

THE *Discerning* TRAVELER®

Your guide to the East's most memorable, delightful and delicious destinations

The Coast of Maine

“Where can we go in Maine and eat lobster three times a day?” is one of the questions asked of us repeatedly. A Maine lobster is a Maine lobster it just doesn't taste the same anywhere else. Lobster is not a food to be consumed when you're concerned about stains and elegant manners. It's a food that tastes best eaten in a place where you can feel liberated from the restraints of proper etiquette. For us, and we imagine for you, the most memorable lobster-eating moments of our lives convey images of picnic tables along a fishing harbor, heavy galvanized washtubs of simmering salt water, nutcrackers, picks, dishes of melted butter, and the sun slowly slipping behind the horizon.

This tour of the coast of Maine from York to Bar Harbor up Route 1 features driving tours that will take you to the source, those picturesque towns where many of the 2,000 Maine lobstermen live and work.

But the coast of Maine was not always home for lobster-loving tourists. The coast of Maine saw its economic heyday in the first half of the nineteenth century. More wooden sailing vessels were built in Maine in the nineteenth century than in any other state. Many towns had shipyards where wooden trading schooners,

fishing schooners, barks, brigs, and countless smaller vessels were built. The schooners were the trucks of the nineteenth century carrying apples, potatoes, fish, granite, paving stones, and lumber to the cities along the Eastern seaboard. Exports to South America and India included cotton, lumber, and even ice. On a recent trip to Chennai, India we saw the icehouse where the ice from Maine was kept. The enterprising families who owned and captained the ships and conducted trading made a great deal of money. Many of the grand homes you see in towns along the coast were built during this period of prosperity.

But the age of sail did not last forever. The introduction of steam caused the demise of the huge square-rigged four- and five-masted windjammers. Today you can evoke the nostalgia of the age of sail by taking trips in sail boats in Boothbay Harbor and Portland or visiting the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath or the Penobscot Marine Museum in Searsport.

While the construction of ships was winding down the images of this rugged rock-strewn shoreline and the people that call this area of Maine home became fertile territory for artists such as Thomas Cole, Frederick Church, Fitz Hugh Lane, Winslow



Portland Head Light is the most photographed lighthouse in the United States

Homer, Rockwell Kent, John Marin, and the Wyeth family whose work has, for the past 150 years, kindled the nation's interest in the coast of Maine. These artists and others kindled the imagination of Americans and soon Americans began to summer along the coast some building substantial summer homes to escape the summer heat of the cities.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., one of the "rusticators," as these summer residents were called, became upset when the first noisy and smelly automobiles appeared on Mt. Desert Island. The noise and fumes so irritated him that, from 1913 through 1940, he personally supervised the building of forty-five miles of carriage roads for the private use of his family and friends. These carriage trails, along with sixteen stone bridges, two gatehouses, and about 12,000 acres, were donated to the national park system to become part of Acadia National Park.

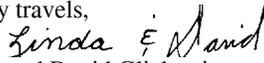
The 1930s saw the first wave of craftspeople arrive principally in the Blue Hill area. Thirty years later, as the children of the sixties searched for alternative life-styles, a second wave would hit. Today, craftspeople throughout the area—potters, weavers, and woodworkers, artisans in every imaginable medium—complement one of our nation's most famous craft schools, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Deer Isle.

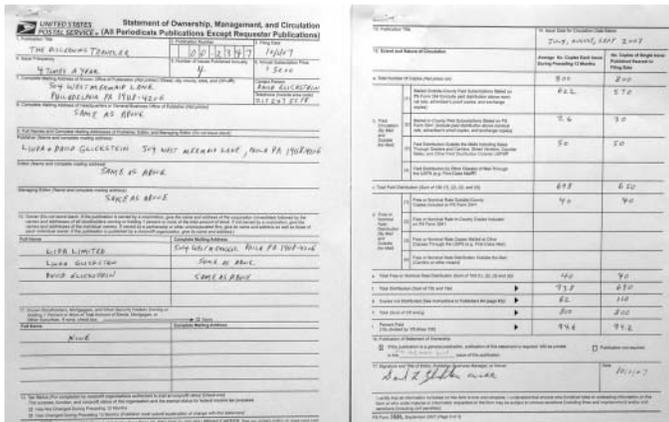
A visit to the coast of Maine is no longer reserved for the summer season only. The fall, when the leaves are turning colors, and early to mid-June, when the lupines and other wild flowers turn roadside fields into carpets of color, are both refreshing seasons to visit, each with its special charm.

Dear Subscribers,

This issue focuses on the highlights of a trip up the coast of Maine from Kittery to Bar Harbor. Designed as a road trip with stops along the way, we see it as a suggested itinerary including what to do, where to stay and where to dine. We've highlighted our favorite drives down the peninsulas as this is the way to see the real Maine coast. Of course you want to eat lobster, perhaps for lunch and dinner everyday. We've searched out the casual restaurants that serve lobster whether as lobster rolls, lobster stew, or lobster in the rough, good places to stop as you explore down the long fingers of land. It's the rugged views of the coast, the harbors, and docks piled with lobster traps that combine to create lasting memories.

We've reduced our coverage of many of the smaller museums, boat trips, additional roads to drive, and other attractions. For greater details about the inns and additional options of other things to do, places to stay and eat we suggest looking at the individual issues of *The Discerning Traveler* and checking for updates on our web site. V13N6 Kennebunkport; V17N4 Portland to Boothbay; V14N4 Mid-Coast Maine, Camden; and V16N4 Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park.

Happy travels,

 Linda and David Glickstein
 Travelers and Publishers




SUGGESTED WEB SITES

Kennebunk-Kennebunkport Chamber of Commerce. (207) 967-0857; www.visitthekennebunks.com

Portland Visitors Bureau. 245 Commercial Street, Portland; (207) 772-5800; www.visitportland.com

Freeport Merchants Association, 23 Depot Street, Freeport; (207) 865-1212; www.freeportusa.com

Bath-Brunswick Chamber of Commerce. Brunswick. (207) 725-7897. Bath (207) 443-9751. www.midcoastmaine.com

Boothbay Harbor Chamber of Commerce. On Route 27 just before the junction with Route 96. (800) 266-8422. www.boothbayharbor.com

Blue Hill Chamber of Commerce. (207) 374-3242. www.bluehillpeninsula.org

Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce. (207) 288-5103; www.barharborinfo.com

Acadia National Park Information. (207) 288-3338. www.nps.gov/acad

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WHERE TO Go WHAT TO Do

Driving Tour - Kittery - Ogunquit - Wells

This trip starts on Route 1 at the New Hampshire/Maine border. Outlet shoppers may want to stop in Kittery to browse through the 120 or so outlets. In our opinion we'd rather stop in Freeport. On the way north a local summer landmark is Flo's Hot Dogs, a shack on the right side of the road, a family owned business since 1959 selling steamed hot dogs, floshtodogs.com.

The town of Ogunquit is a busy booming resort and art community with lots of shops and galleries. The **Marginal Way**, a mile-long footpath along the cliffs connecting Ogunquit with the tourist village of Perkins Cove (very crowded on summer weekends), should not be missed. We highly suggest that you take the paved trail along the edge of the cliff which has uninterrupted vistas of the Atlantic. It is dramatic after a storm. For lunch we like **MC Perkins Cove**, mcperkinscove.com (see Where to Dine) located in the former Hurricane's in Perkins Cove, as the front tables have a dramatic ocean view.

The stretch of Route 1 between York and Arundel has dozens of antique shops. **R. Jorgensen Antiques**, rjorgensen.com, is a high end gem with pieces displayed in room settings. **Wells Union Antique Center** is nine shops. **Douglas N. Harding**, hardingbooks.com, has old and rare books, maps and prints. Before the intersection of Route 9 is the famous **Maine Diner**, mainediner.com, (see Where to Dine) known especially for the lobster pie. Turn right on Route 9.

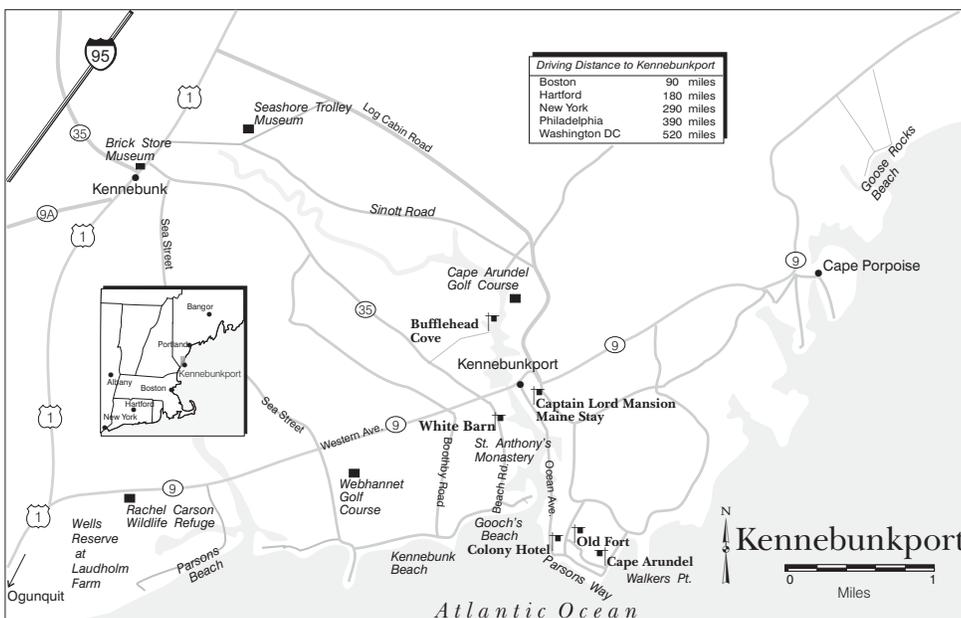
To get a feel for the salt marshes stop at one or both of the



Salt Marsh Overlook at Wells Reserve

two following preserves for a walk. **Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve** at Laudholm Farm. If you have time for only one walk, take the Salt Marsh Loop, an easy 1.3 miles, with a slight detour out to Laudholm Beach. Most of this trail is along a boardwalk with spectacular views of the marsh at the overlook. Open daily. Entrance off Route 9 east and Route 1. Wells. (207) 646-1555. wellsreserve.org

At the **Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge** we took a one-mile groomed trail marked with explanatory signs about the salt marsh eco-system. It's a pleasant walk on level ground. Terms such as estuary, salt hay, salt pannes, and tidal creeks will become meaningful. A mile off US1 on Route 9 east. Open daily. Wells; (207) 646-9226. fws.gov/northeast/rachelcarson.



Kennebunkport

Follow Route 9 into the center of Kennebunkport. The pace of life slows as you get close enough to smell the salt air of this Southern Maine seacoast town. In a compact area small enough that you can leave your car and walk or bicycle most anywhere, an abundance of galleries and shops await you for browsing. You can dine in restaurants ranging from elegant gourmet eateries to those characteristically dilapidated casual lobster shacks, sun yourself on beaches that are sandy and devoid of commercial activity, and stay in not just one but a wide range of quality inns and small bed and breakfast inns.

The majority of the shops are in **Dock Square** in the center of the town. As you walk around Dock Square, which on a busy summer weekend

will be packed with tourists, let your mind wander back in time to the age of sail and imagine ships unloading their cargoes into the building that today houses the **Book Port**, a bookstore. The existing spiral staircase led to the loft and up to the lookout tower where residents watched for incoming ships.

This four mile **walking or driving tour** starts at Dock Square. Continue up Spring Street. The attractive Federal-era houses you pass were built from profits made in the trading and ship building industry in the first half of the nineteenth century. Continue past the Maine Stay Inn. Turn right at South Street.

At the end of South Street, turn right and The Captain Lord Mansion, a prominent Federal era mansion and an outstanding inn, will be right in front of you. At the end of the town green turn left on Ocean Avenue. The harbor is on your right. The Colony, one of the last of the grand summer Victorian hotels, looms into view on your left as you continue down Ocean Avenue.

After The Colony, you will come to Parsons Way, a stretch of land with benches and paths overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Beyond is Walker's Point, former President George Bush's summer White House and still his summer home.

Turn around and come back toward town on Ocean Avenue. Turn right at Spouting Rock Avenue, a block after Cape Arundel Inn, to get a close look at the large Victorian-era seaside shingle cottages. Turn left on Summit Avenue, right on Central Avenue and left on Old Fort Avenue past Old Fort Inn. Turn left at King's Highway to The Colony, then go right along Ocean Avenue to get back to the center of town.

From Dock Square follow Route 9 east two miles to **Cape Porpoise**, a scenic commercial fishing harbor. Meander through the little village that includes Bradbury's Brothers Market the general store, that includes an old-time post office. Bradbury's is a convenient place to pick up a lunch to eat at Goose Rocks Beach. Walk or drive out Pier Road, with the harbor on your right, to the Town Dock at the end. There are more than sixty boats that work out of the harbor. Have lunch at the Pier Chowder House (*see Where to Dine*).

Continue on Route 9, and then turn right on Dyke Road to get to Goose Rocks Beach, a beautiful pristine beach that is about three miles long. There are no life guards or toilet facilities available at this beach. Return to Kennebunkport, or continue to I-95 to get to Portland.

Portland

Portland, portlandmaine.com, a city of 66,000, is called little San Francisco by the many professionals and artists who live here. Portland's cultural season comes alive when the summer tourists leave town. There is an abundance of good storefront restaurants, an excellent art museum, a symphony orchestra, an exceptional string quartet, and a highly regarded theater company. Portland is a wonderful city to explore on foot and by ferry (a number of the islands in Casco Bay are part of the city).

The old port area along Exchange, Fore and Middle Streets is where you will find shops, bookstores, restaurants, bars, and a number of higher end craft stores and galleries. You could easily spend a few days poking through the galleries and museums.

The first Friday of every month is the Art Walk from 5 to 8.

Abacus, 44 Exchange St, abacusgallery.com, has work by over 600 Maine craftspeople. **Gallery Seven**, 49 Exchange St., galleryseven.com shows the work of over 400 local, regional and national craftspeople. **Maine Potters Market**, 376 Fore St., mainepottersmarket.com, is Maine's largest pottery cooperative



Wharf Street's shops and restaurants are a major tourist attraction in Portland's Old Port

with 15 Maine potters who own and operate this co-op. **Edgecomb Potters**, a local company near Boothbay, has a store at 35 Exchange St, edgecombpotters.com. **Sheepscoot River Pottery**, another local company, has a store at 367 Fore St., sheepscoot.com. **The Clown**, 123 Middle Street, the-clown.com, has antiques, gourmet foods and an excellent wine store (specialization in Italian wines with more than 500 labels). **Greenhut**

Galleries 146 Middle St. shows Maine artists of high quality from landscape to abstract. greenhutgalleries.com. **Green Design Furniture**, 267 Commercial, has quality contemporary cherry pieces. greendesigns.com

The largest museum in Maine, that you should definitely plan to visit, is the **Portland Museum of Art**. This I.M. Pei designed contemporary structure of gray concrete certainly stands out in this town of 19th century architecture. The dramatic use of space and the increase of light from the curved glass stairwells and the half-moon shaped window added to our enjoyment. The museum has a large collection of Winslow Homer's paintings, drawings, and prints. Homer settled on Prout's Neck, a promontory located 13 miles south of Portland where many of his finest seascapes of the Maine coast were painted.

The museum also has a large collection of Impressionist paintings that includes the Joan Whitney Payson Collection with works by Renoir, Picasso, Degas, and Van Gogh. For one semester every two years the collection is at Colby College, www.colby.edu/museum. The remainder of the time it is in Portland. Open Tuesday through Sunday, 10-5, Friday 10-9, Mondays Memorial Day to Columbus Day. Admission. Corner of High and Congress Street, Portland; (207) 775-6148; www.portlandmuseum.org

Casco Bay Islands. There are approximately 135 islands, many still privately owned and many that are a part of the city of Portland, scattered throughout Casco Bay, which stretches twenty miles from Cape Elizabeth to Bailey Island. It is said that this is the longest continually operating coastal ferry service in the country.

The mail and freight boat, a 2 hour 45 minute run, goes daily to six islands. As the boat pulls into the dock at Cliff, Chebeague, Long, Little, and Great Diamond Islands and you watch as the mail, groceries, and freight is unloaded you quickly gain a heightened awareness of what it really means to live on an island.

If your time is short, and you want to experience one of the islands, take the 17 minute ride to Peaks Island, the most populated island, (1,500 year-round, and 6,000 summer residents).

Driving Tour - Portland - Cape Elizabeth - Prouts Neck

This tour includes the Portland Head Light, Two Lights State Park, Crescent Beach, Scarborough Beach, and Prouts Neck. From Portland take Route 77 (State Street) across the Casco Bay Bridge to South Portland. Turn left on Cottage Road/Shore Road and follow it to **Fort Williams State Park**. (207) 799-2661 portlandheadlight.com. The **Portland Head Light**, commissioned by George Washington in 1791, is the most photographed of all the lighthouses in Maine. When you leave Fort Williams continue on the Shore Road back to Route 77. Turn left at Two Lights Road and follow it to the end to Two Lights Lobster Shack, lobsterhacktwolights.com (see Where to Dine) where you take your lobster or fried clams to the picnic tables perched at the edge of the bluff, one of Maine's great lobster-eating spots. Swimming and beach walking possibilities include **Crescent Beach State Park** on Route 77, a mile-long, crescent-shaped beach; **Scarborough Beach State Park**, a long sand beach on Route 207 just before you reach Prouts Neck; and **Ferry Beach** at Prouts Neck, a dog friendly beach.

Prouts Neck, an exclusive community with its own police force that ensures that you don't park your car along the side of the road or exceed the speed limit. **Winslow Homer's studio** is still here, owned by the Portland Museum of Art and open in the summer. A spectacular 1½ mile **cliff trail** goes around this tip of land. Ask for

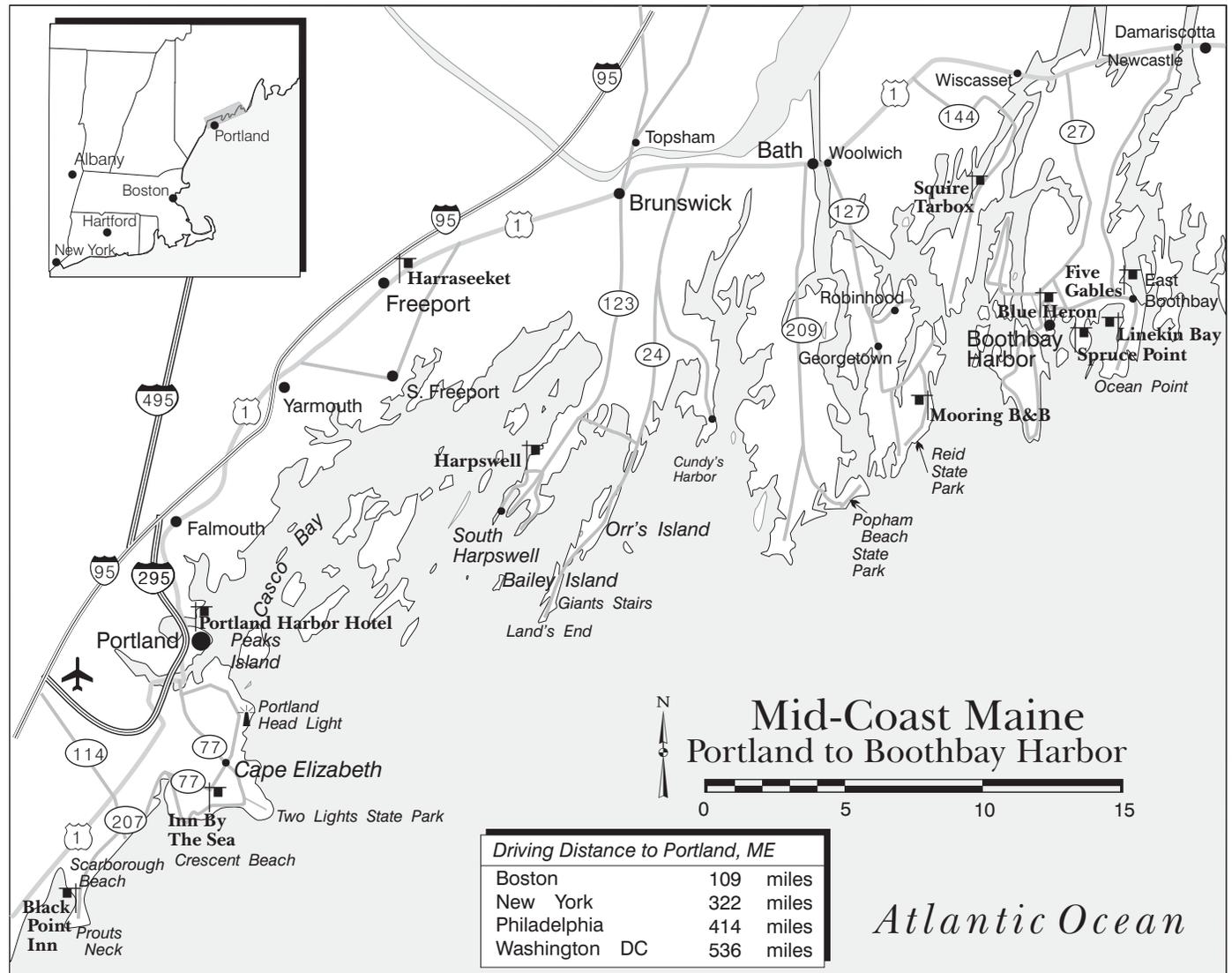
the exact location of the beginning or end of the trail as it's hard to find. One end starts near Winslow Homer's studio and the other is close to Black Point Inn next to the water. If you've brought bicycles we suggest parking at Scarborough or Ferry Beach and making the loop around Prouts Neck. Or, plan to have lunch at Black Point Inn, leave your car here, and take a walk afterwards. Return to Portland on Route 77 or take Route 207 to Route 1.

