

LAKE KORA

HISTORIC ADIRONDACK GREAT CAMP ESCAPE | NEW YORK

STAY WHERE THE WORLD CAN'T FIND YOU...™

GUEST FACT SHEET - 2024

About

Lake Kora celebrates 125 years in 2023! Lake Kora is a private, inclusive, and original lakefront Adirondack Great Camp situated on 1,000 private acres with a 500-acre lake in Upstate New York and is considered one of the most rustically luxurious camps in the Adirondacks.

Designed by famed Great Camp architect William West Durant in 1898 for Timothy Woodruff, Lieutenant Governor of New York (1897 to 1902), who named Lake Kora in honor of his wife, Cora Woodruff.

With only five owners in its 125-year history, the second was Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt who purchased Lake Kora in 1913 and New York Assistant District Attorney Francis Patrick Garvan, who purchased the property in 1914. In 1982, Lake Kora was purchased by Ann Mallinckrodt. Today, the estate is owned by a New Zealand family based in the United States (purchased in 2005). In 2015, the current owners opened this historic Great Camp to select clientele in summer and early fall for exclusive use only.

More than a century ago, Lake Kora was built with timber and stones from its own private land and on-site iron workers, carpenters and stone masons crafted original furnishings and fixtures. Once a playground for American aristocrats, politicians and finance magnates, today Lake Kora provides an authentic Adirondack guest experience and is known as the premiere showcase and one of the most stunning of Adirondack Great Camps.

Lake Kora offers Wi-Fi throughout the compound. Cellular service is available via Wi-Fi; however, telephones are available in guest rooms. There are televisions in some rooms, but a large screen TV is in Media Room in The Playhouse.

Location

Lake Kora is located Upstate New York in Hamilton County, nestled remotely in the Adirondacks in the Historic Great Camp District. Neighbors are Great Camp Sagamore and Great Camp Uncas.

History - Great Camp Era

The Adirondack Great Camps are grand, historic, romantic log mansions built by Gilded Age titans of industry along the remote lakeshores of Upstate New York. It was a time when cities were growing, and nature seemed too far away. The foremost families of the era -- Vanderbilts, Morgans, Posts, Roosevelts, and Rockefellers -- looked for a summer escape from crowded urban environments and found they yearned for wooded retreats of great, yet rustic comfort.

Using native Adirondack timber, stripped twigs and round stones pulled from rushing rivers, they created pastoral estates of astounding beauty and charm, places where nature could be encountered in its ideal form. These Great Camps embodied the romantic 19th-and early 20th-century notion of "roughing it" in the highest of level luxury - a dream that continues to this day to harken the sophisticated and adventurous to the Adirondacks. Some Great Camps were lavish, others less so - but none is expressed better, and more authentically as a remote Adirondack retreat, than Lake Kora.

Architects

William West Durant -- the father of the Adirondack Great Camp & John Russell Pope (Stone Chapel)

Open Seasonally Only, (Summer into early Fall)

Lake Kora is open seasonally, from June 15 through September 10th, and is available only by exclusive reservation (inclusive of all meals and non-alcoholic beverages). There is a 4-night minimum stay from June 15 through Labor Day and a 3-night minimum stay after Labor Day.

Accommodations

Lake Kora's base lodging offers 16 guest rooms in 6 separate historic structures and accommodates 24 guests. [Additional guests/accommodations, for up to 6 additional guests (for up to 30 guests, total), are available at an additional cost for a per person/per night fee.] The Adirondack-inspired guest rooms, situated lakeside, are quiet and comfortable. Many original furnishings, decorative items, light fixtures, and stone fireplaces were exquisitely handcrafted and carved by craftsmen more than a century ago. Majestic stone hearths are laid with firewood, spacious wood-walled bathrooms have vintage soaking tubs, soft fluffy robes and bed linens along with various indoor and outdoor seating and dining areas invoke a luxuriously rustic residential feel.

Tree house

A free-standing two-story log residence, it offers a master bedroom with a king bed and a fireplace, two built-in desks as well as a vintage wood-walled bathroom with fireplace. The main room offers a seating area with fireplace, dining table for 4 persons and a kitchenette. Upstairs offers a queen bedroom with a fireplace and a bathroom - sleeps 4 (1,471 sq. ft). Also offers an expansive outdoor porch.

