

# maine.

June 2022

## THE ULTIMATE SUMMER TRAVEL GUIDE

THE BEST DAY AND WEEKEND TRIPS AROUND MAINE

### STAYING ON THE REACH

VACATIONING AT A HISTORIC, RETRO-COOL RESORT ON EGGEMOGGIN REACH

### THIS IS THE END

THE GHOST OF PAUL REVERE ON LIFE AFTER THE BAND

 8 OF THE STATE'S BEST SWIMMING HOLES



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# 48HRS

## THE ULTIMATE MAINE SUMMER GUIDE

Summer in Maine comes once a year, so we rounded up our favorite destinations to take advantage of the season.

Whether you're seeking inspiration for a weeklong vacation or just something to do on a warm Saturday afternoon, this guide is for you. No matter where you want to visit in Maine—from island trips to oyster tours to art havens—we have you covered. The only question is, where will you go first?

## A WEEKEND IN KENNEBUNK + KENNEBUNKPORT

BY ANNA FIORENTINO

The Kennebunks are picture-perfect coastal towns between Portland and Maine's southern border that deliver ocean views and plenty of dining options.

**Friday**  
*Dinner by fire*

Start your weekend trip at the **Cape Arundel Inn and Resort**, a luxurious seaside Victorian mansion that stands out among many on Kennebunkport's famed Ocean Avenue. Sit by the fireplace with a glass of champagne before heading into town for dinner at the **Lost Fire Patagonian Grill and Bar**. Celebrated Argentinian chef Germán Lucarelli's rustic elegance and culinary prowess are apparent at this stunning addition to the Kennebunks' food scene. From the street art murals on the building to a menu of every mouthwatering cut of steak imaginable cooked over an open flame to the wait-staff who feel like your friends, the Lost Fire is an experience. Don't forget to check out the adorable seasonal outdoor patio, **LUCA**.



**Saturday**  
*Seaside exploring and luxurious dining*

At Cape Arundel Inn's **Ocean Restaurant**, wake up to the mother of avocado toast, featuring poached eggs, ricotta, and salmon on a slab of homemade wheat bread. Enjoy your breakfast in a dining room with a view of the ocean (and of the Bush compound on Walkers Point). Then it's off to an area favorite, **Snug Harbor Farm**. Botanists, listen up: this Kennebunk garden center and nursery is paradise. Half a dozen greenhouses are crawling with a jungle of tropical flora (even Venus flytraps) and parades of rare succulents in vintage terra-cotta pots. You can find a variety of plants waking up after a long dormant winter, including a monster *Monstera*.

Once you've got your green fix, a few doors down is **Antiques on Nine**, which has high-quality antique furniture and contemporary home goods. On your way into the village on Western Avenue is **Kennebunk Outfitters**, an outdoor store with two floors of clothing and gear

from Helly Hansen, Cotopaxi, Patagonia, and more. Next, grab a coffee at European-style cafe **Mornings in Paris** to sip while you walk over the bridge from Kennebunk to Kennebunkport. The upper section of the **Kennebunk River** below is a prime kayaking spot (the public launch is a stone's throw away at the old grist mill). Snap a photo downriver of the boats in the harbor, then keep on walking until you reach a sweet little window display with black and white ceramics and earthy handmade gifts from reclaimed wood. The contemporary boutique **Minka**, with clothing and accessories, home goods, jewelry, and other gifts, is worth a stop. Next, stop in to **Live Cafe** for a smoothie, or go all out with the wild flavors of **Rococo Ice Cream**—the sweet avocado cayenne is off the charts.

If it's windy and rainy, take a drive along **Ocean Avenue** and pull over to watch the monster waves crashing into the rocks, like at the jetty on **Colony Beach**. Or if it's nice out, meander down the **Parson's Way** trail off Ocean Avenue for free front-row seats to the Atlantic.

After perusing the popular port, it's time to get off the grid. Turn off Goose Rocks Road onto the gravel road of the luxury resort **Hidden Pond** and drive past glamorous cabins tucked into a majestic forest until, at the end, you reach the property's restaurant, **Earth at Hidden Pond**. It's here that heaven exists. The rustic sprawling space brings the outdoors in with windows overlooking a pond, a swimming pool, and tables for outdoor seating. The walls are dizzying stacks of tree stumps spanning from the floor to the ceiling. The place is drenched in modern opulence, with Edison-bulb chandeliers dangling over signature Snug Harbor greenery. But the real centerpiece is the four-course, farm-to-fork menu featuring produce picked from the on-site organic garden, such as beets, eggplants, heirloom tomatoes, herbs, and edible flowers—plus high-bush blueberries. Each bite is worth savoring for a few more seconds, such as the roe over scallops and cauliflower. Finish off what will likely be one of the best meals you've had in Maine with the tiramisu and Tempranillo—and you're down for the count.