Freeport

Pick up a Visitors Guide to Freeport that shows the location of over 170 stores, restaurants, and lodgings. The main visitors center is on Depot Street between Mill and Bow Streets, one block below Main Street (Route 1) (800) 865-1994. LL Bean is open 24 hours a day. Everyone has their favorites,



Giant sculpture of L.L. Bean's legendary hunting boot, invented in 1912, in front of the store



and it's often a question of what is in stock at any given time. For shoes: Cole Haan, Reebok/Rockport, Clarks, Bass, and Timberland. For casual sportswear: Polo/Ralph Lauren, J. Crew, Gap and Banana Republic. For outdoor equipment and sporting goods: Patagonia, North Face as well as L.L. Bean. For higher fashion: Brooks Brothers and Burberry. For pocketbooks: Coach and Dooney and Bourke. www.freeportusa.com

Driving Tour - South Harpswell and Bailey Island

From Brunswick take Route 123 South, which goes through the Bowdoin College campus. Note the location of Mountain Road, about 6½ miles south of the campus, since you will want to take it to cross over to Bailey Island on your way back up the peninsula. Harpswell Inn is ½ mile down Lookout Point Road and just beyond is **Allen's Lobster Wharf** (see Where to Dine) at the end of the road. In Harpswell Center turn left on Allen Point Road to **Morse's Lobster** (see Where to Dine). Take a right off Route 123 to Ash Point Road to Basin Point and follow this back road 21/2 miles to the end to **Dolphin Marina and Restaurant** (see Where to Dine). Return to Route 123 and turn right. **Estes Lobster House** (see Where to Dine) has a great location. Return north to Mountain Road and take a right which crosses over to Orr's and Bailey Islands to the lower section of Route 24.

This route going out to Bailey Island has the best views in the Harpswells. Do not miss taking this route! The 1150 foot cribstone bridge connecting Orr's Island and Bailey Island is a one-of-a-kind as it is made out of granite blocks with space between to allow the changing tides to pass through the bridge. **Cook's Lobster House** (see Where to Dine) is next to the bridge. Continue past the head of Mackerel Cove, a very picturesque spot, Turn left at Washington Avenue (yellow house on the corner). Park next to a small brown shingled building with a porch, a rustic Episcopal church. Follow the path that leads straight toward the water and then turns to the right, about a 10-minute walk to **Giants Staircase**. If the weather is nice you should not leave Bailey Island without taking this short walk to view a series of giant boulders that look like steps down to the water. It is the beauty of seeing the rugged coastline with the waves crashing and this quiet walk along the cliff that makes it so special. Continue on Route 24 to **Land's End**, the end of the road, where there's a gift shop a small park with sweeping water views and with a memorial statue to Maine fishermen. Return by taking Route 24 back to Route 1.

Bowdoin College Museum, Brunswick. There are 10 galleries on two levels in the Walker Art Building. The antiquities collection, containing over 1,200 Assyrian, Egyptian, Greek, Roman and Byzantine objects, is the most comprehensive of any small college museum in the country. American art includes works by Feke, Stuart, Copley, John Sloan and Rockwell Kent and individual highlights by Heade, Eakins, Cassatt, Gorky, and Wyeth. The Gilbert Stuart portraits of Jefferson and Madison are especially noteworthy. The Winslow Homer Collection consists of a selection of paintings, primarily important watercolors, a variety of memorabilia donated by the artist's family, and a comprehensive group of his etchings and wood engravings. Open Tuesday through Saturday, 10-5 and Sunday, 2-5. Brunswick, Route 123. (207) 725-3275. bowdoin.edu/artmuseum

Bath Iron Works, has been building large ships for more than 100 years. When you cross the Kennebec River you will see one or more of the Navy's Aegis Destroyer class ships which are built and repaired here. To avoid the inevitable bottleneck of traffic

over the bridge plan your trip, particularly during the summer, to avoid the 4 P.M. shift change.

Maine Maritime Museum. This 10-acre museum lets you see and experience 400 years of Maine's maritime history. In the Maritime History Building paintings, models, videos, and artifacts tell the story of Maine and the sea. On weekdays you can watch the apprentices restore and build wooden boats. Children are always fascinated going aboard the Grand Banks schooner Sherman Zwicker to learn about cod fishing.

During the summer months the *Hardy II* cruises the Kennebec River making six 50-minute trips a day up to the Bath Iron Works and down to Doubling Point. Since visitors are not allowed in the factory, this view of the activity is as close as you can get.

The main building is open year-round 9:30-5. The shipyard is open May through Thanksgiving weekend. 243 Washington Street, Bath; (207) 443-1316. bathmaine.com

Driving tour to Reid State Park

After you cross the bridge from Bath you are in Woolwich. Head south on Route 127. **Georgetown Pottery** georgetownpottery.com is located farther down the peninsula on Route 127.

Reid State Park. If you are looking for an idyllic spot for a picnic this is it! Some of the picnic tables are set on the rocks and others are at the edge of a grove of trees. We took a trail along the rocks and felt the impact of the waves as they crashed below us; this is the picture-perfect Maine, the image and the feeling that continually draws us back year after year. There are two beaches, flush toilets, and a snack bar. The state park is open year-round with a charge during the season, mid-April to mid-October. At other times of the year park on the road and walk in. Located on Route 127, 14 miles south of Bath. (207) 371-2303.

On your return you will come to the intersection with Route 127



Enjoying your lobster and the view at Five Islands Lobster

where there is an American flag painted on the rock. Turn right and go to Five Islands. This is a working fishing harbor where there is a small seasonal lobster restaurant **Five Islands Lobster** (see Where to Dine) on the docks. Rumor has it that some of the best lobsters in the world are caught out of this harbor. A more rustic option for lobster in the rough is Dena's (see Where to Dine) On your way back up the peninsula on Route 127 just before the bridge to leave Georgetown Island turn left at Indian

road just before the post office for a short loop around **Long Cove Point** for a look at classic Maine summer cottages and excellent water views. At Round Pond stop at **Granite Hall Store**, a historic country store with penny candy, woolens, antiques and ice cream. Continue to Route 1 at Waldoboro. Stop for a meal or a snack at **Moody's Diner** (*see where to Dine*). If you are a fan of fresh sauerkraut take a 7.2 mile detour up route 220 from Moody's Diner to **Morse's Fresh Sauerkraut** established in 1918 and stock up or enjoy their fresh sausages and liverwurst. (866) 832-5569. www.morsessauerkraut.com. Take Route 1 to Route 90 to Rockport. Then continue on Route 1 to Camden.

Camden

Located in an ideal setting with both mountains and the sea, Camden has been a major summer tourist destination ever since the mid-19th century when painters like Fitz Hugh Lane popularized the area. Camden has a number of fine B&Bs, excellent shops, galleries, restaurants, and a magnificent harbor for yachtsmen. Route 1 runs right through the center of town creating a traffic jam especially during the busy summer season. Walk a block and the traffic disappears. The section of Route 1 south of town is the more commercial than the residential historic district north of town on Route 1. The view from the library over Camden harbor is not to be missed.

It is easy to find the attractions of downtown Camden. Walk along Route 1 and down Bay View Street to find galleries, antique shops, gift stores, and lots of restaurants. Most galleries are open May – October. Call for other times. **Downshire House**, 49 Bay View; downshire.com, English and American antique long case clocks and wall barometers; **Gleason Fine Art** 16 Bay View, contemporary and late 19th century coastal subjects; **Ducktrap Bay Trading Co.** 37 Bay View, wildlife carvings, scrimshaw, marine and wildlife art. www.ducktrapbay.com

Camden Hills State Park. One of attractions that makes visiting Camden so desirable is that the mountains and the sea are so close together. You can go sailing in the morning and take a strenuous hike or pleasant walk in Camden Hills State Park in the afternoon. Be sure to take the road or hike to the top of Mount Battie, elevation 790 feet (entrance in Camden Hills State Park) and look down on the harbor and islands in Penobscot Bay and the surrounding mountains.

Our favorite hike, especially in clear weather, is the Megunticook Trail one mile long, extending up Mt. Megunticook's eastern slope and ending at Ocean Lookout, elevation 1,300 feet, with a sweeping view of the ocean, lakes, and other mountains. For a short walk along Penobscot Bay, take the Shoreline Trail, a 15 minute walk along the water.

Driving Tour - Camden - Rockport - Rockland -Owl's Head - Port Clyde

From the center of Camden go down Bayview Street (next to the harbor). When the road ends turn left on Russell Avenue. You will pass a field with Belted Galloway (black beef cattle with a wide white belt) and a lily pond. This is Aldermere Farm owned and operated by the Maine Coast Heritage Trust with one of the finest Belted Galloway breeding operations in the world. If you go straight on Russell Avenue you will get to Rockport (*see below*). For a more scenic route turn left on Calderwood Lane. Look for a little sign pointing the way to the Children's Chapel on Vesper Hill. This is a peaceful spot with a small chapel in a wooded area that few tourists ever find. The paved road changes

to dirt, Beauchamp Road, that winds along the water. The views of Rockport harbor and the rocky coast are classic Maine scenes. Continue to Rockport.

After you leave Rockport take Route 1 to Rockland (*see below*) where a top priority is a visit to the Farnsworth Museum particularly to see the paintings of the Wyeth family.

Take Route 73 south from Rockland. Primo (*see Where to Dine*) is on the right about a mile south of town. After another mile or so turn left at a sign pointing to the airport. Continue on this road for 3 miles to the Owls Head Post Office. Turn left on North Shore Drive (sign points to Owls Head State Park).

Owls Head Light House. Just before the road ends take the last left (Lighthouse Road). Walk to the lighthouse (200 yards). Continue to the end of the walkway just on the other side of the lighthouse. Go down a short trail to a level area at the edge of a cliff which gives another full panoramic view. There are other trails leading to the shoreline starting near the area where you parked your car. If you come on a Monday morning during the summer you can see the windjammers as they make their way out of Rockland harbor.

Return to Route 73; turn left. A visit to the **Owls Head Transportation Museum** (*see below*) particularly on a day when the machines "come to life" brings you back to an earlier period in our history.



There isn't a more idyllic spot than Miller's to enjoy lobster in the rough

Continue on Route 73 through South Thomaston and on toward St. George's. Continue on Route 73 and look for **Miller's Lobster** sign (before St. George) pointing down a dirt road (*see where to dine*). Go and indulge on clams and lobster. The road continues to Port Clyde. The mailboat to Monhegan Island (*see below*) leaves from here.

Monhegan Island

If you have the time to visit only one offshore island this is the one we'd pick. Monhegan is ten miles from the nearest mainland. The entire island is less than a mile square so walking is the only mode of transportation. While winters are difficult and only about seventy people live year-round on the island, summers bring an influx of artists and visitors. Days on the island are typically spent reading, walking on trails, and visiting artists' studios. A couple of dozen artists open their studios to guests at posted times in season. Pick up a copy of the schedule when you arrive. Wednesday and Saturday seem to have the largest number of studios open.

If you are here for the day and want to hike our favorite walk go north along the main road to Cathedral Woods trail #11. Along the path are little woodland's fairy houses made out of pebbles, twigs and moss by the children who live on the island. Follow the

trail to the ocean on the east end of the island. Take Trail #1 along the coast to the south end of the island, or for a shorter walk head back on Burnthead Trail #4 to the village. All along the ocean there are grand vistas of the sea pounding the rocks.

Getting to the island: If you are prone to motion sickness and the seas are rough take along some preventative medicine as the 10-mile trip crosses open ocean. *From Port Clyde.* The trip is 60 minutes. Year-round. Thomaston Boat Line; (207) 372-8848. Monheganboat.com

From New Harbor. The 70 minute trip goes from mid-May to mid-October. Hardy Boat Shaw's Wharf. (207) 677-2026; (800) 2-PUFFIN. hardyboat.com

From Boothbay Harbor. Trips go from Memorial Day to early-October. (207) 633-2284. balmydayscruises.com/islandtrip.html.

Rockport

This quiet seaside village two miles south of Camden lacks the commercialism of Camden. Stop first at the Marine Park where there are picnic and cookout facilities, benches along the harbor, remnants of lime kilns that once operated here, and a statue to Andre the Seal, a pet seal who lived in Rockport for twenty-seven years until his death in 1986. Other good places to view the harbor are Mary Lea Park on Central Street next to the opera house and Walker Park on Sea Street.

Maine Coast Artists, a center for contemporary Maine art, has changing exhibits featuring Maine artists, studio classrooms, and a gallery shop. Admission; 162 Russell Avenue; (207) 236-2875; artsmaine.org

Rockland

This is the commercial hub of this part of midcoast Maine. Most of the windjammers leave from here. Of major interest to all visitors is the Farnsworth Museum located in town and Owls Head Transportation Museum located a few miles outside of town.

Farnsworth Art Museum is dedicated to the history of American art with an emphasis on art related to Maine. The complex includes the main museum building, Farnsworth Family Homestead, Wyeth Center, and the Olson House in Cushing. Renowned American painters of the 19th century represented here include: Thomas Cole, Rockwell Kent, John Marin, Edward Hopper, Fitz Hugh Lane, Thomas Eakins, Winslow Homer, John Twachtman, Childe Hassam, Frank Benson, Will Barnet, George Bellows, and Marsden Hartley. A gallery is devoted to the works of Louise Nevelson who was raised in Rockland, Maine.

The Wyeth Center has the most extensive collection of Wyeth art in the world - including works of N.C., Andrew and James Wyeth along with a study center and archives.

The Farnsworth Family Homestead is adjacent to the museum.



The Olson House, located in nearby Cushing, is well-known as the site of Christina's World by Andrew Wyeth

The home with all furnishings is one of the finest Victorian-era residences on the East Coast.

The Olson House in nearby Cushing, is well-known as the site of *Christina's World* by Andrew Wyeth. You can tour the house and see reproductions of some of the 60 paintings Andrew Wyeth did in the house over 30 years, displayed where they were painted. Main museum open daily, June through September. Closed Mondays, October through May. The homestead is open June through September. Olson House open Memorial Day through Columbus Day. Admission. 19 Elm Street, Rockland; (207) 596-6457. farnsworthmuseum.org

The Windjammer fleet, a collection of twelve operating historic sailing ships, recreate for their passengers an era in the history of the world when nations were settled and world trading patterns were established. The sailing ships have no inboard power and cruise the world-famous waters of the central Maine coast on two-, three- and six-day trips from late May through mid-October. August and September are usually the best sailing weather. The days are crisp and clear with the wind coming from the north and west.

Folks that take these trips either love the experience, often taking a trip every year or so, or hate them. The sleeping quarters are tight; some of the cabins barely have room to stand up. The bunks are generally only six feet long with no room for your feet to stick out the end of the bed. There are only a couple of toilets, called heads, on board and on most of the windjammers a shower is taken on deck with a handheld showerhead. Hearty family-style meals are prepared on a wood stove. The food is quite good and plentiful. Homemade bread, muffins cookies, pies, hearty chowders, seafood, turkey dinners and a lobster bake are the kind of food you'll expect. (800) 807-WIND. www.sailmainecoast.com

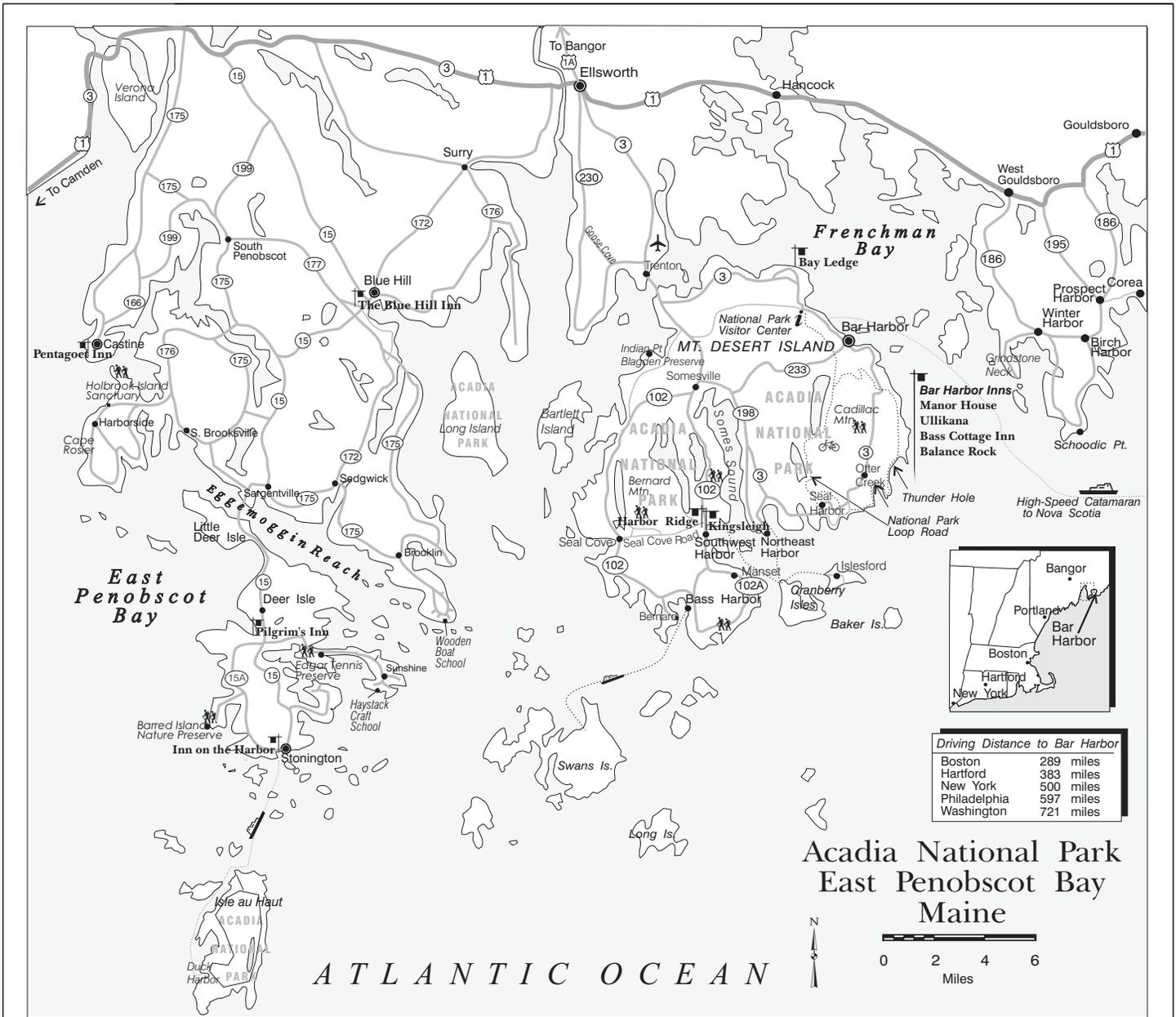
Owls Head Transportation Museum, Owls Head. Old car, airplane, and motorcycle enthusiasts will definitely want to visit this museum. During the week, one of the finest collections of pioneer-era aircraft and automobiles in the world are on static display, but come selected weekends, from mid-May through October, the equipment comes to life. Watch the Red Baron's Fokker Triplane, WW II fighters, antique and classic autos, trucks, motorcycles, carriages etc. in action. Admission

Open daily, May through October. Located two miles south of Rockland on Route 73. Owls Head; (207) 594-4418. ohtm.org.