Gardener's cottage

Charming free-standing stone residence with dramatic two-story windows. On the main level, a cozy living room has a fireplace and a dining room and a kitchen. On the upper level is a loft-style master bedroom with king bed, a fireplace and bathroom - sleeps 2 (985 sq. ft.). Also offers an expansive outdoor terrace and swim dock at water's edge.

Boathouses

Black and Red Boathouses. Each Boathouse has a main level master bedroom with a king bed and bathroom and an upstairs bedroom with twin beds and a bathroom. Each has a living room, kitchenette, three fireplaces and an expansive deck - each sleeps 4 (1,000 sq. ft. each).

Cottages

Cottage 1 and 2. These charming cottages with front porches are adjacent to one another. Each Cottage offers a living room, dining room, fireplace, kitchen, and bathroom on the main level. Upstairs, a master bedroom with queen bed and a second bedroom with twin beds and shared bathroom - each sleeps 4 (900 sq. ft. each).

Library guest room

Formerly a dedicated library, this one level guest room located adjacent to the Boathouses offers a master bedroom with a king bed, fireplace, and bathroom with a French tub in addition to a kitchenette and an outdoor private balcony - sleeps 2 (541 sq. ft.).

Main lodge

There are 6 guest rooms located in the Main Lodge (on the main level and second floor). A mix of rooms with twin beds and king beds and 5 bathrooms - sleeps max 11.

Main level

- **Fort** - King bed, fireplace, en-suite bathroom - sleeps 2
- **Indian** - Twin beds, fireplace, en-suite bathroom - sleeps 2

Second Level

- **Alcove** - Twin beds, fireplace, shared bathroom sleeps 2
- **Bachelor's** - Twin bed, fireplace, shared bathroom w/ Alcove - sleeps 1
- **Gables** - King bed, fireplace, shared bathroom with Porch - sleeps 2
- **Porch** - Twin beds and a wall of screened windows to bring the outdoors inside. Shared bathroom with Gables - sleeps 2.

Island Cabin (Additional fee)

Accessible only by boat, this historic two-story residence was the original structure built on the Great Camp. An expansive deck offers views of the surrounding lake. It boasts a kitchen, dining area for 8 with two massive fireplaces, living room and 2 upstairs bedrooms with shared bathroom. A hot tub and outdoor dining makes it a favorite for luncheon gatherings. Overnight lodging is available for an additional fee (with restrictions) of \$3,500/night - sleeps 4 (1,390 sq. ft).

Family/Friends Gatherings

Lake Kora is an ideal venue for multi-generational family or friends' gatherings, reunions, milestone birthday celebrations and intimate weddings, vow renewals or other special occasions.

The Old Powerhouse for Executive Retreats

Lake Kora was one of the few original Great Camps to have electric and telephone services which originated from The Old Powerhouse. Today, The Old Powerhouse is a dedicated meeting facility with a board table and seating for up to 10 persons and offers on-site AV equipment. A vintage book collection lines the walls as well as in the Reading Room. A side office for private calls and/or administrative use and a service kitchen is also available. Located on a hilltop, The Old Powerhouse also has an expansive terrace with views of the lake.

Stone Chapel

Built by renowned architect John Russell Pope in 1915, this exquisite chapel can be reserved for wedding ceremonies, vow renewals, concerts, religious services, etc. [Mr. Pope also designed the Jefferson Memorial and National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. and the Garden Court at the Frick Museum and the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, among many other landmarks]. Seating for 150 persons (1,988 sq. ft).

Wiki-ups

Original to Adirondack Great Camps and referenced to the Native American Algonquin-style, two Wiki-ups are located along the lake in front of the Main Lodge. Nightly campfires with s'mores are a popular late-night pastime.

