MAINE'S MDCOAST TRAVEL

MainesMidCoast.com

Windjammers | Lighthouses | Museums | Shops | Dining | Adventure | Beaches







These MidCoast Maine Experiences will give you dozens of ideas for planning your Maine vacation. Each page offers a tantalizing glimpse of the many classic and unexpected ways to spend your time here. We've included a concise map with regional highlights and helpful information to continue your research: web addresses, social media sites and recommended regional resources to help complete your plan.

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UNMISTAKABLY AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES-

A welcoming slice of briny-scented coastline overflowing with vitality and guilty pleasures you won't find anywhere else — this is **Maine's MidCoast**. A well-appointed collection of walkable cities, harbor towns and hamlets that serve up the authentic experiences you eagerly anticipate. Cast off inhibition and strike out on an unforgettable journey.

Shop awhile in downtown <u>Brunswick</u>, then grab lunch from a food truck on the mall before boarding a <u>Maine Eastern Railroad</u> car bound for <u>Wiscasset</u>, Maine's *Prettiest Village*. Watch from the prow of a boat for puffins or whales on a day cruise out of <u>Boothbay Harbor</u>. Or make the daylong pilgrimage to Maine's hallowed ground for artists, <u>Monhegan Island</u>.

Feeling peppy? Mount the six-story tower at <u>Fort Baldwin</u> for truly spectacular views over <u>Phippsburg</u>. Shuck (and eat) plump and delicious Pemaquid oysters in <u>Damariscotta</u>. Sail in style aboard a windjammer around **Small Point**, West Point, Bay Point, Ocean Point — get the point? Or simply savor the Zen moment of finding yourself alone on a tiny cove beach near <u>Port Clyde</u>.

Crack open a lobster, three times a day if you want (we won't judge). Lie beneath the stars as gently tumbling surf lulls you to sleep. Then watch the sun rise and set from exactly the same spot. Seek out stuff: new, old and really old at the boutiques, specialty shops and antique stores peppered up and down **US 1**. Find a mermaid (or build one in the sand) at <u>Reid State Park</u>. Clamber over the rocks to capture and then share "the picture" at <u>Pemaquid Point Light</u>.

Visit <u>Belfast's</u> photogenic harbor during the "golden hour" then stay for dinner or the night. Hike, bike or drive to the crest of **Mount Battie** for the quintessential view of <u>Camden</u> harbor. Drink in the beauty of the well-curated collection at <u>Rockland's</u> Farnsworth Museum. Be blown away by the massive scale of the schooner *Wyoming* at <u>Maine Maritime Museum</u> in <u>Bath</u>.

With the many ways you are planning to experience Maine's MidCoast, a single trip may not be enough. So don't be surprised if you catch yourself devising a plan to return — sooner than you imagined — to this truly postcard-perfect destination.

ATANDJAMMER STANDINE STALISLANDS

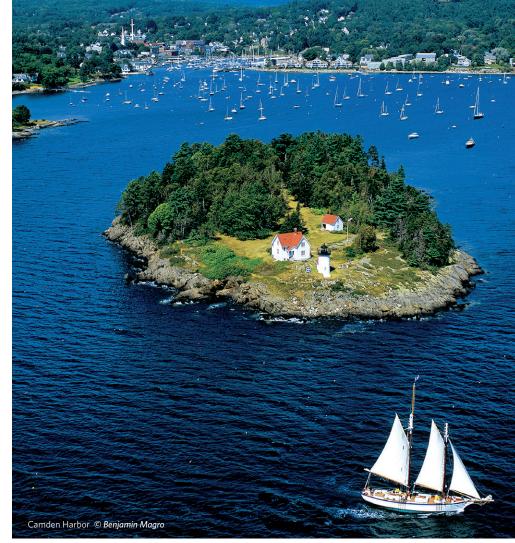
A part of the world and a world of its own All surrounded by the bright blue sea.