Driving Tour - Camden – Belfast - Searsport - Blue Hill

From Camden head north along the coast on Route 1. Continue to Lincolnville Beach. The ferry to Islesboro leaves from Lincolnville. There is a public beach in Lincolnville as well as the **Lincolnville Lobster Pound Restaurant** (see Where to Dine). Head north on Route 1 for 10 miles. After you pass the Northport Diner go .2 mile, bear right onto Shore Road. At the intersection beyond the cove take the right fork. Continue on the Shore Road for about 3.5 miles, a narrow road that hugs the coast and affords good views of the water. Look for the many miniature colorful Victorian homes in Bayside, once the site of a Methodist Revivalist summer tent community. Drive around the area especially to the waterfront for a grand vista. Continue to Route 1. Turn right on Route 1 to Belfast. Take High Street into Belfast.

Stop in **Belfast** to walk through the historic district and admire some of the finest examples of Greek Revival, Federal and Victorian



architecture in Maine. There are many galleries in Belfast. Our favorite place for lunch in town is the **Belfast Co-op**, www.belfast.coop, 123 High Street, with a deli of salads. For a lobster fix continue on Route 1 over the bridge to Young's Lobster Pound in East Belfast, Mitchell Avenue (207) 338-1160.

Continue on to **Searsport**, a town known for its many antique shops along Route 1 and for the **Penobscot Marine Museum**. Admission. This is a wonderful place to learn about the maritime history of the Penobscot Bay region. The museum has collections of historic small boats, marine paintings, and artifacts from around the world in 13 buildings. Their website www.penobscotmarinemuseum.org is rich in history including the complete diary of a 16-year-old-boy who worked on a ship to California and back. Continue on Route 1 crossing two bridges thru Bucksport to Route 15. Turn south on Route 15 toward Blue Hill.

Driving Tour - Blue Hill - Deer Isle - Stonington

Blue Hill is a year-round community with a number of fine galleries, potters, and restaurants including three for fine dining. **Rackcliffe Pottery** rackcliffepottery.com is on Route 172 north

of town and **Rowantrees Pottery** is on Route 177 also north of town. **Leighton Gallery** leightongallery.com on Parker Point Road, off the main street, is one of the top galleries in the state featuring fine contemporary paintings and a large sculpture garden. **Jud Hartman's Gallery** [www.judhartmangallery.com](http://judhartmangallery.com) on Main Street features a unique series of museum quality bronze sculptures entitled "The Woodland Tribes of the Northeast". On Main Street. **Handworks Gallery**, clothing, jewelry and contemporary crafts, with many local artists represented, has a second floor location with an entrance on a side street off the main Street. Chamber music has been played at **Kneisel Hall** for more than 100 years. Currently concerts are held Sunday afternoon and Friday evening from early July through mid-August. (207) 374-2811. kneisel.org

Heading south of town on Route 15 be sure to stop at **Caterpillar Hill Overlook** which has the best view on this peninsula of blueberry fields, Penobscot Bay, the islands and the Camden Hills. Cross the high suspension bridge over Eggemoggin Reach to Little Deer Isle. **Harbor Farm**, www.harborfarm.com a store just before the causeway, is filled with top quality gift items from around the world, a great place to browse, open year-round.

Continue on Route 15 to Deer Isle Village. **The Turtle Gallery**

turtlegallery.com on your left just before you get to Deer Isle Village, is the place to go to research Maine crafts. In Deer Isle Village stop to see **Terrell Lester's** wonderful large color photographs www.tlesterphotography.com. Don't miss **Blue Heron Gallery** www.blueherondeerisle.com in Deer Isle Village



Windjammer Angelique on Eggmoggin Reach

in their new location across the street from the Pilgrims Inn. This is a top gallery with pieces (glass, pottery, jewelry etc.) many of which are done by artists who teach at Haystack. We've done our share of shopping here.

Continue on

Route 15. Make a left turn at signs pointing the way to **Sunshine and Haystack**. This is a particularly lovely unspoiled road with wonderful water views. Go 2 miles to FR523, a dirt road that leads to **The Edgar M. Tennis Preserve** for a quiet walk. Return to the main road and continue toward Haystack with a stop at **Nervous Nellies Jams**, nervousnellites.com. You can sample their jams and have tea and scones during the summer. **Haystack School of Crafts**, one of the country's top craft schools is at the end of the road. This school has been giving people of all ages and skill levels a solid grounding in the crafts since its founding in 1950. There are lectures open to the public most weekday evenings during the summer. There is also an auction at the end of every session. See their website haystack-mtn.org for details. You are welcome to walk down to the magnificent point at the end of the steps that are built over the giant boulders for a panoramic vista of the Atlantic Ocean. (207) 348-2306.

Return to Route 15 and continue to **Stonington**. During the summer about 8 galleries are open along Main Street. For lunch stop at The **Café Maritime** (see Where to Dine) and if the weather is nice have lunch on the dock. The mailboat to **Isle au Haut** leaves from the Isle au Haut Boat Company Pier. Notice the sculpture of the stone cutter, a monument to the thousands who worked the granite quarries that provided much of the employment in the town for more than 100 years. Follow the shore road to **Ames Pond**, a lily pond that's a mass of flowers during the summer. To return to Deer Isle Village take Route 15 or for a different route follow signs to West Stonington and Sunset. Drive back to Blue Hill.

Driving Tour - Blue Hill - Castine

From Blue Hill take Route 177 to South Penobscot. Take Route 175 to Route 199 south to Route 166 to **Castine**. A French trading post was erected here in 1613, nine years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth. This waterfront community has an impressive number of restored 18th and 19th century homes. The State of Maine training ship of the Maine Maritime Academy (campus located in town) is docked at the foot of Main Street. Start a walking tour at the top of Main Street. Stop at **Leila Day Antiques** www.leiladayantiques.com at 53 Main; admire the flower gardens at **Pentagoet Inn**, stop in the Passport Pub for a drink and visit **Water Witch** a store whose shelves are filled with batiks from Indonesia, Africa, and the Netherlands, made into shirts, vests, skirts, purses and quilted mats. Notice the well

cared for magnificent American Elm trees that line Main Street. **Compass Rose Bookstore** has a good selection of Maine authors and a café for a snack.

Scattered throughout town are about one hundred markers that point out historic buildings and sites. Head down Perkins Street, which is lined with historic homes. Stop by the **Wilson Museum** (2 to 5 P.M., Tuesday through Sunday, June to October), especially to see the collection of photos from turn-of-the-century Castine. Next door, visit the blacksmith shop and antique hearse house (2 to 5 P.M., Sunday and Wednesday during July and August). Or take the path to **Fort Madison**, where you can picnic overlooking the harbor. At the end of the road, bear left to **Dyce's Head Light** and follow the forty-seven steps down to the rocky shore below. Return to town via Battle Avenue, the next street north of Perkins Street.

After visiting Castine return to South Penobscot where you have a choice of returning directly to Blue Hill on Route 177 or continuing on a circular loop around the peninsula. To do this go south on Route 175. Turn right on Route 176. Stop at **Bagaduce Lunch** (see Where to Dine) a roadside lunch stand next to one of the reversing falls that change directions with the tide. Take Route 176 south. Continue to South Brooksville. To return to Blue Hill go north on Route 15.

To get to the east side of the peninsula and to the **Wooden Boat School** in Brooklin take Route 175 south to Sedgwick. Stop in the **Sedgwick Store** for lunch and then on to Brooklin. If you are fascinated by wooden boats, or have ever wondered where *WoodenBoat magazine* is published, this is the place! Do wander down here as they welcome visitors. There are courses on everything from canoes to twenty-seven-foot sailboats to photographing boats. (207) 359-4651. www.thewoodenboatschool.com

After a visit here continue on Route 175 to Route 15 and Blue Hill. As you drive around the peninsula tune your radio to **WERU 89.9**, a local station broadcasting from Blue Hill.

Blue Hill To Mount Desert Island

From Blue Hill take Route 172 to Route 1. Cross the bridge and take an immediate right on Route 230. Turn left on Goose Cove Road and left again on Route 230 (this is a shortcut across the peninsula). At Trenton turn right on Route 3. Stop at The **Hulls Cove Visitor Center** www.acadiamagic.com/visitor-center.html for a map of the park and National Park publications with the schedules of ranger-led interpretive talks, walks, and boat trips. Located on Route 3 just south of Hulls Cove. Open daily, 8-4:30. April 15 through October, (207) 288-3338. Other times of the year the park headquarters on Route 233 serves as the visitor center.

Driving Tour - The Loop Road, Acadia National Park

The Loop Road, a 27-mile scenic toll road that's part of the National Park, has spectacular views. You can do the actual drive in just over an hour but we strongly suggest stopping to see views and particularly to take some of the walks and hikes. Do this as a first exposure to Acadia, but be sure to see the other parts of the park and surrounding areas.

These are some of the highlights as you make the loop. **The Sieur de Monts Spring** features the **Wild Gardens of Acadia**; the **Abbe Museum** has prehistoric pottery and bones and baskets, canoes, and a wigwam made from birch bark; and the **Park Nature Center**. **Schooner Head Overlook** is a turnoff just before the main entrance toll station. It's a great view looking east over

Frenchman Bay to Winter Harbor and Schoodic Peninsula.

Sand Beach is the only oceanfront beach in the park. Locals go to **Seal Harbor** beach as they don't have to pay the toll and it's not as crowded as Sand Beach.

There is always a crowd of tourists at **Thunder Hole**. The "show" everyone is waiting for is the vertical spray of water and accompanying boom caused by the ocean rushing into the mouth of the slot. As the rush of water compresses the air trapped at the back of the chasm it makes a booming sound. The best time to visit is at three-quarter rising tide when the seas are rough. **Otter Cliffs** are the highest headlands along the Atlantic coast north of Rio de Janeiro.

At the Stanley Brook entrance exit the Loop Road if you are headed to Northeast Harbor or if you want to take a carriage ride which leave from the Wildwood Stables. Stop at the **Jordan Pond House** for tea and popovers served outside on the lawn. This is a nice lunch stop before or after a hike on the carriage trails, although very crowded during meal hours in the summer. (*see Where to Dine*).

Bring your sweater when you drive to the top of **Cadillac Mountain**. At 1,530 feet the views are spectacular and the air temperature at the summit is a "mite" chilly. On a clear morning consider getting up early to drive to the top of Cadillac to watch the sunrise or be here for sunset (visibility is best during fall and winter). Hikers can reward themselves with plenty of blueberries in mid- to late summer. In addition, stargazing programs are held on clear nights

Driving Tour - Mount Desert Island

This tour takes you to Northeast Harbor, Southwest Harbor, Bass Harbor and Bernard, the less crowded areas of the island. Starting at Bar Harbor take Route 3 south. The entrance to the Rockefeller Gardens is off this road but there are no signs.

Continue on almost to Northeast Harbor and look for the parking area on the left for **Thuya Lodge and Gardens**. Cross the road and walk up the stone steps and along the path to these exquisite azalea gardens. Across the street from the Asticou Hotel (a possible lunch stop) are the **Asticou Azalea Gardens** (entrance is on Route 198) that has the feel of a Japanese strolling garden. If you enjoy fine gardens we strongly suggest visiting both of these gardens and planning ahead for reservations to the Rockefeller Gardens (*see below*).

Northeast Harbor is a wealthy summer community with boutiques, and expensive gift shops. Go through the village and take **Sargent Drive** which follows along Somes Sound with wonderful views. This road will eventually intersect with Route 3/Route 198.

At the junction of Route 233 bear left on Route 198 to Route 102 to **Somesville** where there's **Acadia Repertory Theater**.

Southwest Harbor, a boatbuilding and fishing community, is quieter and not touristy like Bar Harbor. After exploring the main street and the shops at the beginning of **Clark Point Road**, continue down the road to the harbor. During the summer a ferry leaves from the Upper Town Dock in Southwest Harbor and goes to **Cranberry and Islesford Islands**. On Islesford there is a small maritime museum and on Little Cranberry Island the Islesford Dock Restaurant serves lunch and dinner. **The Wendell Gilley Museum** (corner of Main Street and Herrick Road; 207-244-7555) displays a collection of 250 of his carved birds. **The Oceanarium** (next to the Coast Guard station) is a hands-on museum with 20 tanks containing resident Maine sealife. (207) 244-7330 Mid May to late October.

Continue south of Southwest Harbor and turn left on Route 102A. Take a left in **Manset** to get to the waterfront. **Hinckley Yachts**, the top of the line, are made here. The **Ships Store** sells all kinds of sailing related items. A great picnic spot is **Seawall Picnic Area** in the national park (no fee) with wonderful ocean views. The much photographed **Bass Harbor Lighthouse** is now a private residence. The ferry to **Swans Island** leaves from Bass Harbor.

Drive around the harbor to **Bernard**. The most photographed spot in Bernard is the colorful weathered wall of lobster buoys overlooking the water. For lobster in the rough look for the yellow awning of **Thurston's** (*see Where to Dine*) on the dock in Bernard. For the long route back continue on Route 102 to Somesville or take Seal Cove Road (a hardpacked dirt road) back to Southwest Harbor. From here go north on Route 102 to Somesville.

Hikes and Walks in Acadia

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., one of the early summer residents on Mt. Desert Island personally supervised the building of forty-five miles of carriage roads from 1913 through 1940 for the private use of his family and friends. These carriage roads, along with sixteen stone bridges, were built to take advantage of scenic views. Jordan Pond House is a good place to begin walking or mountain biking the roads.

Pick up a copy of *A Walk in the Park* by Tom St. Germain for details and maps on many of the trails in the park. **Perpendicular Trail** just west of Southwest Harbor at the south end of Long Pond is a masterpiece of trail building by the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) in 1934. More than 700 granite steps, one small ladder and three iron rungs make this a strenuous climb just shy of 900 feet to Mansell Mountain. You cross a gigantic rock slide and the trail is very steep in sections. This is not a trail for those with a fear of heights or dropoffs. A shorter less strenuous trail with great views of Somes Sound is **Acadia Mountain**, 2.5 miles. Park on Route 102 at signs for Acadia Mtn.

Naturalist led boat trips are scheduled to Islesford Historical Museum, Baker Island Cruise, Bass Harbor Cruise, and Frenchman Bay cruise.

Bar Harbor

We suggest that once you get to Bar Harbor you park your car and do your exploring on foot.

The craft stores featuring items made by Maine craftspeople are found on Main, West, and Cottage Streets. **Island Artisans**, 99 Main Street, has excellent crafts by local artists. **Eclipse Gallery**, 12 Mt. Desert Street, has top contemporary American crafts. Next door is **Birdsnest Gallery** with a large selection of oils, watercolors, and graphics. **Spruce Grove Gallery**, 43 Cottage Street, has prints of Anne Kilham, Jack Perkins' photographs, and custom cut stones including Maine Tourmaline. **The Lone Moose**, 78 West Street, has more items all made in Maine including furniture, pottery, Kulik prints, baskets, cards.

The **Criterion Movie Theater** on Cottage Street, is a real Art Deco gem and the movies are all first-run. **St. Saviour's Episcopal Church** on Mt. Desert St. in the middle of town has a renowned stained glass window collection including twelve made by Tiffany. Tours are given Monday through Saturday at 11 and 3 and Sunday at 3 (207-288-4215). And be sure to take the **Shore Path** that starts at the intersection of Main and West Streets at the Bar Harbor Inn and Spa and goes for about a mile along the water.

Northeast Harbor Gardens

Asticou Azalea Garden. We feel this is best described as a Japanese strolling garden. Wooden stepping-stones over a stream, Japanese stone lanterns, a replica of Kyoto's Ryoanji Rock Garden with freshly raked gravel, and paths lined with moss all make this as relaxing a garden as any we have visited in Japan. Located across the street from Asticou Inn, Route 3. Entrance is on Route 198. Open during daylight hours May-October. (207) 276-3727. www.asticou.com/gardens.html.

Asticou Terrace and Thuya Lodge and Gardens. A series of wooded switchbacks leads from Route 3 up the hillside to the gardens. Along the way, about a fifteen-minute walk, are shelters with wooden benches with views of Northeast Harbor. Thuya Lodge houses a botanical library. Park along Route 3 and walk up or look for the sign to the parking lot. Open 7-7, late June through September. (207) 276-5130. www.acadiamagic.com/ThuyaGarden.html.

The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden. This garden, started by Abby Aldridge Rockefeller in 1928, is located in the midst of the Rockefeller summer homes in Seal Harbor. The English influenced main garden is rectangular with a path surrounded by wide borders mainly of perennials - a beautiful palette that flows together like a Monet painting. The Oriental influence is strong with a Chinese Wall with coping tiles from the Forbidden City enclosing the garden, a Spirit Garden of sculptures, a Moon Gate, a Buddha, a pagoda and reflecting ponds. The sculpture from Korea, Japan, and China dates from the 10th to the 18th centuries. The garden is open on Thursdays, 9-1, from the second week in July through Labor Day. Call on Tuesdays and Wednesdays beginning June 24 from 12-3:30 for reservations (207) 276-3330. The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden is on Route 3 in Seal Harbor on Mount Desert Island.

Driving Tour - Schoodic Peninsula

The part of the park most often skipped by visitors is the rugged Schoodic Peninsula. (The reason is that it is 45 miles from Bar Harbor to the tip of the peninsula.) If you should be in the area after a storm, the waves will be particularly impressive. We visited after a storm when the spray of water reached about 150 feet.

To get here take Route 1 from Ellsworth 19 miles to West Gouldsboro. Go south on Route 186 to **Winter Harbor**. Then follow the park road. Allow enough time to sit on the rocks at Schoodic or at any of the turn-offs along the road.



The full fury of the Atlantic Ocean crashing on the rocks at Schoodic Point

WHERE To Stay

The Lodgings are arranged geographically within each area

Kennebunkport

Bufflehead Cove Inn, Kennebunkport

Named for the diving sea ducks that winter here, Bufflehead Cove Inn is located on six private acres at the end of a gravel lane that winds past several small ponds, less than a mile from the center of Kennebunkport. The location on the banks of the Kennebunk River is so peaceful that we could happily stay on the porch or viewing deck by the water for hours reading and looking at the myriad of water fowl. Longtime innkeeper Harriet and her husband Jim Gott are natives of the area and run one of our very favorite bed and breakfasts in Southern Maine.

The informal comfortable living room has a wood-burning fireplace and exposed beams. For total privacy stay in the Romantic River Cottage, 200 yards from the main house. This is a two-story cottage with a living room with a wood-burning fireplace, full kitchen, and deck with river views. A second deluxe private space is Hideaway, attached to the inn but with a private porch entry, a double-sided gas fireplace, and floor-length windows that overlook the cove. We also particularly like The Balcony Room with a gas fireplace and an enclosed balcony with a water view.

