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# TRAVEL+ LEISURE



## WINTER ESCAPES

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FROM PARIS TO POSITANO

PLUS  
CAMBODIA  
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URUGUAY  
ASPEN VS. VAIL

### 5 COZY INNS

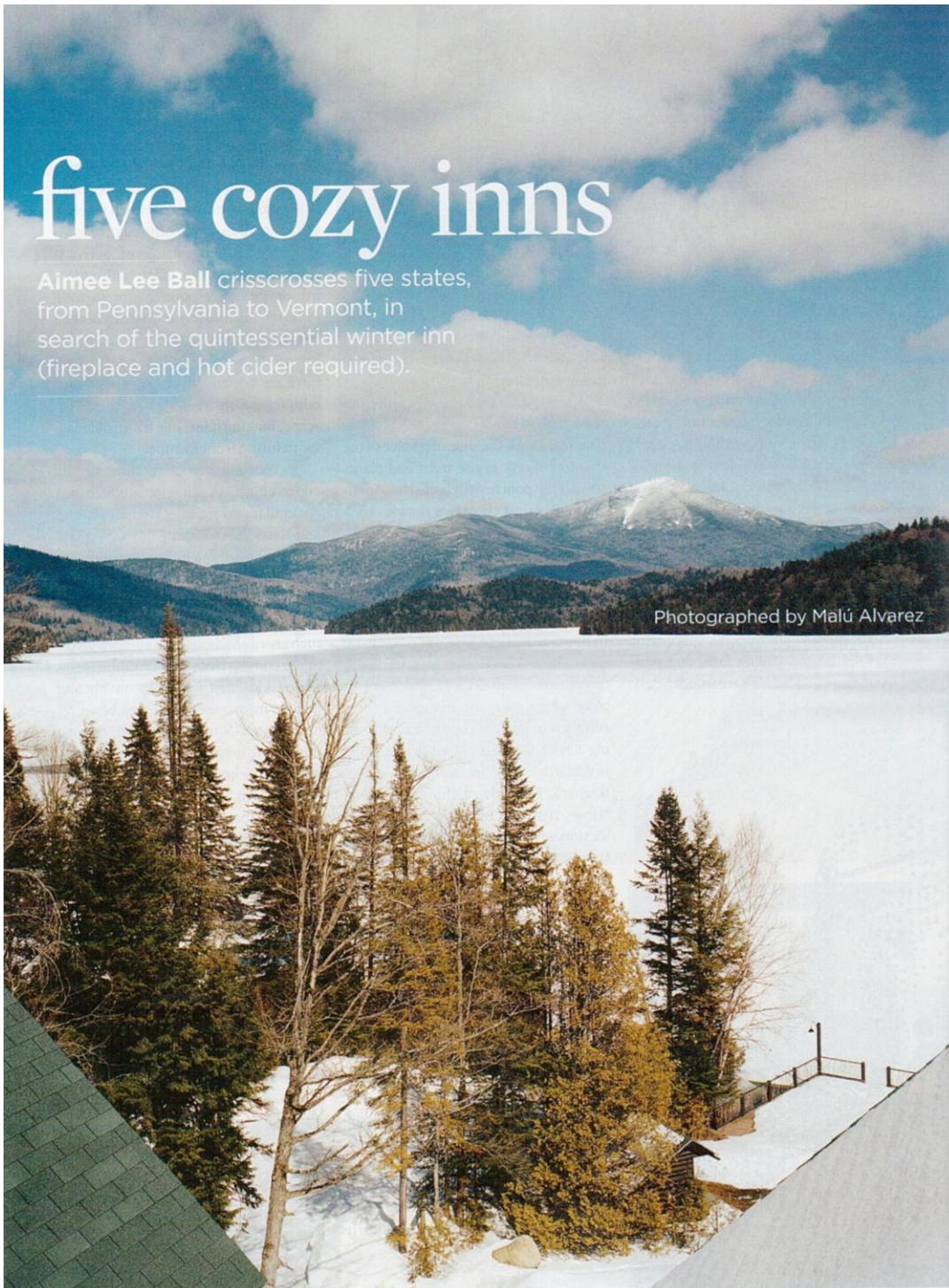
How to Avoid  
Baggage Nightmares



# five cozy inns

Aimee Lee Ball crisscrosses five states, from Pennsylvania to Vermont, in search of the quintessential winter inn (fireplace and hot cider required).

