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Our Travelers’ Advisory

BY SEN. OLYMPIA SNOWE, TIM SAMPLE, FRITZ GROBE, KEVIN EASTHAM, TED KOFFMAN, AND JEFF PETERSON

We’ve challenged highly overqualified celebrity tour guides to answer the tantalizing question, “You can’t really say you’ve been to Maine until you’ve seen…” Because nobody loves to show Maine off like a Mainer!

SEN. OLYMPIA SNOWE

Celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, the legendary L.L. BEAN is quintessential Maine, with its flagship store in downtown Freeport. I own dozens of shirts, pants—and, of course, boots—from L.L. Bean, and one of my favorite warm-up jackets, which I’ve worn all across Maine, comes from L.L. Bean.

Our state is home to more than 5,000 miles of coastline, 17 million acres of forest, and over 6,000 ponds and lakes. One of the most beautiful lakes you’ll encounter is MOOSEHEAD LAKE, Maine’s largest. In summer, swim, fish, boat, or ride on a float-plane to see the lake and its gorgeous surroundings from the air. In fact, Greenville, at the southern base of Moosehead Lake, hosts a Seaplane Fly-In every September—a wonderful, family-oriented event. Return in the winter for ice fishing or snowshoeing, or take an unforgettable ride on a snowmobile through Maine’s idyllic, snow-covered pine forests.

Portland is home to one of our state’s retail jewels: the historic OLD PORT, a lively shopping area offering everything from jewelry, clothing, and footwear to pottery, antiques, and unique souvenirs. It also boasts five-star restaurants, brew pubs, and a chance to enjoy fresh seafood right on the water.

For fascinating shopping and exciting sightseeing, ROCKLAND and CAMDEN offer visitors an extraordinary experience. Downtown Rockland is a National Historic District, as the gorgeous architecture, stunning boutiques, and famed art galleries demonstrate. The FARNSWORTH ART MUSEUM is home to paintings by three generations of the famed Wyeth family—in fact, Jamie Wyeth owns a studio
Experience Monhegan from the comfort of our 1870s inn. We offer 28 rooms in a variety of configurations to accommodate most any traveler. Our inviting lobby and parlor encourage relaxation as well as friendly chats with other guests or the innkeepers themselves. Customer reviews of our dinner menu compare it to the best restaurants of Portland and beyond. As an added bonus, the island’s best breakfast menu is included in the price of your room. Visit the Monhegan House...you will be glad you did.

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In August, don’t miss Rockland’s 65th Annual Maine Lobster Festival, which features a huge parade and plenty of lobster for everyone!

A 15-minute drive up Route 1 is Camden, another downtown brimming with one-of-a-kind small businesses and stunning harbor views. One of the town’s unique gems is the Camden Opera House, where spectators enjoy ballets, musicals, and plays in a delightful and historic setting.

Finally, no list of Maine destinations would be complete without Acadia National Park, a true gem. The second most visited national park in the country (behind Yellowstone), Acadia’s appeal has only grown stronger over time due to its gorgeous ocean vistas, biking trails on its historic carriage road system, and Cadillac Mountain—the highest point on the US Atlantic coastline, where the world seems to unfold in front of you. Don’t miss the famous Jordan Pond House located inside the park, which offers guests lunch, dinner, and of course its famous popovers.

TIM SAMPLE

Humorist
How could I not recommend Moody’s Diner in Waldoboro, a legendary Coastal Route 1 eatery with a history so inexorably intertwined with my own? We used to stop at Moody’s following the Boothbay Seahawks to their away basketball games in Waldoboro and Rockland. Naturally, my first LP released on the Bert and I label (Downeast Standup, 1983, available on iTunes) included the tale “Saturday Night at Moody’s Diner.” Still family-owned and operated, Moody’s Diner remains the authentic Maine diner experience.