- Margaret Wise Brown, The Little Island

2



The wind rejoices as the morning sun illuminates the opaque white sails and polished brass of these true children of the **MAINE COAST**, and this place is their playground.



Become one with sea, sky and land.

Throughout the region, rocky outcroppings, walls and formal gardens overflow with bright-colored asters, rugosa and iris that appear in profusion on the sea-swept ledges where our beloved lighthouses call home.

Whether tall, spark plug, squat, conical or boxy, the extended family of MidCoast lighthouses never fails to attract. Of course, the easily accessible ones will always be popular, so head to the water to see them as the sailors do: maybe by sea kayak or day cruiser. Take a tour of the **Muscongus** or **Penobscot Bay** lighthouses by sailboat or windjammer.

Sailing the MidCoast waters is considered the finest anywhere — worldwide. Inspiration perhaps for creating the fleet of the <u>Maine Windjammer Association</u>. Tidy decks and salt-sprayed brightwork attest to each ship's grace, proudly navigating through our coastal waters, allowing passengers to discover, firsthand, the allure of the sea's deepest blue-greens and her countless coastal islands.

There will never come a time when artists, photographers and writers lose their attraction to the MidCoast islands. These places defy description, from <u>Peary's Eagle Island</u> (now a National Historic Landmark), to the summer colonies on Vinalhaven and North Haven to the remote and adored islands of Matinicus or <u>Monhegan</u>. The magic of islands is how they successfully manage themselves without an impact either on or from their neighbors. It must be the effect that a wide expanse of open sea can have.



Visit the map on page 16 for a complete list of lighthouses in the region.

COASTAL MARITIME HISTORY

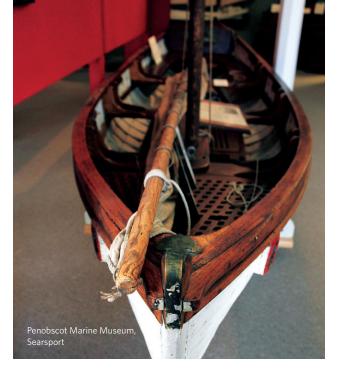
Build me straight, O worthy Master!

Stanch and strong, a goodly vessel, That shall laugh at all disaster, And with wave and whirlwind wrestle!

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, "The Building of the Ship"

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The cities and towns that made the world a smaller place.

The story of maritime history is not simply a part of our MidCoast past; it is our heritage and a vital part of our lives that continues to this day. The story of MidCoast Maine and American maritime history are synonymous. It is a tale told through museum exhibits and classic works of art. Find it in our historic districts and the homes built upon the successes of sea captains, shipbuilders and merchants.

What many do not realize is that virtually every city and town along the MidCoast had a hand in shaping Maine's place in maritime history. Their collective (and ongoing) contributions will ever be recognized by the world's ocean industries of fishing, shipping, shipbuilding and naval innovation.

Even today the story of our seafaring and shipbuilding heritage continues in the construction of modern-day warships at **Bath Iron Works** with its sky-high cranes. Or see it in other familiar ways: the early morning chug-chug-chug of a lobsterman's boat, a roadside shack draped with boldly colored buoys or the ubiquitous lobster trap. A small carved wooden "sea dog" statue even plays his own whimsical part.

Everywhere you travel in the MidCoast, our active ports and working waterfronts are filled with families and businesses — large and small — that for generations have carved out a living from the sea.

In addition to visiting our world-class maritime museums in <u>Bath</u> and <u>Searsport</u> to learn more, visitors should seek out the other places that carry on this wonderful story like the <u>Fisherman's Museum at Pemaquid Point</u> and the <u>Maine Lighthouse Museum</u> in <u>Rockland</u>.

