

The Herald Traveler

Love, Kennebunkport Style

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By: Moira McCarthy

The classic coastal New England destination of Kennebunkport, ME, is literally painting the town red for romance this February to make its claim as "New England's Most Romantic Town." All Dock Square businesses in downtown Kennebunkport will be decked out in red twinkly lights, and the restaurants, hotels, galleries and shops will welcome romantically inclined visitors with savings, from Red Plate dining specials to Five Shades of Red hotel packages, and Red Tag sales from retailers. "Kennebunkport is particularly magical in the offseason once the crowds have disappeared," said community spokesperson Beth Geary. "In the winter, couples can explore a picturesque, peaceful downtown illuminated by snow and lights, take a sleigh ride, ice skate or simply snuggle by the fire with a hot toddy. This coziness, along with the association with Valentine's Day, makes February the ideal time to highlight Kennebunkport's romantic appeal."

Paint the Town Red officially kicks off Jan. 31 when businesses in town flip the switch on their lights. Additionally, an eight-foot heart, glowing red and adorned with Maine lobster traps – perfect for that memorable photo – will be illuminated in Dock Square. Throughout the month of February, locals and travelers alike can visit www.destinationkennebunkport.com/love or pick up a "Book of Love" and map at participating business to find a variety of offers, including romantic dinners featuring Maine lobsters, lodging packages with add-ons such as chocolate-covered strawberries and champagne, and significant shopping discounts.

From complimentary gifts to lodging and dining savings, Paint the Town Red offer highlights include:

Five Shades of Red Lodging Packages: At the **Kennebunkport Inn**, you'll get two nights' accommodations, a "Lazy Man's Lobster" dinner for two at onsite restaurant One Dock, a bottle of red wine and chocolate covered strawberries upon arrival, a red velvet whoopie pie and red rose turndown each evening, breakfast daily, and taxes and gratuity. Prices start at \$356 per couple, representing a savings of over 30 percent.

At the **Maine Stay Inn**, guests are treated to free homemade whoopie pies, chocolate dipped strawberries, in-room candles and rose petals and specialty breakfast cocktails. Prices start at \$209 per couple.

For foodies, there are the **Red Plate Specials**, including **Abbondante**, where you can order the "Dreaming of You" cocktails (raspberry negronis) for two and receive a complimentary plate of chocolate covered cheesecake strawberries, and **Alisson's Restaurant**, where during February only, Sundays through Thursdays, you will receive a complimentary Mug of Maine Lobster Bisque with any Maine Event Entrée order. There are sales and deals with a Valentines theme too in various shops in the region.

Paint the Town Red deals are available between February 1-28, 2015. All details, restrictions, and booking instructions can be found at www.destinationkennebunkport.com/love.

Additionally, visitors who share a photo on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram showing why they think Kennebunkport is "New England's Most Romantic Town" and use the hashtag, #lovekpt, will be entered into a sweepstakes to win a romantic stay for two at the Kennebunkport Inn. A winner will be selected from entries between Jan. 2 through Feb. 28.

For more information on Kennebunkport and the Paint the Town Red campaign, visit www.destinationkennebunkport.com/love. Consumers can follow the romantic spirit on social media using #lovekpt.

About Destination Kennebunkport

A year-round destination on the southern coast of Maine, Kennebunkport offers a classic New England getaway for families and couples with activities aplenty for outdoor adventures and indoor pursuits. DestinationKennebunkport.com is a convenient, one-stop source for information and reservations for the Kennebunkport Resort Collection's eight distinctive hotel properties, together with information about dozens of local restaurants, charming boutiques and nearby recreational pursuits.

Author(s):

Moira McCarthy