

Saranac Lake

SARANAC LAKE , ten miles northwest of Lake Placid, is a smaller, more laid-back community. The tranquil lakeshore is lined with lovely gingerbread cottages, most of them built during the late 1800s when this was a popular middle-class retreat and spa. Robert Louis Stevenson spent the winter of 1888 in a small cottage here, now preserved as a museum (for details and directions contact the Saranac Area Chamber of Commerce

, 30 Main St tel 518/891-1990,). Saranac Lake is still a rather quiet year-round resort, but makes a great alternative base to Lake Placid as it's close to all facilities and offers better-value accommodation.

Among the many motels on Lake Flower Drive, Sara-Placid Motor Inn , 120 Lake Flower Drive (tel 518/891-2729; \$50-75), has rooms and suites to suit most budgets, as well as friendly management.