**Sunday**  
*Enjoying the ocean's bounty*

Rise and shine, and start your day with a short hike. On your drive along Ocean Avenue, swing by views of the stone chapel at **St. Ann's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church**. On Route 9 the **Kennebunk Bridle Path** caters to hikers

and, in the winter, cross-country skiers. This scenic out-and-back trail is about three miles each way and runs along a turn-of-the-century train bed situated between two local land preserves. The trail ends near a funky architectural salvage store, the **Old House Parts Company**, located in an 1872 freight warehouse.

There's no shortage of adventure in the Kennebunks, especially in Kennebunkport's Cape Porpoise, an adorable fishing village with a touch of grit. Here, the seascape is decorated with Capes old and new, humble cottages, and mansions on stilts. Lobster fishers haul traps in this less-traveled village, where fish is fresh off the boat. Go to **Langsford Road Lobster and Fish House** or, if you don't feel like cooking, to the **Cape Pier Chowder House** for unbeatable lobster rolls and views for days. Across the parking lot, take a seat and a peek at **Goat Island Light Station** on the other side of the harbor.

Then, follow the colorful buoys into **Ramp Bar and Grill** for an after-meal drink on a patio of crushed shells. You'll probably catch a fisherman tying up to the dock at the end of the day. Inside, sports paraphernalia covers the ceiling of this favorite watering hole of the late George H.W. Bush and other celebrities, whose signatures you'll find on the walls.

Of all the beautiful blues, greens, and natural hues that bring life to the Kennebunks, maybe the most striking is the pale, soft sand, still waters, piney islands, and piping plovers of Kennebunkport's **Goose Rocks Beach**. Every visit is just as breathtaking as the first. As the sun falls behind the horizon, you have to say goodbye to the Kennebunks—for now.



From left: Fish houses in Cape Porpoise. Buoys hanging on the outside of Langsford Road Lobster and Fish House.



# A WEEKEND ON THE BOOTHBAY PENINSULA

BY HADLEY GIBSON

A trip to the villages of Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor, and Southport gives weekend visitors a taste of the best that the coast has to offer.

## Friday

*Garden trolls and ocean preserves*

Kick off your trip to the Boothbay region by stopping at the **Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens**, a 148-acre property where visitors can walk along manicured trails, see special sections like the Children's Garden, or wander through the woods to find the Guardians of the Seeds, giant wooden forest trolls built by Danish artist Thomas Dambo. As you continue south down the peninsula, make a pit stop at **Oak Point Farm**, a 32-acre preserve on Hodgdon Cove and the sole remaining undeveloped saltwater farm in Boothbay Harbor, which serves as the headquarters for the **Boothbay Region Land Trust**. The one-mile loop trail circumnavigates a freshwater pond while hugging the coastline and is dotted with numerous benches for relaxing and taking in the sights.

which has charming nautical decor and a friendly staff. If you are in the mood for a more casual meal, get provisions from the **East Boothbay General Store** and find a nice quiet spot next to the water to enjoy an evening picnic. Finish off the night by attending a show at the **Opera House at Boothbay Harbor** or a screening at **Harbor Theater**, a single-screen cinema known for showing independent and art house films.



## Saturday

*Kayak excursions and craft beer*

Enjoy a quick but delicious breakfast from bakery **Farm 23**, then head into downtown Boothbay Harbor to explore the waterfront and shops. Browse the extensive shelves at **Sherman's Maine Coast Bookshop**, stop by **Gimbel and Sons Country Store** to find tasteful Maine gifts for family and friends, and let your eyes devour the extensive and whimsical wares of **Enchantments**, a shop where you can purchase everything from crystals to tarot cards to dragon statues. If you are looking to expand your garden or succulent collection, a visit to the **Boothbay Region Greenhouses** will set you up for success.



From there, make the short trip over to your lodging destination for the weekend, **Powder Hill Farm Cottage**, a chic getaway on the property of **J Schatz Studio**, ceramic studio and gallery owned and managed by Peter Souza and Jim Schatz. Settle in for the weekend in the refreshingly minimalist cottage filled with art from the couple's personal collection, featuring an impressive book selection, and outfitted with incredible lamps and dinnerware from J Schatz.

