

YANKEE

BEST OF

MAINE

Eat, Play & Stay



INDEX

BEST OF MAINE

- Best Attractions2
- Best Lodging9
- Best Dining 15
- Best Bargains22
- Best Classic Attractions 23
- Best Outdoor Attractions 25
- Spotlight: Mount Desert Island 26
- Spotlight: Portland 28



Reading Yankee is like a New England vacation.

There is magic in Yankee Magazine, and it can all be yours.

- **Discover** places you never heard of, and rediscover places you only thought you knew
- **Daydream** and plan your next day trip or New England vacation
- **Savor** both traditional and modern mouthwatering New England cuisine in your own home

**Subscribe to Yankee Magazine
and enjoy the best of New England
in every issue no matter where you live.**

Yes, I want to subscribe to Yankee!

BEST ATTRACTIONS IN MAINE

LOOKING FOR FUN IN VACATIONLAND? YOU WON'T HAVE TO LOOK FAR! READ OUR PICKS FOR THE BEST ATTRACTIONS IN MAINE.

CINEMA OR DRIVE-IN

THE GRAND, Ellsworth

Funded by the city of Ellsworth as part of the community's rebirth from a devastating 1933 fire, the Grand was a model of art deco elegance when it first opened in 1938. Now a nonprofit performing arts center that draws audiences from throughout Down East, it has retained its original beauty while adding more comfortable seats and a stage extension for concerts and live theater. But cinema remains the mainstay at the Grand, which offers a stellar lineup of first-run art films and documentaries and frequent special repertory screenings.

207-667-9500; grandonline.org

GENERAL STORE

BESSIE'S FARM GOODS, Freeport

A short hop from the outlet stores of downtown Freeport on the way to Wolfe's Neck, Bessie's is as tightly focused on local goods and local needs as the outlets are on name-brand bargains. The loving project of former teachers Kathy Heye and Deede Montgomery, Bessie's is a reinterpretation of what a general store can be. The shelves are positively overflowing with homemade wares (lobster mittens, anyone?), garden produce, locally spun yarn, and more. Folks stop in at Bessie's as much to chat as shop, and a neighbor might phone in to reserve the last mint brownie.

207-865-9840; bessiesfarmgoods.com

HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE

BURNT ISLAND "LIVING LIGHTHOUSE" TOUR, Boothbay Harbor

Being a lighthouse keeper might sound like a romantic adventure in isolation, but the historic interpreters on Burnt Island ground that romance in the quotidian details of eking out a living and keeping the light on for vessels coming into Boothbay Harbor. The 15-minute cruise aboard the Novelty from Boothbay's Pier 8 takes passengers back to the 1950s to "meet" keeper Joseph Muise, his wife, and their three daughters. Tours operate Monday and Thursday from July to late August.

207-633-2284; balmydayscruises.com

LAKE CRUISE

THE BIRCHES RESORT'S MOOSE CRUISES & SAFARIS, Rockwood

Maine's biggest lake and its biggest land mammal seem to have an affinity for each other. Moosehead Lake is prime feeding ground for moose, the largest member of the deer family, which—despite stretching almost nine feet long and standing six feet high at the shoulder—can prove tricky to spot. But summer is a good time to look for cows and calves foraging at the edges of the lake, especially with these seasoned wilderness guides bringing you close to the feeding grounds via pontoon boat.

800-825-9453; birches.com

NATURE EXPERIENCE

CASTINE KAYAK ADVENTURES BIOLUMINESCENCE NIGHT PADDLE TRIPS, Castine

Location, location, location. Gorgeous glow-in-the-dark phytoplankton flourish in just a few spots around the world, and luckily for us their favored hangouts include Castine Harbor, where the Bagaduce River meets the cold Penobscot Bay. The best way to experience their magic is on one of Castine Kayak Adventures' nighttime group trips: Every dip of the paddle makes the night sea glow with the tiny bioluminescent creatures, rivaling the swirl of stars in the Milky Way overhead.

207-866-3506; castinekayak.com

NEW CULTURAL ATTRACTION

CENTER FOR MAINE CONTEMPORARY ART, Rockland

With its sawtooth corrugated metal roof and array of north-facing windows to let in the coastal light, Toshiko Mori's stunning design gives it a commanding presence in Rockland. Three galleries house ever-changing exhibitions of contemporary art, much of it heroic in scale. Artists have a Maine connection by birth or by choice, and sharp curatorial choices emphasize both sense of place and aesthetic achievement. The new CMCA joins the Farnsworth Art Museum in making Rockland the art capital of the midcoast.

207-701-5005; cmcanow.org

BREWERY TOURS

THE MAINE BREW BUS, Greater Portland & Beyond

Leave the driving to Lenny, the Maine Brew Bus, as you sip and tour Southern Maine breweries, brewpubs, wineries and distilleries. Tickets includes transportation, tours, tastings, and gratuities.

Most tours depart from The Craft Beer Cellar on Commercial St.

207-245-1940; themainebrewbus.com

MARITIME MUSEUM

MAINE MARITIME MUSEUM, Bath

Spread out on 20 riverside acres are five original 19th-century buildings from the Percy & Small Shipyard, a late-Victorian home, a contemporary museum, and plentiful hands-on exhibits detailing Maine's rich seafaring heritage. Reserve in advance for a Bath Iron Works yard tour.

243 Washington St. 207-443-1316; mainemaritimemuseum.org

RAILWAY MUSEUM

BOOTHBAY RAILWAY VILLAGE, Boothbay

All aboard! Ride a narrow-gauge steam train through a rural village setting, view more than 60 antique vehicles, and explore informative exhibits in historic buildings at one of Maine's oldest railway museums.

586 Wiscasset Rd. (Route 27). 207-633-4727; railwayvillage.org

GIFT STORE GALLERY

GIFTS AT 136, Damariscotta

Maine-made fine and folk art and crafts in all price ranges, along with Maine-made chocolates, make for intriguing browsing and delicious buying at this downtown shop.

136 Main St. 207-563-1011; giftsat136.com

WINDJAMMER FOR WINE LOVERS

SCHOONER STEPHEN TABER, Rockland

Sips ahoy! Not only does the Taber serve wine with dinner every night, it also offers three- to six-day wine-themed cruises, with guided discussions and tastings.

Windjammer Wharf. 800-999-7352; stephentaber.com



Best Coastal Footpath | Marginal Way, Ogunquit
Photograph by Annie Graves

COASTAL FOOTPATH

MARGINAL WAY, Ogunquit

Frequent benches make it easy to rest and enjoy the views on this mile-long, gently rolling, paved footpath hugging Ogunquit's shoreline from Perkins Cove to Shore Road.

marginalwayfund.org

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHT - LIGHTHOUSE

WEST QUODDY HEAD, Lubec (1858)

Visit the exhibits in the keeper's house and climb the candy-striped tower; then picnic overlooking Grand Manan and hike the trails over the cliffs and around the bogs as you watch for birds and whales.

South Lubec Rd. 207-733-2180; westquoddy.com

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHT - CEMETERY TOUR

MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY, Bangor (1834)

America's second-oldest garden cemetery is the final resting place for luminaries including Vice President Hannibal Hamlin, painter Waldo Pierce, and gangster Al Brady, as well as a filming location for Stephen King's *Pet Sematary*. Download a map for a self-guided visit, or join one of the Bangor Historical Society's guided tours.

1048 State St. 207-945-6589; mthopebgr.com. 207-942-1900 (Bangor Historical Society); bangorhistoricalsociety.org

DIVA DIVERSION

NORDICA HOMESTEAD MUSEUM, Farmington

Turn-of-the-20th-century American Wagnerian opera star Lillian Nordica comes to life through artifacts, jewelry, musical scores, costumes, and props displayed in her birthplace.

120 Nordica Ln. 207-778-2042; lilliannordica.com

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHT – HISTORIC PERFORMING-ARTS HALL

DEERTREES THEATRE & CULTURAL CENTER, Harrison (1936)

Stars ranging from Rudy Vallee to Henry Winkler have performed at this 1936 theatre, built of rose hemlock and renowned for its acoustics. Concerts, plays, and arts events keep it humming.

