

Oceanic Hotel on Star Island



### **Oceanic Hotel on Star Island**

Star Island

Rye, N.H.

603-601-0832

[starisland.org](http://starisland.org)

The Oceanic Hotel on Star Island, off the coast of Rye, New Hampshire, is actually a sprawl of nineteenth-century wooden buildings that enable as many as 280 guests to spend the night among the Isles of Shoals from mid-June through mid-September.

The Star Island Corporation has run the operation since 1916. It has connections to both Unitarian Universalism and the United Church of Christ. Since 1897, a big component of the island has been multiday conferences on the arts, sciences, religion, and politics, and the bulk of the guests at the Oceanic are usually attending one. Those who come on their own are called Personal Retreaters.

These are not luxurious accommodations. Most rooms have shared bathrooms, and for all guests, showers are in the basement of the main building, only available on alternate days. Most rooms have one or two twin beds, though there are rooms with three, and with double beds. You leave a bucket by your door if you want hot water delivered in the morning for washing up.

But there is something immensely appealing about the rustic simplicity. Star Island is calming—serenity infuses the ambience, and worries get left on the mainland. Meals, helmed by Food Service Manager John Bynum, are served family-style in the large dining room. There's always a veggie and gluten-free option, and

the food is excellent—especially the homemade breads and desserts.

Rates, which include daily breakfast, lunch, and dinner, start at about \$170 per person a night for a double, and are discounted the more nights you stay.