After you head into town for dinner, be sure to order a cocktail on the deck at **Coastal Prime**, the restaurant at **Boothbay Harbor Oceanside Golf Resort**. Make a point to take a quick walk down the road to snap a photo of the famous fisherman statue outside **Brown's Wharf Inn**. It's just a short drive over to East Boothbay for dinner at the **Carriage House Restaurant**,

Now that you're all shopped out, make your way to the **Boothbay Harbor Footbridge** to rent a kayak from **Tidal Transit Kayak Company**. Owner Travis Journagan and his staff will set you up with everything you need for a successful ocean excursion, from waterproof maps to personal flotation devices. Once you're deemed



seaworthy, paddle through Boothbay Harbor past **McFarland** and **Tumbler Islands**, and alight on the beach at **Burnt Island**, home to plenty of walking trails and the historic **Burnt Island Light**. If paddling isn't your style but you still want to get out on the water, book a trip with **Cabbage Island Clambakes**, which takes you on a boat ride from Boothbay Harbor and to Cabbage Island for a traditional downeast clam-bake. Or, if you want to make a habit of boating around Boothbay Harbor, consider becoming a member of the **Carefree Boat Club**, which allows you to rent a boat from the member-only fleet whenever you're in town.



After you've worked up an appetite, grab an overstuffed lobster roll from **Shannon's**

**Unshelled** lobster shack, order a beer from the **Footbridge Brewery**, and then wash it all down with a Belgian waffle treat from **Wannawaf** or something frozen from **Downeast Ice Cream Factory**. If you're craving more nature walks, drive to **Porter Preserve** on Barter's Island (accessible via bridge) for views of the Sheepscot River, or wander through **Ovens Mouth Preserve**, a 5.3-mile trail network on the shores of the Back River. Take in the intensely



green, roiling tidal waters of the Back River from the pedestrian bridge over the narrow section of the river that connects the eastern and western sections of Ovens Mouth Preserve.



Hungry again? Lucky for you it's a short drive over to **Boothbay Craft Brewery**, where you can grab appetizers like a flaming artichoke dip or try their award-winning New England IPA, Thirsty Botanist. Now that your appetite is warmed up again, make a reservation for dinner at the **Thistle Inn**, a historic, upscale hotel in downtown Boothbay Harbor with four elegant dining rooms. Try the fresh herb salad followed by a plate of sirloin steak tips, paired with a bottle from the extensive wine menu. Other dinner options include casual favorites **Brady's** and **Ports Pizzeria**, where you're likely to rub elbows with numerous locals, or if you are in the mood for something a little more upscale, **Ports of Italy** or **Taka Mediterranean Bar and Grill** are sure to do the trick.

## Sunday

*Coastal views and lighthouses*

Enjoy your last morning in Boothbay with a hearty breakfast from local favorite **Mama D's Cafe**, then set out to take in as many coastal views as possible before leaving town. Walk the trails at the **Linekin and Burley Preserves** in East Boothbay to catch a glimpse of the Damariscotta River, or drive all the way to the end of the peninsula to Ocean Point to do the famous **Ocean Point Walk**. Marked by a path along the rocky coastline that passes numerous gorgeous summer mansions, the walk provides some of the best ocean vistas in the entire Boothbay area, including dramatic waves crashing against the shore and a view of Ram Island and the **Ram Island Ledge Light** on the horizon.



If you want to learn more about the coast of Maine and the many creatures it's home to, pay a visit to the **Maine State Aquarium**, which has two interactive touch tanks for petting and observing numerous species of fish and crustaceans. Just over the bridge in Southport, **Robinson's Wharf** is a favorite among locals for its pub food and seafood market, which you can browse while looking out at the water. Make sure to drive down to the end of the peninsula to visit the **Cape Newagen Alpaca Farm and Gift Shop** for a farm tour and to purchase yarn made from alpaca wool. Drive up the west side of the island to the **Southport General Store** to buy locally made jewelry and art or pick up a snack before you



head to **Hendricks Head Light**. Nearby, the **Hendricks Head Hiking Trail** is a short trek in the woods marked by incredibly lush, vibrant moss that will make you feel like you've stepped into Narnia.



On your way out of the Boothbay area, stop by **Pinkham's Gourmet Market** or popular seafood shack **Bet's Fish Fry** (which consistently sells out) for lunch. Consider paying a visit to the **Railway Village Museum** to see the extensive model railroad portraying Maine's rail system from the 1950s and '60s, or take a ride in a vintage train car pulled by a 100-year-old steam locomotive. Once you leave the peninsula, take the scenic route home, capping off the weekend with a visit to **Oxbow Brewing Company** in Newcastle to walk the trails while you sip a beer and reminisce about your jam-packed coastal adventures.