156 Deertrees Rd. 207-583-6747; deertrees-theatre.org

HARBOR PADDLE

CURTIS ISLAND LIGHT, Camden

Experience beautiful Camden Harbor from a new perspective as you paddle your kayak or canoe among schooners and yachts on your way out toward Curtis Island. The island's iconic lighthouse and red-roofed keeper's house aren't open to the public, but the grounds are a town park with walking trails. On the return trip, take in an unforgettable view of the Camden Hills. Guided group paddling tours are also available.

breakwaterkayak.com; mainesport.com

BEACH

OLD ORCHARD BEACH

The hub of the seven-mile-long white-sand strand stretching from Saco's Camp Ellis to Scarborough's Pine Point is Old Orchard, where Rose Fitzgerald met Joe Kennedy more than a century ago. Escape the Pier and amusement-park scene at nearby Ferry Beach State Park or in Ocean Park, established as a religious summer community in 1881 and still the site of Chautauqua-type public programs.

oldorchardbeachmaine.com

ICONIC STATE ATTRACTION

PORTLAND HEAD LIGHT, Cape Elizabeth

Portland Head Light, at Fort Williams, has illuminated Cape Elizabeth's rock-girdled shores since commissioned by George Washington and first illuminated in 1791. Inside the restored keeper's house are lighthouse memorabilia and displays highlighting local history. Pair it with another icon: a lobster roll from the Bite Into Maine food truck.

1000 Shore Rd. 207-799-2661; portlandheadlight.com

CRAFT COOP

PEMAQUID CRAFT CO-OP, New Harbor

Mosey through 15 rooms over two floors filled with works created by more than 50 juried Maine artists and artisans. Inside are pottery, quilts, specialty foods, carved birds, kitchen textiles, glass and leather works, furniture, jewelry, baskets, children's clothing and toys, lamps, and more.

2565 Bristol Rd. 207-677-2077; pemaquidcraftcoop.com

SMALL MUSEUM

MONHEGAN MUSEUM OF ART & HISTORY, Monhegan Island

It takes a bit of effort to hoof up to Monhegan's hilltop lighthouse, but it's well worth it for the historical displays interspersed with original artworks by masters such as Andrew Wyeth, James Fitzgerald, George Bellows, Robert Henri, Edward Hopper, Alice Stoddard, and Rockwell Kent, plus art exhibits in the keeper's and assistant keeper's houses, as well as the panoramic views.

1 Lighthouse Hill. 207-596-7003; monheganmuseum.org

FORT

FORT KNOX & PENOBSCOT NARROWS BRIDGE & OBSERVATORY, Prospect

Not only does this sprawling granite harbor-front fort have two complete Rodman cannons, but it's also home to a glass-walled observatory tower delivering clear-weather views from Katahdin to Cadillac.

Route 174. 207-469-6553; fortknox.maineGuide.com

MUSEUM EVENT

OWLS HEAD TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM, Owls Head

During summer events, pilots in antique planes perform airborne aerobatics; classic and vintage vehicles are displayed and demonstrated; and free Model T rides are offered at this museum, where nearly every aircraft, vehicle, bicycle, and engine works. Even on nonevent days, thanks to its location on an airfield, it's possible to see a Stanley Steamer motoring the grounds while a 1917 Curtiss Jenny biplane soars overhead.

117 Museum St. 207-594-4418; ohm.org

TOURIST HOT SPOT

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

Even though Acadia, which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary, is one of America's most popular national parks, it's easy to find a private patch of heaven for hiking, biking, paddling, or simply enjoying the mountain-and-ocean views. Hike or pedal the 5.3-mile Amphitheatre Loop, which passes over two of the 17 unique rough-stone bridges in the 57-mile carriage-trail system.

207-288-3338; nps.gov/acad

EXPERIENTIAL ART TOUR

MAINE ART MUSEUM TRAIL, Statewide

From Ogunquit to Bangor and out to Monhegan Island, weave a tour through eight cultural institutions mapped on the 200-mile Maine Art Museum Trail. Comprising more than 73,000 works of art, collections range from ancient to contemporary and include European, American, and Maine masters.

maineartmuseums.org



Best Tourist Hot Spot | Acadia National Park
Photograph by Greg Hartford

LAKESIDE STATE PARK

PEAKS–KENNY STATE PARK, Dover–Foxcroft

Begin with serene views across Sebec Lake to Borestone Mountain; now add a mile of shorefront with a lifeguard-patrolled sandy beach, a grassy picnic area, 56 campsites, and a 10-mile trail network.

401 State Park Rd. 207-564-2003; maine.gov/peaks-kenny

FAMILY SWIMMING HOLE

STEP FALLS, Newry

The Step Falls trail rises a half-mile along Wright Brook and rewards hikers with waterfalls, swimming holes, natural waterslides, flat rocks for picnicking, and nice views of the Mahoosuc mountain range.

Find it off Route 26, a half-mile south of Grafton Notch State Park. mahoosuc.org; mainetrailfinder.com

GALLERY

HARVEST GOLD GALLERY, Center Lovell

Hard to say which is more stunning: the views over mountain-backed Kezar Lake outside the gallery or the works displayed within, which include gold jewelry accented with Maine gemstones, among the fine crafts by a variety of artisans.

1082 South Main St. 207-925-6502; harvestgoldgallery.com

EASY ISLAND BIKE EXCURSION

PEAKS ISLAND

On Peaks Island, only a 20-minute ferry ride from Portland, it's easy to dream of seaside cottages, endless blue seas, and crisp breezes. You can bike the circumference of this 1-by-2-mile knob of land in 40 minutes. But there's no need to rush—beaches here are plentiful and accessible. Bring your own bike on the Casco Bay Lines ferry (home port: 56 Commercial St., Portland). Or, used (and inexpensive) bikes can be found just off the dock at Brad's Bike Rental.

peaksislandmaine.net. Ferry, 207-774-7871; cascobaylines.com. Brad's, 115 Island Ave. 207-766-5631

RETRO BEACH HANGOUT

FUN-O-RAMA, York Beach

A stone's throw from York's Short Sands Beach is the Fun-O-Rama arcade. The building was once a 1940s bathhouse before converting to an arcade. Today it packs more than 250 rides and arcade games (including Skee-Ball) into its 10,000 square feet. There's something endearingly boardwalk-retro about it—it makes you want to stroll through even if video games and old-fashioned photo booths aren't your thing.

7 Beach St. 207-363-4421; funorama.us

USED-BOOK STORE

MERRILL'S BOOKSHOP, Hallowell

Upstairs at Merrill's, John Merrill has been barricaded behind towering walls of used books for 25 years. It's easy to pass several hours here, fingers rustling the pages of a Hardy Boys installment or a first-edition *East of Eden*. "I'm going to be the last old-fashioned bookstore," Merrill declares. "No selling books on the Internet. I refuse. It takes all the fun out of it."

134 Water St. 207-623-2055; merrillsbookshop.com

ADVENTURE

KENNEBEC RIVER RAFTING, The Forks

Take a whitewater roller-coaster ride delivering guaranteed big thrills—without cold-water chills. The dam-controlled Kennebec drains from a shallow lake and flows through a steep-walled gorge in Maine's timber country. Northern Outdoors founder Wayne Hockmeyer pioneered the route, which includes Big Mama and the Three Sisters as well as dropping over Magic Falls.

1771 Route 201. 800-765-7238, 207-663-4466; northernoutdoors.com

MOOSE-SPOTTING TOUR

NORTHWOODS OUTFITTERS, Greenville

The Moosehead Lake region supports some of the country's densest moose populations, and Northwoods is so confident of finding the gangly critters that it offers a money-back guarantee. Choose from water or land tours. 5 Lily Bay Rd. 866-223-1380; maineoutfitter.com



Best Moose-spotting Tour | Northwoods Outfitters

BEST LODGING IN MAINE

LOOKING TO REST YOUR HEAD IN THE PINE TREE STATE? WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED! CHECK OUT OUR PICKS FOR THE BEST LODGING IN MAINE.

