



Glen House is a rustic-chic mountain lodge at the foot of iconic Mt. Washington in New Hampshire. PHOTOS: THE GLEN HOUSE

HOTEL INTEL

ADVENTURE BY THE HIGHEST PEAK IN THE EAST



ROCHELLE LASH

The engaging new Glen House has two personalities: romantic and laid-back, or energetic and sporty.

This mountain lodge is a woody and peaceful year-round getaway, surrounded by the vast wilderness of the White Mountain National Forest of New Hampshire.

The Glen House also is at the centre of thrilling outdoor activities, notably downhill skiing and snowboarding at Wildcat Mountain, cross-country at Great Glen Trails and adventures around the awe-inspiring, massive Mount Washington.

At nearly 2,000 metres above sea level, it is the highest peak in eastern North America and it is a draw for ice climbing, back-country skiing and mountaineering, especially on legendary Tuckerman's Ravine, and unique sightseeing by car, on foot or on a tour bus, through four climates zones to the summit.

The hotel's panoramic windows open onto views of this phenomenon and the peak is a mesmerizing sight from sunrise to sunset, and even in the moonlight.

The Glen House property is an idyllic scene, with skiers and

walkers cruising along trails, meadows and footbridges. Even in winter, the outdoor terrace, with its fire pit and lounge chairs, is popular for drinks and conversation.

"The hotel is so in sync with our exceptional environment," said April Jacobs, The Glen House sales manager. "It's truly authentic, with the murals of historic scenes, the superb views, the nature-inspired decor and our connection to outdoor life."

THE LOOK

Three previous Glen House hotels have commanded this scenic spot since 1852, and this new version that opened in autumn 2018 invokes the timeless New England look of clapboard with white balconies and trim. It is already a contemporary country classic.

Named one of the most beautifully designed spaces in New Hampshire by Architectural Digest, the hotel's Great Room has soaring ceilings and a wall of windows opening onto Mount Washington, just "next door."

The Notch Grille combines a family-friendly tavern, a fireplace lounge and a dining room. It's warmly wrapped in textures and colours of the earth — vibrant reds, mossy greens and dusky browns on leather seating, kilim rugs and barn wood floors.

The 68 rooms are spacious and comfortable, with sofas, 55-inch TVs, honey-coloured furniture,



The new Glen House lodge displays "nature-inspired decor and our connection to outdoor life" surrounded by the White Mountain National Forest.

good lighting, and large windows with mountain or forest views.

The Glen House also is environmentally conscious, operating a geothermal system for heating and cooling, as well as using hydro and solar power, and recycled wood for building.

EATING & DRINKING

The Notch Grille is a hit with

locals and visitors. It serves craft beer such as Autoroad Ale by Tuckerman's Brewery, and signature cocktails like the Autoroad Mule, with ginger beer, maple syrup and Glen House Vodka, a limited edition by Tamworth Distilling.

The kitchen dishes up American comfort cuisine using ingredients including Atlantic sea-

food. For indulgent breakfasts, there are buttermilk pancakes with blueberry compote, eggs Benedict or veggie-apple hash with tofu.

The lunch-to-dinner menu features crab cakes, flatbread with forest mushrooms, vegan shepherd's pie, burgers, beef bourguignon, haddock, lobster mac 'n' cheese and salads with steak tips.

The Mt. Washington Summit Road Company owns Glen House, so guests enjoy discounts at the Mt. Washington Auto Road (summer) and the Mt. Washington SnowCoach. Guests also have free access to the Great Glen Trails Outdoor Centre, which has exceptional Nordic skiing on 45 kilometres of trails, plus fat-biking, snowshoeing and tubing.

For downhillers, the adventurous, edgy Wildcat Mountain is about two kilometres away and The Glen House offers lift-ticket packages to this downhill treasure. Readers of Ski Magazine rank Wildcat in the top 10 in the East for character, value and challenge, and No. 1 for scenery. The Cat has a 645-metre vertical drop, about the same as Mont-Tremblant, and several trails from summit to base, with a super-high-speed quad chair taking seven minutes to the top. rochelle@rochellelash.com

IF YOU GO

Gorham is an approximately four-hour drive from Montreal.

The Glen House: 603-466-3420, theglenhouse.com; 979 Route 16, Gorham, N.H.; approximately \$99-\$400 US per night, depending on day/season, for two, including indoor swimming pool, local/long-distance calls, coffee and cookie corner, Wi-Fi, gym, Great Glen Trail access. Pet-friendly.

The Notch Grille: Breakfast, all-day dining, vegetarian options, children's menu.

Great Glen Trails Outdoor Center/Mt. Washington Auto Road: 603-466-3988, greatglentrails.com, mtwashingtonautoroad.com; hiking, trail biking, fly fishing, and flatwater and whitewater kayaking.

Wildcat Mountain: 888-SKI-WILD (888-754-9453), skiwildcat.com.

Mt. Washington Valley Chamber of Commerce: 800-367-3364 (800-DO-SEE-NH), mtwashingtonvalley.org.

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