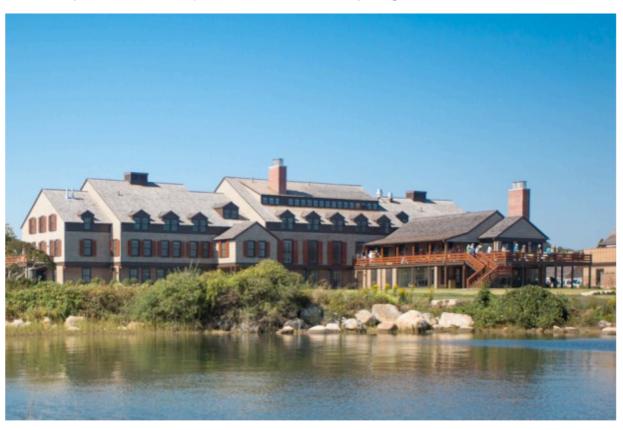


Weekapaug Inn

Charming, welcoming, casual

25 Spray Rock Rd. Westerly 401-637-7600 www.weekapauginn.com

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At a Glance

The low-key sister property to the grand dame Ocean House, the Weekapaug Inn appeals to travelers looking to disconnect and explore the stunning natural landscape of the Rhode Island coast.

Indagare Loves

- The three Fenway suites, which are set in a separate building from the guestrooms and feature private patios, complimentary wet bars and outdoor bathtubs.
- The help-yourself pantry, which remains stocked with chocolate chip cookies, crackers, hot
 chocolate and coffee around-the-clock.
- · The complimentary bikes available for guest use

Review

If the Weekapaug Inn were to be located on the coast of Florida, it might be appropriate to deem the resort barefoot casual. But thanks to its location in rural Rhode Island on the banks of Quonochontaug Pong, the property channels something more akin to New England waterfront—chic, with wellies topping sandals as the footwear of choice. While the Inn has all the trappings of a summer resort (ample watersports, complimentary bikes, swimming pool), it also encourages guests to explore the natural beauty of the region, be it on naturalist walks, fishing excursions or in landscape painting lessons.

The initial resort occupied a plot just steps from the current hotel, and operated from 1899-1938, until a hurricane struck and severely damaged the building. Just a year later, the hotel reopened down the beach, and was operated by the Buffun family until the early 2000's, when it fell into disrepair and was acquired by two local residents. After a long renovation, the Weekapaug Inn reopened in 2012 with 31 rooms and suites featuring modern amenities but the same homey charm of the original resort.

The accommodations reflect this mentality, thanks in part to the interior designer, who had only decorated homes before the resort. Each of the cozy rooms features a cream palate with accents taken from the colors of the headboards, all of which are unique. While simple in design, the accommodations are given a boost with granola in the winter and a beach chair in the summer, binoculars and bird books, TV's (upon request) and breakfast menus, which can be enjoyed in one's room each morning. Beyond the standard guest rooms, the Inn boasts four two-bedroom signature suites, which are accessible by private entrance and elevator and feature full kitchens and washer/dryers. But the premiere accommodations are undoubtedly the three Fenway suites, which are located in a separate building. Featuring complimentary wet bars, outdoor patios with bathtubs and light-filled rooms with whitewashed walls, the suites are the rooms of choice for couples looking to hole up for a romantic weekend.

Days at the Weekapaug can be spent boating, kayaking, paddle boarding and playing bocce and shuffleboard, or unwinding at the pool or private beach a quarter mile from the resort. For more immersive activities, the resort has a naturalist on staff, who leads nature walks, star-gazing excursions and arts and crafts classes. There is a well-equipped gym and while the Inn lacks a spa, guests can use the one at the sister property: the Ocean House. Active types can also explore the surrounding area by bike or Mercedes Benz, both of which are complimentary.

Dining options abound, with four on-property restaurants and Thursday night clam bakes (followed by s'mores at the fire pit). All emphasize New England cuisine to varying degrees of formality. The pool bar is the ideal spot to grab a frozen Del's lemonade and wrap on a sunny day, while the formal Restaurant serves elevated fare including local oysters and littleneck linguini. And should hunger strike throughout the day, the pantry is stocked around-the-clock with warm chocolate chip cookies, snacks, hot chocolate and coffee.

Low-key couples looking to escape for a romantic weekend or families who want an engaging vacation for their children. High-maintenance vacationers should opt to stay at the nearby Ocean House, which offers a nearly unlimited list of pampering amenities.

– Emma Pierce