AN AGE OF SHIPS

From the 1762 maiden voyage of *The Earl of Bute* from Bath through the end of their era in 1920, more than 8,000 wooden vessels launched from these MidCoast harbors:

Bath Belfast Damariscotta Newcastle Rockland Rockport Searsport Waldoboro

Wiscasset





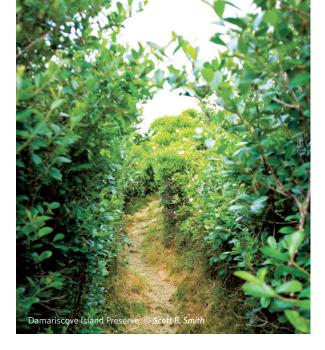


Beauty is whatever gives joy.

– Edna St. Vincent Millay

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Reid State Park © Benjamin Williamson





BEACHES OF The Midcoast

Popham Beach State Park, Phippsburg Reid State Park, Georgetown Seawall Beach (hike required), Phippsburg Pemaquid Beach Park, Pemaquid Point Birch Point Beach State Park, Owls Head Crescent Beach, Owls Head Ash Point Beach, Rockland Crocketts Beach, Owls Head Laite Memorial Beach, Camden

Nothing compares to a warm summer day.

Each moment takes you deeper on an unplanned summer's day expedition. Wander beneath a clouded blue sky, dig in the sand for hours (and hours) — stopping only for a proper bout of splashing. Somehow, everything here becomes unforgettable; the sound of gulls and the warm sun on your shoulders. Even lunch makes memories: eating what might be the best lobster roll ever and a soda served in a thick glass bottle! Perfection. So, can we have an ice cream cone?

<u>Hike</u> that tough island trail along the rocky and forested edge of the world — thrill at hanging on for your life above the crashing surf below. A moment's pause allows you to spot tiny islands surrounded by bobbing buoys and a rogue sailboat racing with the sun.

Take to the sea and explore <u>Harpswell</u> along the north rim of busy **Casco Bay**. Navigate the only known cribstone bridge (unsinkable Yankee engineering) between **Orr's** and **Bailey Islands**; disembarking to mount a set of **Giant's Stairs** leading the way to a place that could only have been named **Land's End**. Now reward yourself with a shore dinner and what else? Blueberry pie!

Paddle for a while with a playful pod of seals in the churning waters of **Penobscot Bay**. Dipping below the surface, the hungry pups have driven a mass of tiny baitfish to the shore creating a wide and shimmering slick.

<u>Pedal</u> with careless abandon; even the most haphazard traveler won't get lost on the peninsulas of the MidCoast. They're peninsulas! No matter how many turns or back roads you take you simply cannot get lost — unless, of course, that's your goal.







In nature nothing exists alone.

- Rachel Carson, The Sense of Wonde

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Allow yourself to be guided by whim to places beyond expectation.

Walking through the preserved architecture and gardens of our finest towns does more than fill the senses; it tells our story. So why not allow a spin through the <u>Coastal Maine</u><u>Botanical Gardens</u> to punctuate the adventure?

A drive, or <u>bike ride</u> perhaps, is the ideal way to make new discoveries here. The peninsulas offer looping drives, lighthouse destinations, cheerful villages and quiet wooded places where the trees crowd along the shoreline. These are the places made for solitude, yet without isolation. Find **Seawall Beach** and <u>Morse Mountain</u> — two seemingly imaginary places; a sandy uninhabited beach capped with a lofty peak towering above the coastline — what a fitting reward for the trek.

Birders should keep a keen eye out for the endless variety of sea birds and hungry raptors that call these places home: osprey, eagle, harrier and falcon all perch along the coast and fly low over field and marsh in pursuit of their next meal.

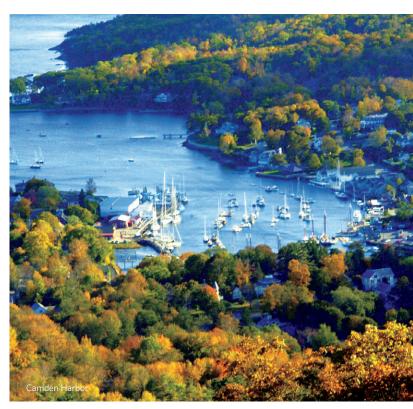
Savor the kingly view of the land from the bow of a great ferry boat, or become the tiny island that is a simple rented sea kayak. Maybe the stories of a lobsterman or even a couple hours digging clams in the mud flats of the **Sheepscot River** near <u>Wiscasset</u> might bring you around to the Maine way. Or change gears: <u>explore the many parks</u> and the views they offer to find a fresh outlook — climb to the top of the hills above <u>Camden</u> and look down over the harbor or the follow the smooth forested line of the shore at <u>Lake St. George State Park</u>.