**In order of appearance:** The writer kayaking back in Boothbay Harbor from Burnt Island. The famous fisherman statue outside Brown's Wharf Inn. Flaming artichoke dip and pours of Thirsty Botanist from Boothbay Craft Brewery. The green waters of Ovens Mouth Preserve, with a canine friend met on the trail. Looking up at Burnt Island Light. The cozy, minimalist breakfast nook in Powder Hill Farm Cottage, with a window looking out across the vast lawn of the property. Oxbow Brewing Company in Newcastle. The Boothbay Harbor Footbridge serves as an ideal spot for watching boats and makes it easy to travel from one peninsula to the other. A selection of reads from Sherman's Maine Coast Bookshop. Newly made bird feeders and dinnerware found inside the renovated barn studio at J Schatz.



# A DAY IN THE BELGRADE LAKES REGION

BY CATIE JOYCE-BULAY // PHOTOGRAPHY BY MELISSA OLANDER

The web of pine-lined ponds that make up the Belgrade Lakes region has captured the imagination of travelers and artists for centuries. As E.B. White wrote in his essay "Once More to the Lake," "None of us ever thought there was any place in the world like that lake in Maine." To make the most of a day trip to the region is to surrender to the slow pace of a fisherman waiting for a great catch, to idle in tiny pastoral towns, and to pause long enough to hear the babble of the rushing brooks and streams that weave together its seven lakes.

## HIT THE TRAILS

While fishing is the biggest draw, there are many ways to enjoy the water, from boating to stand-up paddleboard rentals to guided cruises. A bird's-eye view of these stunning lakes is where to start. Family-friendly day hikes include Rome's **French Mountain**. Under a mile long, it's the biggest bang for your buck: the forested round-trip hike over granite slabs culminates in a 716-foot-high peak with a spectacular view of **Long Pond**, the second-largest of the region's lakes. **Mount Phillip** offers a longer loop at 1.4 miles, with a look at **Great Pond** (of *On Golden Pond* fame). At more than 8,000 acres, it's the largest lake. Both trails are maintained by the active 7 Lakes Alliance, a conservation nonprofit that often offers group hikes and hosts the weekly farmers' market in Belgrade Village, located on the jut of land separating Long and Great Ponds. In partnership with the state, the alliance also manages the **Kennebec Highlands Public Reserved Land**, which, at more than 6,800 acres, is the largest public lands preserve in central Maine. Vienna Mountain was just acquired by the state this spring, filling in a land gap in the preserve, and affords hikers 360-degree views on wild blueberry barrens that are free for the picking.



## LAKESIDE LUNCH

After working up an appetite, head to Belgrade's **Hello Good Pie** to grab a hearty quiche-of-the-day or a sandwich on fresh-made bread to take to **Peninsula Park**, just down the road on the shores of Long Pond. From there you can watch the boating action or look for loons. Nearby **Day's**

**Store** is a longtime village staple for a scoop of ice cream or homemade fudge. A gyro and baklava from the seasonal **Spiro and Company** food truck pair nicely with a browse through the books and art at neighboring **Oliver and Friends Bookshop and Reading Room**.

## WANDER FARMLANDS

**Winterberry Farm** in Belgrade, one of a handful of farms in the area, is always open for a self-guided tour of its pastures, gardens, and 1870s Shaker-style barn, where chickens roam and friendly horses nuzzle. The farm store offers its produce, including socks made with the wool of its resident sheep, honey from its hives, and frozen organic turkey potpies, perfect for a quick dinner.

## DIP + SPIRITS

Finally, go for a swim in Messalonskee Lake—which locals call Snow Pond—at Oakland's **Town Beach**. Then end the day at **Tree Spirits Winery and Distillery** for a tasting of maple wine or pear brandy, both made with ingredients sourced locally.

**From left:** Boat houses on Great Pond. A view of Long Pond from French Mountain.

# A DAY IN OGUNQUIT

BY ALEXANDRA HALL // PHOTOGRAPHY BY HEIDI KIRN

The many overlapping layers of culture across this oceanfront resort town have made it a magnet for vacationing families, art connoisseurs, the LGBTQ+ community, and nature lovers. That glorious human mix means that, no matter who you are, you'll rarely long for something stimulating to jump into around Ogunquit.