Photographed by Malú Alvarez





PLAN A WEEKEND GETAWAY  
LOOKING FOR MORE WINTER ESCAPES ALONG  
THE EAST COAST? GO TO [TRAVELANDLEISURE.COM](http://TRAVELANDLEISURE.COM) AND SEARCH "COZY INNS."

Lake Placid Lodge is like a fantastic tree house. Beds have fanciful wood carvings, and the dining tables and chairs are assembled from logs and branches—no nails. Every room and cabin gets a lake view and a fireplace laid by local masons stone-by-stone.

hallway's big mirrors serve as eco-friendly message boards to announce activities such as yoga and cooking classes. Bathrooms are equipped with low-flow showerheads, chemical-free toiletries, and towels made from a superfine cotton that dries quickly, which encourages reuse rather than replacement. Okay, so the compact fluorescent bulbs require squinting to find your contact lenses, but it's a small price to pay so that the polar ice caps don't melt. The inn is only about a year old (with a staff that seems not much older). Other new kids on this block are Thames Street Kitchen and Tallulah on Thames, two restaurants with young tattooed chefs and farm-to-fork menus, but the locals line up for sweet-bread French toast at the Corner Café (made not from calf's innards but from the Portuguese version of challah).

The Newport Winter Festival takes over the town from February 17 to 26, with ice sculpting, beach polo, and a chili cook-off. The International Tennis Hall of Fame & Museum is open year-round (the Williams sisters have nothing on Gertrude "Gorgeous Gussie" Moran, whose lace-trimmed knickers at Wimbledon prompted a debate in Parliament). If the weather is mild, you could even bundle up for the glorious Cliff Walk along the water, channeling *The French Lieutenant's Woman*. During the Colonial era, Newport was the world's rum capital, with more than 20 distilleries, and Coastal Extreme Brewing Company still makes Thomas Tew rum, named for a famous 17th-century pirate. If that doesn't warm you up, head for the Caribbean. 401/846-8018; 41north.com; doubles from \$395.

#### Lake Placid Lodge, Lake Placid, New York

THOSE ROCKEFELLERS, CARNEGIES, AND VANDERBILTS REALLY KNEW HOW TO LIVE. Around the turn of the last century, the American aristocracy began to stake out the Adirondacks as their personal paradise—the primeval forest and billion-year-old rock formations made the perfect setting for their splendid vacation homes, known as the Great Camps. Lake Placid Lodge, built three years ago in the Arts and Crafts tradition, is a Great Camp for the new century, supplying a similar experience for those of us not of the ruling classes. The whole place is like a fantastic tree house. Beds have fanciful wood carvings, and the dining tables and chairs are assembled from logs and branches—no nails. Every room and cabin gets a lake view and a fireplace laid by local masons stone-by-stone.

When winter comes to these parts, it stays—you can throw boiling water in the air, and it will freeze before it hits the ground—so it's tempting to huddle indoors, perusing one of the largest collections of Hudson River School paintings outside of a museum. There are billiards and backgammon (and the property's only TV) in Maggie's Pub, a casual restaurant named for the resident golden retriever. Dine on the enclosed terrace, warmed by heating lamps and lap blankets. If you do skate on the frozen lake, you're rewarded at the nightly bonfire with hot chocolate or more serious liquids. Or take a spin on the skating oval in the village—Lake Placid has hosted the Winter Olympics twice, and this is where Eric Heiden won a record five gold medals in the 1980 games. Almost any sport done on snow or ice is available, from a dogsled through the woods pulled by huskies to a bobsled around the Olympic track through the Labyrinth, the Heart, and the Zigzag turns. Back at the lodge, a soaking tub awaits, along with a brown bag of cookies on the turned-down bed. Rockefeller, eat your hearts out. 518/523-2700; lakeplacidlodge.com; doubles from \$500, including breakfast and activities. (Continued on page 124)

Lakeside at Lake Placid Lodge with the inn's golden retriever, Maggie. Opposite: A bed constructed from logs and branches in the Saddleback Room at the lodge.