BOUTIQUE HOTEL

WHITEHALL, Camden

Though the core of Whitehall may be an 1834 sea captain's home, the building has progressively accreted rooms since becoming an inn in 1901. Reimagined in 2015 as a chic coastal getaway, the 36-room hotel and its rambling porches sprawl across green lawns between the rounded peak of Mount Battie and the lapping blue waters of Penobscot Bay. Touches like aged barn board and grass-cloth wall coverings produce a breezy contemporary decor that still echoes the leisurely rusticators of a century past.

207-236-3391; whitehallmaine.com

FAMILY LODGING

THE LODGE ON THE COVE, Kennebunkport

Both retro-cool and budget-friendly, this 21st-century makeover of a motor lodge is colorful and upbeat, with a mix of vintage and contemporary furnishings in 30 guest rooms spread throughout four buildings. The centerpiece of the resort is the main lodge, which has a big lounge on the upper level and a restaurant below that opens out onto the pool. Keeping little ones entertained is a cinch, with complimentary use of beach cruisers and kids' bikes, lawn games, shuffle puck and Ping-Pong tables, and Saturday-night movies. Plus, the shops and attractions of Dock Square are just a 15-minute stroll away.

800-879-5778; lodgeonthecove.com

HISTORIC HOTEL

CLAREMONT HOTEL, Southwest Harbor

The fjord of Somes Sound cleaves Mount Desert Island in two. The 24-room Claremont sits on the take-a-deep-breath-and-exhale western lobe, removed from the bustle of Bar Harbor and the main attractions of Acadia National Park. Since 1884, it has welcomed guests to its six-acre spread at the mouth of Somes Sound with views across to Greening Island. Six modern inn-style rooms and 14 cottages are other options, but stretching out on a sleigh bed in the main inn, with the breeze ruffling the window sheers, feels like visiting the home of the Down East grandma you wish you had.

800-244-5036; theclaremonthotel.com

LAKESIDE LODGING

THE RANGELEY INN, Rangeley

A perfect example of Maine's "serial architecture," the multiwinged Rangeley Inn was built in pieces in the early 20th century to offer hospitality to the sporting crowd that came by rail. The trains no longer run, but the mountainous woodlands and lakes of western Maine remain as alluring as ever. Well-stocked Haley Pond—just outside the inn's back door—is a fine spot to practice angling or paddle around for an hour in a loaner kayak. Want to explore the Rangeley Lake itself? Inn staffers are happy to point you to a neighboring cruise company offering scenic outings on one-of-a-kind restored wooden boats.

207-864-3341; therangeleyinn.com

LUXURY ESCAPE

CLIFF HOUSE, Cape Neddick

Set high atop a cliff of black volcanic boulders between York and the sandy beaches of Ogunquit, Cliff House has enjoyed an osprey's view of the ocean since opening in 1872. Recent renovations went beyond mere restoration to create a sleek contemporary hotel with every imaginable creature comfort and an ambitious spa for beauty and wellness treatments. All 226 rooms and suites come with private terraces and those same incomparable views that have been the resort's calling card since Ulysses S. Grant was president.

207-361-1000; cliffhousemaine.com

NEW LODGING

SANDY PINES CAMPGROUND, Kennebunkport

For those looking to rough it like a raja in the Maine woods, Sandy Pines' 12 luxurious glamping tents offer designer decor in 18-by-24-foot canvas "rooms." Each has its own meditation garden and king-size bed, some have adjacent tepees for the kids, and all share a communal fire pit for making nighttime memories (and s'mores). More traditional overnight setups are available, too: The majority of the 300-plus wooded sites here allow for RV camping, with 100 nice tenting spots as well. Bordering the Rachel Carson Wildlife Refuge, Sandy Pines' 60 acres ensures everyone has room to spread out.

207-967-2483; sandyпинесcamping.com

OCEANSIDE LODGING

SPRUCE POINT INN, Boothbay Harbor

Diffuse ocean light surrounds this 1892 inn and cabin community at the southern end of the thumb-shaped peninsula separating Boothbay Harbor from Linekin Bay. Seven inn rooms feature private decks where you can sprawl in Adirondack chairs to watch sails billow on the bay below. Other options include oversize rooms in modern lodges and woodsy housekeeping cottages, many with multiple bedrooms for family getaways. The village is a 1½-mile bike ride away ... assuming you can tear yourself away from the view.

207-633-4152; sprucepointinn.com

ROOMS WITH A VIEW

THE EAST WIND INN, Tenants Harbor

A prime waterfront location on the St. George peninsula south of Thomaston guarantees that all 19 rooms at the East Wind Inn have views of the lobster boats anchored in the harbor and the islands offshore. Guests can choose between two adjacent buildings: a 19th-century former sail loft or an erstwhile sea captain's mansion. The rooms are simply furnished with finds from local antiques dealers, striking precisely the right note for this unpretentious working stretch of the Maine coast.

207-372-6366; eastwindinn.com

WILDERNESS RETREAT

LITTLE LYFORD LODGE & CABINS, Greenville

So far off the grid that you have to ski in during the winter, Little Lyford is a complex of nine log cabins, a bunkhouse, and a main lodge in the middle of a 66,000-acre forest owned by the Appalachian Mountain Club. The AMC also operates the restored 1874 camp. It's definitely rustic: propane lights, woodstove, cold running water. BYO sheets or sleeping bag, but canoes and kayaks are provided—as are three squares a day. Reserve fishing gear ahead, as you're one landlocked salmon away from nirvana.

207-280-0708; outdoors.org

WALK-TO-EVERYTHING LOCATION

2 VILLAGE SQUARE, Ogunquit

Walk to shops, galleries, restaurants, the beach, and the Marginal Way, if you can tear away from the heated pool, hot tub, or rolling ocean views.

14 Village Square Ln. 207-646-5779; 2vsquare.com

SEA CAPTAIN'S MANSION

CAPTAIN LORD MANSION, Kennebunkport

This grand, Federal-style inn immerses guests in a 200-year-old, sumptuously decorated sea captain's mansion but pampers them with 21st century amenities, including complimentary WiFi, iPhone docks, and in-house spa services.

6 Pleasant St. 207-967-3141; captainlord.com

WATER VIEWS

TOPSIDE INN, Boothbay Harbor

The aptly named Topside caps an in-town hill with sigh-producing views over the inner and outer harbors. Rooms in the three buildings are bright and airy with contemporary nautical décor.

60 McKown St. 207-633-5404; topsideinn.com

CLASSIC ISLAND INN

CHEBEAGUE ISLAND INN, Chebeague Island

Much of the charm of this 1920s establishment is that it's a part of island life. Monday-night dinners become a regular event for summer island residents, who sit on the famous porch and take in the sunsets, some of the finest in New England.

61 South Rd. 207-846-5155; chebeagueislandinn.com



Chebeague Island Inn's famously long porch, evening home to some of the finest sunset views in New England.

Photograph courtesy of Chebeague Island Inn

ANYTIME PIE

BERRY MANOR INN, Rockland

Not only do guests enjoy an expansive breakfast, but they also have access to pantries stocked with Maine-made Gifford's ice cream and the inn's renowned homemade pies, such as to-die-for blueberry, mixed berry, and apple. 81 Talbot Ave. 207-596-7696; berrymanorinn.com

IN-TOWN COUNTRY INN

HARTSTONE INN, Camden

Choose from rooms, all decorated with French country flair, in the main mansard-roofed inn, the Manor House (tucked behind), or The Hideaway about a block away. Even better: Downtown Camden is just footsteps away. Be sure to make reservations for dinner.

