



Hidden Pond, Kennebunkport

Clam Shack, Kennebunkport

Kennebunk fisherman

Nubble Light

Blue Sky, York Beach

**260 MILES  
ROUND-TRIP  
FROM BOSTON**

# MAINE'S SOUTHERN COAST

This is Maine at its most alluring: a rich landscape where sunrise on a sandy beach can be followed by a hike through a mist-shrouded wildlife preserve, where a lobster-roll lunch can precede an afternoon of blueberry picking, where Skee-Ball by the boardwalk can segue into a candlelit dinner at a country inn. Our list of favorites for a weekend away is as much about the land as the sea—pine forests and Colonial-era villages meet lighthouses, harbors, and the spray of the surf.

By **Peter Jon Lindberg**

## LAY OF THE LAND

Right over the New Hampshire border, about an hour from Boston, **Kittery** is best known for outlet shopping, but its tranquil residential enclaves are a world apart: woody **Kittery Point** has a top-notch lobster shack (see next page) and a virtually undiscovered state park, Fort Foster. • Next up the coast are the Yorks: Rockwellian **York Village**, blue-blooded **York Harbor**, and honky-tonk **York Beach**, where old-time motels, ice cream parlors, and arcades face the sand. Off nearby **Cape Neddick** stands whitewashed Nubble Light, the state's most celebrated lighthouse. • A low-key version of Provincetown, gay-friendly **Ogunquit** is a long-standing artists' haven (several galleries line Shore Road). It has the loveliest beach on the coast, framed by grassy dunes and a tidal river. Walk the oceanfront Marginal Way footpath to **Perkins Cove**, a minuscule

marina traversed by a pedestrian-only wooden drawbridge. • The Bush family may have put **Kennebunkport** (and its sister village, **Kennebunk**) on the national map, but old money has been ensconced here for ages—only now those elegant captain's mansions and Federalist houses have luxury sedans parked out front. For all the patrician polish, there remains a salty authenticity to the "K'bunks," especially beside the marina, along the beaches, and in the many lobster pounds lining the shore. • Forty-five minutes away lies **Portland** (population 64,500), which may seem like a small town on paper but is Maine's largest and most cosmopolitan city, with eclectic shopping and a thriving culinary scene. For the quintessential Maine coast experience, catch a ferry at the Casco Bay Lines terminal (56 Commercial St.; 207/774-7871; [casco.baylines.com](http://casco.baylines.com)) to one of the hundreds of islands in breezy, briny Casco Bay.

BALL & ALBANESE (6). COVER: BALL & ALBANESE



From left: The restaurant at the White Barn Inn, in Kennebunkport; Perkins Cove; Hidden Pond, in Kennebunkport; the chowder at Kennebunkport's Clam Shack; the pool at the White Barn Inn.

## MAINE'S SOUTHERN COAST INSIDER'S GUIDE

**WHERE TO STAY**  
**THE NEWCOMER** Set on 60 wooded acres, **Hidden Pond** (354 Goose Rocks Rd., Kennebunkport; 888/967-9050; [hiddenpondmaine.com](http://hiddenpondmaine.com); doubles from \$695) opened last summer; each of its 14 two-bedroom cottages has a full kitchen, screened porch, and outdoor shower. Breakfast arrives by golf cart.

**THE SYBARITE** The **White Barn Inn** (37 Beach Ave., Kennebunkport; 207/967-2321; [whitebarninn.com](http://whitebarninn.com); doubles from \$450) occupies a gracefully updated 1865 farmhouse; whirlpool tubs don't feel out of place next to sleigh beds and English antiques.

**ON THE WATER** Sister property to the White Barn Inn, the **Yachtsman Lodge & Marina** (57 Ocean Ave., Kennebunkport; 207/967-2511; [yachtsmanlodge.com](http://yachtsmanlodge.com); doubles from \$319) is a chic converted motel beside the Kennebunk River. Rooms have cathedral ceilings, beadboard paneling, and French doors.

**GREAT VALUE** At the 20-room **Captain Lord Mansion** (6 Pleasant St., Kennebunkport; 207/967-3141; [captainlord.com](http://captainlord.com);

doubles from \$169), a pale yellow 1812 folly with Federal-era antiques and stately fireplaces, sip iced tea in the shade of the chestnut trees.

**WHERE TO EAT & DRINK**  
**STAR CHEF** Sleek, modern **Blue Sky** (2 Beach St., York Beach; 207/363-0050; dinner for two \$125) is a new entry from celebrated Boston chef Lydia Shire, whose menu includes her famous lobster pizza (way better than it sounds).

**INTIMATE GEM** In a 1774 clapboard house facing busy Route 1, Joshua Mather of **Joshua's** (1637 Post Rd., Wells; 207/646-3355; dinner for two \$90) delves into his family's garden with inspired results. One highlight: potage of leek and potato spiked with Parma ham and neon-green chive oil.

**SEASIDE BISTRO** Wraparound picture windows frame knockout ocean views at **MC Perkins Cove** (111 Perkins Cove Rd., Ogunquit; 207/646-6263; dinner for two \$100), which serves up plank-roasted cod and deconstructed clam chowder.

**DOWN-HOME LOBSTER** The **Clam Shack** (2 Western Ave., Kennebunkport; 207/967-2560; lobster rolls for two \$25) has our pick for best lobster roll, on a toasted hamburger bun.

**LOCAL SECRET** A fixture since 1948, **Chauncey Creek Lobster Pier** (16 Chauncey Creek Rd., Kittery Point; 207/439-1030; lobsters market price) feels like a lobster bake in someone's backyard. Choose your catch from the tank and enjoy it on a riverside picnic table; BYO everything else.

**DECADENT DISH** It's worth the hour-plus wait for one of the copper-topped tables set around an open kitchen at **Fore Street** (288 Fore St., Portland; 207/775-2717; dinner for two \$100). Start with oysters, then order the wood-grilled harlequin quail, baked in a stock of shiitakes, veal, and duck fat.

**BEST DOUGHNUTS EVER** Take your pick of fluffy raised ones or the dense, cakelike variety at **Congdon's** (1090 Post Rd., Wells; 207/646-4219), which opens at 6 a.m. and sometimes sells out of doughnuts by noon.

**WHAT TO SEE & DO**  
**QUIET ESCAPE** An 88-acre town park, **Fort Foster** (Pocahontas Rd., Kittery Point; 207/439-3800) has the remains of a circa-1910 naval bunker.

**COASTAL ICON** From the rocky headlands of Cape Neddick, gaze at the famed **Nubble Light**. (The pulley and cable stretching across the channel were used by the keeper to collect supplies.)

**SUMMER STOCK** The **Ogunquit Playhouse** (10 Main St., Ogunquit; 207/646-5511) is one of the longest-running repertory theaters in the country.

**INTO THE WILD** The 5,300 acres of white pine forest and salt marsh in the **Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge** (Wells; 207/646-9226) are a bird-watcher's idyll—and easily explored via a mile-long nature trail.

**BOSTON:**  
**BEANTOWN OUT OF TOWN**  
 Explore more getaways—  
 from the Berkshire hills  
 to the Cape Cod coast—  
 at [travelandleisure.com/weekends](http://travelandleisure.com/weekends).



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: BALL & ALBANESE (5); COURTESY OF BROWNE TRADING COMPANY; BILL BACHMANN/ALAMY; ANDRE JENNY/ALAMY; BALL & ALBANESE; MIKE BRINER/ALAMY; JON ARNOLD IMAGES LTD/ALAMY