaculture sites at either Mayo Beach or Indian Neck and experience firsthand what it’s like to operate a working farm, including seeing various species of shellfish in different stages of growth. To avoid cutting feet on sharp shells, closed toe shoes or boots are required. (No sandals or flip flops allowed.) Attendance is limited to 25 participants and advance registration is required. Multiple weekly tours are offered through Sept. 9. Tours \$25; children under 12 free. [www.eventbrite.com/e/wellfleet-shellfish-farm-tours-tickets-46450055366](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/wellfleet-shellfish-farm-tours-tickets-46450055366)

### THERE

#### BALTIMORE ARTS FESTIVAL

Arts lovers of all ages flock to Baltimore in July for Artscape, a three-day arts spectacular taking place in outdoor tents, exhibition spaces, and various performing arts venues throughout city neighborhoods (July 20-22). Billed as the nation’s largest free outdoor arts festival, Artscape features a vast array of visual arts including over 150 fine artists, craftspeople and fashion designers, and showcases works in a variety of media, including sculpture, painting, mixed media, and photography. Attendees can also enjoy live arts ranging from Baltimore Symphony Orchestra concerts to dance, opera, jazz, street theater performances, experimental music, and a comedy club. Kid-friendly entertainment abounds

— with hands-on activities in crafts, music, science, and more. New this year, on opening day, Artscape is shining a light on the artistic talent of Baltimore’s youth, with plans to showcase youth-focused programming in both the visual and performing arts. *Free.* [www.artscape.org](http://www.artscape.org)

#### LIFESTYLE HOTEL DEBUTS IN MUSIC CITY

Creative types heading to the musical and cultural city of Nashville may want to check out a new hotel debuting just steps from the music industry’s most iconic venues. The Bobby Hotel, a member of Preferred Hotels & Resorts Lifestyle Collection, boasts a retro-charm in its 144 guestrooms and suites; and four dining outlets including a 1956 bus-turned-rooftop bar, Bobby’s Garage Bar (featuring a re-

tractable stage lit by car headlights), street-side cafe, and signature restaurant. Edgy design elements include a lobby chandelier constructed solely of car parts, and a wall inspired by safety deposit boxes. Accommodations follow the retro aesthetic with Rorschach ink blot carpeting and wall-size historic maps inspired by life on the road. The pet-friendly hotel has a canine ambassador named Sasha, a rescued Shepherd mix. Amenities include 24-hour fitness center, spa, and rooftop dipping pool. *Rates from \$249.* 615-782-7100, [www.bobbyhotel.com](http://www.bobbyhotel.com)

### EVERYWHERE

#### BACKPACKS WITH A MISSION

Satisfy both your stylish travel needs and your desire to improve the world

with Joggo Purpose Backpack. Joggo stands for the JOurney to the Greater GOod. With this mission in mind, the activist brand guarantees that each quality bag is ethically manufactured using fair trade practices in Nepal, meaning the craftsmen and women are paid fair wages and work under suitable conditions. Joggo also donates 10 percent of its proceeds from every sale to support refugee education initiatives in developing countries. Available in matte black and gray, or champagne pink and black, the backpacks feature a 15-inch padded laptop sleeve, padded back, and front zipper pocket for your wallet, keys, and other incidentals. \$79.99. [www.joggo bag.com](http://www.joggo bag.com)

#### PORTABLE SOUND AND LIGHT MACHINE SOOTHES KIDS TO SLEEP

Traveling with newborns and young children just got 75 times easier with the new LectroFan Kinder, a plug-in ambient sound and light machine that creates a soothing environment in any room. Simply plug the unit into any outlet, download the smartphone app, and select from 75 sounds that include white noise, fan sounds, nature sounds, and lullabies. Uses naturally recorded sounds that constantly evolve for a real-world sound experience. The nightlight projects a soft fan of light on the wall and can — if you choose — be set up as a multi-color light show. Once the app is downloaded, there is no need for WiFi. A sleep timer operates in 15-minute increments up to three hours. \$59.95. [www.soundofsleep.com/kinder](http://www.soundofsleep.com/kinder)

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