A full breakfast is served at 8:30 either outside on the veranda with views of the river or at two large tables in the dining room.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Open May through November. Six rooms and suites. July through October \$165-\$375, other times \$135-\$350. Full breakfast and late afternoon wine and cheese included. Children over 12. No pets. Bufflehead Cove Road, Box 499, Kennebunkport, ME 04046; (207) 967-3879; www.buffleheadcove.com

White Barn Inn, Kennebunkport

This hideaway, a deluxe country house inn, is a quarter of a mile from the ocean on the quiet side of the Kennebunk River. The inn combines truly spectacular formal dining (*see Where to Dine*) in a dramatic setting with well-appointed deluxe rooms.

The second floor Loft Suite above the restaurant with a private entrance and deck is the most deluxe and largest accommodation. Special features are a surround sound entertainment center, a 32-inch television, large gas fireplace, and bath, as large as a normal size bedroom, with a heated black marble floor, whirlpool tub, marble shower, and two sinks. In the main inn, the original farmhouse, the junior suite is the top accommodation with a large bath with a double whirlpool tub in the middle of the room facing a double-sided gas fireplace. The second and third floors were recently gutted and reconfigured to make renovated rooms and two additional junior suites with gas fireplaces and large baths with steam shower and double air jet tubs.

A second building has six spacious junior suites each about 23-feet long with a sitting area at one end with a wood-burning fireplace. The Red Suite is our favorite as it is the only room with a deck. A third building has Garden Rooms, smaller than the junior suites, with queen-size sleigh beds and a gas fireplace.

Three cottages on the river about .2 mile from the inn include two with one bedroom and one with two bedrooms and two baths.

There is an attractive stone swimming pool with a waterfall edge and bicycles. Guest have complimentary use of the canoes at The Yachtsman (www.yachtsmanlodge.com), and fitness center (Breakwater (www.thebreakwaterinn.com)). The Breakwater also has a gull service spa.

The continental breakfast includes sliced meats and cheese (8 to 10). For an additional fee a full breakfast is available.

Rooms, rates, etc.— 25 rooms and suites. July through October \$380-\$905. Other times \$310-\$765. Continental breakfast and tea included. Children over 12. No pets. 37 Beach Avenue, Box 560C, Kennebunkport, ME 04046; (207) 967-2321; www.whitebarninn.com

The Captain Lord Mansion, Kennebunkport

The moment you step into the high-ceilinged, antiques-filled, Oriental-carpeted common room you sense the quiet elegance of this distinguished mansion, built in 1812 by a sea captain. The inn, situated at the edge of the town green, is owned by innkeepers Rick and Bev Litchfield who've owned the inn since 1978. They have created a magnificent showpiece with antiques-filled rooms,



The Excelsior Room at The Captain Lord Mansion

fifteen with gas fireplaces.

First- and second-floor rooms have nine-and-a-half-foot ceilings. The rooms on the front of the inn overlooking the town green are all deluxe accommodations with gas fireplaces and double whirlpool or air-jet tubs and are generally the most popular.

Merchant, a three-room suite is the most deluxe. It has two gas fireplaces, a 42-inch plasma television and a huge bath with a fireplace, a couple pieces of exercise equipment and a television. The other top rooms are Oriental, Excelsior, and Champion all corner first and second floor rooms with king-size beds and a park view.

A full breakfast is served family style at long tables in the country kitchen with two seatings daily.

For a family or a few couples traveling together we like the Captain's Garden House, a separate building with four rooms and a common gathering room with a television and fireplace. Guests who stay here can have a more leisurely private breakfast.

An additional feature is a single treatment room for massages.

Rooms, rates, etc.— 20 rooms and suites, all with private bath. June through December, \$285-\$499. January-May \$166-\$399. Breakfast and tea included. Children over 12. No pets. Box 800, Kennebunkport, ME 04046; (207) 967-3141; (800) 522-3141; www.captainlord.com

The Maine Stay Inn at the Melville Walker House, Kennebunkport

This inn, a former sea captain's home, close to the middle of town, accommodates both couples and families as there are inn rooms and suites and eleven cottage units next to the main inn. George and Janice Yankowski have owned the inn since 2002.

In the main inn the favorites are the redecorated Garden Room, the smallest room with a gas fireplace and French doors opening to a large private deck, and Room 12, the first floor suite with a wood-burning fireplace in the separate living room. The most romantic cottages are the ones with a fireplace, bath with a double whirlpool tub and separate shower, and kitchenette: Cottage 7 (recently redecorated) with a raised hearth gas fireplace, Cottage 1 with a two-sided gas fireplace, and Cottage 3 with a wood-burning fireplace. Cottage 6 is the favorite family cottage as it has two bedrooms, sitting room and a full kitchen.

A full breakfast with a fruit dish, sweet breads, and rotating sweet or savory hot dish is served in the dining room, on the open porch, or delivered to your cottage.

Rooms, rates, etc.— 17 rooms, suites, and cottages. Mid-June through late October \$229-\$319. Other times \$109-\$299. Breakfast and afternoon tea included. Children welcome. No pets. 34 Maine Street, Box 500A, Kennebunkport, ME 04046; (207) 967-2117; (800) 950-2117; www.mainestayinn.com.

Old Fort Inn, Kennebunkport

Innkeepers Sheila and David Aldrich have combined the best elements of a mini-resort country inn and a bed and breakfast inn. This is the only inn in town with a large fresh water heated swimming pool, a tennis court, shuffleboard, horseshoes, and laundry facilities for guests' use. As the inn is set on fifteen wooded acres away from any traffic it offers a lot of privacy yet it is a block away from the ocean and only 1¼ miles from Dock Square.

Fourteen of the rooms are located in the converted turn-of-the-century brick and stone carriage house. It has the feeling of a Ritz hotel as the rooms and baths are large and plushly decorated with antique and reproduction appointments. The largest rooms in the carriage house are the three corner rooms, each about 300 square feet with a gas fireplace and whirlpool tub. Eight similarly appointed deluxe rooms are each about 240 square feet, a few with gas fireplaces. The two suites are on top of the antique shop and overlook the swimming pool.

An attractive buffet breakfast is set out in the Lodge, an 1880s converted barn with a massive brick gas fireplace, exposed beam ceiling, and comfortable sofas and chairs. Guests can eat here or outside by the pool.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Open late April through early December. 16 rooms and suites. June through October \$190-\$390, other times \$125-\$295. Breakfast included. Children over 12. No pets. 8 Old Fort Avenue, Box M, Kennebunkport, ME 04046, (207) 967-5353; (800) 828-3678; www.oldfortinn.com

The Colony Hotel, Kennebunkport

The grand dame of Kennebunkport, a big rambling resort hotel that was built in 1914, overlooks the beaches along the southern coast of Maine. This is the only remaining grand old Victorian era Maine summer hotel on the coast that we know of. The hotel has made a major comeback with lots of money invested in the upkeep, no mean feat for a large corner property facing the Atlantic Ocean that's just open for five months per year.

Rooms in the main building have overhead fans (no air-conditioning). The best are the Ocean Grand Rooms with full front ocean views and the two Ocean Grand Balcony Rooms that share

a balcony (the only balcony in the hotel). Ocean Deluxe Rooms are two rooms with a shared bath between the two rooms. Less expensive rooms are those with partial ocean views or views of the garden or are in the two Garden Houses located behind the inn with no view.

The property includes a large heated salt-water pool, 18-hole putting green, shuffle board, a private beach, and restaurant. A full breakfast buffet is included.

The ocean views and sunsets are dramatic especially from the circular “bird cage” section of the porch dining room. Five different preparations of lobster are their specialty: lobster Wellington, lobster casserole, napoleon of lobster, lobster fettuccine, or traditional steamed lobster.

On Friday nights in the summer they have a Mariners Buffet and for brunch on Sunday they do another food extravaganza.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Open mid-May through late October. 123 rooms, all with private bath. July-August \$280-\$600. Other times from \$99-\$600. Breakfast and afternoon tea (weekdays) included. Dinner entrées \$15-\$32. Children welcome. Pets permitted. 140 Ocean Avenue, Box 511, Kennebunkport, ME 04046; (207) 967-3331; (800) 552-2363; www.thecolonyhotel.com/maine

Cape Arundel Inn, Kennebunkport

If you want to stay at an inn where you can see the waves dash against the rocky shoreline and get a glimpse of Walker’s Point, former President Bush’s summer White House, this is where you want to be. The inn is owned by restaurateur Jack Nahil. With a highly regarded restaurant (*see* Where to Dine) on the first floor (the one with the best view of the water) it’s easy to understand that the rooms are some of the most sought-after in Kennebunkport. All rooms except one have an ocean view.

Most of the rooms in the main building are large and fairly simply furnished. Room 2 with a queen bed is the only one in the main house with a private balcony. Room 3, another favorite spacious room, has a king-size bed and four curved windows overlooking the ocean.

Rockbound is a 1950s era addition to the inn that consists of six rooms at ground level, each with a private balcony that faces the ocean. Three have queen-size beds, two have two queens, and one has a king-size bed, each situated so you can see the water from the bed. The Carriage House Suite, the second floor of another building, is accessed by a steep set of outside stairs. This suite has a deck with a view of the water.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Open mid-February through New Year’s. Fourteen rooms. Mid-June through early-October \$295-\$385. Other times \$125-\$365. Buffet breakfast included. Children welcome in some rooms. No pets. Dinner nightly except Monday off-season. 208 Ocean Avenue, Box 530A, Kennebunkport, ME 04046, (207) 967-2125; www.capearundelinn.com

Portland – Cape Elizabeth Inn by the Sea, Cape Elizabeth

This gray shingled complex located fifteen minutes south of Portland bordering Crescent Beach State Park is reopening in June 2008 following a major renovation to the main building including the addition of 15 rooms, new function space and a full service spa with six treatment rooms. The new rooms are in the main building and all have gas fireplaces. The other rooms in the main building have all been renovated.

The largest are the two-level Spa Suites. On the lower level there is a wet bar with a microwave and refrigerator; a spacious living room with a wall of windows, a two story cathedral

ceiling, and a small deck that overlooks the swimming pool. The second-floor is a loft bedroom and a large bath with an over-sized soaking tub as well as a separate shower. Garden Suites have an outdoor patio entrance as well as a wet bar with a refrigerator and microwave.

The eighteen cottage units are in four buildings. All were recently refreshed and now have air-conditioning. Each has wide wrap-around porches and view of the marsh grasses and the ocean in the distance. All of the cottage units have two bedrooms and full kitchens; some are on two levels with skylights and peaked ceilings and others are on one level. The best cottage units are in the Beach House. These are larger and have better ocean views.

There is a large outdoor pool, and a boardwalk that leads to the sandy beach of Crescent Beach State Park, and a restaurant called Sea Glass (*see* Where to Dine). The inn has golf privileges at a private championship course.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Fifty-seven units. July and August \$399-\$789. Other times \$189-\$369. All meals available. Children welcome. Pets permitted. 40 Bowery Beach Road (Route 77), Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107; (207) 799-3134; (800) 888-4287; www.innbythesea.com

Black Point Inn, Prouts Neck

The setting for this 135-year-old inn is on a spectacular point of land along the coast, about a fifteen minute drive from Portland.

A major change in the last two years is the reduction in size of the property. The cottages are now private residences and the large swimming pool is another home site.

All the accommodations are in the main building. The largest are Spinnaker Suites, a bedroom and a separate sitting room with a sofa bed, and good water views. Admiral’s Chambers are rooms with water views and Captain’s Chambers are rooms with no water views. Rooms were recently renovated to include new carpeting and bedding but have preserved the older feel with the original dark wood furniture. Behind the inn is a small pool that’s for the inn guests only. Bicycles and kayaks are complimentary. Guests have access to tennis courts and have golf privileges at local courses. There’s a boardwalk to the bird sanctuary, three miles of beaches that you can walk to from the inn, a spectacular 1¼ mile cliff trail along the ocean, and Winslow Homer’s studio that you can arrange to visit.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Open early May through December. Twenty-five rooms and suites. Mid-June through Labor Day \$460-\$580 for two including breakfast, tea, and dinner (*see* Where to Dine). Other times \$380-\$480. 15% service charge. Children welcome. No pets. 510 Black Point Road, Prouts Neck, ME 04074; (207) 883-2500; (800) 258-0003; www.blackpointinn.com

Portland Harbor Hotel, Portland

This is the most deluxe hotel in the Old Port. The rooms look toward the city or inward to a landscaped garden with umbrella-topped wrought-iron tables and a fountain. The hotel purchased the adjoining building and is turning the space into five suites and a full gym and spa (completion July 2008). These suites will be the best at the hotel. Each has a master bedroom with a full bath, sitting room with a double-sided gas fireplace and a half bath.

Rooms in the original building are tastefully designer decorated in shades of blue and yellow. All have extra-thick mattresses, feather pillows and comforters, high thread-count linens, and granite tiled baths with a tub and separate shower. The quietest are the garden view rooms. A couple of these on the first floor have French doors opening to a private patio with a view of the garden

and fountain. Four suites have large baths with double therapeutic whirlpool tubs, a glass enclosed shower and a larger room with a sitting area.

Other renovations include a new restaurant that overlooks the garden and a new lobby.

Rooms, rates, etc.— 107 rooms and suites. Summer \$289-\$389; other times \$149-\$249. All meals available. Children welcome. Pets permitted. 468 Fore Street, Portland, ME 04101; (207) 523-2070; (888) 798-9090; www.theportlandharborhotel.com

Freeport - The Harpswells Harraseeket Inn, Freeport

This full service inn, comprised of two 19th century homes and two modern buildings designed to blend into the architecture of the town, is located on the Main Street of Freeport, just two blocks from L.L. Bean and the myriad of outlet shops. The inn has the feel of a little hotel with a fine dining restaurant (*see* Where to Dine) and an informal tavern dining room decorated to feel like a Maine woods camp.

The rooms are spacious. Twenty-three have wood-burning fireplaces and many have single or double-size whirlpool tubs. The main building includes some of the large deluxe rooms with a wood-burning fireplace, a sitting area with a convertible sofa, king-size bed, and a bath with a whirlpool tub. A few of the rooms are arranged with an over-sized whirlpool in the bedroom as well as a separate bath with a shower. For families or extended stays there are eight fully-equipped townhouses.

Other facilities include an indoor fully handicapped accessible lap pool (with a lift), a large whirlpool, a few exercise machines, and a ballroom.

A complimentary afternoon high tea and a full hot breakfast buffet is included.

Rooms, rates, etc.— 84 rooms and suites. July through October, \$221-\$305. Other times of the year \$125-\$260. Breakfast and afternoon tea included. Children welcome. Pets permitted in a few rooms. 162 Main Street, Freeport, ME 04032; (207) 865-9377; (800) 342-6423; www.harraseeketinn.com

Harpowell Inn, South Harpswell

The inn, a large white house with dark shutters located at the end of a side road in Harpswell Neck, eight miles from Bowdoin College, sits atop a knoll at Lookout Point overlooking the islands in Middle Bay. The inn is now owned by Anne and Richard Mosely who've lived across the road from the inn for 30 years. Since purchasing it they've added a large function room.

The three luxury suites in a separate building are our top picks. Each has a patio or deck, gas fireplace and kitchen or kitchenette. Captains Quarters has the best view, a king-size bed, and bath with a whirlpool tub and separate shower. Eagle's Nest and Cove Side (the former innkeepers' quarters, our preference of the two) are two-story suites with 1½ baths, and a second floor loft bedroom.

In the inn favorites are Lookout Room on the third floor with a private deck with a view of the water and Bowdoin Room also on the third floor with a deck.

Four cottages with a view of the water are generally rented by the week. Landingview with a professional kitchen and 40-foot deck is the best.

Breakfast, served from 8 to 9, includes a choice of an egg dish or a grilled item.

Rooms, rates, etc.-- Nine rooms, seven with private bath, three suites, and four cottages. Rooms and suites \$125-\$249,

cottages \$950-\$1,400 per week. Breakfast, use of kayaks and canoes included. Children over 10. No pets. 108 Lookout Point, Harpswell, ME 04079; (207) 833-5509; (800) 843-5509; www.harpswellinn.com

Georgetown - Boothbay Mooring B and B, Georgetown

The original home of Walter Reid, who gave Reid State Park in Georgetown to the state, is a bed and breakfast run by his great granddaughter and her family, Penny and Paul Barabe and their children. It is surrounded by gardens, has dramatic ocean views, and is a popular place for weddings. The Spanish Room, one of the two living rooms, has a high ceiling with hand hewn beams, leaded windows, a fireplace, Spanish tile floor with an Oriental rug, and much of the original furnishings.

The moderately-sized rooms all have views of the water. For the best views we like the Reed Room on the first floor with a private balcony and the Butler Room where can lie in bed and look at the ocean.

Breakfast, served at 8:30, is a buffet including a hot dish such as blueberry pancakes or eggs Benedict. Guests can sit in the porch room, the formal dining room or outside on the deck.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Open May through October. Five rooms, \$140-\$200. Breakfast included. Children welcome. No pets. 132 Seguinland Road, Georgetown, ME 04548; (207) 371-2790; (866) 828-7343; www.themooringb-b.com



Mooring B&B has dramatic ocean views

Squire Tarbox Inn, Westport Island

The inn is a collection of connecting Maine buildings, starting with the original 1763 cape and ending with a 1825 Federal house, down a quiet stretch of road well away from the busier areas of the coast. In 2002 Roni and Mario De Pietro purchased the inn.

Two of the three common areas have a wood stove or fireplace and the third has a player piano. Favorite rooms are the four in the 1825 building each with a wood-burning fireplace. The other seven are the barn rooms. Animals on the property include dogs, chickens, and Nubian goats, the favorite with guests. In addition there's a large organic farm on the property that supplies most of the produce and flowers for the inn as well as local markets in season.

Breakfast, served from 8 to 9:15 includes a cold buffet and your choice of eggs any style, pancakes or French toast with sausage or bacon.

Mario, the chef-owner who was born and raised in Switzerland, runs the restaurant. A sampling of dishes includes Swiss onion soup with Gruyère and Appenzeller cheeses, dill cured

Scandinavian salmon served with a dill sauce, roasted rack of New Zealand lamb with rosemary and English mint sauce, filet mignon with a peppercorn sauce, and sautéed veal with roesti potatoes.

Rooms, rates, etc.--Open April through New Year's. Eleven rooms. mid-June through October \$139-\$199; other times \$115-\$179. breakfast included. 13% service charge. Dinner nightly Memorial Day through late October, fewer days at other times but always available for inn guests. Located on Route 144 on Westport Island, 8½ miles from Route 1. 1181 Main Road, Westport Island, ME 04578; (207) 882-7693; (800) 818-0626; www.squiretarboxinn.com

Blue Heron Seaside Inn, Boothbay Harbor

With very large rooms and balconies with views of the harbor this is an ideal place to stay if you want to be in the midst of the activity of Boothbay Harbor. The innkeepers are Phil and Laura Chapman who renovated this 1880's home, totally reconfigured the interior, and added a waterfront deck to each room.

The rooms are furnished with antiques they collected in England in Korea. All have refrigerators, microwaves, and flat screen TVs. Each floor has a different theme - third floor rooms are nautical, second floor are colonial and first floor are Victorian. Rooms on the second and third floor are larger than those on the first floor. The most popular room is Harbor Lights, on the third floor, with a large porch and the best view of the harbor. Sea Foam Suite, also on the third floor, has two bedrooms with a bath between the rooms. Sea Breeze on the first floor has a bath with a whirlpool as well as a separate shower.

A full breakfast buffet is set out in the lobby where there are little tables. Guests can eat here or take a tray to their room. Other complimentary amenities include beverages and use of kayaks and paddle boats.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Open May through October. Five rooms and a two-bedroom suite. Mid-June through October \$195-\$265; other times \$165-\$210. Breakfast included. Children over 12. No pets. 65 Townsend Avenue, Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538; (207) 633-7020; (866) 216-2300; www.blueheronseasideinn.com.

Spruce Point Inn, Boothbay Harbor

This is the best resort in this area of Maine. Situated at a point of land in a private community just beyond Boothbay Harbor, it has a fabulous view of the water. A variety of sizes and styles of buildings are spread throughout the fifteen acres. In addition they have recently purchased an adjoining 42 acres with 2½ miles of hiking trails. Over the past ten years they have added over 50 luxury accommodations some on one level and some on two levels all with gas fireplaces. They have five traditional-style cottages with a fieldstone wood-burning fireplace in the sitting room and a full kitchen as well as four condominiums with garden views that are in the rental pool.

