

Maine

IN 2018 – 2019

WHAT'S NEW & UNEXPECTED

The **bicentennial of the state of Maine** is coming up in 2020 and the state's official bicentennial commission is working on plans to mark this important milestone with celebrations, educational opportunities and commemorations. The commission recently launched the official "Maine 200" website at maine200.org as a resource for information. The bicentennial commission is also on social media, at @OfficialME200 on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

FOOD & DRINK

Crunchy Poké Bar at 426 Fore Street in Portland has signature bowls featuring fresh tuna, unagi, salmon and lobster. For those thinking beyond the bowl, there is a range of burritos made with spicy scallop, tofu and lobster to choose from. crunchypoke.com

In Cape Neddick, **Walkers Maine** is the new restaurant under Danielle and Justin Walker. Veterans of Arrows in Ogunquit and Earth at Hidden Pond in Kennebunkport, they use produce from their own garden and serve their distinctive take on Maine coastal cuisine. walkersmaine.com

Bitterend in Wells is the new restaurant from Pete and Kate Morency, who also own Pedro's in Kennebunk. This is a casual restaurant with comfort food such as lobster rolls, a seafood mixed grill and a 9-Hour Bolognese. bitterend.me

Opening in December 2018, **Franny's** in Camden is located in the former Francine Bistro building. Chef Jack Neal, a graduate of Culinary Institute of America, prides himself on American fare from the freshest Maine products available.

Lewiston's **Baxter Brewing** has redeveloped 4,800 square feet of space in Bates Mill 1A into a gleaming pub. The space has been redesigned and restored as an ode to Lewiston-Auburn's manufacturing history and will offer food, games like shuffleboard, Skee-Ball and cornhole, live events and outdoor seating alongside a waterfall in the canal. pubatbaxter.com

The Bissell brothers, following their success in Portland, opened a new brewery in Milo, near Dover-Foxcroft, called **Bissell Brothers Three Rivers**. They have eight rotating brews on tap. bissellbrothers.com/bissell-brothers-three-rivers **

Buxton Common in the rural town of Buxton is where Chef Max Brody offers smokehouse favorites such as a pulled pork sandwich and smoked St. Louis-style pork spare ribs, along with Southern fare such as cornmeal crusted trout. thebuxtoncommon.com

The popular **Maine Foodie Tours** has now added tours in a sixth location – Boothbay Harbor – joining Kennebunkport, Portland, Rockland, Camden and Bar Harbor. mainefoodietours.com/boothbay-harbor **

A new organic, barrel-aged rum distillery recently opened in Pembroke. **Dooryard Shine**'s high-proof rum can be purchased or sampled at their tasting room in Eastport. facebook.com/dooryardshine

Portland's newest food tour, **Maine Food for Thought**, is heading into its second year by extending their season, increasing their group size and adding another daily tour in July through October. This educational culinary walking tour takes small groups to six different Old Port restaurants to sample foods and learn the story of Maine's rich and multi-layered food system. mainefoodforthought.com **



Portland named “Restaurant City of the Year” by Bon Appetit

Castine was listed as a destination for the “Best Stargazing in North America” by Outside magazine

Rockland made the list of “25 Cutest Main Streets” by Fodors.

Skowhegan was one of Smithsonian magazine’s “20 Best Small Towns to Visit in 2018”

Maine was ranked as “Best New England State for Summer Road Trips” by WalletHub

The **Acadia All-American Road** and **Rangeley Lakes Scenic Byway** were named among the “Most Scenic Drives” by Town & Country

Moxie Falls was listed as one of the most “Spectacular Waterfalls in the U.S.” by USA Today

Portland was one of Forbes’ “10 Coolest Cities to Visit in 2018”

