

Celebs say *oui* to Wolfeboro, N.H.

WOLFEBORO, N.H. — What's so special about Wolfeboro, N.H.?

French President Nicolas Sarkozy is the latest celebrity to vacation in the resort town, located 100 miles from Boston on Lake Winnepesaukee.

But Wolfeboro has a long history of hosting the rich and famous, including Monaco's Prince Rainier and Princess Grace, author Kurt Vonnegut and actress Drew Barrymore.

The scenery is classic New England, a picturesque canvas of deep blue waters bordered by tall forest-green trees, with cottages, homes and inns with wide verandas dotting the shore of the state's largest lake, at 72 square miles.

Anglers can fish for bass, perch, salmon and lake trout, and there are three public boat ramps and plenty of opportunities for kayaking, swimming, water-skiing, sailing and even scuba diving. There are two golf courses; a hiking and biking trail from downtown to Sanbornville along an old rail bed; and numerous concerts, including a jazz festival on Aug. 25 and Latin music from the Marta Gomez Quintet on Sept. 1.

Despite the occasional famous guest, the town of 7,000 does its best to maintain a quaint image. The First Congregational Church on Main Street holds old-fashioned ham-and-bean suppers. A trolley named Molly takes visitors from one end of Main Street to the other.

Sarkozy and his family stayed in a lakefront estate owned by former Microsoft Corp. executive Michael Appe. Sarkozy said his vacation routine included a morning jog and afternoon fishing, and that he was enjoying the region's forests, lakes and small-town atmosphere. "I must say, I'm not disappointed," he said.

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