Sea Breeze building is popular as it has good water views and is closest to the salt water swimming pool. Bluebird and Lark buildings were built in 2005. Osprey building, a 3-bedroom cottage was renovated in 2008. In the main inn the most deluxe with the best view is the Admiral's Quarters and Windward Suite (the newest with a private porch) on the third floor and the Captain's Quarters on the second floor.

Facilities include a saltwater pool, hot tub, heated freshwater pool, two har-tru tennis courts, full service spa with five treatment rooms, fitness room, kayaks and bikes, and a children's day camp during the summer. Guests have privileges at the local golf club.

88 Grandview, their fine dining restaurant, is a steak and seafood restaurant overlooking the entrance to Boothbay Harbor. Bogie's Hideaway, the more informal, serves all meals and offers the option of a range from sandwiches to a full dinner.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Open mid-May through mid-October. 86 rooms, suites, and cottages. Mid-July through August rooms and suites \$169-\$359, 2-3 bedroom cottages and condos (6-night minimum in summer) \$419-\$560. Service charge 10%. Use of recreational facilities (not golf or spa) included. Children welcome, No pets. All meals available at Bogie's Hideaway. Dinner at 88 Grandview, July and August. Box 237, Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538; (207) 633-4152; (800) 553-0289; www.sprucepointinn.com

Five Gables Inn, East Boothbay

If you want to be in a quiet village with a view of Linekin Bay, three miles from busy Boothbay Harbor, this is a good place to stay. Innkeepers Mike and De Kennedy have owned this restored Maine 19th century summer hotel since 1995.

In nice weather guests take their breakfast out to the wide front porch where you can look out over the roof tops to the water. The first floor is a spacious breakfast/common room with a sitting area with a wood-burning fireplace and a few tables looking out onto the porch. The inn has a casual friendly feel.

Five of the rooms have fireplaces that use duraflame logs. The largest is Room 14, a third floor room with a king-size bed and a good view of the water. We also like Rooms 8 and 10, corner rooms with views in two directions but no fireplaces. Other favorite fireplace rooms are 6 and 7 on the second floor each with a queen-size bed. If you are tall you may want to avoid the gabled rooms on the third floor, though they do have a cozy comfortable feel and good views.

Mike, a trained chef, and De prepare a superb full breakfast served as a buffet from 8-9:30.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Open late May to mid-October. Sixteen rooms, \$150-225. Breakfast and afternoon tea included. Children over 12. No pets. 107 Murray Hill Road, East Boothbay, ME 04544; (207) 633-4551; (800) 451-5048; www.fivegablesinn.com

Linekin Bay, East Boothbay

This white clapboard renovated 1878 house is in a peaceful setting overlooking Linekin Bay yet it is only four miles from Boothbay Harbor. It is owned by Larry Brown and his wife Marti Booth. Two common areas each have a Vermont-style gas stove. The larger more informal room is the Sun Room with large windows with a view of the bay where they put out desserts in the afternoon and in the evening.

Our favorite is the Holbrook Suite with a high king-size bed facing the water, a sitting area and gas fireplace, and private covered porch. Whispering Roses, a second and third floor duplex, has a king-size bed and bath and an airy but secluded-feeling attic room with a sitting area with a gas stove and water view. The other rooms, each with water views, are Rhapsody in Blue with an electric fireplace and Crooked Chimney, each with queen beds.

Breakfast, served from 8 to 9, includes a hot dish such as cinnamon raspberry French toast, sour cream waffles, or quiche.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Four rooms. Memorial Day through early October \$140-\$190, other times \$105-\$125. Breakfast included. Children over 12. No pets. 531 Ocean Point Road, East Boothbay, ME 04544; (207) 633-9900; (800) 596-7420; www.linekinbaybb.com

Pemaquid – Monhegan Island – Rockland

The Bradley Inn, Pemaquid Point

The inn, owned by Warren and Beth Busted since 1997, is located several hundred yards from the Pemaquid Point Lighthouse, one of the icons of the American landscape. The first floor of the inn has a popular fine dining restaurant (*see* Where to Dine), bar, and lounge attractively decorated with nautical prints, maps, and ship models.

The main inn has twelve rooms most with matching drapes and wallpaper and cherry four poster queen-size beds. The best are the three rooms on the third floor 301-303 each with a gas fireplace (the only ones in this building), wood-paneled cathedral ceilings and limited distant views of John's Bay. Room 301 is the favorite as it is the only one in this building with a king-size bed. Next favorite are the second floor rooms in the main inn.

We also like the feel of the two first floor rooms in the Carriage House. Room 501 is a large room with a king-size bed, and Room 502, which has been redecorated, has a queen-size bed and separate sitting room, each with a gas fireplace and private deck.

A spa with sauna, yoga and pilates classes, and treatment room opened in 2007. A full breakfast (8-9:30) includes a hot dish such as quiche, French toast, or frittata, served at individual tables in the dining room.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Sixteen rooms. Late-May through October \$165-\$235. Other times \$135-\$295. Breakfast and tea included. Children welcome. No pets. 3063 Bristol Road, Pemaquid Point, New Harbor, ME 04554; (207) 677-2105; (800) 942-5560; www.bradleyinn.com

The Island Inn, Monhegan Island

This prominent structure, originally built in 1825, with its nine bay windows, mansard roof and cupola sits just above the harbor and wharf where the boats arrive and depart. The front lawn, set with Adirondack chairs, is an idyllic setting overlooking the water and islands. While this is the best hotel on the island, do not expect luxury. The inn reflects a simpler lifestyle. The atmosphere is quiet with activities centering around reading by the fireplace or in the library, doing puzzles or playing cards.

Rooms are generally small but pleasant, newly painted, and beds (two doubles, queen and single or queen) are covered with white cotton duvets. The top choices are the two suites with ocean views: Room 1, a large room with a queen and twin bed and sitting area, and Room 2 with a queen bed in one room and a second room with a sofa bed and a twin bed, both with porches. Other rooms in the hotel are on the second and third floors. Three have private baths with ocean views (more expensive) and eight have private baths with a meadow view, looking inland. Other rooms have a sink in the room and share a couple of hall baths.

The Pierce House, where we stayed, is directly behind the inn with meadow views. The first floor is two suites with a sitting room. The second floor has four rooms with sinks in each sharing a single bath.

The traditional breakfast includes a choices of pancakes, eggs, or omelets with bacon or sausage.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Open Memorial Day to Columbus Day. Thirty-four rooms and suites, fifteen with private bath. July/August \$165-\$395. Other times \$130-\$295. \$4. gratuity per person daily. Breakfast included. All meals available (*see* Where to Dine). Children welcome. Pets permitted. Box 128, Monhegan Island, ME 04852; (207) 596-0371; www.islandinnmonhegan.com.

The Berry Manor Inn, Rockland

This 1898 shingle-style maroon with gold trim mansion is on a quiet residential street in the historic section of Rockland only a few blocks from the Farnsworth Museum and the harbor. Cheryl Michaelsen and Michael LaPosta have owned this inn since 1999. They've restored this magnificent house as well as the Carriage House next door and furnished both with period pieces. The mansion has large common rooms including a formal Victorian parlor, a drawing room and a dining room. A grand staircase leads to four large second floor rooms and a library lounge with four more rooms on the third floor.

The Carriage House has four large rooms including two (Rooms 9 and 11) that can be rented with an adjoining sitting room. The most luxurious, each with a king bed, gas fireplace and bath with whirlpool tub for two and separate jetted showers, are 9, 11, and 12. Favorites in the main inn are Room 3 and Room 1 with one of the original fireplaces. Room 5, part of the original ballroom on the third floor, is the largest room with a sitting area with a sleeper sofa.

Guests can help themselves to a selection of homemade pies and beverages from guest pantry throughout the day and evening. A very hearty breakfast is served at individual tables in the formal dining room, from 8 to 9:30.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Twelve rooms. Mid-June through mid-October \$165-\$265. Other times \$115-\$175. Afternoon/evening sweets and breakfast included. Children over 12. No pets. 81 Talbot Avenue, P.O. Box 1117, Rockland, ME 04841; (207) 596-7696; (800) 774-5692; www.berrymanorinn.com.

Samoset Resort, Rockport

This complex, situated on 230 acres overlooking Penobscot Bay, has something for everyone. There's an 18-hole oceanside golf course, an indoor and an outdoor pool, two hot tubs, two racquetball courts, four all-weather tennis courts, and a newly renovated health club with a new saline pool, steam room and strength room. There's a children's camp during the summer and school vacations and they have a huge playground. Marcel's (*see* Where to Dine) features tableside service.

The hotel has done a major refurbishment of the first three floors of the hotel and will be doing the fourth floor in 2008. The deluxe wing of the hotel with twenty-eight guest rooms is our preference as they have larger more upscale baths. Two-room suites in this section, a bedroom and a living room, each have deluxe baths. The original suites are all on the fourth floor with the best water views, a living room and a larger wooden deck. All rooms have decks of varying sizes.

The property includes seventy-two time-share one and two-bedroom condominium and townhouse units that can be rented by the night.

For the ultimate in privacy stay in the Flume Cottage, a fully-equipped two-bedroom house on a rocky spit of land surrounded by water adjacent to the fifteenth fairway.

Rooms, rates, etc.— 178 rooms and suites and 72 time-share units, all with private bath. May through mid-October: rooms \$209-\$439, suites \$359-\$619, condos \$339-\$469. Flume cottage \$999-\$1499. Lower rates at other times. Packages available. Children welcome. No pets. 220 Warrenton Street, Rockport, ME 04856; (207) 594-2511; (800) 341-1650; www.samoset.com.

Camden - Lincolnville

Hartstone Inn, Camden

Orchids and fine dining are the two themes of this large inn on Route 1 in the middle of downtown Camden next to the shops and across from the waterfront. Michael and Mary Jo Salmon purchased this 1835 white Victorian in 1998 and have since expanded into two additional buildings. Michael is an outstanding talented chef with a restaurant in the inn (*see Where to Dine*) and he conducts cooking classes.

All the top suites have large baths with double whirlpool tubs and gas fireplaces. The newest building is the Hideaway, not on the main street, with seven rooms and suites, a common room, breakfast room and a room for massages. Two favorites are the Sunflower Suite, the entire third floor, with a separate sitting room, bath with twin pedestal sinks, granite shower and whirlpool tub, and French Thyme Suite with two private entrances and a deck.

The Manor House has two suites. The Arbor is the more popular as it has private entrance, sunporch with wicker furniture, and king-size sleigh bed.

In the Main Inn the most popular are suites that are at the back of the inn away from the street. Carriage House Suite, located in the former carriage house, has a sitting area by the fireplace, a separate bedroom with a queen-size bed. Garden Suite, at the back of the main inn, is a bi-level suite with a private entrance, a lower-level sitting area with a gas fireplace and bedroom and bath on the upper level.

For breakfast (8:30 to 9:15) guests sit at individual tables. A blended fruit juice, fruit course and hot dish that could be blueberry and almond pancakes, lobster and asparagus quiche, or smoked salmon Benedict.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Twenty-one rooms and suites. June through mid-October \$125-\$265. November through May \$105-\$185. Afternoon tea, hors d'oeuvres and breakfast included. Children over 12. No pets. 41 Elm Street (Route 1), Camden, ME 04843; (207) 236-4259; (800) 788-4823; www.hartstoneinn.com

Maine Stay Inn, Camden

The inn, a grand sea captain's house decorated with a Maine cottage feel owned by Bob and Juanita Topper since 2002, is on Route 1 just north of the center of town. Common space for guests includes two parlors each with wood-burning fireplaces, a television room and a two-acre wooded garden with paths,



Maine Stay Inn

perennial beds, and sitting areas.

The favorites are the four suites all with Vermont Castings gas stoves. Two have a separate sitting room and two are very large rooms. Our favorites are Common Ground Room with a cathedral ceiling and French doors opening to a deck overlooking the garden and The Carriage House Room on the ground level with French doors opening onto a private stone patio that overlooks the gardens. The Amelia Huse Suite, the entire third floor, is good for a third person as it has a separate sitting room with a gas fireplace, a bedroom, plus a small adjoining room with a twin bed. The Topper Suite is two rooms at the front of the inn with a gas stove in the living room. The other four rooms are amply sized – a good value.

Guests have a choice of dining with other guests in the dining room or at individual tables on the sun porch. Tables are set with Sterling silver, Simon Pearce's handblown glass, and English bone china. Main courses could be an egg casserole, French toast, waffles or blueberry pancakes.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Eight rooms. Memorial Day weekend through October, \$135-\$250, other times \$110-\$185. Afternoon tea and breakfast included. Children over 10. No pets. 22 High Street (Route 1), Camden, ME 04843; (207) 236-9636; www.camdenmainestay.com

A Little Dream, Camden

Since 1988 innkeepers Joanne Ball and her husband Billy Fontana have continued to perfect this gem, our favorite in Camden, on Route 1 ½ mile north of the center of town.

The favorite accommodation is Islewatch Suite on the second



A Little Dream

level of the Carriage House (above Billy's sculpture studio). This is the largest and most deluxe suite with a king-size bed, gas fireplace, a sitting area, telescope, a large private porch and luxurious large bath with a double size soaking tub and separate shower. Treetops, on the third level of the Carriage House, is a bright and airy suite with the best views of the water from the large deck, a spacious living room with a wet bar and a small bedroom. The Loft, at the back of the Carriage House, has a tucked away feeling with a high ceiling and tiny balcony.

In the main inn the favorite is Castleview, on the second floor, with a king-size canopy bed and large deck. The Garden Patio has a king bed and bath with an oversize soaking tub, private entrance and patio. Garden Patio is all about the bath, an oversize freestanding porcelain tub, and about the little garden patio. Songbird is a very quiet room at the back of the house with a large deck.

An attractive breakfast, 8 to 9:30 and served at individual tables, includes a fruit dish, muffins or breads, and choice of

hot dish such as smoked salmon omelet or lemon ricotta soufflé pancakes with raspberry sauce.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Open early April to late November and late December through February. Six rooms and suites. In season \$159-\$295; other times of the year, \$129-\$235. Breakfast included. Not appropriate for children. No pets. 66 High Street (Route 1), Camden, ME 04843; (207) 236-8742; (800) 217-0109; www.littledream.com

Norumbega, Camden

This 1886 turreted stone castle on Route 1 is the most photographed building along Route 1. It has many architectural features such as parquet floors, fancy carved woodwork, and paneled walls. It has the feel of a little hotel. The first floor includes two parlors, a formal dining room, solarium, and open veranda.

Accommodations are on the second and third floors, the penthouse suite on the fourth floor, and on the lower garden level where the rooms open directly onto the rolling lawn. If you want to have the feeling of staying in a grand castle we suggest staying on the upper floors. The rooms at the back of the house are our preference because they are quiet and offer distant views of the water.

The penthouse suite (the only room that is air-conditioned) has a private spiral staircase leading from the third floor, a private deck, and bath with a two-person bathtub and a separate shower. The most popular room is the second floor Warwick Room which has a private deck and excellent view.

Rooms on the garden level open directly to the lawn but do not have the same feel of a staying in a castle as do the other rooms. The best is Arundel with a double whirlpool in a large bathroom and a private deck.

A full breakfast (8-9:30) including a hot dish such as gingerbread pancakes or Parmesan dill custard is served at individual tables generally in the solarium. They have a full bar and set out hors d'oeuvres each evening.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Twelve rooms and one penthouse suite. July through mid-October \$160-\$475. Other times of the year \$95-\$295. 10% service charge. Breakfast, hors d'oeuvres and snacks included. Children welcome. No pets. 63 High Street (Route 1), Camden, ME 04843; (207) 236-4646; (877) 363-4646; www.norumbegainn.com

The Inn at Sunrise Point, Lincolnville

This inn, four miles north of Camden directly on the water, has a prime location with all of the accommodations having water views. The property was purchased by Daina Hill in 2008. All the rooms, suites and cottages are named after famous Maine artists and writers. All have decks and fans but not air-conditioning. The two cottages that are closest to the water are Fitz Hugh Lane and Winslow Homer where you can hear the water lapping the shoreline practically under your cottage. The Fitz Hugh Lane Cottage is only ten feet from the water and Winslow Homer Cottage with almost the same view is fifteen feet from the water. Russo Cottage is the largest with a wide deck. Each of the cottages has king-size beds, wood-burning fireplaces and baths with both a double whirlpool and tiled shower. The Rachael Carson Suite, as close to the water as Hopper and Lane, has a sitting room with a gas fireplace, wet bar, microwave, and deck with a full water view. The Wyeth Loft which has a gas fireplace, partial ocean view and bath with a soaking tub and steam shower can be rented with an adjoining room.

The main building is a reconstructed early 1900s house with a solarium added at one end. It has an airy uncluttered feel. The first floor includes a library with a fieldstone fireplace, an Ocean Room facing a wall of windows, and deck. The three second floor rooms have wood-burning fireplaces, queen-size beds, and decks with water views. All have a CD player, flat screen TV/ DVD, ipod docking, and wireless internet.

Breakfast is served in the solarium from 8-9:30 with the option of sitting at tables for two or joining other couples at a larger table. It includes a cold buffet and a different hot dish daily with eggs always available as a second choice.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Open mid-April to mid-November. Nine rooms, suites and cottages. Mid-June through October \$345-\$595, other times \$300-\$450. Afternoon appetizers and breakfast included. Children over 12. No pets. P.O. Box 1344, Camden, ME 04843; (207) 236-7716; (800) 435-6278; www.sunrisepoint.com

Inn at Ocean's Edge, Lincolnville

Located five miles north of downtown Camden with direct access to the water, the inn includes four buildings: the main inn, Hilltop, Poolhouse and The Edge restaurant (*see Where to Dine*). The main inn is closer to the water than Hilltop and has an elevator and a handicapped-accessible room. Rooms in these two buildings (except the suites) are the same size, all very spacious with water views (except the two standard rooms), a double whirlpool tub in the corner of the room, king-size four poster bed, television, corner gas fireplace and two easy chairs. Rooms in the Hilltop Building have a balcony with a water view and refrigerator. The six rooms on the garden level of the main inn are ideal for a group as there is a common sitting room in the middle of this floor with plush sofas and a gas fireplace.

At the Poolhouse, opened in 2007, there's a vanishing edge heated pool and a Great Room with couches and a gas fireplace, a sauna, exercise room, and two spa treatment rooms. The second floor is two luxurious suites, much larger than the other suites and much closer to the water, each with a balcony, wet bar, gas fireplace, double whirlpool tub and 42" plasma television.

A full breakfast is served in the main inn. The cold buffet also includes smoked salmon and cheeses. Eggs are always available as well as a different hot dish daily such as pumpkin or blueberry pancakes or eggs Benedict.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Open late-April to New Year's Day. 32 rooms and suites. Late June through late-October \$260-\$425. Other times \$195-\$350. Breakfast included. Children over 14. No pets. Dinner available. 20 Stonecoast Road, US 1), Lincolnville, ME 04849; (207) 236-0945; www.innatoceansedge.com

Castine - Blue Hill - Deer Isle - Stonington

The Pentagöet Inn, Castine

The exterior of this prominent Victorian inn with its wide wrap-around porch with overflowing flower boxes, rocking chairs, and three-story turret is a favorite of photographers and artists. Innkeepers Julie VandeGraaf and Jack Burke have owned the inn since 2000. Before dinner (*see Where to Dine*) have a drink in Passports Pub with walls covered with Jack's fabulous collection of photographs of famous people and events.

They have upgraded all the rooms to give them a warmer feeling with the addition of lots of antiques old prints and lithographs, and down blankets and pillows.

Our favorites are the turret rooms as they are the front corner



The Pentagöet Inn

rooms with a great view looking down Castine's elm tree lined main street toward the harbor. Room 1 is the turret room on the second floor, a spacious room with seven windows, a king-size bed and redone bath. Room 7, the turret room on the third floor, has the best view and newly redone bath. Room 3 on the second floor is the only room with a private balcony.