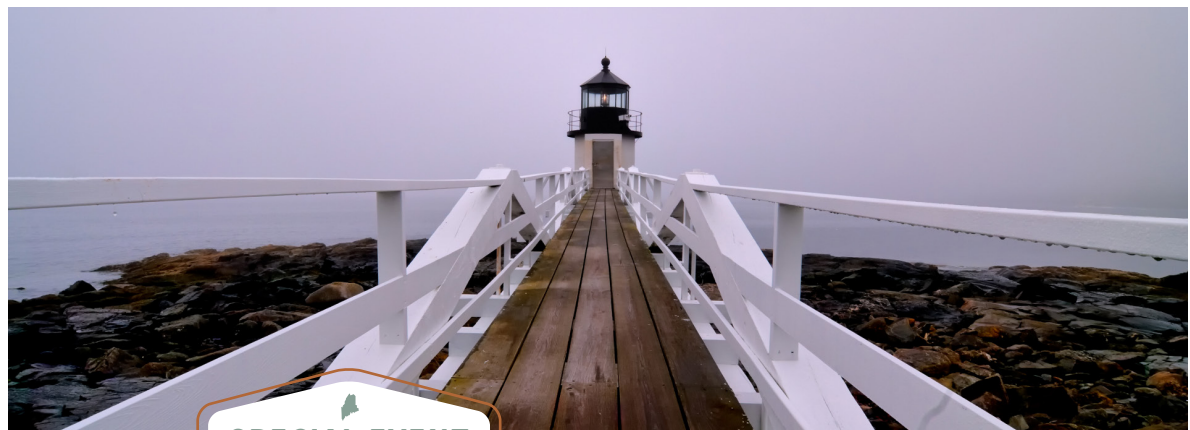
Bangor was named “Best Budget Destination in the Northeast” by Budget Travel

Bar Harbor was in the top 25 list of “America’s Favorite Destinations” on Expedia

Old Orchard Beach was chosen as one of the “10 Best Family Beaches in the U.S.” by ABC News

Camden was named as one of the “Best Small Towns in America” by Architectural Digest

Maine was listed as one of the world’s best places to travel in 2019 by Smarter Travel



SPECIAL EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

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MAY

Acadia Birding Festival, Bar Harbor
Abbe Museum Indian Market
Moose Maine, Moosehead Lake Region
Wings, Waves & Woods Festival, Deer Isle

JUNE

Old Port Festival, Portland
Lupine Festival, Deer Isle-Stonington
Windjammer Days, Boothbay Harbor
Bangor’s Beer Festival

JULY

Maine International Film Festival, Waterville
Maine Potato Blossom Festival, Fort Fairfield
Yarmouth Clam Festival
Artisan Bread Fair, Skowhegan
Bar Harbor Music Festival

AUGUST

Maine Lobster Festival, Rockland
Machias Blueberry Festival
Great Falls Balloon Festival, Lewiston
American Folk Festival, Bangor Riverfront

SEPTEMBER

Maine Open Lighthouse Day, Statewide
Maine Salmon Festival, Eastport
Common Ground Country Fair, Unity
International Seaplane Fly-In, Greenville
Bethel Harvestfest & Chowdah Cookoff
Acadia Night Sky Festival, Bar Harbor
Pemaquid Oyster Festival, Damariscotta

OCTOBER

OgunquitFest
Harvest on the Harbor, Portland
Damariscotta Pumpkinfest
Foliage, Food & Wine Festival, Blue Hill
Acadia’s Oktoberfest, Southwest Harbor
Maine Craft Weekend, Statewide
Fall Festival, Freeport

NOVEMBER

Rockland Festival of Lights Celebration
Lighting of the Nubble, Cape Neddick
Country Christmas in Bethel
Maine Brewers Festival, Portland

DECEMBER

Kennebunkport’s Christmas Prelude
Christmas by the Sea, Camden
Freeport’s Sparkle Weekend
Christmas by the Sea Celebration, Ogunquit Village