41 Elm St. (U.S. Route 1). 207-236-4259; hartstoneinn.com

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHT – CLASSIC MAINE INN

PENTAGÖET INN, Castine (1894)

Step back in time in Castine, a serene coastal Maine town with a turbulent history. With lacy curtains, floral wallpapers, and period antiques, the Queen Anne–style Pentagöet complements its historic downtown setting while pampering guests with contemporary amenities (organic mattresses and free WiFi, to name a few) and an excellent dining room.

26 Main St. 207-326-8616; pentagoet.com

HOMESTEADING HOSTEL

DEER ISLE HOSTEL, Deer Isle

Communal dinners are drawn from the organic gardens in front of this rustic, off-the-grid, hand-built hostel designed to replicate a 17th century timber-frame home.

65 Tennis Rd. 207-348-2308; deerislehostel.com

RIVERSIDE RETREAT

THE OLD SACO INN, Fryeburg

Peace and tranquility are yours on this 65-acre riverfront property, with trails meandering through woods and across fields, and canoes and kayaks available for paddling. Add comfy rooms, hearty breakfasts, and a cozy pub, and you may never leave.

125 Old Saco Ln. 207-925-3737; oldsacoinn.com

BEACHSIDE INN

INN BY THE SEA, Cape Elizabeth

Handsome rooms, suites, and cottages shelter guests at this seaside resort with an outdoor saltwater pool, a restaurant and lounge with indoor and outdoor seating, and a boutique spa. A boardwalk through a New England cottontail rabbit preserve links the ultra-green, dog- and family-friendly property with dune-backed Crescent Beach, a state park with lifeguards.

40 Bowery Beach Rd. 207-799-3134; innbythesea.com

LIGHTHOUSE STAY

INN AT CUCKOLDS LIGHTHOUSE, Cuckolds Island

Splurge on one of two ultra-luxe suites in a meticulously restored 1892 lighthouse complex on a private island. The pampering includes transportation, breakfast, and afternoon tea; lunch and dinner are available. 855-212-5252; innatcuckoldslighthouse.com



Best Beachside Inn | Inn by the Sea, Cape Elizabeth
Photograph courtesy of Inn by the Sea

OCEAN RESORT

SAMOSET, Rockport

If you can tear yourself away from the dreamy views, facilities at this 230-acre oceanfront resort edging Penobscot Bay include an 18-hole golf course, indoor and outdoor pools, a spa, a fitness center, a children's program, tennis courts, lawn games, and easy access to the Rockland Breakwater.

220 Warrenton St. 207-594-2511; samosetresort.com

PET-FRIENDLY B&B

THE CAPTAIN JEFFERDS INN, Kennebunkport

The 11 elegant rooms in the 1804 main house are fur-free, but five equally inviting rooms in the attached Carriage House welcome dogs with bowls, towels, and a treat. Each room has direct access to the yard, and pet sitting is available.

5 Pearl St. 207-967-2311; captainjefferdsinn.com

FAMILY VACATION

MEDOMAK FAMILY CAMP, Washington

Think summer camp is only for kids? Swim, play, create, paddle, hike, tour, or do nothing during family sessions at this traditional lakeside summer camp on Washington Pond. Family-style meals and a rustic, few-frills private cabin are included; the counselors make it sing.

178 Liberty Rd. 207-845-6001; medomakcamp.com

LAKESIDE RESORT

MIGIS LODGE, Casco

Set under towering pines on the shores of Sebago Lake, this 100-year-old resort turns the lakeside family vacation into a luxury experience, pampering guests with wood-burning fireplaces, stocked daily, and fancy linens in 35 well-appointed cottages and a main lodge. Choose from paddling, sailing, tennis, kids' programs, and a slew of family-friendly activities, from island cookouts to waterskiing sessions. Meals and most activities are included.

30 Migis Lodge Rd. 207-655-4524; migis.com

WILDERNESS CAMPING

STEPHEN PHILLIPS MEMORIAL PRESERVE, Rangeley

Swim, paddle, watch wildlife, or simply escape at this 6,000-acre preserve, including more than four miles of shoreline on Mooselookmeguntic Lake. Choose from mainland and island sites, all with picnic tables, fireplaces, and toilet facilities.

377 Stephens Rd. 207-864-2003; stephenphillipswildernesscamping.com

ISLAND SPORTING CAMP

ATTEAN LAKE LODGE, Jackman

Attean has been welcoming guests to Birch Island, an oasis of hospitality in the wilderness, since the late 19th century. Guests stay in comfy cabins, enjoy meals in the main lodge, and spend their days swimming, paddling, hiking, and fishing.

Birch Island. 207-668-3792; atteanlodge.com

HUNGRY? THE PINE TREE STATE OFFERS PLENTY OF RESTAURANT OPTIONS FOR HUNGRY RESIDENTS AND VISITORS ALIKE. HERE ARE OUR PICKS FOR THE BEST FOOD & DINING IN MAINE.

BEST DINING IN MAINE

BREW PUB

THE LIBERAL CUP PUBLIC HOUSE & BREWERY, Hallowell

Brewer Geoff Houghton wants customers to linger in his Hallowell incarnation of a classic English country pub, so he makes a generous pour. The seven-barrel brewery produces a rotating list of English-style sips, mostly session ales and bitters, served in 20-ounce Imperial pint glasses (hence the name of the establishment). The kitchen dishes out innovative pub grub most of the time but offers fancier gastropub specials on weekend nights, sometimes using mushrooms foraged by the chef himself.

207-623-2739; theliberalcup.com

CHOWDER

ERICA'S SEAFOOD, Harpswell

A good chowder should have far more fish than liquid, and the liquid should be creamy without added thickener. Andrea Hunter is the cook at Erica's (named for her daughter), and she always packs the seafood chowder with lobster, shrimp, haddock, and clams. Sometimes she also adds scallops and sweet threads of crab meat. The cash-only takeout shack has the usual lobster and crab rolls, but a bowl of chowder will leave you perfectly full. BYOB.

207-833-7354; ericasseafood.com

FARM-TO-TABLE

THE FIDDLEHEAD RESTAURANT, Bangor

From spring's first asparagus to autumn's bounty of pumpkins and squashes, it helps to have your own farm if you run a restaurant serving farm-to-fork cuisine. Late each winter, chef Mel Chaiken and her partner's husband, Aaron Peppard, who oversees the greenhouses and gardens, choose the seeds with which to plant the summer menu. Meats, seafood, and cheeses come largely from Maine farms, fishermen, and cheese makers. Raised in Japan by a Malaysian mother and an American father, Chaiken brings some innovative Asian treatments to otherwise recognizably New England food.

207-942-3336; thefiddleheadrestaurant.com

HOT DOGS

SIMONES', Lewiston

Loyalists here are split between ordering their hot dogs grilled or steamed, but in either case they'll get a classic Maine red snapper—a beef and pork frank in a natural casing that “snaps” when bitten. (The startlingly bright hue is harmless food coloring.) The family business launched in 1908 on the other side of Chestnut Street but moved into its current quarters in 1966. With the next generation already in the kitchen, Simones' could be here for another 110 years. Steamed dogs are a dollar on Wednesday.

207-782-8431; simoneshotdogstand.com

SUSHI

SUZUKI'S SUSHI BAR, Rockland

Keiko Suzuki Steinberger certainly changed local attitudes about raw fish when she opened this Japanese restaurant in downtown Rockland. The seafood that's used in sushi and sashimi creations is as seasonal as any other harvest, and Suzuki eagerly awaits the herring and mackerel runs, the brief window in which to catch tiny northern shrimp (ama edi), and the late-summer run of bluefin tuna (toro). She's on a mission

now to get more Mainers to eat uni, the roe of the ubiquitous sea urchin. The day's local catch is posted in the sushi bar's front window.

207-596-7447; suzukisushi.com

FARM-TO-TABLE FINE DINING

JOSHUA'S, Wells

Soft lighting, fine art, and tablecloths in a meticulously restored 1774 house are the background for Chef Joshua Mather's made-from-scratch fare, with much of the produce grown on his family's nearby organic farm. Don't skip his signature dish: pan-roasted Atlantic haddock with caramelized onion crust, paired with wild mushroom risotto and chive oil.