The six-room Perkins Cottage located just behind the inn is the oldest part of the inn. The suite with a headboard made from an Odd Fellows throne has a separate sitting room with a wood-burning fireplace, the only one in the inn.

Breakfast, 8 to 9:30, is served at individual tables in the dining room or on the deck. A highlight of the buffet is a bowl of mixed fresh fruits served with baked muffins and coffee cake. A choice of three main dishes are offered daily: granola with yogurt, fresh and dried fruit and nuts; an egg dish; and French toast, waffles or pancakes.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Open May through October. Sixteen rooms. Peak \$125-265, other times \$99-\$245. Breakfast, afternoon tea and use of bicycles included. Children over 12. Pets permitted in selected rooms. 26 Main Street, P.O. Box 4, Castine, ME 04421; (207) 326-8616; (800) 845-1701; www.pentagoet.com

The Blue Hill Inn, Blue Hill

This traditional brick and white clapboard 1830s New England village inn was purchased by Sarah Pebworth in 2007. The tastefully coordinated rooms with yellow-pine floors original to the house and nineteenth-century antiques vary in size from enormous to comfortable.

If reading in bed and watching a wood-burning fire fits your image of a New England inn, choose Room 5, a second-floor corner room, or Room 10, a first-floor corner room, each with wood-burning fireplaces and queen-size beds. Room 4, another fireplace room, has a king-size bed. Other top choices are Room 8, the longest room, with a king bed and windows on three sides and Room 9, a third floor room with a bath between the bedroom and the sitting room.

The Cape House (handicap-accessible) next door is a large luxury suite with a cathedral ceiling, a king-size canopy bed, raised hearth wood-burning fireplace, kitchen and an outdoor deck.

A nightly event is a cocktail hour (wines available to purchase) with complimentary soft drinks and creative hors d'oeuvres.

Breakfast, 8-9:30 served at individual tables, includes a cold buffet plus a choice of three or four hot dishes such as waffles or French toast, an omelet or scrambled eggs often with crabmeat or lobster, and always blueberry pancakes.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Open mid-May through early November. Eleven rooms \$155-\$205, Cape House Suite (year-round) \$175-\$295. Breakfast, afternoon refreshments, and hors d'oeuvres included. Children welcome. No pets, except Cape House. 40 Union Street, Box 403, Blue Hill, ME 04614; (207) 374-2844; (800) 826-7415; www.bluehillinn.com

Pilgrim's Inn, Deer Isle

This distinctive inn, a large maroon 1793 Colonial in tiny Deer Isle village, was purchased by Tina Oddleifson and Tony Lawless in 2005. On the ground level is a tap room and lounge each with large eight-foot wood-burning fireplaces and the dining room (*see Where to Dine*).

The Rugosa Rose Cottage, the most deluxe accommodation, is a two-level suite. The first floor has a kitchenette, dining and sitting area and private deck. The second level is the bedroom with a gas fireplace, and large bath with a shower.

Ginny's Cottage, available year-round, has two units each with a large deck overlooking Northwest Harbor. Each has a living room with a TV, kitchenette and dining area, and bedroom. Ginny's Cottage 2 also has a gas fireplace.

Rooms in the inn have old pumpkin pine floors and are furnished with country antiques. Room 9 on the third floor is their newest renovation, is a very spacious room with a view of the harbor. Favorites on the second floor are Room 4 with the largest bath, Room 5 with a gas fireplace, and Room 6 with the best view of the harbor. Room 11 on the third floor has a window seat with a view of the millpond, queen-size bed and bath with Deer Isle granite vanity.

Breakfast, served from 8 to 9:30, includes a cold buffet plus a choice of hot dish such as omelets with bacon or sausage, blueberry pancakes or waffles.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Open May through mid-October. Twelve rooms and three cottages. \$129-\$249. Breakfast and tea included. Children over 10 in the main inn, any age in the cottages. No pets except in Ginny's. Bicycles available. Deer Isle, ME 04627; (207) 348-6615; (888) 778-7505; www.pilgrimsinn.com

Inn on the Harbor, Stonington

At this inn, situated in the middle of Stonington on the main street, you can't get any closer to the water. Sit on the decks or in easy chairs by the picture windows, experience the eleven-foot rising and falling of the tides beneath the deck and watch the activity of the fishing harbor. The inn is owned by Christina Shipp and the rooms are named after schooners that sail into Stonington Harbor. Ten face the water and have large windows; several have fireplaces and decks.



You can't stay any closer to the water than at The Inn on the Harbor

The top favorite is Heritage as it's a second floor room with a spectacular view, a fireplace, sitting area, king-size bed and access to the upper deck. Stephen Taber is a summer favorite as it offers a lot of privacy. It's a separate cottage with its own large private deck facing the harbor. Victory Chimes has a sitting area by the picture window facing the sea, fireplace and opens directly onto the main deck. American Eagle, a second floor efficiency suite, has a small but full kitchen, the only one at the inn, and a private deck.

The other rooms with water views are a little smaller. The three rooms that are on the village side of the inn do not have water views but do have access to the main deck that's available to all of the guests.

Continental breakfast, served in the breakfast room overlooking the water, includes a buffet of homemade breads, muffins, granola, yogurt and fruits.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Thirteen rooms, all with private bath. Late May through mid-October, \$130-\$215. Other times \$65-\$130. Continental breakfast included. Children over 12. No pets. Main Street, P.O. Box 69, Stonington, ME 04681; (207) 367-2420; (800) 942-2420; www.innontheharbor.com

Bar Harbor - Southwest Harbor **The Inn at Bay Ledge, Bar Harbor**

This deluxe inn, located off Route 3 a half-mile down a quiet road about five miles north of Bar Harbor, is in a tranquil setting perched on a ledge eighty feet above Frenchman Bay. From the inn you can walk down a wooden staircase to a secluded rocky



View of Frenchman Bay from the private second floor decks at Bay Ledge

beach. Cave-like shelters called The Ovens and Cathedral Rock, a massive rock formation with an opening you can walk through, are natural features unique to this property owned by longtime innkeepers Jack and Jeani Ochtera.

The first floor sitting area with a wood-burning fireplace faces French doors opening to a wide deck with wicker furniture that overlooks the water. Breakfast is served in the sun room which has a wood-stove, windows on three sides, and a view of the water. A few steps from the deck is a good-sized heated outdoor pool with a view of the bay. Be sure to spend some time sitting in the two chairs at the edge of the ledge, with a grand view of Frenchman Bay, and relax in the large sauna and steam shower especially after a day of hiking in Acadia.

The top accommodation is the very private Summer Cottage, a gray shingled bungalow with a spacious deck that's 25-foot

from the edge of the cliff. The first floor is a living room with a riverstone fireplace and the second floor is the bedroom with a king-sized bed and bath with an oversized whirlpool tub and shower.

You can see the water from all of the rooms in the main building except one. The favorites are Rooms 7, 8, and 9 on the second floor with a full front view of Frenchman Bay, private decks with awnings, and bath with a whirlpool tub.

The three attached cottages across the road in a wooded setting were recently completely redecorated. They are spacious rooms with private porches but no water view, gas log fireplaces, and king size beds.

Breakfast, served from 8 to 9, includes a fruit dish, granola, muffins, and a hot dish such as blueberry pudding with custard sauce, hash with salsa or puffs with berries.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Open May through mid-October. Seven rooms and four cottages. Mid-June through mid-October \$150-\$475; early season \$100-\$375. Breakfast and afternoon refreshment included. Children over 16. No pets. No smoking. 1385 Sand Point Road, Bar Harbor, ME 04609; (207) 288-4204; winter (207) 875-3262; www.innatbayledge.com.

Manor House Inn, Bar Harbor

The yellow 22-room Victorian inn with a wide porch is on an acre of land on a quiet street in the middle of Bar Harbor. The property includes the mansion, Garden Cottages, Chauffer's Cottage, and Acadia Cottage. Ken Smith, who grew up in Bar Harbor, and his wife Stacey purchased the inn in 2001.

Acadia Cottage, built in 2000, has four large rooms each with a wet bar, gas fireplace, television, and large bath with a whirlpool tub. Acadia Southeast and Acadia West, a suite, have double-sized whirlpools and separate showers. All have queen-size beds except Acadia Downeast, a first floor room with a massive king-size bed. In the chauffeur's cottage the favorite is the intimate second floor honeymoon suite with a sitting room with a gas fireplace and balcony. The two garden cottages, spacious rooms with a gas fireplace and television, have front porches overlooking the garden. In the main inn the favorite fireplace room is Room 5, the former master bedroom. Room 6 is a large corner room and Room 10, on the third floor, is a two-bedroom suite.

A breakfast buffet, 7:30 to 9, includes a fresh fruit, baked bread or muffins and a hot dish. Guests can sit at one large or several small tables or outside in the breakfast garden.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Open mid-April through October. 18 rooms and suites. Late June to August \$148-\$237; other times \$80-\$200. Breakfast and afternoon tea included. Children over 12. No pets. 106 West Street, Bar Harbor, ME 04609; (207) 288-3759; (800) 437-0088; www.barharbormanorhouse.com

Ullikana, Bar Harbor

This large granite and stucco 1885 English Tudor-style house owned by longtime innkeepers Roy Kasindorf and H el ene Harton is tucked in a secluded section of downtown Bar Harbor close to the waterfront. The inn is filled with their extensive collection of paintings, prints, art books and books about Acadia. Their second building is A Yellow House, an 1872 house located across the drive. They've kept the feel of the period and much of the original furnishings including the wicker and Oriental rug in the back parlor and the collection of old maps hung on the walls.

H el ene has a great flair for decorating using colorful fabrics and wall coverings many of which come from France. Our top favorite at Ullikana on the second floor are the two rooms with private

terraces with a view of Frenchman Bay (which may be obscured by the leaves), Room 6 with a queen bed and Room 5, with a king-size bed, fireplace, and a private bath across the hall. On the third floor we like Room 7 with a king-size bed and a deck.

A Yellow House has a wide wraparound porch with rocking chairs, a front parlor with a fireplace, back parlor and a guest pantry. Of the six rooms in this building the favorite is Jack's Room that opens onto the wraparound porch.

Breakfast, served 8 to 9:30 on the terrace during the summer, includes a fruit course and a creative main course such as individual puff pancakes filled with blueberries and raspberries or chocolate crêpes with ricotta filling.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Open mid-May through October. Sixteen rooms. Mid-June through October, \$175-\$340. Other times \$125-\$250. Breakfast and late afternoon wine and cheese included. Children over 12. No pets. 16 The Field, Bar Harbor, ME 04609; (207) 288-9552; www.ullikana.com

The Bass Cottage Inn, Bar Harbor

This luxurious inn located on a quiet drive off the main street in the middle of Bar Harbor was a summer cottage built in 1885 by the Bass family. Totally transformed by Teri and Jefferey Anderholm it opened in 2004. They've kept almost the entire first floor as common space for their guests including a sun porch, living room, parlor, library and lounge, three of which have gas fireplaces. They've decorated in a clean uncluttered style that combines eclectic pieces, antiques, and arts and crafts pieces.

The largest room is 3 with a king bed, fireplace and bath with a two-person whirlpool tub and separate shower. Room 4 with a king cherry sleigh bed and fireplace and 9 with a four poster black canopy bed and stove have views of the harbor. Room 6, a less expensive room, has a queen bed, bath with a soaking tub and shower, and harbor view. Room 10 with a king bed offers the most privacy as it is the entire third floor.

Breakfast, served at individual tables, always includes a choice of two hot dishes as well or their homemade granola. These could be lobster quiche with sweet potatoes, banana ricotta pancakes or duck trap stack, layers of smoked salmon, scrambled eggs, and tomatoes atop an English muffin.

They have a guest pantry with complimentary beverages and cookies available throughout the day. In the early evening in season and on some weekends off-season they serve hors d'oeuvres as well as white and red wine.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Open mid-May through late October. Ten rooms. High season \$210-\$360. Off-season \$175-\$275. Breakfast, snacks, and wine and hors d'oeuvres (high season) included. Children over 12. No pets. 14 The Field, Box 242, Bar Harbor, ME 04609; (207) 288-1234; (866) 782-9224; www.basscottage.com

Balance Rock Inn, Bar Harbor

This turn-of-the-century waterfront mansion has the feel of an upscale little hotel. It is set on two and a half acres with magnificent expansive views of the ocean from the living room, many of the rooms, the pool and veranda yet it is a block from the middle of Bar Harbor. In 1986 a large wing was added, nearly doubling its size.

All of the rooms except four have ocean views. Most have fireplaces that use duraflame logs and single-size whirlpool tubs; some have steam baths, private saunas, and private decks. All have TV/DVD (complimentary library), and mattresses that you can adjust the firmness of.

The duplex penthouse is the ultimate. One level is the bedroom with a fireplace, balcony, sitting room, kitchen and bath. The second level has a high angled ceiling, a double whirlpool tub, sitting area and large screen TV. Also in the tower are two additional but smaller apartments with a bed-sitting room and a kitchen.

The favorite room is 105 with a king-canopy bed, fireplace, sauna, whirlpool tub and porch with full front ocean view. Room 308 is similar. Room 304 is unusual as you can climb a ladder to the Widow's Walk on the roof. The large Carriage House rooms, non ocean view, are the newest, each with a private deck.

An exercise room is located in the Carriage House. Breakfast, 8 to 10, is a full buffet including a different hot dish daily as well as fruit, granola, and baked goods.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Open early May through October. Seventeen rooms and three suites. Early-June through mid-October, rooms \$225-\$625. other times \$115-\$625. Breakfast and afternoon refreshment included. Children over 12. Pets permitted. 21 Albert Meadow, Bar Harbor, ME 04609; (207) 288-2610; (800) 753-0494; www.barharborvacations.com.

Harbor Ridge, Southwest Harbor

This townhouse community of time-share rentals is on a sloped ridge above Southwest Harbor. A path winds through a wooded area to the town, about a ten-minute walk. They have a tennis court, playground and community building with an indoor swimming pool, hot tub, fitness center and game room.

The complex includes five sections of attached three-level townhouses, all with views.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Forty 1- and 2-bedroom units. \$500-\$1600 per week, nightly \$95-\$250, available 7 days in advance. Children welcome. No pets. P.O. Box 725, Freeman Ridge Road, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679; (207) 244-7000; www.harborridge.com.

The Kingsleigh Inn, Southwest Harbor

This beige house with dark green shutters stands out as you drive down the main street of Southwest Harbor as the large sign, window boxes and hanging plants on the wicker-filled wraparound porch give the inn an inviting air. The entrance to the inn is through the kitchen which has a high counter and row of stools.

Beyond the kitchen there's a living room with a wood-burning fireplace, a dining room and porch with a view of the harbor.

The prize accommodation is the three-room third-floor turret suite overlooking Hinckley boatyard and distant coastal islands. A living room with a television and a separate bedroom with a gas fireplace and king-size bed makes this a superb hideaway. The favorite rooms are the three second floor rooms with private decks with a view of the harbor. Each has a queen-size bed.

Breakfast, served from 8 to 9, includes a cold buffet and different creative hot dish each day. In season it is served on the porch overlooking the harbor.

Rooms, rates, etc.— Open late April through October. Seven rooms and a suite. Mid-June through mid-October, \$150-\$305. other times \$130-\$245. Breakfast and afternoon refreshment included. Children over 12. No pets. 373 Main Street, Box 1426, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679; (207) 244-5302; www.kingsleighinn.com



WHERE TO Dine

Many of the restaurants in this area of Maine especially those that cater to summer tourists operate seasonally. If you are coming early spring or late fall call ahead.

Ogunquit – Wells - Kennebunkport Arrows, Ogunquit

Whenever the topic of food and the Maine coast is discussed, the inevitable question is “Have you been to Arrows?” Longtime chefs/owners Clark Fraser and Mark Gaier created a French garden restaurant in a circa 1725 colonial farmhouse with an outstanding reputation. It is in the country, about two miles from the center of Ogunquit. The dining room has original plank floors, post and beam construction, and large windows overlook two seasonally decorated garden displays which are lit at night. Their one-acre garden, where much of the specialty produce for the restaurant is raised, is next to the parking area.

The service is formal but not stuffy. Our favorite dishes include the lobster with foie gras croutons, mashed potatoes, crème fraîche sauce and house cured bacon and the tuna with Maine clams. In season the garden tasting menu is very special. For dessert we like the 8 layered chocolate cake with almond nougatine, spiced chocolate sauce and cocoa chantilly.

Hours, prices, etc.— Open Late April through Thanksgiving. Dinner Tuesday through Sunday at peak times. Entrées \$42-\$46. Located on Berwick Road, Ogunquit. (207) 361-1100; www.arrowsrestaurant.com. Check their website for opening times, directions, dress code and cancellation policy.

98 Provence, Ogunquit

We felt as though we were in the south of France at this local favorite that’s known for its authentic Provençal style cooking. A stone wood-burning fireplace is in the bar area and the dining room has exposed beams, wood paneled walls, and a décor that includes pottery roosters and Provençal floral print linens. Roasted monkfish, roasted venison loin with black trumpet mushrooms and, our favorite, a wonderful cassoulet with duck confit, rabbit sausage and lamb shank are examples of the delicious food served here.

Hours, prices, etc.— Open April through November and the 1st two weekends in December. Closed Tuesdays (also Wednesday in the off-season). Dinner, entrées \$21-\$30. 3-course prix fixe \$31-\$39. 104 Shore Road, Ogunquit; (207) 646-9898; www.98provence.com

MC Perkins Cove, Ogunquit

The chef-owners from Arrows created a casual upscale American Bistro at one of the most spectacular settings on the Atlantic Coast, along the water in Perkins Cove, the former Hurricane’s restaurant. Here you get great American cooking that includes produce from Arrows gardens.

Particularly appealing appetizers to share include the grand shellfish “Tower” with oysters, littleneck clams, jumbo shrimp,

tuna sashimi, mussels, and Maine lobster with three sauces; and Balinese ground chicken satay with peanut dipping sauce. Entrées include smoked duck breast “à l’orange” and a duck leg confit with star anise and tangerine, steamed lobster, and a number of grilled fish and meats that come with your choice of sauce and “evil carbs”. A la carte sides are called “virtuous vegetables”.

Hours, prices, etc.—Lunch and dinner. Closed Tuesdays and January. See website. Lunch and bar menu \$10-\$20; Dinner entrées \$24-\$35. 111 Perkins Cove Road, Perkins Cove, Ogunquit; (207) 646- 6263; www.mcperkinscove.com

Billy’s Chowder House, Wells

“We did over 2,100 meals one day in August” the owner told us while we waited for one of the window tables overlooking a section of the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge. We can well understand its popularity as it has a wide-ranging menu and moderate prices.

Sandwich combinations include lobster and scallop rolls, grilled chicken, and burgers. The fryer turns out fish and chips, clam cakes, crab cakes, scallops, shrimp, and oysters, and filet of sole. Lobster fans can get a twin lobster special, shore dinner or baked stuffed lobster.

Hours, prices, etc.—Late January through early December. Daily, lunch and dinner. \$3-\$19. On the road to the beach, Lobster Landing, Wells; (207) 646-7558; www.billyschowderhouse.com

The Maine Diner, Wells

Give them plenty of good home-cooked food at a low price and they will come year round day and night. And they do at this spot owned by the Henry family that has become an institution. It has a vast menu featuring all the shore food and diner food you could possibly want. The lobster pie has become the trademark. Steamed lobster meat is cooked in butter with the lobster tomalley, juices and lemon juice along with crushed Ritz crackers and baked in an individual casserole.

Hours, prices, etc.— Daily 7 a.m.-7 p.m., until 9:30 p.m. in summer. 2265 Post Road, Route 1, Wells, south of the Route 9 intersection; (207) 646-4441; www.mainediner.com

Grissini Italian Bistro, Kennebunk

This Tuscan-style trattoria has a large wood-burning oven in full view at one side of the large high ceiling dining room. The atmosphere is casual but sophisticated. Paper covers the tables; the ceiling has exposed ducts; music is opera and light Italian songs; and there’s a stone patio for outdoor dining and a downstairs grotto with the same menu and a lighter fare menu.

