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THE POINT

The Great Camp, now even greater.



THE GREAT CAMPS of the Adirondacks were elegant log cabin mansions and compounds where the most powerful city-dwelling families would retreat for weeks or months for a taste of the simpler life. Among these properties is The

Point, a wooded peninsula on Upper Saranac Lake originally developed for the William Avery Rockefeller family. Today, and for more than 25 years, The Point has operated as an 11-room, all-inclusive resort offering urban escapees of today a looking glass into another time.

We first visited The Point in 2014, when we lauded the property for its exceptionally personable service and amazing culinary program. From the guest experience, you would have never known the property was in bank-owned limbo at the time. Credit for keeping it all together is most certainly due to General Manager Cameron Karger, who is thankfully still here. The limbo ended in 2016, when regular guests Pierre and Laurie Lapeyre purchased the property. The couple has since invested in an extensive renovation effort, which had just been finished before our most recent visit.

The easiest way to access The Point is by plane. 20 minutes up the road, Adirondack Regional Airport operates two runways, the longest at 6,573 feet, with scheduled service to Boston via Cape Air. We decided to drive up from Manhattan, which Google estimates at just over five hours (but was more like seven all-in). The scenery on the way was glorious, but the rugged terrain became a bit tedious by the end. We contemplated how the Rockefellers and their contemporaries could have possibly withstood this journey so many decades ago.

As we pulled our vehicle in to park, we observed a new addition since last time, a Tesla branded charging station. The car brand had sent someone to install the station upon the suggestion of a vehicle owner who had planned to drive to the resort.

Evenings at The Point are typically social, with all of the groups in house converging for dinner at one big table



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in the Great Hall. Having arrived only moments before dinnertime, we weren't quite in the mood, and without notice, reluctantly requested to eat in our room. “Of course!” a kind voice on the phone replied. “No problem at all.” Without much delay, a beautiful series of courses began arriving to our room's two-top. It was absolutely divine. We didn't have the slightest bit of regret.

The Point's 11 keys are split across four structures. The Main Lodge is the property's central gathering

point, and the most convenient orientation. Favorites there include Mohawk, the original camp's master bedroom with a private outdoor sitting area, and the open and airy Morningside. Across the driveway is the building known as Eagle's Nest, home to our overall favorite, Sentinel, which is a proper one-bedroom suite with a cozy living room and a large private deck with loungers. Just up the way is the Guest House with its three rooms, and down the hill is the Boathouse, the most spacious and sought after accommodation on property with a sweeping front porch directly over the lake. The Boathouse was previously available in summer only, but has been winterized as a part of the renovation effort and is now available year round.

Guests at The Point are encouraged to feel at home. It's not uncommon for folks to help themselves to a

drink from the bar, or to pop into the kitchen with a special request for the chef. After a leisurely breakfast (with no set stop time), we dropped in with a request for a packed lunch to take on a hike later that afternoon. A perfectly packed backpack of goodies was delivered to our room in a little under an hour.

Setting off for the trail along the lake, resident golden retriever Luna insisted upon leading the hike. We made our way through the woods, and Luna was always a few steps ahead. She sensed if we began to trail, stopped, and turned back to look as if to encourage us. “Come on, humans. You can do it.” At one point, we stopped to enjoy the view, and the beautiful lunch that had been packed for us. We shared a few scraps with our new friend. Later in the evening, we finished the day with a relaxing sunset joyride on board the resort's 33-foot mahogany Hacker-Craft. We saw quite a number of fascinating, beautiful homes, and our driver pointed out a former Girl's Scout camp that was currently for sale.

Everything we tasted during our stay was so perfectly and beautifully executed, with our preferences always accounted for. We were particularly impressed by how seamlessly the staff manages to juggle every guest's individual food issues without the slightest mention from anyone. Conversation at the dinner table on our second night was particularly interesting, as one family was in for a wedding that would be taking place



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE POINT

over the coming weekend. Congratulations to them. There was another couple whom we recognized from our last visit, which we found out was also their last visit. Though we were floored by the coincidence of it all, the staff was not particularly surprised based upon the property's high rate of return.

The following morning, we felt a tug in our chest as we realized it was almost time to get back in the car. Not only did we not want to leave, we certainly didn't want to drive all the way back to Manhattan! Hearing our praises for the previous day's lunch, the kitchen surprised us with an impressive picnic in the back seat of the car. As an added bonus, and one of The Point's signature surprises, our vehicle's fuel tank was topped off to full.

The Point remains one of our favorite places on planet earth for sake of its incomparable warmth and thoughtfulness. There is a certain slowness here that is simply magical, and we're told it's even more so in winter. We hope to get back home again soon to see for ourselves. ●●●●

The Point

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DOS & DON'TS

DO note the Boathouse has been winterized and is now available year round.

DO let the staff know all of your needs and preferences ahead of your visit. Dietary restrictions will always be seamlessly accounted for.

DO expect the extra mile from this team. A guest with a wheelchair was visiting during our stay, and the staff had built special ramps throughout the Main Lodge to accommodate.

DO say hello to General Manager Cameron Karger, and chat him up about his days as a sommelier. One of our favorite hoteliers worldwide, Cameron is “the real deal.”

DON'T miss a ride on the Hacker-Craft. We couldn't visit The Point without at least one sunset cruise.

DON'T feel obligated to go to dinner at the Great Hall, or really, to do anything. Some nights are better spent in, and dinner service actually translates beautifully to room service.