1637 Post Rd (Route 1). 207-646-3355; joshuas.biz

WATERFRONT DINING

NINA JUNE, Rockport

Rockport has the prettiest slot harbor on Maine's coast, and Sara Jenkins's Mediterranean restaurant occupies the prime perch overlooking it, at the corner of Central and Main in the old red-brick Union Hall. Angle for a table on the back porch for views of the lobster boats, sloops, and schooners while you enjoy great risottos and pastas or Italian or French treatments of Gulf of Maine fish. During the height of summer and fall,



Like the food at Joshua's Restaurant, all drinks are made from scratch using only fresh, seasonal ingredients.

Photograph courtesy of Joshua's Restaurant

Jenkins marvels that her only nonlocal produce ingredients are lemons, limes, and oranges.

207-236-8880; ninajunerrestaurant.com

LOCAVORE RESTAURANT

VINLAND, Portland

Local. Organic. Maine. That sums up chef/owner David Levi's philosophy at Vinland, where indigenous food traditions are celebrated and all ingredients are from Maine. The small-plates menu might include Portland strip steak with whey-poached parsnip, wild porcini mushroom, and parsley gremolata, or lobster with wild black-trumpet mushroom emulsion, nori, and radish.

593 Congress St. 207-653-8617; vinland.me

CHINESE FOOD CART

LI'S CHINESE EXPRESS, Freeport

China-born Li Jin whips up wok dishes, such as noodles, lo mein, and fried rice, and serves crab Rangoon and spring rolls from her food cart, parked on Bow Street about a block from L.L. Bean's mothership.

Bow St. 207-865-9299

ASIAN FUSION

LONG GRAIN, Camden

Do make reservations to score one of the few seats at this storefront restaurant where Bangkok-born Ravin Nakjaroen creates flavor-rich homestyle pan-Asian fare. Knockouts include mussels in spicy coconut-lemongrass broth, Maine crab-fried rice, and the house-made noodles with kimchi and pork belly. Don't miss the coconut flan.

31 Elm St. 207-236-9001; longgraincamden.com

PIZZA AL FRESCO

SEAL COVE FARM, Lamoine

On a fine day, mosey over to Seal Cove, a goat farm best known for its artisanal cheeses, for a handcrafted pizza made from fresh ingredients and baked in an outdoor wood-burning oven. Afterwards, browse the fresh and aged chèvres, goat's-milk feta, and mixed cow- and goat's milk cheeses in the pint-size shop; cap off your meal with a goat's-milk gelato.

202 Partridge Cove Rd (Route 204). 207-667-7127; mainegoatcheese.com

MEXICAN TAKEOUT

VAZQUEZ MEXICAN, Milbridge

Authentic Mexican in Down East Maine? Ayuh. Expect scratch-made tortillas along with generous tacos, gorditas, tostadas, guaraches, burritos, tamales, and other traditional dishes.

38 Main St. 207-546-2219

LAKESIDE SNACK SHACK

BRESCA & THE HONEY BEE AT OUTLET BEACH, New Gloucester

Renowned chef Krista Kerns Desjarlais closed her Portland restaurant and now owns this food shack on Sabbathday Lake, serving fresh and local foods ranging from hot dogs to wood-grilled lamb kielbasa.

106 Outlet Rd. 207-926-3388; brescaandthehoneybee.com

FINE DINING IN THE WESTERN MOUNTAINS

COPLIN DINNER HOUSE, Stratton

Savor light fare, such as fish tacos or burgers, or heftier entrées, like rack of lamb or char-grilled hanger steak, in a beautifully restored farmhouse. Don't miss the blueberry pie with cinnamon ice cream.

8252 Carrabassett Rd (Route 27). 207-246-0016; coplindinnerhouse.com

FARM-STORE RESTAURANT

MISTY MEADOWS ORGANIC FARM, Grand Isle

Comfort foods, including traditional Acadian dishes, are prepared from farm-fresh, organic ingredients and served in a rustic, family friendly combo café/farm store.

1164 Main St. (U.S. Route 1). 207-316-6959; dionnefarms.com

LOBSTER-ROLL EXPERIENCE

QUODDY BAY LOBSTER, Eastport

Lobster doesn't get any fresher than that served at this family-owned fish store and lobster shack sited on a working pier. Chopped claw, tail, and knuckle meat is tossed with a hint of mayo (Miracle Whip, if you prefer) or drizzled with butter, mounded in a toasted and buttered split-top roll, and gilded with a meaty claw. The views over Passamaquoddy Bay to Campobello Island seal the deal. Choose from junior, regular, or jumbo size.

7 Sea St. 207-853-6640

DINNER & A SHOW

JONATHAN'S, Ogunquit

Packages make it easy to enjoy a fine-dining farm-to-table menu downstairs, and chase it with a show in the intimate upstairs venue, where touring acts such as Dar Williams, George Winston, Madeleine Peyroux, and Paula Poundstone perform.



Best Lobster Roll Experience | Quoddy Bay Lobster, Eastport
Photograph by Tribune Content Agency LLC/Alamy Stock Photo

92 Bourne Lane. 207-646-4777; jonathansogunquit.com

QUICK LUNCH

WILD OATS, Brunswick

At least four scratch-made soups, specials, made-to-order sandwiches on house-made bread, and fresh salads are available at Wild Oats, a self-serve bakery and café with plentiful seating. Located in the Tontine Mall. 149 Maine St. 207-725-6287; wildoatsbakery.com

FRIED FISH

BET'S FAMOUS FISH FRY, Boothbay

Free Beer Tomorrow teases the sign in front of Bet's, a roadside take-out fish shack famed for its generous portions of always-crisp, never-greasy fish-and-chips made with local haddock caught by Bet's brother, battered with breadcrumbs, and paired with hand-cut fries. Don't skip the homemade dill sauce. Hint: A half order is often enough for two people. Cash only.

20 Route 27 at Common Drive

FARM STORE

BETH'S FARM MARKET, Warren

Not only does Beth's have freshly picked produce, but you'll also find pickled vegetables, relishes, oysters, lobster, and an in-house bakery making breads, pies, and seasonal favorites, such as strawberry shortcake.

1986 Western Rd. 207-273-3695; bethsfarmmarket.com

NEAPOLITAN PIZZA

MEANWHILE IN BELFAST, Belfast

Certified Neapolitan master pizza chef Alessandro Scelsi, a native of Turino, Italy, handcrafts crisp sourdough-crust pizzas, baking them for only a minute or so in his wood-fired oven. Try the "Côte D'Azur," with fresh mozzarella, goat cheese, prosciutto di Parma, and sun-dried figs—or keep it simple with the "Visionary," a classic Margherita that never tasted so good.

2 Cross St. 207-218-1288; meanwhile-in-belfast.com

SWEET SHOP

BLACK DINAH TASTING ROOM, Blue Hill

An original soda-fountain counter is now an espresso bar offering locally roasted 44 North coffees as well as Black Dinah's signature chocolate drinks, ice cream, and truffles in a space shared with Fairwinds Florist.

5 Main St. 207-374-2228; blackdinahchocolatiers.com

FEEL-GOOD BREAKFAST

THE COMMON GOOD COMMUNITY, Southwest Harbor

Hot popovers, flavored butters, homemade jams, and slow-simmered oatmeal are offered every morning, along with occasional live entertainment, at the Community Kitchen. Proceeds from the donate-what-you-can, all-you-can-eat, buffet-style spread help local families.

19 Clark Point Rd. 207-266-2733; commongoodsoupkitchen.org

ACADIAN FARE

DOLLY'S, Frenchville

Ask anyone in the St. John Valley where to taste traditional Acadian fare, and aside from a family home, the answer is Dolly's, which earns accolades for its ployes, cretons, and chicken stew.