## BRING THE BROOD

Kids love the hop-on, hop-off **Ogunquit Trolley**—a convenient (it runs every 15 minutes) way to navigate downtown Ogunquit's crowded streets. Ride it to **Harbor Candy Shop**, full of charm and handmade sweets, and score big with the kids. (Bonus points if you go to the back



## LEAN INTO LOCAL ARTS HISTORY

Visual artists and performers started discovering Ogunquit in the late 1800s, and the **Ogunquit Museum of American Art's** collection starts then and runs to modern day—all of it showing the important role Ogunquit has had in shaping the nation's art. This summer, look for *I'll Bring the Luck with Me: Hunting and Fishing with Henry Strater*, an exhibition spotlighting the local adventurer and artist. Currently in its 90th year, the iconic **Ogunquit Playhouse** rolls out five musicals and plays each summer. This season's include musical versions of *Mr. Holland's Opus* and *The Nutty Professor*. Around here, hotels double as art museums, exemplified in **Cliff House Maine's** formidable collection of 50 pieces by local artists in multiple mediums, curated by Chris Caraviello of the nearby **Van Ward Gallery**.

of the shop and watch candy being made.) When the sea beckons, head for the middle section of the aforementioned Ogunquit Beach, known as **Footbridge Beach**—a favorite for tykes thanks



to an abundance of tide pools, changing rooms, and concessions. One of the most family-friendly spots to stay is **Anchorage by the Sea**, run by the Ramsey family since 1978. Its recently renovated restaurant, **Surf Point 360**, has French toast piled with chocolate chips for kids and 360-degree views of the Atlantic for grown-ups.

## BREATHE DEEP

Nature couldn't be easier to access from downtown Ogunquit. Some of Maine's most stunning views are found along the **Marginal Way**, a 1.25-mile paved path running along the cliff parallel to town. (The 40 or so benches along the path provide respites for meditating on the crashing Atlantic waves.) Meanwhile, **Ogunquit Beach** is a 3.5-mile-long stretch of soft sand, gentle surf, and tide pools. Nearby **Wells Reserve at Laudholm** harbors loads of wildlife, upland



fields, forests, and freshwater and estuarine wetlands on its protected 2,250 acres of coastal habitat.

## GET YOUR DRAG ON

Known globally as a gay destination, Ogunquit embraces the full rainbow coalition of LGBTQ+ locals and visitors all about town, and everyone is welcome. When you're craving some piano bar sing-alongs with your bang bang shrimp, hit the **Front Porch Piano Bar and Restaurant** for dinner—and don't bypass the fish tacos with lime tequila slaw, either. There's a nightly party over at **Mainstreet**, with drag performances, disco bear tea dances, and '80s prom nights. Plays and comedy acts figure in as well, and the outdoor deck is the place to be after a long day on the beach.

**In order of appearance:** Relaxing on a dock in Perkins Cove. Shops along Perkins Cove. The iconic Ogunquit Playhouse. The Ogunquit Museum of American Art. Although it is a tourist destination, Ogunquit has a working waterfront where visitors can watch Maine fishermen work.



# A GUIDE TO THE CASCO BAY ISLANDS

BY ALEXANDRA HALL // ILLUSTRATION BY OLIVIA RYDER

The islands reachable via Casco Bay Lines ferry service out of Portland don't just boast pine-dotted shores, protected harbors, tight-knit fishing communities, and sea life galore. They also offer a slew of activities: from hiking and biking trails to tennis and golf to fine dining and camping. And one thing they all have in spades is a notably slower pace of life and the bliss that comes with it.

A note about on-island transportation: Only Peaks Island allows cars to be transported by ferry, and car reservations can be scarce in the summer. On most islands, bikes or golf carts are rentable near the ferry terminal, and you can also bring your own bike via ferry for a small extra cost.

## PEAKS ISLAND

A 15-minute ride from the Portland ferry terminal, Peaks is the most populated island, with about 3,000 residents come summertime. Once you're off the ferry, rent bikes at **Brad's Bike Rental and Repair** or a golf cart at **Peaks Island Golf Carts**, and head out on the island's 3.7-mile loop road. Bring a camera: it runs past **Cairn Beach** (great for views, too rocky for swimming). Staying over? Book ahead at the **Inn on Peaks Island** (if it's available, opt for the lovely Bailey Island Suite). If a swim or sunbathing's on the agenda, point yourself southwest toward **Sandy Beach**, then wind up back near the ferry dock for shrimp tacos on the deck of the **Cockeyed Gull**, with its million-dollar view of Portland's skyline.

Eastern Avenue for incredible neon-streaked skies. And if you've planned things well, you'll have a reservation for the **Hardshell Cafe's** weekly lobster bake, hosted by Ed and Jeanie McAleney and served on their porch, complete with sea breezes.

island's southernmost tip. Leave time to cap the day with lobster wontons and a local brew on the deck of **Cook's Lobster and Ale House**.

