



lonely planet

# New England



The Bicycle Tour Company  
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vistas overlooking the lake and hills and imagine you're in the Alps. Restaurant is closed January through March.

**Lake Waramaug State Park** (☎ 860-868-0220, 877-688-2267; 30 Lake Waramaug Rd; sites \$13) Around the bend in the lake is this park with 96 campsites, both wooded and open, and many lakeside. The sites usually get booked well in advance. There's a snack bar in the park.

## KENT

pop 3000

During the summer and fall, weekenders (often starting on Thursday) throng to Kent's small clutch of art galleries and to its gourmet chocolatier. The small town, about 7 miles west of Warren on CT 341, is also a popular stop for hikers on the Appalachian Trail, which intersects 341 about 2 miles northwest of town.

Pierre and Susan Gilissen have brought to Kent a little slice of Belgium, and for this they are to be commended. In a butter-yellow Victorian they preside over the **Salon de Thé** (☎ 860-927-3681; 1 Bridge St; ☎ lunch Thu & Sun, dinner Fri & Sat), where, after donning your best manners, you can come for lunch, tea or a 'savory dinner' (\$30 minimum and reservations strongly recommended). Next door in the carriage house is the **Belgique Patisserie & Chocolatier** (☎ 860-927-3681; ☎ 9am-6pm Thu-Sat, 10am-6pm Sun), selling unfathomably rich chocolates, tarts and cocoa.

The rotating exhibits are of consistent high quality at the tiny **Paris-New York-Kent Gallery** (☎ 860-927-4152; ☎ 11am-5pm Fri-Sun May-Oct, 11am-5pm Sat & Sun Nov-Dec, closed Jan-Apr), behind the railroad depot in a bright-red train car.

The **Sloane-Stanley Museum** (☎ 860-927-3849; US 7; adult/child/senior & student \$4/2/3; ☎ 10am-4pm Wed-Sun May-Oct) is a barnful of early American tools and implements – some dating from the 17th century – lovingly collected and arranged by artist and author Eric Sloane. The museum is about 2 miles north of town on the left.

At **Kent Falls State Park**, about 5 miles north of town, the water drops 250ft over a quarter mile before joining up with the Housatonic River. Hike the slightly strenuous trail to the top of the cascade, or just settle into a sunny picnic spot at the bottom.

Just before you reach Kent Falls, you may notice a menagerie of life-sized metal

animals grazing off to your right. This is the **studio** (☎ 860-927-3420) of sculptor Denis Curtiss, which is open for browsing most weekends. Call to confirm.

You can rent bikes at **Bicycle Tour Company** (☎ 888-711-5368; 9 Bridge St; per day \$25) or they can customize a guided ride for you around the area.

## NORTH TO NORFOLK

There's no shortage of postcard-perfect country roads to explore in the Litchfield Hills, but just one delightful stretch is from Cornwall Bridge taking CT 4 west and then CT 41 north to Salisbury.

From May through September, race-car drivers (including celebs like Paul Newman) go at it at **Lime Rock Park** (☎ 860-435-0896; www.limerock.com; 497 Lime Rock Rd, Lakeville; adult/student & senior \$6/3). If you've never been to a race, Lime Rock is a picturesque setting for your first time. The speedway is west of US 7 along CT 112.

The lovely, tranquil 14-room historic property at **Cornwall Inn** (☎ 860-672-6884; 800-786-6884; www.cornwallinn.com; 270 Kent Rd/US 7, Cornwall Bridge; r \$99-139, ste \$129-209 incl breakfast; ☎) consists of the Inn and the more rustic-flavored Lodge. All the recently refurbished rooms feature down comforters, cable TV and data ports. Fill up on straightforward country cuisine at the **restaurant** (mains \$10-29; ☎ dinner Thu-Sun), which features a different fish dish each week.

At first glance the one-story **Inn at Iron Masters** (☎ 860-435-9844; www.innatironmasters.com; 229 Main St/US 44, Lakeville; d incl breakfast \$110-175; ☎) looks suspiciously like a Florida motel, but the rooms are more elegant, the grounds feature gardens and gazebos, and there's a large common fireplace for chilly evenings.

**Housatonic Meadows State Park** (☎ 860-927-3238; US 7) is famous for its 2-mile-long stretch of water set aside exclusively for fly-fishing. Its **campground** (☎ 860-672-6772, 877-688-2267; sites \$13; ☎ mid-Apr–mid-Oct) has 97 sites on the banks of the Housatonic.

**Blackberry River Inn** (☎ 860-542-5100, 800-414-3636; www.blackberryriverinn.com; 538 Greenwood Rd/Rte 44, Norfolk; r & ste incl breakfast \$85-249; ☎) has amiable staff, an exceptional breakfast and grounds – complete with open trails – begging to be explored. The inn offers a range of rooms and suites in three buildings; a suite earns you a fireplace, Jacuzzi