

# **THE** **TRAVEL CLUB**

*Pre-Departure Itinerary*  
*Drive Yourself Weekend*

## **QUECHEE, VT BALLOON FESTIVAL** **3 DAYS: Friday, June 15 – Sunday, June 17, 2018**

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 Natural Science where you'll experience the unforgettable live raptor exhibition with some of the institutes 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**

**\$329 per person double occupancy**

**\$299 per person triple occupancy**

**\$269 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 39th Annual Quechee Vermont Hot Air Balloon Craft and Music Festival (including parking)
- Admission to VT Institute of Natural Science and Live Raptor Show
- 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

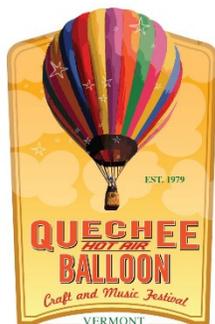
3.6 Cubic foot refrigerators in every room

## DAILY ITINERARY



### Friday, June 15, 2018

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 15th; 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 16th and Sunday, June 17th (*always weather and wind permitting*). Balloon rides are available to purchase on the festival website prior to the event date. Tethered balloon rides are also available

(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. There will be festival food, a beer and wine garden, and more surprises! Enjoy 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! There are over 60 outstanding craft artisans from pottery to potpourri. **Gates open at 3PM on Friday and at 5:30AM on Saturday and Sunday!** 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.

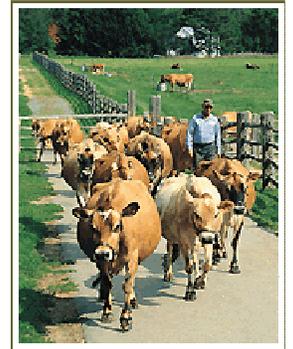


## Saturday, June 16, 2018

A full breakfast is included at your leisure in the hotel dining room. Free time this morning and early afternoon to enjoy the festival. You can't visit Vermont without



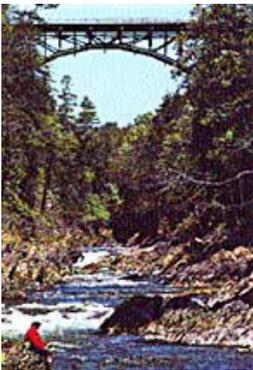
petting a few cows! Admission to the **Billings Farm and Museum** is included, at your leisure. Located in Woodstock, this premier premiere working dairy farm also includes a living museum of Vermont's rural pasts with farm life exhibits and a restored 1890 Farm House.



At 3:00 you'll regroup at the **Vermont Institute of Science Nature Center** in Quechee for a **live raptor program**. See the majestic birds of prey up close and personal with a naturalist including 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.

Return to the festival at your leisure for the 6pm ascension, explore the villages or relax at the hotel. Have **dinner on your own** with a variety of area restaurants available.

## Sunday, June 17, 2018



Breakfast included at the hotel at your leisure. This morning is free to re-visit the festival. 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 dine overlooking an old mill stream and a picturesque covered bridge. Or visit the **King Arthur Flour Factory** in Windsor, which features baking demonstrations and a fabulous cooking store.

Stop for a photo or hike along **Quechee Gorge**. Visit the **Vermont Toy & rain Museum** (free) at the **Quechee Gorge Village complex**, which includes an antiques mall, arts and crafts vendors, a new distillery, antique carousel and mini train – plus an old-fashioned diner for lunch or a snack.

**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*