

THE **TRAVEL CLUB**

Pre-Departure Itinerary
Drive Yourself Weekend

QUECHEE, VT BALLOON FESTIVAL **3 DAYS: Friday, June 19 – Sunday, June 21, 2020**

IT'S "UP, UP AND AWAY" on this festive Father's Day weekend at the Hot Air Balloon Festival on the Quechee, VT Village Green! Chosen by Yankee Magazine as one of the top 20 summer events, the festival features more than 20 hot air balloons, music, craft artisans, a beer and wine garden and more. Weather and wind permitting, five balloon flights are scheduled during the weekend! We've provided accommodations at the Fireside Inn in West Lebanon, NH (less than 15 minutes from Quechee) and admission to the Vermont Institute of Science Nature Center where you'll experience the unforgettable live raptor exhibition with some of the institute's rehabilitated birds of prey. There's much to do and see in this lovely part of New England: Quechee Gorge, the beautiful Dartmouth College campus in nearby Hanover and the village of Woodstock, "almost ridiculously pretty" according to *The Boston Globe*.

Rates

\$339 per person double occupancy

\$309 per person triple occupancy

\$279 per person quad occupancy

\$499 for single reservations

Per person deposit is \$150.

Includes:

- Two nights' accommodations: Fireside Inn, West Lebanon, NH
- Full breakfast Saturday and Sunday
- Dinner one evening at hotel
- Three-day admission to the Annual Quechee Vermont Hot Air Balloon Festival and Crafts Fair (including parking)
- Admission to VT Institute of Science Nature Center and Birds of Prey program
- Admission to Billings Farm and Museum, Woodstock
- Parking at hotel

Accommodations

Fireside Inn

25 Airport Road

West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

1-877-258-5900

The Fireside Inn in West Lebanon is nestled between the White Mountains of New Hampshire and the Green Mountains of Vermont in the Connecticut River Valley. Our covered bridges and historic towns gave birth to the phrase "New England charm".

Full service Garden Court Atrium

Restaurant

Full hot and cold breakfast buffet included with every room

Heated indoor pool and hot tub

Fitness Center

Free wireless, high speed internet access throughout the property

Bath & Body Works bath amenities

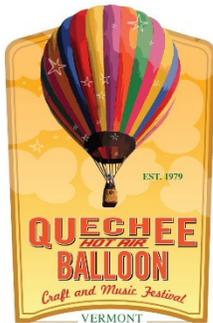
3.6 Cubic foot refrigerators in every room

DAILY ITINERARY



Friday, June 19, 2020

Make your way to eastern Vermont for the **Annual Quechee Vermont Hot Air Balloon Festival & Crafts Fair**, a 3-day event held every Fathers Day weekend on the Quechee Village Green (pronounced kwee-chee). Situated near the Connecticut River separating Vermont and New Hampshire, Quechee is known for its dramatic gorge, called “Vermont’s Grand Canyon” and its quintessential Vermont villages including nearby Woodstock.



Check in to the **Fireside Inn** in nearby West Lebanon, New Hampshire for a **two night stay**. This modern country inn near White River Junction (8 miles from the festival site) features a full service restaurant, indoor pool and spa. Activity vouchers, festival wristbands and meal coupons will be provided on arrival. **Dinner** is included this evening in the hotel dining room at your leisure.

The 3 day festival features over 20 hot air balloons, with flights scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Friday, June 19th; 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 20th and Sunday, June 21st (always weather and wind

permitting). Times based on 2019 schedule.

Gates open ~ 3:00PM on Friday and at 5:30AM on Saturday and on Sunday! 45 minute balloon rides are available to purchase on the festival website (Don't delay, they sell out fast!). Tethered balloon rides sold at event, and are also weather permitting throughout the day at the cost of ~\$20 per person. Don't miss this exciting event featuring continuous music and entertainment for all ages, and over 60 craft artisans and commercial vendors. Children's activities include train rides, a bounce house and more. Enjoy festival food, a beer and wine garden, and more surprises! Check out the Balloon Glow on Friday evening (rain-date is Saturday), continuous bands, comedy acts, and dance routines all weekend. The Food Court offers great food for everyone including those blooming onions & healthy wraps! Once in, there is a reasonable charge for the day at the Kid's Zone & small charge for the Rambling Railroad. All other entertainment, except balloon rides, is included in the admission fee.