Grab a spot beneath the sky for some <u>camping</u>, greeting the day with a morning trail run or a brisk (and brief) dash into the surf for a swim like no other you have ever taken. Remember, while this all feels a bit unbelievable, it still is Maine, a place where unbelievable things happen every day.



Mt. Megunticook and Mt. Battie in CAMDEN HILLS STATE PARK

offer one of only two places along the east coast where mountains, quite literally, come down and meet with the ocean.





The MidCoast is where even Mainers go to find the real Maine.

-Travel+Leisure





Wineries <u>Breakwater Vineyards</u>, Owls Head/<u>Rockland</u> <u>Cellardoor Vineyard and Winery</u>, <u>Lincolnville/Rockport</u> Oyster River Winegrowers, <u>Warren</u> <u>Savage Oakes Vineyard and</u> <u>Winery</u>, <u>Union</u> <u>Sweetgrass Farm Wine and</u> <u>Distillery</u>, <u>Union</u> <u>Unity Winery</u>, Unity <u>Winterport Winery</u>, Winterport

Brewpubs

Lively Brewing Co. at Ebenezer's Pub, Brunswick Rock Harbor Pub & Brewery, <u>Rockland</u> Sea Dog Brewing Company, <u>Topsham</u>

Brewers

Andrew's Brewing Company, Lincolnville Sheepscot Valley Brewing Company, Whitefield Oxbow Brewing, <u>Newcastle</u> <u>Boothbay Craft Brewery, Boothbay</u> Monhegan Brewing Company, <u>Monhegan Island</u> Marshall Wharf Brewing Company, <u>Belfast</u>





Eat well. Drink up. Enjoy the lobster.

Laid out before you along the MidCoast you'll receive servings of the unexpected, glasses overflowing with the finest local wines and brews, a forkful or two of the *avant garde* and plates of pure, unadulterated decadence.

What's most exciting is that local Maine ingredients — fresh organic vegetables, shellfish and lobster and farm-raised local meats — play so well together whether served up at iconic "bucket list" <u>restaurants</u>, <u>brewpubs or white tablecloth eating experiences</u>. As the sea has inspired so many with a brush and canvas, come experience first-hand how it inspires the masters of the kitchen.

In the MidCoast, "fresh" and "local" are a way of life. Just look inland at the endless acres of neatly tilled sunny hills. Here timeless <u>agricultural traditions</u> produce an abundant parade of farm goods for our twenty or more farmers' markets. Heed quaint signs for roadside blueberry stands; colorful invitations to explore the delicious predicament of being completely satisfied yet still hungry for more.

And remember that while you should read up and do your homework before you come, allow intuition to be your guide once you arrive. Taste the air and breathe in the flavor of each town. Ask locals for eating advice. Push yourself to unearth a treasure. Let your stomach be your compass. It is almost impossible not to eat well here; we've been working on our recipe for centuries.

The Language of Lobster

Fear not! Your first go-round at a lobster pound (see below) needn't be filled with anxiety or fear. Trust us — with a few helpful tips you'll be buying lobster like a pro in no time at all.

Lobster Pound: typically a very fairly priced, simply run casual BYOB picnic table joint on the water where you can buy (and eat) cooked and uncooked lobsters (to take home).

Lobster Roll: chunks of claw, knuckle and tail meat prepared with butter or mayo on a top-loader.

Shore Dinner: a traditional MidCoast meal; lobster (sometimes two), steamers and some combination of corn on the cob or potatoes.