## LITTLE DIAMOND + GREAT DIAMOND ISLANDS

**Fort McKinley**, constructed in the late 1800s, is the focal point of Great Diamond. Since its retirement in 1945, it's been transformed into both a tony resort—the **Inn at Diamond Cove**—and private residences. Much of the island is closed to the public, but the inn offers enough amenities—from tennis and indoor basketball to a swimming pool, a yoga studio, and three dining options—that nobody much cares. The area is car-free, so if you want to explore, ask the property for a golf cart ride or a complimentary bike. Little Diamond Island next door is peppered with privately owned cottages, many of which can be rented. (At low tide, you can walk between the islands at **Lamson Cove**.) Meanwhile, **Diamond's Edge**, an upscale restaurant perched on Great Diamond's sparkling marina, is good enough that many visitors come just for dinner and catch the ferry home after.

## CHEBEAGUE ISLAND

Whether you're just swinging through **Chebeague Island Inn** for a game of golf and an excellent dinner on its breezy deck or settling in for a week full of lawn games and tennis, the inn is the island's (relatively) buzzy hub. (Note: There are no TVs on the property, so don't forget reading material for rainy days.) For beach visits, request the inn's shuttle service or borrow bikes and ride over to the **Niblic** for ice cream made by North Yarmouth's spectacular **Toots**. And this year, the inn is pushing the season by staying open longer into the fall—yet more of a good thing.



## CLIFF ISLAND

Lounging in nature is the prime directive here, and the plethora of secluded coves, deep woods, conservation land, and wildlife all make it easy. Cliff is the farthest island served by **Casco Bay Lines**, and the largest one in the bay with no paved roads. **Cliff Island Store and Cafe** is the place to find local gossip and lobster rolls. Tote the latter over to **Stone Beach** (aka Rocky Beach) for a picnic on the island's southwestern edge with views of Peaks and Long Islands, or hike out to the easternmost side for sweeping vistas of the Atlantic.

## BAILEY ISLAND

Technically part of Harpswell and connected to the mainland by the world's sole cribstone bridge (made of hulking granite stone slabs), Bailey offers up miles of picturesque coastline. So, it's an ideal place to charter a day sail with **Sea Escape Cottages and Charters**, jump on a lobster boat with **West Wind Lobster Tours**, or hike and soak up the sublime views at **Land's End** on the



## LONG ISLAND

Plan to bring your own bike (there are no on-island rentals), or rent a golf cart at **Long Island Golf Carts**. Before spending a few hours on the large and sandy **South Beach**, grab some ethereal hand-cut cinnamon-sugar doughnuts at **Byers and Sons Long Island Bakehouse**. Rather spend your beach time nature watching? For that you'll want **Andrews Beach** or the less crowded **Fowler Beach**—both are frequented by migratory birds and dolphins. Just before sunset, head to the rocky shores of **Cleaves Landing** on



	BAILEY ISLAND
	CHEBEAGUE ISLAND
	CLIFF ISLAND
	LONG ISLAND
	LITTLE DIAMOND + GREAT DIAMOND ISLANDS
	PEAKS ISLAND

**From left:** The Casco Bay Lines ferry transports residents and visitors from the mainland to islands. The entrance sign on the Cliff Island dock.



# A DAY IN THE SEBAGO LAKES REGION

BY ALEXANDRA HALL // PHOTOGRAPHY BY DANIEL ORR // ILLUSTRATION BY OLIVIA RYDER

*Nirvana for freshwater enthusiasts, this is where vacationers mingle with locals all summer long. By day's end almost every adult seems to have a sunburn on their neck and a beer in their hands. It's a kids' playground, too, of course, with numerous water sports available, from pontoon boat rentals and fully rigged fishing trips to simply jumping off a gigantic rock again and again...and again.*



## ON THE WATER

**Sebago** is the heavyweight lake around these parts, bordered by six towns—Casco, Naples, Raymond, Sebago, Standish, and Windham. But smaller lakes, ponds, and rivers also abound, as do countless marinas and outfitters. Save a full day (or longer) for **Sebago Lake State Park**; you'll want to lavish plenty of attention on its sandy beaches, hiking trails, and campsites for tents and RVs. There are boat launches, too, and scads of picnic spots. Sebago is huge for salmon and trout fishing, and experts such as **Sebago Lake Fishing Charters and Tours** in Raymond are ready to outfit and guide you. Or spend a day in Naples, where the **Causeway** is ground zero for everything from pontoon boat rentals and waterski lessons to paddleboarding, river boat rides, and gin and tonics on the deck of **Rick's Cafe** at sunset.