Princeton Variety [surrounded by lakes near the Canadian border] is the general store everybody has in mind when they fantasize about retiring to Maine, with everything from trout flies and Buck Knives to Windex, rock salt, dust mops, penny candy, galvanized chain, blue tarps, T-shirts, appliances, fishing licenses, bug dope, and, yes, even a good selection of Tim Sample CDs next to the cash register.

Boothbay Lobster Wharf is the place to be on a lazy summer afternoon. Keep a sharp eye out for marauding gulls as you chow down on the freshest seafood on the Maine coast. How
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“We had a blast last summer!”
—Jon Campbell

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DISCOVERY

fresh? You see those fishing boats unloading their catch a few yards away? That’s fresh, chunky! The weathered picnic tables offer a ringside seat of the inner harbor and a seemingly endless parade of mega-yachts, sailboats, powerboats, skiffs, and dories.

As you drive past the little shipbuilding village of East Boothbay (quaint, huh?), the view shifts dramatically, and suddenly the whole Atlantic Ocean is parked at the curb. Congratulations! You’ve arrived at Grimes Cove.

That little island you see just off the boulder-lined, crescent-shaped, rock-strewn beach is Green Island. Just beyond that is Ram Island Lighthouse. A bit further out, the naval battle between HMS Boxer and USS Enterprise took place during the War of 1812. From the shore, gazing at the windblown islands in the endless ocean, there’s no discernible difference between 2012 and 1812, or 1612 for that matter.

Look out from the second-floor balcony of the backside of the plebeian, unassuming Machias Motor Inn. You’ll encounter an uninterrupted view of one of the most amazing salt marshes anywhere in the country, home to eagles, ospreys, seals, heron, cormorants, red-wing blackbirds, terns, gulls, alewives, and mackerel teeming in a glorious affirmation of life. Best of all, with the 18-wheelers idling in the parking lot out front, you can entertain the delicious fantasy that Mother Nature has slipped you a backstage pass to her best off-off-off-Broadway show ever!

Sharing a parking lot is Helen’s Restaurant, famous for its strawberry pie and—according to Martha Stewart and other big-time foodies—also the proud purveyor of the best darned blueberry pie in the whole USA.

FRITZ GROBE
EepyBird’s Co-founder, from The Extreme Diet Coke & Mentos Experiments

I always take folks to see a show at Celebration Barn Theater, an internationally renowned school for the performing arts. They’re always surprised to find world-class original theater in a big red barn way out in the woods of South Paris. From outrageous physical comedy like The Fabulous Problems to sophisticated acts like Steven Ragatz from Cirque du Soleil, theater at Celebration Barn is a uniquely Maine mix of unpretentious quality and sharp humor.
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I grew up climbing Bald Rock in Camden Hills, looking out over the islands of Penobscot Bay. Of all the places I’ve been, none feels like home the way this craggy coastline dotted with rocky islands does. Robert McCloskey beautifully captured these places in some of my favorite children’s books: One Morning in Maine and Time of Wonder.

One of Maine’s oldest art galleries, Frost Gully in Freeport and Thomaston not only has a selection of great contemporary Maine art, it’s the place to see the work of one of my favorite artists, Dahlov Ipcar. Ipcar had her first solo show at MOMA in New York at 21, but she has lived and worked on a farm in Georgetown since 1936. Now in her 90s, she continues to create bold and vibrant paintings of animals from around the world.

Kevin Eastman, Co-creator of Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

I’d spend at least one day in Ogunquit. There are many amazing galleries and shops—Perkins Cove is extra special to me. I worked at Johnny’s Oarweed Restaurant five summers after high school. I was working there when I co-created Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles with Peter Laird.

After a walk along Marginal Way, I’d wander in and out of the shops and galleries, watch the boats from the drawbridge, and then head to the deck of the Oarweed for a lobster roll, or, if you’re really hungry, one of their fisherman’s platters.

In Portland, tour the Old Port’s shops and galleries. A late afternoon lunch or dinner at Old Port Tavern or DiMillo’s on the Water is a must.