Culinary

Guests dine together -- one of the most beloved aspects of a stay at Lake Kora. Meals are typically enjoyed at a 20 ft. long dining table in the Great Hall Dining Room, in the Main Lodge which seats 22 in addition to an alcove, with octagon windows overlooking the lake and fireplace, for 6 persons. Lakeside barbecues on the lawn, dining in the Playhouse or its front porch, luncheons on the terrace of the Main Lodge, picnic lunches for hikes, boating or off-site excursions or on a Boathouse dock. Cocktails in The Pub, or Playhouse porch or the Casino and formal dining with English china, and candlelight for special occasions are mainstays as well. Lake Kora does not adhere to a dress code and dining hours are set per a host's preferred times.

Our talented chefs craft delicious fare and to guests' dietary requirements with the highest quality. A guest preference form is sent in advance and is closely followed. Meals can be served family- or buffet-style to more formal four-course dining experiences. A wide variety of complimentary beverages are available, among them locally sourced soda, ciders, artisan juices and mineral waters.

Breakfast

A full breakfast is offered each morning served buffet/family-style in the Great Hall Dining Room. In addition to standard breakfast items (muffins, fruit, yogurt, cereals etc.), guests can request omelets, pancakes, oatmeal, or a custom egg order, etc.

Lunch

Daily lunch offers a few options from dockside at the Boathouse or outdoor barbecue served at picnic tables to box lunches for excursions. When guests dine together, lunch is typically served family-style.

Drinks Hour

Prior to dinner each evening, typically from 5 to 6 pm daily (or a time per the guests' preference), is 'Drinks Hour'. The cocktail hour offers a complimentary evening signature cocktail. Guests can also order other alcoholic beverages such as wine, beer, spirits, or Champagne. A selection of hot and/or cold canapés is served. This reception can be held in The Pub, The Casino, dockside, or on the front porch of The Playhouse. During this hour-long reception, all alcoholic beverages are complimentary.

Dinner

Dinner each evening is typically served in the Dining Room. For dinner, meats, chicken, steak, or salmon/local Rainbow trout are prepared. Casual barbeques are also popular. For special occasions, a more festive setting can be created. An earlier children's dinner can be arranged so adults can enjoy their evening meal. After their early meal, children can enjoy a playroom nearby with a TV, games, and books for their pleasure.

After Dinner

Typically, guests enjoy taking in the evening's chill at a campfire with old-fashioned s'mores down at the Wiki-ups at the water's edge under a starlit sky. After dinner drinks, ice cream or other late-night snacks can also be arranged. The Pub is another favorite spot for night caps.

Wine and Spirits

In advance of each meal, the host would make a wine selection. Wine, beer and spirits can be coordinated via order à la carte off Lake Kora's curated wine, beer, and spirits list (additional fee)

On-site Recreation

Lake Kora offers a wide array of activities:

Outdoor Activities: archery, lake swimming, hiking/walking trails (from .5 miles to 2.8-mile loop), picnicking, boating (canoes, kayaks, sailing and electric boats), fly-fishing and mountain bikes.

Main lodge (the casino)

Located in the Main Lodge, The Casino offers billiards, roulette, card and board games, chess, puzzles, or just sitting fireside at a massive original stone fireplace, all popular pastimes in this majestic setting.

The playhouse (indoors)

A sprawling building that houses two heritage bowling lanes (built more than 100 years ago) with view seating, a squash court with a viewer balcony, ping pong tables and a large-screen TV in the Media Room offering Apple TV and Netflix. The Pub is a cozy gathering place for a cocktail respite.

The playhouse (outdoors)

The Playhouse lawn offers badminton, a basketball court, the Harvard/Yale baseball & softball field, croquet, badminton, horseshoes, tennis, 3 x pickleball courts and volleyball.

Ice & meat house wellness center

The former Ice & Meat House has been transformed into a two-story wellness building that is home to a sauna and whirlpool/hot tub. Separate changing and shower areas for men and women flank the central space. Massages are available by booking in advance.

An exercise area in the playhouse offers equipment including: treadmill, elliptical, free weights, yoga mats and exercise balls.

Boating

With a 500-acre private lake, there are several boating options available including canoes, kayaks, sailboats, wooden electric boats and paddle boarding for guests to experience their own adventures.

