

N.H. town plans tour of inns and arts

BY ROCHELLE LASH, SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE NOVEMBER 25, 2010

The first Inns & Arts Tour in Franconia, N.H., to be held Dec. 3-4, will blend displays of local artwork, holiday refreshments and Christmas decor at fine country hotels.

Artists will show off their works, including paintings, woodworking and ceramics, at six historic properties that will open their art galleries Friday, Dec. 3, from 6 to 8 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 4, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Each inn will hold a reception Saturday at 4 p.m.

Ilja Chapman, event chairman and innkeeper at Adair Country Inn & Restaurant, said the tour "is a wonderful opportunity for visitors to take a peek inside each inn."

The six inns are Adair Country Inn & Restaurant and Bear Mountain Lodge in Bethlehem, N.H., Franconia Inn and Lovetts Inn in Franconia, and Sugar Hill Inn and Sunset Hill House in Sugar Hill. All are set in the rugged White Mountain National Forest. The area is great for hiking around Mount Washington or downhill and cross-country skiing at Bretton Woods, Loon Mountain or Cannon Mountain.

The Adair also offers a fabulous fresh-air tour. Full Moon Snowshoe Evenings are organized by the Adair Country Inn & Restaurant in Bethlehem, in collaboration with The Rocks Estate, a nearby conservation area. Snowshoe evenings will be held Dec., 19, Jan. 20, Feb. 18, and March 19, starting at 5:30 p.m. with a buffet dinner, followed by a moderate trek, with a hot drink around an outdoor fire pit.

Booklets featuring the Inns & Arts Tour as well as other holiday-themed events around Franconia Notch can be downloaded at www.franconianotch.org. For more info, call 603-823-5661.

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