Another great day trip, one my sisters and I made countless times with my mother, is running around the sand and surf at Old Orchard Beach. Spend the early evening eating and playing at Palace Playland while the sun sets.

A weekend camping at Baxter State Park and climbing Mount Katahdin is incredible. My father, Kim, who still lives in Standish, used to take us every summer when we were kids.

By the way, each of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles insists on making a recommendation, too. [Check out this page.]

TED KOFFMAN, Executive Director, Maine Audubon Society

Fisherman’s Point at Willard Beach in South Portland is just 15 minutes from my house. The sun dramatically rises out of the sea. Red and green channel markers blink in the pre-dawn darkness in the channel, and the bright, reliable beam from Portland Head Light stretches across the beach. Ships maneuver the passage, guided by tugboats.

A five-minute walk down Willow Street takes you to Scratch Bakery, a delicious oasis. There you’re rewarded with legendary bagels, breads,
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JEFF PETERSON, News Anchor, WGME 13

Take a cruise around Casco Bay to check out the islands. Great Diamond Island is a good stop with a very nice restaurant in Diamond Cove, Diamond’s Edge. Seventeen-acre Eagle Island is a diamond in the rough. It was the summer home of famed arctic explorer and Portland native Robert E. Peary. In 1909, he was the first person to reach the North Pole. There are great views of the ocean and lots of seals.

Walker’s Point is the summer home of George H. W. Bush and his son, George W. Bush, near Kennebunkport. It’s a must-see, even if you aren’t a fan of either President. Park alongside the road, get out of your car, and wait for a few minutes. You can see the Secret Service in action out on fishing boats. The view of the Bush Compound with the Atlantic Ocean in the background is spectacular.

Most people go to Portland Head Light to see a Maine lighthouse. I like to go where you can see three. At Southern Maine Community College, on top of a grassy hill, you can see Portland Head Light, Spring Point Lighthouse, and Bug Light. The views of Casco Bay and the islands from this spot are second to none. There’s also Fort Preble as you hike toward the water.

At The Lobster Shack, the view is priceless. Climb up the stairs from the parking lot and see the waves of the Atlantic crash on the rocky shores at Two Lights. It’s just like a postcard.

The Goldenrod candy store in York Beach has been around since 1896. They feature homemade salt water taffy, fudge, and ice cream, among other sweets. It’s famous for taffy. It’s made right in the window as you walk by and is sold around the world. You can also watch them make kisses and fudge. There’s an old-fashioned soda fountain and a penny-candy counter. The lobster rolls and New England clam chowder are to die for. Connecting memories together, it’s a place you’ll want to visit every time you come to Maine.
**Catch Summer Fun In Ogunquit!**

Ogunquit Maine is the premier destination to satisfy all of your summer wishes. Experience miles of beautiful sandy beaches, quaint seaport coves, fine dining, superior accommodations and a large selection of unique shops and businesses in one convenient location.

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### Events

- **JULY 4 ~ Independence Day Fireworks**
- **AUGUST 23 ~ 39th Annual Sidewalk Art Show & Sale**
  - Rain Date: August 24
- **AUGUST 25 ~ 8th Annual Almost Labor Day Auction**
- **SEPTEMBER 1 ~ 3rd Annual Labor Day Weekend Sidewalk Sale**
  - Rain Date: Sept. 2
- **SEPTEMBER 3 - 16 ~ 22nd Annual Capriccio**
- **OCTOBER 19 - 21 ~ 9th Annual Ogunquitfest**
- **NOVEMBER 11 ~ 4th Annual Celebrations by the Sea Wedding Expo**
- **DECEMBER 1 - 2 & 7 - 9 ~ 26th Annual Christmas by the Sea Celebration**

Photo by Rick Barber

**COME JOIN US!**

For more information on these events, go to [www.visitogunquit.org](http://www.visitogunquit.org)

All Event dates are subject to change.
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