17 U.S. Route 1. 207-728-7050

ACADIA TRADITION

JORDAN POND HOUSE, Acadia National Park

The view of Jordan Pond and across it to the two “Bubbles” mountains is reason enough to stop by this iconic restaurant—but the popovers with strawberry jam are legendary. After hiking one of Acadia’s peaks or biking the carriage trails, reward yourself with tea and these classic egg-batter rolls. Go ahead—slather on the jam, and while you’re at it, splurge on some ice cream, too. Heaven! Sandwiches, salads, soups, and full entrées are also offered, for both lunch and dinner.

Off Park Loop Rd. 207-276-3316; acadiajordanpondhouse.com

RESTAURANT FOR PICKY EATERS

CAFÉ MIRANDA, Rockland

Pizza? Check. Burgers and dogs? Yes. Gluten-free options and vegetarian choices? Yup. Pasta? Of course. Seafood? Ayuh. Meat and poultry? You betcha. Soups and salads? Uh-huh. French, Mexican, Asian, Indian, Greek, Italian, Polish, and other internationally inspired dishes? Oui. With small plates, large plates, and everything in between, Café Miranda’s humongous menu has something to satisfy everyone.

15 Oak St. 207-594-2034; cafemiranda.com

SPORTING-CAMP RESTAURANT

BALD MOUNTAIN CAMPS, Oquossoc

Most sporting camps serve home-style comfort food, but not so Bald Mountain. Although the dining room’s lakefront setting and pine-and-antler décor are traditional, locally revered chef Brian Anderson’s menu elevates the experience, with entrées such as Moroccan roast rack of lamb, pan-seared duck breast, and Caribbean fish tacos. Big windows in the main-lodge dining room frame sigh-worthy sunset views over



Tea and Popovers at Jordan Pond House

Mooselookmeguntic Lake.
125 Bald Mountain Rd. 207-864-3671; baldmountaincamps.com

24/7 FOOD

DYSART'S, Hermon

Sure, it's a truck stop, but where else can you get huge portions of fresh-made food around the clock—never mind breakfast at 11:00 p.m.? You'll find all the classics—eggs, sausage, pancakes, French toast, waffles, more than a dozen varieties of omelets—plus signature dishes such as the “Kitchen Sink” omelet (you can guess), the “Truckers’ Special,” and sirloin steak. And Dysart's even has an in-house bakery, turning out homemade pies, pastries, biscuits, and desserts.

530 Coldbrook Rd. 207-942-4878; dysarts.com

COLLEGE-TOWN EATS

BOWDOIN COLLEGE, Brunswick

Locals and Bowdoin parents have long known that there's no better food for the price than what you'll find at the college's Thorne Hall and Moulton Hall dining rooms, open to the public, and consistently rated among the top five in the nation. You'll enjoy exceptional food, and your dining companions will be among the best and the brightest of their generation.

bowdoin.edu/dining/when-where/index.shtml

PINCHING PENNIES NEVER FELT SO GOOD! CHECK OUT OUR PICKS FOR THE BEST BARGAINS IN MAINE.

PORTLAND ART IMMERSION

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK, Portland

BEST BARGAINS IN MAINE

On the first Friday of every month, Portland's art community opens its doors, with gallery and museum events, street performances, and more. Free.

artwalkmaine.org

TWOER LOBSTER ROLLS

TRACEY'S SEAFOOD, Sullivan

Tracey's serves big portions of ultra-fresh lobster, chowders, and fried seafood at low prices: Think two-for-one lobster rolls, plus weekend fish fries and clam fries with free second. Don't miss the homemade pies.

2717 U.S. Route 1. 207-422-9072

FAMILY ART & MUSIC FESTIVAL

GRAND LAKE STREAM FOLK ART FESTIVAL, Grand Lake Stream

Two days of great music and folk art, plus a quilt show, kids' activities, and canoe and cultural exhibits.

Always the last full weekend of July; at the baseball field.

Water St. 207-796-8199; grandlakestreamfolkartfestival.com

THROWBACK BURGER JOINT

BURGER BOY, Caribou

Retro Burger Boy has been serving fresh ground burgers, fried chicken and seafood, house-made fries, ice cream, and delicious shakes since 1968. Eat in the jukebox-themed dining room or opt for the drive-through.

234 Sweden St. 207-498-2329; burger-boy.com

HISTORY MUSEUM

MAINE STATE MUSEUM, Augusta

Four floors of engaging permanent and temporary exhibits detailing Maine's history, heritage, and environment. Displays in the Back to Nature exhibit range from commemorating the extinction of the passenger pigeon to tourmaline mining.

230 State St. 207-287-2301; mainestatemuseum.org

**THERE'S A LOT TO SEE IN DO IN THE PINE TREE STATE,
BUT SOME ACTIVITIES REALLY STAND THE TEST
OF TIME. READ OUR PICKS FOR THE BEST CLASSIC
ATTRACTIONS IN MAINE.**

BEST CLASSIC ATTRACTIONS IN MAINE

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHT – SUMMER STOCK

OGUNQUIT PLAYHOUSE, Ogunquit (1933)

Catch a musical in the 675-seat Ogunquit Playhouse, operating every summer since 1933. Over the years, stars such as Sally Struthers, Lorenzo Lamas, and Rue McClanahan have performed here in productions including *The King and I*, *The Full Monty*, and *Crazy for You*. In addition to Broadway hits, the Playhouse stages regional premieres as well, including *Billy Elliot* and *The Addams Family*. Get the inside scoop on a backstage tour.

10 Main St. (U.S. Route 1). 207-646-5511; ogunquitplayhouse.org

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHT – ART & ARCHITECTURE

PORTLAND MUSEUM OF ART, Portland (1911)

Explore three centuries of works, including a top-flight collection of paintings by American Realist and Impressionist masters (Rockwell Kent, Andrew Wyeth, and Marsden Hartley, to name a few) and fine and decorative arts.

7 Congress Sq. 207-775-6148; portlandmuseum.org

SEAFOOD SHACK

MCLOONS, South Thomaston

When people all over the world dream of eating Maine lobster on the coast, they probably imagine themselves in a place like the modest red-clapboard waterfront shack of McLoons. The surroundings are quintessential midcoast Maine, right down to rocky Spruce Head Island, where the seafood shack and its parent commercial lobster wharf sit. (It's connected to the mainland by a causeway but also welcomes



Best Summer Stock | Ogunquit Playhouse
Photograph courtesy of Ogunquit Playhouse

boaters.) The simple lobster salad roll at McLoons is the best in the state, but many diners also love the roll of sweet hand-picked crab. Burgers and grilled cheese feed the pescaphobic.

207-593-1382; mcloonslobster.com

RESORT HISTORY LESSON

POLAND SPRING RESORT & PRESERVATION PARK, Poland

Get an up-close look at the history of Poland Spring, learning about the water, the grand resort, the celebrities who frequented it, and the Ricker family, while touring historic buildings and sites. Donations requested.

640 Maine St. 207-998-4351; polandspringinns.com

THE PINE TREE STATE HAS PLENTY TO OFFER IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS. READ OUR PICKS FOR THE BEST OUTDOOR ATTRACTIONS IN MAINE.



Best Hidden Lobster Shack | McLoon's Lobster
Photograph by Carl Tremblay

BEST OUTDOOR ATTRACTIONS IN MAINE

COASTAL FARM

WELLS RESERVE AT LAUDHOLM, Wells

A National Estuarine Research Reserve, based at historic Laudholm Farms, known in the 1920s for its progressive agricultural practices. Hike seven miles of trails winding through 2,250 acres of woods, beach, and coastal salt marsh; explore exhibits at the Maine Coastal Ecology Center and the Laudholm farmhouse; and take part in programs ranging from lectures to nature walks.

342 Laudholm Farm Rd. 207-646-1555; wellsreserve.org

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHT- COASTAL STATE PARK

REID STATE PARK, Georgetown (1946)

Crashing surf, two beautiful sand beaches, a lagoon (10 to 15 degrees warmer than the open ocean), tidepools, hiking trails, sand dunes, and marshlands—Midcoast's 610-acre Reid State Park, on Georgetown Island, has it all, along with shower rooms, picnic tables, and a snack bar. Don't miss Griffith Head, a rocky outcrop overlooking the park, and a great vantage point for viewing lighthouses, islands, and sweeping sea vistas. Birdwatchers will note that portions of Reid's beaches are also nesting areas for least terns and piping plovers, as well as stopover spots and feeding areas for other shorebird species as well.