## BREAK FOR REFRESHMENTS

Don't let the name's gratuitous e's fool you: **Gary's Olde Towne Tavern** in Naples is the real deal for solid staples like mac 'n' cheese and steak tips. Likewise, the **Standard Gastropub** in Bridgton slings above-standard (and filling) fare, including their house burger and a killer house-smoked brisket sandwich. For an adventure-meets-dining jaunt, catch a public ferry or private boat to **Frye Island** in the middle of Sebago Lake and head to **Frye's Leap General Store and Cafe** midday—bloody Marys with bacon-infused vodka are a go-to—and play cornhole while you watch kids (and some grown-ups) jump off a huge rock into the water.

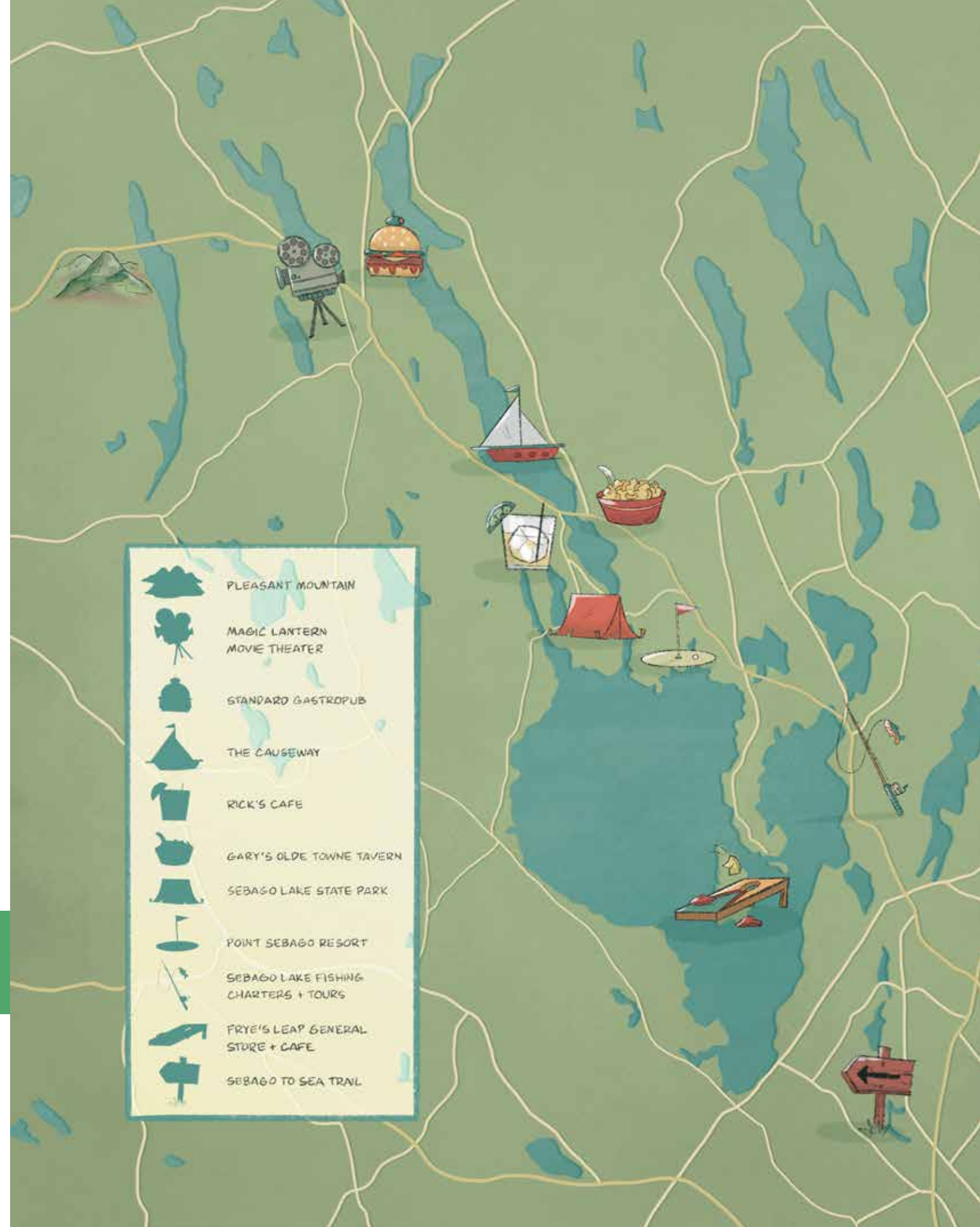
## ON DRY LAND

There's so much activity off the water around here, you can leave the swimsuit at home if you like and instead opt to hike the **Pleasant Mountain** trail network (home to **Shawnee Peak**). Its treks are mostly moderate in difficulty; the **Ledges Trail** can be done in under two hours and rewards

hikers with beautiful views of **Moose Pond**. For something more horizontal, walk the flat first 1.5 miles of the **Sebago to Sea Trail** that starts in South Windham. Rather swap rustication for refinement? Book a stay with **Point Sebago Resort** in Casco, and you'll be in a lakeside lap of luxury—with a marina, sandy beach, all-day childcare programs, and an 18-hole championship golf course at your disposal. And when that (almost) inevitable rainy day comes along, make for **Magic Lantern Movie Theater** in Bridgton. Dating back to the 1930s, it's been completely renovated and now includes a tavern. Oh, and it's also rumored to be a good place for a sighting of Stephen King, who's said to frequent the vintage gem.