WHAT'S NEW & UNEXPECTED

OUTDOORS

Part of the East Coast Greenway, the **Eastern Trail** is a 65+ mile bike route from Kittery to South Portland. There was a 1.6-mile off-road gap from Saco to South Portland but late last year the Eastern Trail Alliance reached their \$4.1 million fundraising goal to "Close the Gap," and an uninterrupted trail is finally within sight. eastertrail.org **

Seacoast Helicopters of New Hampshire has expanded into Portland offering tours of the Portland waterfront and lighthouses or a flight out to Halfway Rock Lighthouse for a private tour or picnic. seacoasthelos.com/?page_id=4635

The **Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway** is complete. This 211-mile route takes you on a breathtaking ride from West Gouldsboro to Calais, by the Canada border. discoverboldcoast.com/biking/bold-coast-scenic-bikeway **

This summer marks the 45th anniversary of the **Scarborough Marsh Audubon Center** on Pine Point Road in Scarborough. The 3,100-acre estuary is owned and managed by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife and offers visitors exceptional paddling and bird watching opportunities, as well as a nature trail dotted with interpretive panels. maineaudubon.org

The National Park Service has contracted the Appalachian Mountain Club to build a series of hiking trails in the **Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument**, giving visitors more access. Work will continue through fall 2019. nps.gov/kaww/index.htm

ARTS & CULTURE

The historic schooner "Mary E" was launched from the **Maine Maritime Museum** in June 2018. The 1906-built schooner "Mary E" was restored at the museum's historic shipyard in 2017/2018 and unveiled at her new home on the Kennebec River as a floating exhibit at the museum. On-deck tours run daily from Memorial Day to Columbus Day with docents sharing stories of her past. mainemaritimemuseum.org/visit/schooner-mary-e **

The new Native Butterfly House and Caterpillar Lab at **Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens** opened spring of 2018. Visitors can visit butterfly gardens and surround themselves with native butterflies. mainegardens.org **

Maine + Jewish: Two Centuries, a new exhibit at the **Maine State Museum**, opened in September 2018 and will run through October 25, 2019. The exhibit will illustrate how Jewish life has become an essential part of Maine's rhythm and character. mainestatemuseum.org **

Maine Day Trip Tours now offers step-on guide service in five languages — French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and German. The tours highlight the breathtaking coastal sights of southern Maine, Maine lighthouses, and other historical landmarks. mainedaytrip.com/index.html **

The **Main Street Maine** program launched their new website, mainestreetmaine.org, which highlights Maine's 10 National Main Street communities as vibrant places to find local food, shops, cultural happenings and distinctive New England architecture. mainestreetmaine.org **



**Indicates group tour appropriate.

TOP MAINE ATTRACTIONS

Acadia National Park
Appalachian Trail/Mt. Katahdin
Maine Art Museum Trail

Beer and Wine Trails

Beaches

Birding Trail

Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens

Lighthouses

L.L.Bean

Moose Safaris

Penobscot Narrows Bridge & Observatory

Historic Windjammer Fleet

WHAT VISITORS LOVE

SPECTACULAR SCENERY AND WILDLIFE

Rugged coastline, lakes and mountains

National scenic byways, authentic villages

Whale watching, puffins, seals

WORLD-CLASS OUTDOOR RECREATION

Skiing/snowmobiling, hiking/paddling

Sea kayaking, windjamming, whitewater rafting

Fishing/lobstering, golf

SHOPPING

Designer outlets, Maine-made products

CUISINE

Award-winning chefs and restaurants

Wine/beer trails, lobster and fresh seafood

Wild blueberries, locally grown products

CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Lighthouses, historic sites

Museums, performing arts

Acadian/Wabanaki (Native American) cultures

VisitMaine.com

DISTANCE CHART TO PORTLAND, MAINE

City	Miles	Kilometers
Boston	106	171
Montreal, PQ	256	412
Moncton, NB	430	692
Québec City	278	443
New York, NY	311	500
Florida	1,310	2,113



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