Dishes we’ve had include pizza which is thin crusted as we like; orecchiette pasta with spicy broccoli rabe, Italian sausage and roasted garlic; and wood-grilled chicken with grilled asparagus and cipollini onions.

Hours, prices, etc.— Dinner nightly, entrées \$18-\$37. 27 Western Avenue, Kennebunk; (207) 967-2211. www.restaurantgrissini.com

The White Barn Inn, Kennebunk

The candlelit main dining room is a classic New England barn with seasoned wood interior walls with oil paintings, exposed rafters, and a second floor filled with an assortment of artfully arranged items one might have found stashed in an old barn: a hay rake, old steamer trunks, baskets, pulleys, a pair of ice tongs, a rocking chair, scales, and old signs advertising elixirs, old harnesses, and house paints. A large picture window in each of the two barn dining rooms looks onto a viewing porch much like a theater set dramatically lighted and seasonally decorated.

The exceptionally knowledgeable staff serves in a formal elegant manner with each dish brought from the kitchen by a waiter and all at the table are served simultaneously. Without a doubt this is the most formal and elegant dining north of Boston.

Tables are set with sculptures made from old silverware. The menu changes every week and is on their website whitebarn.com. It includes a choice of about six appetizers, eight entrées and six desserts. We fondly remembered and couldn't resist the steamed tender lobster pieces served on a bed of homemade delicate fettuccine with slivered carrots, ginger, snow peas and a cognac butter sauce. It's their signature entrée which we highly recommend. The wine list is outstanding.

Hours, prices, etc.— Dinner nightly, Jacket required. Prix fixe \$93. 37 Beach Avenue, Kennebunkport; (207) 967-2321; www.whitebarninn.com

Alisson's, Kennebunkport

This is the local hangout in town. The menu includes a wide range of sandwiches with colorful names and descriptions like Jay Heno, fried chicken tenders with fries & cole slaw, and Bill Bellichicken, grilled cajun spiced chicken breast with pepperjack cheese, red onion, lettuce, tomato and chipotle ranch dressing on a grilled bun. The fried contingent consists of haddock, shrimp, scallops and clams. More substantial dinners include broiled haddock, seafood fettuccine, steak, lobster, roast prime rib, etc. For pub noshing- nachos, fried potato skins, and Buffalo-style chicken wings.

Hours, prices, etc.— Daily, lunch, dinner. \$6-\$24. 5 Dock Square, Kennebunkport; (207) 967-4841. www.alissons.com

Cape Arundel Inn, Kennebunkport

This turn-of-the-century seaside shingle cottage, now an inn and restaurant, features excellent food and a magnificent panorama of the timeless rocky Maine seacoast. The 60 seats are on two levels so all can enjoy the view. Lobster chardonnay risotto with wild mushrooms, roasted asparagus tips, and shaved Reggiano Parmesan and panko crusted Maine crab cakes with napa cabbage slaw and gingered wasabi aioli are always on the menu. We enjoyed the pan-fried potato crusted halibut with roasted vegetables and dill horseradish remoulade.

Hours, prices, etc.—Open Mid-February through December. Dinner, entrées \$23-\$36. Ocean Avenue, Kennebunkport; (207) 967-2125. www.capearundelinn.com

No trip to this area of the coast of Maine is complete without a lobster roll or lobster dinner.

Nunan's Lobster Hut, Cape Porpoise. This is a run down, terrible looking, wonderfully cramped black and red building, a much-beloved institution that works. Diners sit at picnic tables and feed on lobsters in the rough, steamers, and blueberry pie.

For kids who aren't lobster lovers there is peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. After dinner, you wash your hands in the corner at the porcelain sink using a bottle of liquid detergent instead of a bar of soap. Late April to mid-October. Dinner. No credit cards. Route 9, Cape Porpoise; (207) 967-4362.

Port Lobster, Kennebunkport. This is a wholesale operation with a take-out counter. They will cook lobsters for you to take out for a picnic. We found that the lobster rolls here were the lowest priced around. If the weather is nice take your lobster roll and head across the street to picnic on the rocks at the breakwater. They also will pack lobsters for travel. 122 Ocean Avenue, Kennebunkport; (800) 486-7029; www.portlobster.com

Clam Shack, Kennebunkport. You can order fried clams or a lobster roll at this take-out stand on the bridge in one of the busiest areas of Kennebunkport in the summer. But watch out for the sea gulls who are adept at sweeping down and picking off a fried clam. May through mid-October. On the bridge, Kennebunkport; (207) 967-2560. www.theclamshack.net

Cape Pier Chowder House, Cape Porpoise. This little shack is located at the end of Pier Road. Sit on the deck overlooking the water. The menu includes fish sandwiches and lobster rolls, boiled lobster dinners and fried haddock, clams, shrimp and scallops. For live or cooked lobster and seafood to take-out or to be shipped, go to the Cape Porpoise Lobster Co., ¾ mile back on the left side of the road. Memorial Day through Labor Day, daily, lunch and dinner. Call for hours before or after these dates. Pier Road, Cape Porpoise; (207) 967-0123; www.capeporpoiselobster.com

Portland – Cape Elizabeth Fore Street, Portland

This is the hottest reservation to get in Portland and well deservedly so. The restaurant is a large room on two levels with an open kitchen and view of the water and the ferry terminal, and a quieter back room behind the wood oven. Almost everything is prepared in front of you if you are sitting in the large room - a wood fired brick oven, a wood grill with a revolving spit, a third area with gas burners, bread and salad stations.

The menu changes with the seasons. The three times we dined here the cooler displayed different unusual produce: boxes of fresh organic greens, edible cattails, artichokes with stems, and wild foraged mushrooms. The salad greens all came from Maine and were perfect.

We still remember the wood oven roasted Atlantic sardines and the Casco Bay mussels that were cooked with garlic almond butter in the wood oven. Also from the turnspit the Maine rabbit and the chicken were hits. Most of the cheeses come from New England.

Hours, prices, etc.—Dinner nightly. Entrées \$17-\$34. 288 Fore Street, Portland; (207) 775-2717; www.forestreet.biz

Street and Co., Portland

This small very popular informal seafood restaurant located on narrow cobblestoned Wharf Street in the Old Port area serves large portions of exceptionally well-prepared, simply cooked seafood. Shiny copper clad tables are both attractive and practical as individual sauté pans are whisked from the stove and placed directly on the tables.

You can sit at the marble topped bar in the small room where you enter, have a drink, choose oysters and clams that are spread out on ice and opened in front of you. The main dining room

overlooks the open kitchen. Our most recent dinner included a salad of organic spinach with red pepper and crumbled feta cheese and a favorite of lobster fra diavolo for two. Day boat halibut, roasted monkfish, and yellow fin sushi grade tuna were also served.

Hours, prices, etc.--Dinner nightly. Entrées \$16-\$29. 33 Wharf Street, Portland; (207) 775-0887.

Cinque Terre, Portland

This Old Port restaurant features a Northern Italian menu from the Ligurian region, the area near Genoa. The dining room is a single room with an open kitchen and a second floor balcony. It has crisp white linen covered tables, brick and pastel walls with local art, and classical and opera music playing quietly in the background.

The food here is very good and quite authentic. Most dishes are priced for a small or standard size portion so you can graze through the menu trying half portions of antipasti, soup, pasta, risotto, salads, fish, meat and dessert if you like. The 100-bottle wine list is exclusively Italian. We had Trenette pasta from Liguria served with Monk fish, mussels, pinenuts, sundried tomatoes, oregano, sea urchin, a delicious dish. For a main dish we had grilled balsamic marinated quail, white bean purée, brussels sprouts and pan seared Arctic char with Swiss chard, leeks, farro, fregola, and chickpeas.

Hours, prices, etc.--Dinner nightly. Entrées \$16-\$24. 36 Wharf Street, Portland; (207) 347 6154; www.cinqueterremaine.com

The Flatbread Company, Portland

We were pleasantly surprised to find one of our favorite pizzas located on the waterfront next to the Casco Bay Ferry Terminal. They have a large dining room where you can watch the pizza being made. The outdoor deck overlooks the working Portland harbor. Pizza is made from 100% organically grown wheat and baked in a 900 degree wood-fired earthen oven inside the restaurant.



Splitting wood for the wood-fired earthen pizza oven at The Flatbread Company

Hours, prices, etc.—Daily, lunch and dinner, pizzas \$8-\$18. 72 Commercial St., Portland; (207) 772-8777

Becky's on Hobson's Wharf, Portland

Portland still has a large fishing industry and this diner is right in the middle of the action on Hobson's Wharf. Expect a line at

lunch as tourists love this diner that opens at 4 a.m. every day. Breakfast is served all day. Salad plates, meatloaf, roast turkey, broiled haddock, grilled chicken breast are part of the extensive menu. There are sandwiches, spaghetti and desserts of chocolate cream pie, fruit pies, cakes, etc. As they like to say today this is real comfort food. They have a fun website.

Hours, prices, etc.--Daily 4 a.m. -9 p.m. 390 Commercial Street, Portland; (207) 773-7070; www.beckysdiner.com

Sea Glass, Inn by the Sea, Cape Elizabeth

The restaurant, an attractive airy-feeling intimate dining room located in the Inn by the Sea about a twenty-minute drive south of the center of Portland, has a romantic feel and a distant view of the water. The room was renovated recently and the outdoor deck expanded. The focus is on local seafood and regional farmers including the use of grass-fed beef and lamb. Before or after your meal take the boardwalk that starts right behind the inn and leads to Crescent Beach State Park.

Hours, prices, etc.—Lunch and dinner nightly in season. Lunch \$20-\$25. Dinner entrees \$26-\$30. Route 77, Cape Elizabeth; (207) 799-3134; (800) 888-4287; www.innbythesea.com

Black Point Inn, Prouts Neck

There are two dining rooms at this grand old New England oceanside inn built in 1878. The Point is for fine dining. The Chart Room, the more informal, serves breakfast and continuously from lunch through dinner. It has an outdoor deck and live music in the summer. If you want to walk the Cliff Trail or visit Winslow Homer's studio we suggest having a meal here as there is no public parking at Prouts Neck.

Hours, prices, etc.—Open early May through December. Breakfast, lunch, dinner daily in season. Lunch \$8-\$13, dinner entrées \$17-\$30. 510 Black Point Road, Prouts Neck; (207) 883-2500; (800) 258-0003; www.blackpointinn.com

Freeport - Harpswell - Georgetown Harraseeket Inn, Freeport

We have a lot of respect for this kitchen. On the back of the menu is a list of local Maine farmers and producers who supply the formal Maine Dining Room. Lobster stew is made with plenty of lobster pieces and sweet sherry cream. Tableside preparations feature classic Caesar salad, chateaubriand or rack of lamb for two.

For a more casual meal try the Broad Arrow Tavern decorated to feel like a Maine backwoods hunting and fishing camp. The menu includes steamed clams, oysters, baked beans with brown bread pancakes, lobster roll, grilled vegetable sandwich, or entrées such as fried clams, scallops, steamed lobster, grilled sirloin steak, or macaroni and Maine cheddar cheese.

Hours, prices, etc.--Lunch and dinner in the Broad Arrow Tavern, \$8-\$21. Buffet lunch during the summer, \$14, and dinner nightly in the Maine Dining Room, entrées \$16-\$38. 162 Main Street, Freeport; (207) 865-9377; (800) 342-6423; www.harraseeketinn.com

The Dolphin, South Harpswell

Only someone who is local or is given an inside tip will know to turn off the main road to get to the restaurant which is located in a marina overlooking the water. However, the restaurant is not unknown as during the summer there often can be a long wait

during the usual meal times. The lobster stew or, if that's too pricey, the fish chowder is the dish to order here. We had a bowl with lots of large pieces of lobster floating in cream and a large blueberry muffin. The menu has the usual choices of sandwiches, fried seafood, steamed lobsters and mussels, and dinners served with blueberry muffins. We couldn't resist a piece of the rhubarb pie with ice cream.

Hours, prices, etc.—Open May through October. Daily, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Route 123 through West Harpswell; right at Ash Point Road, right on Basin Point Road for 2½ miles to the end. South Harpswell; (207) 833-6000; www.dolphinchowderhouse.com

Robinhood Free Meetinghouse, Georgetown

This is one of the best restaurants in this area. While it is a bit off-the-beaten path it is well worth the effort to get to this renovated 1855 historic church and meetinghouse owned by chef Michael Gagné. The restaurant is on the first floor. The second floor chapel with a 16-foot ceiling and 10-foot windows with the original pews and the choir loft is used for private functions and for dinner on busy nights. Be sure to ask to see the second floor chapel when you dine here.

The very large menu is a tour of world cuisines. On our last visit there were thirty-three entrées and twenty six soups, salads, pastas, and appetizers, so the combinations are tremendous. Thai lobster, scallops, and shrimp with bok choy, peanuts, snow peas, basil, and green curry, served over basmati rice is one of the interesting entrées.

Hours, prices, etc.-- Daily mid-May to mid-October. Thursday through Saturday mid-October to mid-May. Dinner, entrées \$19-\$25. Six miles south of Bath off Route 127; left on Robinhood Road for one mile. 210 Robinhood Road, Georgetown; (207) 371-2188; www.robinhood-meetinghouse.com

Boothbay Harbor Rocktide Inn, Boothbay Harbor

This large restaurant, here since the 1960s, is in the middle of town right on the water on the eastside of Boothbay Harbor. One of the largest model boat collections we have seen in a restaurant is displayed in glass cases by the dining rooms and at the entrance. A working collection of LGB model trains, four times the size of conventional HO model trains, travel around the perimeter of the dining rooms just below the ceiling.

For the best view of the water sit in the lower section. From the twenty appetizers, salads and soups we chose starters of Maine lobster cakes and fresh Damariscotta River oysters served on ice. Twenty six entrées came with a choice of green or Caesar salad, popover, and choice of potato or rice. Lobster is served many ways: steamed, sautéed in butter with champagne and cream, stuffed with seafood, lobster pie, and Newburg with a pastry topping.

Hours, prices, etc.—Open mid-June through mid-October. Dinner nightly, entrées \$18-\$25, lobster (market price) 35 Atlantic Avenue, Boothbay Harbor; (207) 633-4455; www.rocktideinn.com

Ports of Italy, Boothbay Harbor

This Italian restaurant is a real hit in town especially with the locals. The owners are a husband and wife team. He is from Milan and runs the kitchen; she is U.S. born and is in the dining room. Try the excellent risotto with seafood, veal saltimbocca, the seafood stew or the gnocchi and if you don't worry about

cholesterol have the sabayon for dessert.

Hours, prices, etc.—Open April through mid-October. Dinner Monday through Saturday. Entrées \$20-\$28. Just off Townsend Avenue, 47 Commercial Street, Boothbay Harbor; (207) 633-1011

Here's a selection of our favorite lobster pounds and casual restaurants from Cape Elizabeth just south of Portland to East Boothbay, where you can attack your lobster with gusto. Some of the smaller places come and go and others are always popping up.

Two Lights Lobster Shack. A favorite of Portland area residents for more than fifty years. You can't have your boiled lobster much closer to the water than at picnic tables not more than 20 feet from the waves crashing on the rocks. Open April through mid-October. Off Route 77, at the end of Two Lights Road, Cape Elizabeth; (207) 799-1677.

Harraseeket Lunch and Lobster Company. When you tire of the crowds and shopping in Freeport drive two miles to this quiet little fishing harbor and boatyard for lobsters and fried seafood. Open seasonally. South Freeport; (207) 865-4888.

Allen's Lobster Wharf. A very small operation with cooking done in a trailer. They have a couple of picnic tables next to a working fishing wharf. Sunsets here are spectacular. Open seasonally. Lookout Point Road (just after Harpswell Inn. Harpswell; (207) 837-3578.

Morse's Lobster. It's definitely off-the beaten path, down a dirt road. Outdoor tables on the wharf overlooking the water. Open seasonally. Route 123 south 8 miles from Route 1. Left ½ mile on Allen Point Road, left on Morse Shore Road. Harpswell; (207) 833-2399

Estes Lobster House. Order at the counter and eat inside or outside. The large lobster house, located on a thin strip of land just before the tip of South Harpswell, has great views in all directions. Open seasonally. Route 123, South Harpswell; (207) 833-6340. Other Estes on Bailey Island and Cundy Harbor.

Cook's Lobster House. This is a large family restaurant with a full menu. Great views. Open year-round for lunch and dinner. Route 24, Bailey Island; (207) 833-2818; www.cookslobster.com

Five Islands Lobster Co. On the dock of this working harbor. Lobster and steamers as well as fried seafood and sandwiches. Open seasonally. Route 127 South just east of Bath. Follow to end. Georgetown; (207) 371-2990; www.fiveislandslobster.com

Dena's Lobster. An outdoor dining spot with picnic tables perched on the rocks and a minimal menu of lobster and steamers. Route 127 almost to Five Islands, then follow the road signs. It's really off the beaten path; (207) 371-CRAB.

Clambake at Cabbage Island. This is not just lunch or dinner but a 3½ hr. afternoon excursion to a 5½ acre island just off Boothbay Harbor where you are served a real clambake steamed dinner with all the fixings. There is plenty of time to explore the island. Late-June through Labor Day. Boothbay Harbor; (207) 633-7200; www.cabbageislandclambakes.com

Robinson's Wharf. This is the place to go for lobster in the rough if you are staying in Boothbay Harbor and want to escape the crowds. They also have fried seafood, chowder and burgers. Picnic tables on the dock and inside dining. mid-June through Labor Day. Route 27, Southport Island; (207) 633-3830; www.livelobstersfrommaine.com

Lobsterman's Wharf. This restaurant is next to Hodgdon

Yachts boatyard with indoor and deck seating overlooking the Damariscotta River. It offers a full menu of lobster and other local fish as well as non-seafood items. Open seasonally. Route 96, East Boothbay; (207) 633-3443.

Pemaquid Point **Shaw's, New Harbor**

This lobster in the rough dining spot with an outdoor deck overlooks one of the most photographed and painted fishing harbors in Maine. It has been upscaled just a bit over the years. There is now a bar on the ground level. The lobster and commercial fishing boats still unload their catch here and next door at the lobstermen's co-op. The Hardy boat leaves for trips to Monhegan Island and for trips to see the puffins at Eastern Egg Rock from this dock.

Hours, etc.— Open seasonally, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. On Shaw's Wharf off Route 32, New Harbor; (207) 677-2200.



Lobster in the rough at Shaw's

The Bradley Inn, Pemaquid Point

The restaurant and the long granite and mahogany bar are attractively decorated with antique nautica including ship models in glass cases, oil paintings, prints, and nautical charts as it's just a couple of hundred yards from the Pemaquid Point Lighthouse, one of the icons of the American landscape. Over the years on various visits we have enjoyed the Italian style seafood stew which stays on the menu, Maine crab blended with lobster to make the crab cakes, juicy farm-raised oysters from close by Damariscotta served on the half shell, and tuna tenderloin on a bed of shredded vegetables with spicy peanut sauce and fried wontons.

Hours, prices, etc.— Dinner daily April through Columbus Day, Fewer days rest of the year. Entrées \$25-\$40. 3063 Bristol Road, New Harbor; (207) 677-2105; (800) 942-5560; www.bradleyinn.com

The Sea Gull Restaurant, Pemaquid Point

Perched right on the rocks at Pemaquid Point, this general tourist store has a small dining area overlooking the ocean. They serve traditional breakfast of eggs and blueberry pancakes, lunch of lobster rolls and hamburgers, sandwiches and salads and traditional fried seafood and steaks at dinner. It's not the food but views from the window tables which are grand.

Hours, prices, etc.— Open Early May to mid-October.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily 8 to 8 mid-June to end of August. Breakfast and lunch other times. Pemaquid Point; (207) 677-2374; www.seagullshop.com

Moody's Diner, Waldoboro

Everybody stops at Moody's at one time or another if they have driven up the coast of Maine. During the summer it's packed all day and into the night. The food is traditional New England fare: chowders, pies, blueberry muffins, pancakes, New England boiled dinners, and all at prices that won't break anyone's budget.