Tethered Balloon Rides are available Saturday & Sunday between ascensions, 10-3pm weather permitting. You may purchase a tethered ride at the festival; they are not available for pre-order. They go up 100 feet

and have rope tethers. You CAN order a Balloon Flight on-line in advance (no tether) here: www.quecheeballoonfestival.com

Available 6pm Fri, 6am & 6pm Sat, 6am & 6pm Sun for \$260 per person. 2-4 people per balloon. Wind & weather permitting. Advance reservations highly recommended-often the rides are sold out by the time gates open on Friday! You'll find food tents plus arts and crafts vendors as well as the following schedule of balloon ascensions and entertainment.

Saturday, June 20, 2020

Full breakfast buffet included at the hotel at your leisure.

Guests have the option of arriving at Festival at 5:30 am to watch the morning balloon launch and then return to the hotel for a full buffet breakfast at leisure at the hotel dining room.

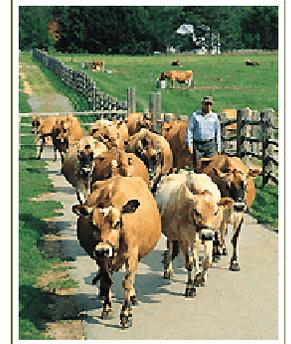
Free time this morning and early afternoon to enjoy the Festival, town of Woodstock, and Quechee attractions. You can't visit Vermont without petting a few cows! Admission to the Billings Farm and Museum is included, at your leisure. Located in quintessential Woodstock, this premiere working dairy farm is a living museum of Vermont's rural pasts. Ticketed admission also includes a must-see 2 story museum with farm and home life exhibits, chicken coop, vintage farm equipment, homemade ice cream bar, and the charming restored 1890 Property Manager's Farm House. A fascinating, Academy Award-nominated documentary is shown in the lobby theater about the founders of this historical property, and the history of Vermont and founding of many of our nation's national parks.

(Note: across the street from Billings Farm, you can tour the Billings' family mansion – requires separate admission.)

On your way through Woodstock, have lunch on own or shop in town.

This afternoon you'll regroup at the Vermont Institute of Science Nature Center (VINS) in Quechee for a live raptor program. See the majestic birds of prey up close (owls, falcons, hawks, bald eagles and more) in this unique "meet the locals" program with an avian ambassador. Learn about these amazing predators and fascinating masters of the sky. Meander your way through their new, ADA accessible 'Treetop Canopy Walk' and check-out their gift shop.

Return to the Festival at your leisure for the 6:00 pm ascension, hear more bands performing, and then have dinner on own at hotel or at a variety of area restaurants.



Sunday, June 21, 2020

Full buffet breakfast included at the hotel. Spend today leisurely exploring more of eastern Vermont or visit the Festival one last time.

Other nearby sightseeing options include Simon Pearce Glassworks where you can watch artisans creating hand blown glass and wheel thrown Pottery, glimpse a hydroelectric turbine at work and charming restaurant overlooking an old mill stream and a picturesque covered bridge. Stop for a photo or hike along Quechee Gorge.

Visit the Vermont Toy & Train Museum (free) at the Quechee Gorge Village complex, which includes an antiques mall, NH products, arts and crafts vendors, a new distillery, and antique carousel. Optional: they have Segues available to rent.

North of Quechee, visit the King Arthur Flour Factory in Windsor, VT which features baking demonstrations, a fabulous cooking store, and delicious bakery/café.

PLEASE NOTE: *This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.*

PLEASE NOTE: *This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2 –3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information*