Top-loader: no average frankfurter roll, a perfect textural foil to sweet-salty-buttery lobster.

Soft Shell vs. Hard Shell: lobsters never stop growing, so as waters warm in summer (we promise they do, a little), a lobster will shed its outer shell, leaving a softer shell exposed temporarily. While the wonderful flavor remains the same, hard shell lobsters have more meat.

A Buying Guide: Select – the ideal lobster, full-bodied with two claws, weighing 11/4 to 3 lbs. *Chick(en)* – a lightweight, weighing in at one pound or less. *Cull* – just one claw, a fightn' lobster.







An invitation to be inspired.

As some of the original enclaves of escapism, our cities and towns were where Maine's first tourists came to free themselves of the urban trappings of Boston, New York and Philadelphia. But, culture came along for the ride and found a perfect place to burrow in here among our rocky coves and harbors.

Artists, authors, poets, playwrights and all manner of creative people allowed the inspiringly simple yet unintentionally dramatic landscape and people to take them in (happily giving up a bit of themselves in trade along the way), and they still continue to come to this day.

The painters. Let us not forget how the course of American art is still shaped through the brushes of MidCoast painters. What is the attractant? The sea, the land, the sky? Whether alone or in concert, these three unfurl layer upon layer with ocean waves, windswept trees and lofty cloud-filled skies that defy human description.

The gift to the visitor is that much of the creative product of this talent remains here, on display, seeds cast upon the fertile and welcoming soil of our own cultural firmament. Our museums. Our gardens. Our historic places. The main streets, opera houses and architecture. Musicians. Dancers. Maine's MidCoast is more alive with culture now than it has ever been before.

Monhegan: A Place Apart

Those who wield a brush and yearn to touch the canvas as they chase spots of beautifully reflected light see a place like <u>Monhegan</u> as more than just an island. The Wyeths and many others have raised these simple places from hard, bare, salty rocks to iconic destinations and legendary enclaves with their incomparable vision.

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MAINE ANTIQUES Festival

Whether it's an exquisite 19th-century American side chair or a mid-century modern lawn chair, the hundreds of dealers at the Maine Antiques Festival take a couple days every August to give eagleeyed patrons and pickers the chance to wheel and deal over some of the best old "stuff" ever — the food alone is worth the price of admission!

Every town has personality to match your own.

Wide streets and tall, brightly lit windows are the hallmark of **Maine Street** (not misspelled) in **Brunswick**; it is a lovely experience that sets the pace for the kind of <u>shopping</u> you will find all the way up the coast — small, welcoming shops overflowing with fine locally made or imported goods, helpful and friendly shopkeepers looking to assist or point you in the right direction and, of course, tasty <u>restaurants</u> galore.

<u>Camden</u> is classic coastal Maine. <u>Boothbay Harbor</u> is a sea captains delight. <u>Bath</u> is a beautifully preserved, yet fashionable MidCoast city. The riverfront twins of <u>Newcastle</u> and <u>Damariscotta</u> truly celebrate in style. <u>Rockland</u> is a bit on the artsy side and <u>Belfast</u>, with its diving Main Street, is loaded with so many unbelievable shops. Venture inland to find friendly farm villages like <u>Union</u>. Finally, <u>Searsport</u> bills itself as *Maine's Antiques Capital*.

Once you have shopped yourself out, look to the long standing tradition of excellence in hospitality here in the MidCoast and you'll be guaranteed a memorable stay no matter what you are looking for, and it's likely to have an unparalleled view.

Where to stay: Cozy up with the family for some seaside <u>camping</u>, or step inside one of the grand and well-staffed beachside <u>resorts</u>. Or, what could be better than a classic well-kept <u>motel</u>?

You can also count on the numerous, trustworthy <u>hotels</u> you know to fit the bill, or there is that sweet <u>bed and breakfast</u> that your cousin (or sister or friend) recommended.