Hours, prices, etc.— Open 24 hours except midnight to 5 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. Route 1, Waldoboro; ME; (207) 832-7785. www.moodydiner.com

Monhegan Island **The Island Inn, Monhegan Island**

Come early and snag a window table and enjoy a grand sunset overlooking the harbor on Monhegan Island. The food and service varies here depending who the chef is for the season and who is running the dining room. On our recent visit in June the food and service were very good. Most tourists come to Monhegan for the day and The Island Inn is a relaxing spot to rest after a hike on the island. Lunch features clam chowder, lobster bisque, lobster rolls, boiled lobster and fish and chips, as well as chicken, burgers, salads, and sandwiches. Dinner is traditional fare with a bit more elaborate preparations.

Hours, prices, etc.— Open Memorial Day to Columbus Day. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. Monhegan Island; (207) 596-0371; www.islandinnmonhegan.com

Rockland **Primo, Rockland**

The 110 year old Victorian house is located 1 mile south of downtown Rockland on Route 73. Co-owners and executive chef Melissa Kelly and pastry chef Price Kushner, who also have restaurants in Orlando and Tucson, greatly expanded the restaurant in 2007. One and a half of the four-acre property is used for kitchen gardens. We have greatly enjoyed dining here.

Selections from their everchanging complex menu include starters of crisp fried smoked quail salad with lentils, foie gras and crispy shallots; and smoked marinated charred octopus with white beans, celery hearts and lovage. Mains were ricotta gnocchi with lobster, bacon and herbs; wild Alaskan salmon baked in a Maine sea salt crust; and porcini rubbed grass fed flat iron steak with braised short ribs.

Desserts are creative such as apple strudel with rum raisin bread pudding and maple walnut gelato or warm chocolate Budino cake with macadamia nut gelato and caramel sauce.

Hours, prices, etc.— Open May through December. Dinner, Wednesday through Monday, Entrées \$20-\$35, 2 South Main Street (Route 73), Rockland; (207) 596-0770; www.primorestaurant.com

Café Miranda, Rockland

Try for one of the seats at the counter at this popular casual spot around the corner from the Farnsworth Art Museum where you can watch and chat with chef Kerry Altiero as he works his magic with his wood-fired brick oven and dozens of spices. The huge menu changes frequently and includes many vegetarian options.

We had Thai style dumplings filled with pork served in a

spicy ginger-chili broth with snow peas and sprouts. A twist on Italian bean soup used pieces of haddock filet roasted in the brick oven and served on prosciutto flavored white beans with roasted potatoes. Portions are very large.

Hours, prices, etc.—Dinner, nightly and Sunday brunch. Lunch July-mid-September. Entrées \$17-\$24. 15 Oak Street, Rockland; (207) 594-2034; www.cafemiranda.com

Marcel's at Samoset Resort, Rockport

The formal dining room is on two levels overlooking the golf course and Penobscot Bay so most tables have a good view. The signature appetizer is lobster cakes served over greens with a Spanish sherry vinaigrette.

This is a restaurant to celebrate a birthday or anniversary so enjoy the show of tableside service. The classic Caesar salad is prepared at your table. The captains serve other classic tableside preparations such as steak Diane with a mushroom sherry pan roast, chateaubriand with grilled vegetables, or rack of lamb roasted with a garlic mustard crust with grilled vegetables. To complete the show go for the flambéed desserts; the selection changes with the seasons. The impressive Sunday brunch is extremely popular. If you want to get a good table arrive way ahead of time to join the queue.

Hours, prices, etc.—Dinner nightly in the summer, off-season Thursday through Sunday. Sunday brunch Dinner entrées \$23-\$48. Located off Route 1 on the ocean, just south of Rockport; (207) 594-2511.

Miller's Lobster, Spruce Head

This is the quintessential Maine lobster in the rough business. It is owned and operated by the Miller family and is located at the end of a dirt road in a quiet cove. There isn't a more idyllic spot in the area. We sat at a picnic table near the end of the rocks enjoying our lobster and steamed clams and watched the osprey fishing in Penobscot Bay right in front of us. The menu is short and sweet: lobster, steamed soft clams, lobster rolls, crabmeat rolls, fresh homemade pies and for non-seafood eaters, hot dogs and potato chips. Bring your own beer as they sell only soft drinks. The rhubarb pie (in season) is the perfect ending.

Hours, etc.—Open June: Friday through Sunday 11 to 7; July, August: Daily 11 to 7. Down a side road off Route 73 between South Thomaston and St. George, Spruce Head, ME; (207) 594-7406.



There isn't a more idyllic spot than Miller's to enjoy lobster in the rough

Camden - Rockport

Hartstone Inn, Camden

You can usually find chef owner Michael Salmon at the French and Brawn market in Camden at 7 every morning purchasing the day's dinner ingredients. One set superb 5-course dinner for up to 27 diners is offered each evening. A recent late March menu included duck cannelloni with sautéed mushrooms, potato and leek soup, Maine blueberry sorbet, sweet potato crusted salmon with Maine lobster and a chardonnay-chive cream, and blueberry-hazelnut soufflé. There is an excellent reasonably priced wine list to complement the menu.

Hours, prices, etc.—June through October, dinner, Wednesday through Sunday at 7 p.m. November through May, dinner Thursday through Sunday. 5-course prix-fixe \$45. 41 Elm Street (Route 1), Camden; (800) 788-4823; www.hartstoneinn.com

Francine Bistro, Camden

This 25-seat fun, funky hip bistro with a great atmosphere and a small bar that seats six is a very popular casual spot a couple blocks from the tourist shops and about a block from the harbor. Chef-owner Brian Hill changes the menu daily as he uses local organic produce, meats, cheeses and seafood from coastal Maine almost exclusively. There are four appetizers and four entrées. Crispy fried Pemaquid oysters, grilled lamb, and day boat halibut are some of his dishes. Hanger steak with frites is always on the menu.

Hours, prices, etc.—Dinner Monday through Saturday. Entrées \$20-\$26. 55 Chestnut St. Camden; (207) 230-0083; www.francinebistro.com.

Natalie's, Camden

At the Camden Harbour Inn this sumptuous newly renovated space with new owners and a new chef (the former Natalie's moved to this location) has the feel of an early 1900s Parisian restaurant. Victorian fans will enjoy the restaurant's décor and atmosphere with white tablecloths, large red overhead lighting fixtures, and formal service. Some tables have views of Camden Harbor and Penobscot Bay. Recent entrées include roasted fillet of cod with spiced cranberry bean salsa; grilled loin of lamb with an eggplant spring roll; and steamed haddock fillet with artichokes, English pea tortellini and a carrot saffron sauce.

Hours, prices, etc.—Monday through Saturday, dinner and Sunday brunch. Entrées \$24-\$36. 83 Bayview St., Camden; (800) 236-4266; www.camdenharbourinn.com/natalies.htm

Atlantica, Camden

This restaurant is in a prime location on the waterfront overlooking Camden Harbor. The second floor deck gives a better view of the harbor. Entrées we've enjoyed were bouillabaisse including half a lobster tail, scallops, shrimp and mussels in a saffron tomato garlic broth with orzo and a second dish of clams and mussels in a spicy Thai curry broth with lemon pasta. Other dishes are lobster in filo with spicy apricot coulis and filet mignon with Gorgonzola cheese.

Hours, prices, etc.—Seasonal. Lunch and dinner daily in summer. Dinner entrées \$26-\$36. 1 Bay View Landing, Camden; (888) 507-8514; (207) 236-6011; www.atlanticarestaurant.com

Cappy's Chowder House, Camden

The favorite saying at this local haunt is true indeed, "Eventually everyone shows up to share a good time at Cappy's."

The long bar is packed with the types you always see at bars in resort towns. There is a television at one end with the sports events on. The booths are the old wooden type; nautical stuff hangs from the rafters. This is a fun place and a good choice if what you want is standard basic fare and a draft of beer. Try the chowder and the Maine biscuits which are made with Bakewell Cream (a traditional New England leavening agent.)

Hours, prices, etc.— Open daily, breakfast through dinner. Lunch and dinner \$9 and up. Main Street, Camden; (207) 236-2254; www.cappyschowder.com

The Lobster Pound Restaurant, Lincolnville

This is the largest and the most accessible of all the lobster pounds in the area. You can eat inside at the family style restaurant that seats over 200 or outside on picnic tables by the beach overlooking Penobscot Bay. The large menu with dozens of items to choose from has all the favorite shore dinners i.e. lobster, seafood, ham, chicken, turkey, steaks even a good children's menu.

Hours, etc.— Open May to late October, 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Route 1, Lincolnville Beach, entrées \$10-\$36 (deluxe shore dinner) Lincolnville; (207) 789-5550; www.lobsterpoundmaine.com

The Edge, Inn at Ocean's Edge, Lincolnville

Four miles north of Camden with large windows overlooking the water this new 80-seat restaurant features an upscale menu served in a casual atmosphere. Entrées include pan seared halibut with champagne braised escargots and cipollini onions, salt roasted lobster cooked in the brick oven, and trio of lamb cooked three ways. The lounge, Tantalus, is one floor below with a wood burning fireplace, a flagstone patio serving cocktails, fine wines and a casual menu. Sunday is casual pizza night.

Hours, prices, etc.— Open Mid-April to New Years. Daily in summer. Closed Monday and Tuesday other times. Entrées \$25-\$40. Lincolnville; (209) 236-0945; www.innatoceansedge.com

***Blue Hill - Castine - Deer Isle* Arborvine, Blue Hill**

The 1823 Cape Cod style house gets its name from the Dutchman's Pipe vine that arches over the front door. Records show that the vine was here in the late 1800s. The two front rooms are more intimate while the back room is larger. The candlelit white tablecloth restaurant is furnished with antiques and has four working fireplaces. Entrées include dishes such as coriander encrusted pan seared ahi tuna with futomaki and wakame seaweed salad, broiled Stonington halibut with grilled polenta with orange/miso sauce, and crispy roast duckling with apple ginger chutney. Next door at The Vinery, piano bar and eatery, they serve drinks, food at lower prices and have live music Wednesday through Sunday.

Hours, prices, etc.— Open year-round for dinner, closed Monday, open weekends in winter, Entrées \$25-\$30. Main Street, Tenney Hill, Blue Hill; (207) 374 2119; www.arborvine.com

Wescott Forge, Blue Hill

We remember this location as the old Firepond, originally a forge. The first floor is a bar. The main dining room is downstairs with a fireplace and there's a screened dining porch overlooking the stream. The restaurant has gone through several owners. They keep the menu fairly simple most of the time to attract and keep

the locals i.e. steak, fish and Mediterranean inspired fare with lunches of soups, salads and sandwiches. Off season are special theme weekends such as Brazilian.

Hours, prices, etc.— In season lunch and dinner, Monday through Saturday and Sunday brunch; Columbus Day through Memorial Day, Wednesday through Saturday with some Sunday brunches. Dinner entrées \$18-\$31. 66 Main Street, Blue Hill; (207) 374-9909; www.thewescottforge.com

Bagaduce Lunch, Brooksville

This unpretentious roadside takeout stand overlooking the Bagaduce River and one of the area's reversing falls has typical fried scallops, shrimp, chicken, lobster and crab rolls, burgers, fried clams, ice cream, and hot dogs. After placing your order at the outside window, take your tray and sit at a picnic table overlooking the water or bring a blanket and sit on the grassy slope.

Hours, prices, etc.— Open Early May through mid-September, daily 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Located on Routes 175 and 176 just east of Brooksville. 19 Bridge Road, Brooksville; (207) 326-4729.

The Pentagöet Inn, Castine

The candlelit dining room has widely-spaced tables with flowers on each set with mismatched antique china. Have a drink on the outdoor verandah or in the Passports Pub, a cozy hideaway with a small oak bar filled with a collection of floor to ceiling photos, paintings and memorabilia collected by innkeeper Jack Burke. A bowl of small tender steamed Maine mussels from Blue Hill; crab cakes made from local fresh picked Stonington crabs; thyme cured salmon with buckwheat crêpes; an exceptional bouillabaisse with a rich and flavorful broth, filled with white fish, mussels, lobster and clams; a lobster bake; and whole roasted loup de mer with baby artichokes are some of the dishes. A tasting menu of their most popular items includes eggs a la russe, crab cake, bouillabaisse, lamb lollipops, and chocolate budino.

Hours, prices, etc.— Open May through October. Dinner nightly July and August, closed Sunday and Monday (early season). Entrées \$18-\$45. Main Street, Castine; (207) 326-8616; (800) 845-1701; www.pentagoet.com

Whale Rib Tavern, Pilgrim's Inn, Deer Isle

A full menu with a choice of six appetizers, ten entrées and four desserts is served in the historic barn or the tap room of this country inn owned by Tina Oddleifson and Tony Lawless who purchased the inn in 2005. The menu is wide ranging so it now suits a variety of tastes and appetites. Dishes could include starters of Maine crab cakes, local steamed mussels in a white wine broth, and haddock chowder. Entrées include home smoked ribs, traditional steamed lobster and mussels, broiled seafood casserole, and grilled flatbread pizza with pesto and local chèvre, and blue cheese encrusted tenderloin. For dessert there's root beer float made with Maine made root beer, chocolate molten lava cake and blueberry peach crisp.

Hours, prices, etc.— Open Mid-May - mid-October. Entrées \$12-\$25. Deer Isle; (207) 348-5222; www.pilgrimsinn.com

The Café Maritime, Stonington

The outdoor café is built over the water in the center of the working fishing harbor in Stonington. The indoor section is on two levels with grand water views. Steamed lobster, roasted halibut on wilted spinach, grilled ribeye, crab cakes with aioli, and seared scallops with shiitake mushrooms tossed with pesto

and linguine show the range of dinner offerings. For lunch you can have a steamed lobster or shore dinner with corn and mussels, lobster salad on a bed of greens, lobster or crab roll, or burgers.

Hours, prices, etc.— Open May through October lunch & dinner. Lunch \$7-\$29. Dinner entrées \$18-\$24. 27 Main Street, Stonington; (207) 367-2600; www.maritimecafe.com

Bar Harbor

Havana, Bar Harbor

This local favorite features a Latin touch to the offerings. The menu changes weekly. The entrance is through the separate popular bar area. The dining room seats about 45 and has dark red walls with woven rattan chairs. The oil paintings are by local artists. Selected menu items are monkfish ceviche over soy marinated roma tomatoes and avocado salsa, Thai marinated tofu with a plaintain crust served with grilled leeks and herbed wine and honey sauce, and beef tenderloin and chorizo sausage served with a mojo sauce. Desserts included guava mousse served in a chocolate dipped waffle cone with chocolate sauce and guava puree. There is an extensive wine list larger and more in depth than we expected.

Hours, prices, etc.— Open May to December. Dinner nightly. Entrées \$20 - \$35. 318 Main Street, Bar Harbor; (207) 288 CUBA; www.havanamaine.com

Café This Way, Bar Harbor

We thought we had been transported back to the 60's when we entered this casual restaurant with an open kitchen, coffee mugs hanging from cup hooks, and a small bar along one wall. Maroon walls, widely spaced tables, and a large collection of books by Maine authors are along another wall. There is a play area for children in the far corner. Photographs decorate the walls. Each table is unique. Ours was a shadow box of jewelry and the tools of the jeweler. Recent entrées were halibut crusted with pecans served over garlic spinach with Cajun tartar sauce and cornmeal crusted cod with garlic mashed potatoes. Another dish is lobster meat sautéed with spinach, roasted peppers, mushrooms and a gruyère cheese sauce tossed with penne pasta.

Fans of large creative breakfasts will love this place. Eggs, granola, oatmeal, burrito, six different eggs benedicts ie. with smoked trout, or tomato, spinach and artichoke hearts. Ten omelets on the menu including an eggless and a dairy free choice another with grilled steak, onions, mushrooms and cheddar.

Hours, prices, etc.— Open mid-April through October breakfast and dinner. Dinner entrées \$14 - \$24 14½ Mt. Desert St., Bar Harbor; (207) 288-4483

The Burning Tree, Otter Creek

This chef-owned restaurant, a fifteen-minute drive from Bar Harbor, features local fish. A selection of 12 different seafood dishes was on the menu the day we dined. Additionally there are chicken and vegetarian entrées. A large garden behind the parking area and across the road provides the herbs and greens and edible flowers, which are liberally used in the dishes. Tables are on the covered front porch and two intimate dining rooms, one facing the service bar, each with about six tables.

Our entrées were fillet of grey sole rolled with leeks and crab and served with shiitake lemon cream and pan-sautéed monkfish with roasted broccoli rabe, chick peas and fennel.

Hours, prices, etc.— Open June to Columbus Day. Dinner from 5. Closed Tuesday. Entrées \$18-\$25. Route 3, Otter Creek; (207) 288-9331.

Jordan Pond House, Acadia National Park

The nostalgia associated with this restaurant overlooking Jordan Pond has accrued from one generation to the next for 100 years. And even though the original Jordan Pond House with its



Enjoying tea and popovers on the tea lawn at the Jordan Pond House overlooking Jordan Pond and the rounded mountains called The Bubbles

birchbark walls burned down in 1979 and was replaced with a large contemporary structure, the location still brings back fond memories.

As the only restaurant located in Acadia National Park, the Jordan Pond House is very popular with tourists. In fact the inside dining room is packed throughout the day during the summer months and people generally are waiting to be seated. The food is institutional. Lunch is chicken salad, steak sandwiches, or lobster stew. After hiking on the trails or a leisurely stroll or bike ride on the carriage roads we still like to stop for the extra-large, fresh-from-the-oven popovers served on the lawn overlooking Jordan Pond. Call for reservations or be prepared to wait.

Hours, prices, etc.—Open daily mid-May to mid-October. Lunch 11:30 to 5, tea 1 to 5, dinner from 5. Lunch \$11-\$20; tea \$5.50; dinner entrées \$16-\$24. Located on the Loop Road in Acadia National Park; (207) 276-3316; www.jordanpond.com

Lobster Dinners. No trip to this area of the coast of Maine is complete without a lobster dinner. Here's a selection of our favorite lobster pounds.

Trenton Bridge Lobster Pound. There are many lobster pounds along Route 3 on the way to Bar Harbor. We happen to



Trenton Bridge Lobster Pound

like this spot as we have been stopping here for over 30 years. This roadside bare bones operation is eye-catching as clouds of steam are always visible around the outdoor wood stove. Family owned and operated since 1956 they use fifty cord of wood a season to keep five large washtubs of salt water going for boiling lobsters and steaming clams all day long. Memorial Day through Columbus Day, closed Sunday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Located on Route 3, just before the bridge to Mount Desert Island, Trenton; (207) 667-2977; www.trentonbridgelobster.com

Beal's Lobster Pier, Southwest Harbor Place your order and grab a seat at a wooden picnic table surrounded by the sounds of diesel engines, the smell of the docks, and salted-down sardines and herring used for lobster bait. Scallops, clams, shrimp, chowders, and the like can also be purchased at this wholesale lobster pound. Memorial Day to mid-September, daily, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. During the rest of the year live lobsters can be purchased to take home. Located on Clark Point Road (207) 244-3202. www.bealslobster.com

Abel's Lobster Pound and restaurant. Located at the head of Somes Sound is this long time favorite on Route 198, 5 miles north of Northeast Harbor. Eat at picnic tables under the pines and watch the lobster cooker or indoors at the full service restaurant. Mid-June though Labor Day. Mt. Desert; (207) 276-5827

The Wharf, Bass Harbor. In Bass Harbor just before the ferry to Swan's Island, this is an excellent place to have lobster and steamed clams. The owner also owns the fish market next door. Waitress service, tables inside and outside, BYOB, no credit cards. The menu ranges from lobster and steamers to fried clams and shrimps and a couple of items for the non-fish eater. Seasonal. (207) 565-3544

Thurston's Lobster Pound, Bernard You can't miss the long yellow awning that covers the two-level outdoor-screened dining area on their wharf in Bernard, just across the water from Bass Harbor. You order your lobster by the pound and then the extras you want such as corn, salad, steamed mussels or clams. They also have burgers, chicken and hot dogs. May through mid October. Memorial Day to mid-September, daily, 11 to 8:30. Bernard; (207) 244-7600; thurstonslobster.com



Thurston's Lobster Pound overlooks Bass Harbor

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