375 Seguinland Rd. 207-371-2303; maine.gov/reid

TOWN-OWNED WILDERNESS PARK

MATTAWAMKEAG WILDERNESS PARK, Mattawamkeag

Hike, camp, swim, paddle, mountain-bike, picnic, fish, and play at this 1,000-acre park on the Mattawamkeag River, complete with recreation hall, camp store, hot showers, playground, and laundromat.

1513 Wilderness Park Rd. 207-290-0205; mwpark.com

MOUNTAIN PLAYGROUND

SUNDAY RIVER ADVENTURE PARK, Newry

Play for an hour or all day, choosing from lift-assisted mountain biking, scenic lift rides, zipline tours, twin zips, outdoor climbing wall, disc golf, and a bungee trampoline.

15 South Ridge Rd. 800-543-2754; sundayriver.com

FAMILY HIKE

BALD MOUNTAIN, Oquossoc

Moderate effort is required to reach Bald Mountain's 2,443-foot summit, capped by an observation tower delivering spectacular 360-degree lake and mountain views. Find the trailhead on Bald Mountain Road, 0.8 mile off Route 4, across from Bald Mountain Camps.

mainetrailfinder.com

HEADING TO MOUNT DESERT ISLAND? WE'VE GOT THE PERFECT ROUNDUP OF WHAT TO SEE, DO, AND EAT WHILE YOU'RE THERE, PLUS WHERE TO STAY WHEN IT'S TIME FOR BED. READ ON TO SEE OUR PICKS FOR THE

SPOTLIGHT: MOUNT DESSERT ISLAND

BEST OF MOUNT DESERT ISLAND!

BEST ATTRACTIONS ON MOUNT DESERT ISLAND

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHT - MOUNTAIN BIKING

CARRIAGE ROADS, Acadia National Park (1913)

Pedal into the heart of Acadia National Park on 45 mapped and signposted miles of car-free, crushed-stone carriage roads, punctuated by 17 handsome granite-faced bridges and two gatehouses.

207-288-3338; nps.gov/acad

LOBSTER-BOAT CRUISE

LULU LOBSTER BOAT RIDE, Bar Harbor

Why are shedders a little sweeter? What's the biggest lobster ever caught in Maine's cold waters? Captain John Nicolai answers these questions plus a whole lot more. Climb aboard the Lulu, a traditional Down East— style lobster boat, for a humor-filled two hour cruise covering everything you wanted to know about Maine's tasty crustacean. The seal sightings and breathtaking coastal beauty aren't bad, either.



Best Mountain Biking | Carriage Roads, Acadia National Park
Photograph by Jerry and Marcy Monkman

55 West St. 207-963-2341; lululobsterboat.com

FAMILY HIKE

SHIP HARBOR NATURE TRAIL, Acadia National Park, Southwest Harbor

Pick up a trail guide at the park visitors' center and pack a picnic. This gentle 1.2-mile figure-eight hike passes through varied ecosystems, from moss-laden woods to pink granite ledges.

Route 102A. 207-288-3338; acadiamagic.com/ship-harbor-trail.html

BEST LODGING ON MOUNT DESERT ISLAND

PARKSIDE B&B

THE BIRCHES, Southwest Harbor

Built as a summer cottage in 1916, the stately Birches combines gentle summer ease with a location that puts the Flying Mountain, Acadia, and St. Sauveur trailheads and Valley Cove fire road within easy walking distance.

46 Fernald Point Road. 207-244-5182; thebirchesbnb.com

BIRD WATCHING

SEAWALL MOTEL, Southwest Harbor

It's possible to see shore-, freshwater, marsh, and woodland birds, and maybe even an eagle, from guestrooms in this family-owned, budget-friendly motel overlooking the rare freshwater pond/saltwater shore combo.

566 Seawall Rd (Route 102A). 207-244-3020; seawallmotel.com

PET-FRIENDLY LODGING

WONDER VIEW INN, Bar Harbor

Furry guests are welcomed to these motel-style accommodations on estate-like grounds with a bowl, a treat, and recommendations for places to go, things to do, and dog-friendly al fresco restaurants.

50 Eden St. 888-439-8439, 207-288-3358; wonderviewinn.com

BEST DINING ON MOUNT DESERT ISLAND

FINE DINING WITH A VIEW

XANTHUS, CLAREMONT HOTEL, Southwest Harbor

Linen-draped tables, candles, and fresh flowers set the tone in the dining room, where big windows frame views over the manicured lawn, croquet courts, and Somes Sound. In the background: Acadia's peaks and Frenchman Bay's outer islands.

22 Claremont Rd. 800-244-5036; thclaremonthotel.com

BISTRO FARE

MACHE BISTRO, Bar Harbor

Come hungry. Hanger steak to duck confit, Atlantic scallops to lamb shanks, might be on Chef Kyle Yarborough's daily-changing menu, featuring traditional French cuisine with Mediterranean accents.

321 Main St. 207-288-0447; machebistro.com

PORTLAND IS THE LARGEST CITY IN MAINE AND ITS HISTORIC OLD PORT HAS NEVER LOOKED BETTER. HERE'S A LIST OF SOME OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS TO DO IN PORTLAND, MAINE PLUS OUR PICKS FOR WHERE

SPOTLIGHT: PORTLAND

TO EAT, SHOP, AND STAY IN THE AREA.

BEST THINGS TO DO IN PORTLAND, MAINE

MUSIC CLUB

ONE LONGFELLOW SQUARE

This nonprofit performance center located in the heart of the Arts District in Portland's West End presents more than 200 concerts and events per year, making it a major magnet for the local music scene. Genres lean heavily toward folk, jazz, and blues with a dose of Celtic and bluegrass thrown in; comedy acts and art films help fill out the roster. Full bar service makes the intimate space, which seats 185, all the more congenial.

207-761-1757; onelongfellowsquare.com

FARMERS' MARKET

PORTLAND FARMERS' MARKET

From late April to late November, the Saturday morning market based in Deering Oaks Park celebrates everything that can be grown, raised, tended, or fermented for nearly a hundred miles around. That bounty comes in a rainbow, ranging from more than two dozen colors of cherry tomatoes to a broad palette of peppers, carrots, and beets. Portland chefs are buying from these same agricultural specialists, scooping up ingredients such as wild mushrooms from North Spore and yogurt and fresh cheeses from Swallowtail Farm—which means that your market visit will also tell you what's really in season on a restaurant's menu.

portlandmainefarmersmarket.org

STUDIO TOUR

WINSLOW HOMER STUDIO, Prouts Neck

After a major restoration, the Portland Museum of Art has opened this American master's studio to the public for small-group tours departing from the museum's campus.

207-775-6148; portlandmuseum.org

BAY TOUR

LUCKY CATCH LOBSTER TOUR

Cruise Casco Bay aboard the Lucky Catch, and in addition to learning all about lobsters, participants can help haul, bait, and set traps and perhaps even catch dinner.

170 Commercial St. 207-761-0941; luckycatch.com

SHOPPING ADVENTURE

RENY'S

Whether you're shopping for souvenirs, school supplies, brand-name clothing, housewares, food, toys, or personal necessities, find them at Reny's, a Maine-grown department store with wallet-friendly prices.

540 Congress St. 207-553-9061; renys.com

HISTORIC-HOUSE MUSEUM

VICTORIA MANSION

Widely considered the most magnificently ornamented dwelling of its period remaining in the country, the mid-19th-century Victoria Mansion retains about 90 percent of designer Gustave Herter's original furnishings. Jaw-droppers include a 6-by-25-foot stained-glass ceiling window, mind-boggling trompe l'oeil wall and ceiling flourishes, and the dizzying colors and patterns of the Turkish Smoking Room.