From left: Diving into Sebago Lake from a dock. Recreational boaters relax and socialize as they wait for the water at Songo River's lock to rise so they can pass through.



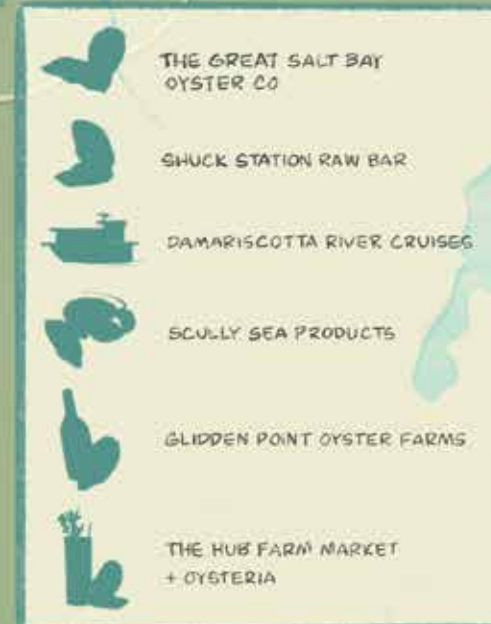
-  PLEASANT MOUNTAIN
-  MAGIC LANTERN MOVIE THEATER
-  STANDARD GASTROPUB
-  THE CAUSEWAY
-  RICK'S CAFE
-  GARY'S OLDE TOWNE TAVERN
-  SEBAGO LAKE STATE PARK
-  POINT SEBAGO RESORT
-  SEBAGO LAKE FISHING CHARTERS + TOURS
-  FRYE'S LEAP GENERAL STORE + CAFE
-  SEBAGO TO SEA TRAIL



# A DAMARISCOTTA RIVER OYSTER TOUR

BY PAUL KOENIG // PHOTOGRAPHY BY KELSEY GAYLE // ILLUSTRATION BY OLIVIA RYDER

The Damariscotta River is world-famous for its oysters, and there's never been a better time to shuck and slurp your way through the region. Many of the river's oyster farms provide tours of their growing operations, and some now have markets for taking their bivalves home with you as well as outdoor seating for on-site sampling.



## Glidden Point Oyster Farms

637 River Rd., Edgecomb

This shuck-your-own oyster market offers beer and wine and often has local vendors serving other food to enjoy on the outdoor patio. The farm also provides tours of the growing operation.

## Scully Sea Products

707 River Rd., Edgecomb

Founder Barbara Scully has been growing oysters on the Damariscotta River for more than three decades, and the farm's market offers several varieties of oysters, along with littleneck clams, steamers, lobsters, and prepared foods.

## The HUB Farm Market + Oysteria

1005 Bristol Rd., Bristol

The tasting room and market for Pemaquid Oyster Company, one of the state's oldest oyster farms, also sells Waldostone Farm's bloody Mary mixes and mignonettes as well as other local seafood and grocery items.

## The Great Salt Bay Oyster Company

321 Mills Rd., Newcastle

This farm supplies oysters to restaurants and retailers up and down Maine's coast, but you can also purchase them directly from the farm.



## Damariscotta River Cruises

40 Main St., Damariscotta

Learn about oysters while exploring the Damariscotta River by boat with the Oyster Farms and Seal Watching Tour or the Oyster and Wine Tasting Cruise, or just enjoy freshly shucked oysters and drinks on a sunset cruise.

## Shuck Station Raw Bar

68 Main St., Newcastle

This full-service restaurant offers multiple oyster varieties along with fresh local seafood, beer, wine, and cocktails and offers tours of its farm, Blackstone Point Oyster Farm.

## SHUCK FARTHER

To expand your oyster tour beyond the Damariscotta River, visit the Maine Oyster Trail's website for guides to other regions and to sign up for the Maine Oyster Passport to win prizes for checking out locations around the state.

[maineoystertrail.com](http://maineoystertrail.com) +



**From left:** Oysters on ice at Glidden Point Oyster Farms. You can learn to shuck your own at Glidden Point.