Every town from <u>Brunswick</u> to <u>Rockport</u> to <u>Belfast</u> and <u>Searsport</u> has inns of esteem and those quaint, unbelievably welcoming places that are hard to find but, somehow, even harder to leave.

That said, how can we be of service to you?



Get even closer to our coastal friends.

Up top, right above the wheelhouse, is where you will find the finest seats in the "house." Look! There off the starboard bow (more accurately, 2 o'clock), a speedy **minke whale** resurfaces, while at 7 o'clock, three or four adorable **porpoises** play tag in the roiling white wake of the boat. All this and you've barely managed to get out of **Boothbay Harbor**.

On the approach to tiny **Egg Rock**, you'll get a quick education on **puffin** behavior, and from your ideally placed seat you'll quickly spot the tiny, graphically-lined and colorful puffins dipping and diving into the surf, emerging victorious, their parrot-like striped beaks overstuffed with silvery fish. Other birds to keep an eye out for include **terns** and **cormorants**; the onboard educators from **The Puffin Project** would gladly assist with bird identification.

The region's ideal location, protected harbors and rich tidal and brackish environments make for some of the finest opportunities to spot birds and other coastal wildlife. Visitors can also choose to board a shore-hugging tour boat to explore the many hundreds and thousands of acres of bird sanctuaries here.

Rocky ledges and low tide offer more chances to explore an ecosystem normally found beneath the waves. Each tidal cycle fills pools with an endless variety of life. Tiny translucent shrimp, feisty crabs and spiny black urchins are all common here; if you're lucky, you may even find a school of wayward shiners, so bring the net.



ONE GREAT EVENT AT A TIME. That is the best way to enjoy a place with so many exciting annual happenings. Every town has a talent for bringing in the crowds. Everyone has a favorite. Many, including the Maine Lobster Festival, <u>Damariscotta Pumpkinfest</u>, the North Atlantic Blues Festival and Windjammer Days, receive national attention. For more events or details on those listed here, visit MainesMidCoast.com/events.