Nearby Activities

Great Camp Sagamore, Adirondack Experience - The Museum at Blue Mountain Lake, Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts, The Wild Center, golf, scenic drives with a majestic mountain range as a backdrop.

Tariff

Lake Kora is only reserved on an exclusive basis. The 2024 cost to reserve the entire Great Camp is \$26,995 per night based on 16 bedrooms for 24 persons, inclusive of children. Carte blanche use of sports equipment and facilities. All meals and non-alcoholic beverages are included. Gratuity not included.

Additional guests/accommodations, for up to 6 additional guests (for up to 30 guests, total [exclusive of the Island Cabin]), are available at an additional cost of \$790 per person/per night.

There is a 4-night minimum stay from June 15 through Labor Day and a 3-night minimum stay after Labor Day. In addition to the lodging rate, there is an 8% New York State sales tax.

Reservation Policies

Reservations are only guaranteed upon receipt of 50% deposit. Full payment balance is due 3 months/90 days prior to guest arrival. Guest rooming list is due 30 days prior (guest assignment sheet provided). Wire transfer is preferred payment; major credit cards (handling fee applies), personal or corporate checks also accepted.

Cancellation Policy

100% refund if NY State does not give clearance for Lake Kora to open as scheduled. 100% refund if Lake Kora is unable to accept guests for the 2023 season. Cancellations received prior to 6 months of arrival incur a 25% cancellation fee.

Cancellations received within 6 months of arrival are non-refundable due to our remote location and exclusivity factor as guests reserve such group gatherings well in advance.

Additional Guest Services (Charges to apply)

The following services can be arranged (at additional charge):

- Transportation transfers to/from Adirondack Regional Airport in Saranac Lake - car rental, limo services, seaplane or helicopter transport
- Yoga instructor for private yoga sessions - indoors or outdoors (weather dependent)
- Certified massage therapist for 60- or 90-minute massages
- Fly-fishing guide, tennis pro, wildlife naturalist, forest bathing, birding guide, live raptor experience, storyteller, musicians/band/acoustic guitarist, DJ, photographer, florist
- Helicopter or sea plane tours (i.e., fall foliage tours)
- Laundry services (complimentary)
- Religious services (priest, pastor etc.)
- Motorboat rental and water skiing
- Fireworks display

Driving

Lake Kora is reachable from major Northeastern cities. Approximate drive times:

- New York City 5½ hours
- Greenwich, CT 5 hours
- Westchester County 5 hours
- Boston, MA 5 hours
- Montreal, Canada 3 ¾ hours
- Albany, NY 2¼ hours
- Lake Placid, NY 2 hours
- Syracuse, NY 2½ hours

Air Travel

Closest airport: Adirondack Regional Airport (SLK). Cape Air flies direct to Saranac Lake into SLK offering three flights a day (90 minutes one way) from Boston Logan International Airport (BOS). Guests can then rent a car at SLK for the 1½ hour drive to/from Lake Kora. Private car or luxury van service can also be arranged by the guest services team.

Lake Kora can arrange charter service for guests interested in flying privately into SLK. This airport has the longest runway in the Adirondacks and can handle jets up to and including Boeing 757s.

Another option is flying with a major carrier including Alaska Airlines, American, Delta, Frontier, JetBlue, Southwest or United to Albany, NY; Boston, MA; New York, NY, Syracuse, NY -- then rent a car for a scenic drive to/from Lake Kora. Car rental services available from major airports.

The guest services team can also arrange for charter helicopters or sea planes to fly and land directly on property. Sea plane or helicopter flights from New York City or Boston directly to/from Lake Kora are approx. 75 minutes (one way).

Train

Closest train station: Albany-Rensselaer, NY (ALB). From New York City (Penn Station), Amtrak's Adirondack line travels up the Hudson River Valley to Albany (approx. 2½ hrs.). Guests can then rent a car at ALB for the 2½ hour drive to/from Lake Kora.

Affiliations

- LUXLife Magazine - "Best Vintage Lodge Retreat 2022 - New York"
- World Travel Awards - 'North America's Leading Exclusive Retreat' winner - 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022
- World Travel Awards - 'World's Leading Exclusive Retreat' winner - 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

General Contact Details

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