Sunset at Portland Head Light
Photograph by Stephen A. Clarke

109 Danforth St. 207-772-4841; victoriamansion.org

HISTORIC LIGHTHOUSE

PORTLAND HEAD LIGHT, Cape Elizabeth

In Fort Williams Park, just 4 miles from downtown Portland, Maine's oldest lighthouse, commissioned by George Washington, guards the harbor. Visit the museum in the keeper's house and picnic in the park.

1000 Shore Rd. 207-799-2661; portlandheadlight.com

EASY ISLAND WALK

MACKWORTH ISLAND TRAIL, Falmouth

Tethered to the mainland by a causeway, 100-acre Mackworth was deeded to the state by Governor Percival Baxter. Borrow a map from the gatehouse and follow the easy 1.5-mile perimeter trail for great views of Casco Bay. Kids love Baxter's pet cemetery.

Andrews Ave. Causeway (off Route 1). 207-775-2411; trails.org/our-trails/mackworth-island-trail

CASCO BAY SUNSET SAIL

PORTLAND SCHOONER COMPANY, Portland

Let daylight fade to night while cruising by lighthouses, forts, and islands on a two-hour sail aboard the historic windjammers Bagheera and Wendameen, both elegant ocean schooners built in East Boothbay.

Maine State Pier, 56 Commercial St. 207-766-2500; portlandschooner.com

BEST PLACES TO EAT IN PORTLAND, ME

DOUGHNUTS

THE HOLY DONUT,

It has long been a tradition in Maine potato country to add mashed spuds to doughnut batter, yielding a fluffier, moister dunker. So when Leigh Kellis decided to open a doughnut shop in Portland in 2012, it was only natural that she would make her rounds with potatoes. The results not only nail the perfect texture but also come in 20-odd flavors that are uniformly excellent. Don't miss the chocolate glazed sprinkled with sea salt, the ideal foil to all that sweet, chocolatey goodness. Locations in Portland and Scarborough.

207-775-7776; theholyydonut.com

NEW RESTAURANT

DRIFTERS WIFE

Launched in 2016 as a small, quirky boîte where patrons could dine while they tasted the great wines sold in the back at Maine & Loire, Drifters Wife truly came into its own this winter when it and its sibling wine shop relocated to a bigger space next door. With the move came a full kitchen, a full bar, and nearly double the seating. It's terrific news for fans of chef Ben Jackson, who cooks with a lusty palate, contrasting and concentrating strong flavors in a constantly changing menu. Think mackerel with aioli, scallions, and paprika, or crispy duck with kimchi and lardo.

207-805-1336; drifterswife.com

OYSTER BAR

EVENTIDE OYSTER CO.

The bar's huge block of granite and ice topped with oysters signals you've come to the right place. Eventide made the old-fashioned oyster bar cool again by offering at least a dozen varieties—mostly from Maine but a few from “away”—on the half shell along with a sassy cocktail program. (The Dirty Dirty Martini pairs the booze with olive brine, oyster brine, and hot sauce.) The fried fish is often hake, an underutilized species this side of the Atlantic but a Parisian favorite.

207-774-8538; eventideoysterco.com

BREAKFAST

HOT SUPPA

Scratch-made breakfast specialties—such as rave-worthy corned-beef hash, biscuits and sausage gravy, French-style omelets, and burritos—draw the faithful to this venerable brick Victorian in the city's West End.

703 Congress St. 207-871-5005; hotsuppa.com

FINE DINING

BACK BAY GRILL

It's not the trendiest restaurant in town, but white-tablecloth elegance combined with professional service makes Back Bay Grill a perennial favorite for a special evening. The nightly changing menu might include grilled filet mignon or lavender-marinated duck breast.

65 Portland St. 207-772-8833; backbaygrill.com

PÂTISSERIE

PORTLAND PÂTISSERIE & GRAND CAFE

Find Paris in Portland at Steve and Michelle Corry's classic pâtisserie, serving pastries, cakes, and tarts, of course, but also crêpes, croissants, quiche, sandwiches, salads, and other light fare in a bright and airy, order-at-the-counter spot in Old Port.

46 Market St. 207-553-2555; portlandpatisserie.com

ICE CREAM

MOUNT DESERT ISLAND ICE CREAM

Oh my! Crazy rich, crazy good, crazy flavors. Try “Bay of Figs,” “Cinnamon 7 Layer,” lavender–white chocolate, blackstrap–banana, and other small batches of deliciousness.

51 Exchange St. 207-210-3432; mdiic.com

FARM-TO-TABLE DINING

THE WELL AT JORDAN’S FARM, Cape Elizabeth

Gaze over the Spurwink River and Marsh while dining al fresco. Chef Jason Williams offers a four-item menu drawn from the farm’s bounty. Cash only.

21 Wells Rd. 207-831-9350; jordansfarm.wix.com/thewell

EVENING IN PARIS

PETITE JACQUELINE

Traditional French bistro fare–Nicoise salad, onion soup, cassoulet, dessert crêpes–plus daily cheese and charcuterie plates and a raw bar are the draws at this unpretentious Arts District restaurant.

46 Market St. 207-553-7044; bistropj.com

BEST PLACES TO STAY IN PORTLAND, ME

ROMANTIC GETAWAY

THE INN AT DIAMOND COVE

You and your significant other can leave both car and cares on the mainland when you hop a Casco Bay Ferry to Great Diamond Island, where bicycles and electric golf carts are the chief alternatives to walking. An inspired redeployment of the former barracks of the 1890s Fort McKinley, the 44-room Inn at Diamond Cove offers a plush and tranquil retreat. To up the intimacy factor, ask for a parlor suite with fireplace for snuggling on a cool night, and reserve a waterfront table at the inn’s sister restaurant, Diamond’s Edge.

207-805-9836; innatdiamondcove.com

B&B

THE DANFORTH INN

New owners have revitalized this 1823 Federal mansion, updating it with a mix of period and contemporary Asian-accented art and antiques. The inn’s justly acclaimed fine-dining restaurant serves authentic Southeast Asian cuisine.

163 Danforth St. 207-879-8755; danforthinn.com

ISLAND INN

INN ON PEAKS

Walk off the ferry, and it’s just steps to the Inn on Peaks on Peaks Island, where each suite has a water view, a gas fireplace, a Jacuzzi, and a private deck for taking in sunset views of Portland’s skyline across the harbor.

33 Island Ave. 207-766-5100; innonpeaks.com

DOWNTOWN HOTEL

THE PRESS HOTEL

The full-service Press Hotel’s décor takes its cue from its home in the former headquarters of the state’s largest newspaper. Fronting on Congress at the head of Exchange and Market streets, the location is ideal for exploring the city. The hotel’s Union restaurant earns raves.

119 Exchange St. 207-808-8800; thepresshotel.com



Best Downtown Hotel | The Press Hotel

BEACHFRONT FAMILY ESCAPE

INN BY THE SEA, Cape Elizabeth

A pool, boardwalk, onsite butterfly and bunny preserves, kids' programs, lawn games, and a dog-friendly policy make family vacations easy at this seaside inn.

40 Bowery Beach Rd. 207-799-3134; innbythesea.com

BOUTIQUE HOTEL

PORTLAND HARBOR HOTEL

Built around a courtyard in an enviable Old Port location one block off the waterfront, the hotel pampers guests with handsome updated rooms and suites, a cozy lounge and restaurant, and concierge and spa services.

468 Fore St. 888-798-9090, 207-775-9090; portlandharborhotel.com



Reading Yankee is like a New England vacation.

There is magic in Yankee Magazine, and it can all be yours.

- **Discover** places you never heard of, and rediscover places you only thought you knew
- **Daydream** and plan your next day trip or New England vacation
- **Savor** both traditional and modern mouthwatering New England cuisine in your own home

**Subscribe to Yankee Magazine
and enjoy the best of New England
in every issue no matter where you live.**

Yes, I want to subscribe to Yankee!