January Pies on Parade

Rockland

February U.S. National Toboggan Championships Camden

April Passagassawakeag River Race Belfast

Fisherman's Festival Boothbay

May Alewives Festival Damariscotta Mills

June Pirate Rendezvous Damariscotta/Newcastle

Windjammer Days Boothbay Harbor

Midcoast Maine Lighthouse Challenge Weekend

Ukulele Picnic Belfast

Maine Fare Food Festival Belfast

Waldoboro Days Waldoboro

July Bowdoin International Music Festival Brunswick

Bath Heritage Days Bath North Atlantic Blues Festival Rockland

Maine State Music Theatre Brunswick

Maine Celtic Celebration Belfast

August Maine Lobster Festival Rockland

Camden Windjammer Festival Camden

Belfast Harbor Fest Belfast

Maine Antiques Festival Union

New England Auto Auction Owls Head

Brunswick Outdoor Art Festival Brunswick

Maine Wild Blueberry Festival Union

Old Bristol Days Bristol

Salt Bay Chamberfest Damariscotta

DamBluesFest Damariscotta

<u>Maine Highland Games</u> Topsham

September Boothbay Harbor Fest Boothbay Harbor Weiner Fest Belfast

Maine Open Lighthouse Day

Camden International Film Festival Camden

Common Ground Country Fair Unity

Pemaquid Oyster Festival Damariscotta

Oktoberfest Maine Topsham

Great State of Maine Air Show Brunswick

Claw Down Boothbay Harbor

October

Damariscotta Pumpkinfest Damariscotta

Fall Foliage Festival Boothbay

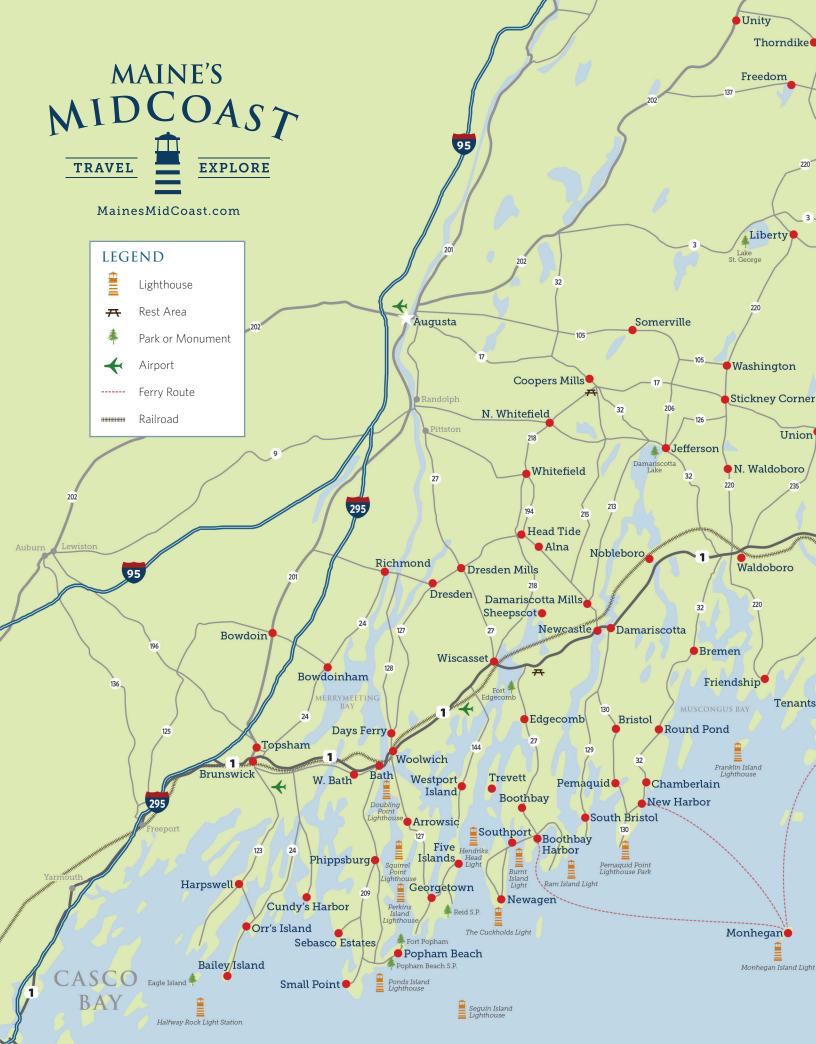
Fling Into Fall Searsport

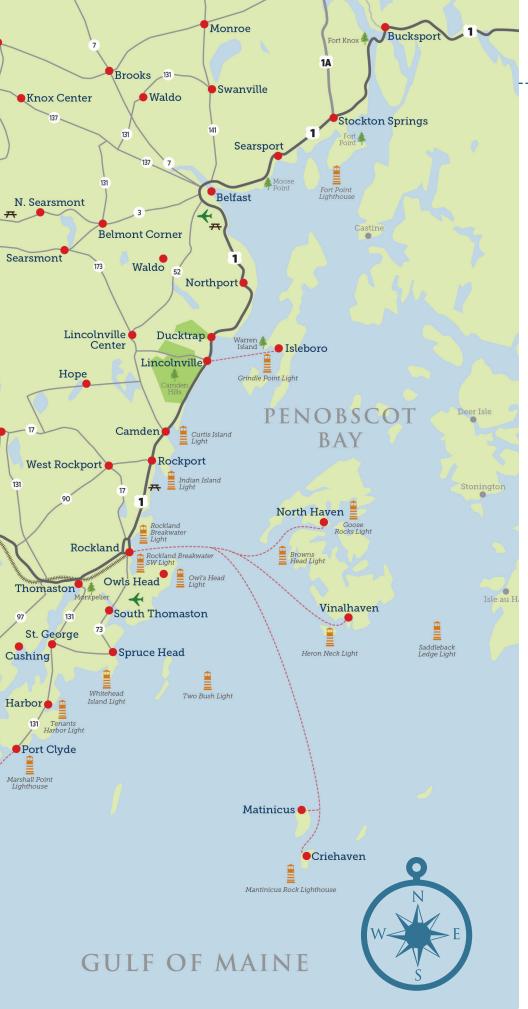
Waldo County Pie & Story Festival Belfast

November Festival of Lights Celebration Rockland

December Harbor Lights Festival Boothbay Harbor

New Year's Eve by the Bay Belfast





Trip Tips for the MidCoast.

By Air

Commercial flights: Cape Air provides daily service into and out of Boston's Logan Airport from Knox County Regional Airport. For ticketing call 800.CAPE.AIR (227.3247).

Airports

Bangor International Airport (BGR) 207.992.4600 | <u>FlyBangor.com</u>

Brunswick Executive Airport (BXM) 207.798.6512

BrunswickExecutiveAirport.com Knox County Regional Airport (RKD) 207.594.4131

KnoxCountyMaine.gov/airport

Portland International Jetport (PWM) 207.774.7301 | <u>PortlandJetport.org</u> Wiscasset Municipal Airport (KIWI) 207.882.8200 Wiscasset.org/departments/airport/

By Bus

Concord Coachlines 1.800.639.3317 | ConcordCoachlines.com Greyhound 1.800.231.2222 | Greyhound.com

By Trolley

The Newcastle/Damariscotta Trolley Service (Serves Newcastle, Damariscotta, Boothbay and Boothbay Harbor) BoothbayHarbor.com

By Train

Amtrak Downeaster (Boston to Brunswick) 1.800.USA.RAIL | AmtrakDowneaster.com Maine Eastern Railroad

207.596.6725 | MaineEasternRailroad.com

By Car

Getting to the MidCoast, one of Maine's most popular and classic destinations, is easy and not that far away. The region is about 100 miles from end to end along US Route 1 (US 1), running from Brunswick to Searsport.

From points south: I-95 north to I-295 through Portland. Exit onto US 1 at Exit 28 toward Bath/Brunswick. US 1 is the primary regional route through the region. During high-traffic times of year, it is wise to plan ahead in the likelihood that the seasonal traffic on US 1 (especially around Wiscasset) can be troublesome. Ask your hotelier for some travel tips to help you plan.

By Boat

One of the most exciting ways to travel about the MidCoast is to arrive by boat. All our ports welcome boaters and there are excellent resources, even in some of the most out-of-the-way places.

See all of Maine from the top of the MidCoast.

Trace the earth's gentle curve beyond **Penobscot Bay** along the horizon; then look straight down over 400 feet to historic <u>Fort Knox</u>. The view from the <u>Penobscot Bay Bridge Observatory</u> defies description.



REGIONAL RESOURCES & VISITOR INFORMATION CENTERS

Southern Midcoast Maine Chamber | 8 Venture Ave., Brunswick | 877.725.8797 | MidCoastMaine.com Brunswick Visitor Center | 16 Station Ave., Brunswick | 207.721.0999

Bath Regional Information Center | 15 Commercial St., Bath

Wiscasset Area Chamber | PO Box 306, Wiscasset | 207.882.9600 | WiscassetChamber.com

Wiscasset Information Center | Creamery Pier, Wiscasset

Boothbay Harbor Region Chamber | 192 Townsend Ave., Boothbay Harbor | 207.633.2353 | BoothbayHarbor.com Boothbay Information Center | Route 27, Boothbay

Damariscotta Region Chamber | 67A Main St., Newcastle | 207.563.8340 | DamariscottaRegion.com

Penobscot Bay Regional Chamber Offices & Information Centers | 2 Public Landing, Camden | 207.236.4404 1 Park Dr., Rockland | 207.596.0376 | MaineDreamVacation.com

Belfast Area Chamber & Information Center | 14 Main St., Belfast | 207. 338.5900 | BelfastMaine.org Union Area Chamber of Commerce | UnionAreaChamber.org



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