

MAINE'S MOST STYLISH GETAWAYS

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Maine comes by the nickname “Vacationland” honestly. The Pine Tree State possesses nearly 3,500 miles of craggy coastline and pristine forests, quaint towns, and bustling cities, and offers as many ways to stay in the state as there are buoys in the bays. With such a wealth of choice, it can be a challenge to narrow it down. With that in mind, we’ve rounded up a few of our favorite four-star boutique hotel escapes to suit every sensibility. From sunny riverside bungalows to urbane art deco city digs, from a nature lover’s hip haven to European-style luxury in Maine’s midcoast. Whether you’re from away or just looking to get away, we’ve got you covered.

CAN I GET AN AHOY?

THE YACHTSMAN HOTEL & MARINA CLUB



At The Yachtsman Hotel, all rooms feature a king-sized bed and bright, nautical-chic decor.



The Yachtsman Hotel & Marina Club is Kennebunkport’s newest resort and the latest property in Tim Harrington and partners’ Kennebunkport Resort Collection. Located on Ocean Avenue, the original midcentury motor lodge has been vibrantly remodeled into a series of 30 chic, harbor-front bungalows overlooking the sparkling river and marina.

Upon arrival, guests are greeted with a glass of Prosecco and a warm welcome. General manager Casey Wickham even offers a complimentary “vinyl concierge service,” where a portable Victrola record player is brought to your room with a choice of records to set the mood.

The sunny, stylish quarters, designed by Louise Hurlbutt of Hurlbutt Designs, combine contemporary furnishings with hues of mango, magenta, and sky that bring to mind the hot colors of a summer sunset. Whitewashed shiplap walls, brass accents, and colorful rope rugs are crisply nautical, while the sleek Carrara marble bathrooms, replete with rain-head showers, feel cool and luxurious. All rooms feature king-sized beds with luxe linens that will have you hitting the snooze button.

Joining the two wings of the property is the heart and soul of the hotel, the laid-back Marina bar and lounge, where you can gather any time of day under the cheerful striped awning to play checkers or cards, enjoy a signature cocktail and small bites, or simply watch the boats skim by. Coffee and pastries are served in the morning, and daily happy hour for hotel and marina members makes every evening feel like a party.

Each room has French doors that open onto a private terrace where you can relax in an Adirondack chair just steps from the shore. Looking to take a dip? Check out the hotel's remarkable floating pool. Dubbed the *SS Sundaze*, it is built into a barge that bobs on the Kennebunk River. Hop on in or simply lounge with your best beach read on one of the lemon-striped cushions and beanbags that surround it.

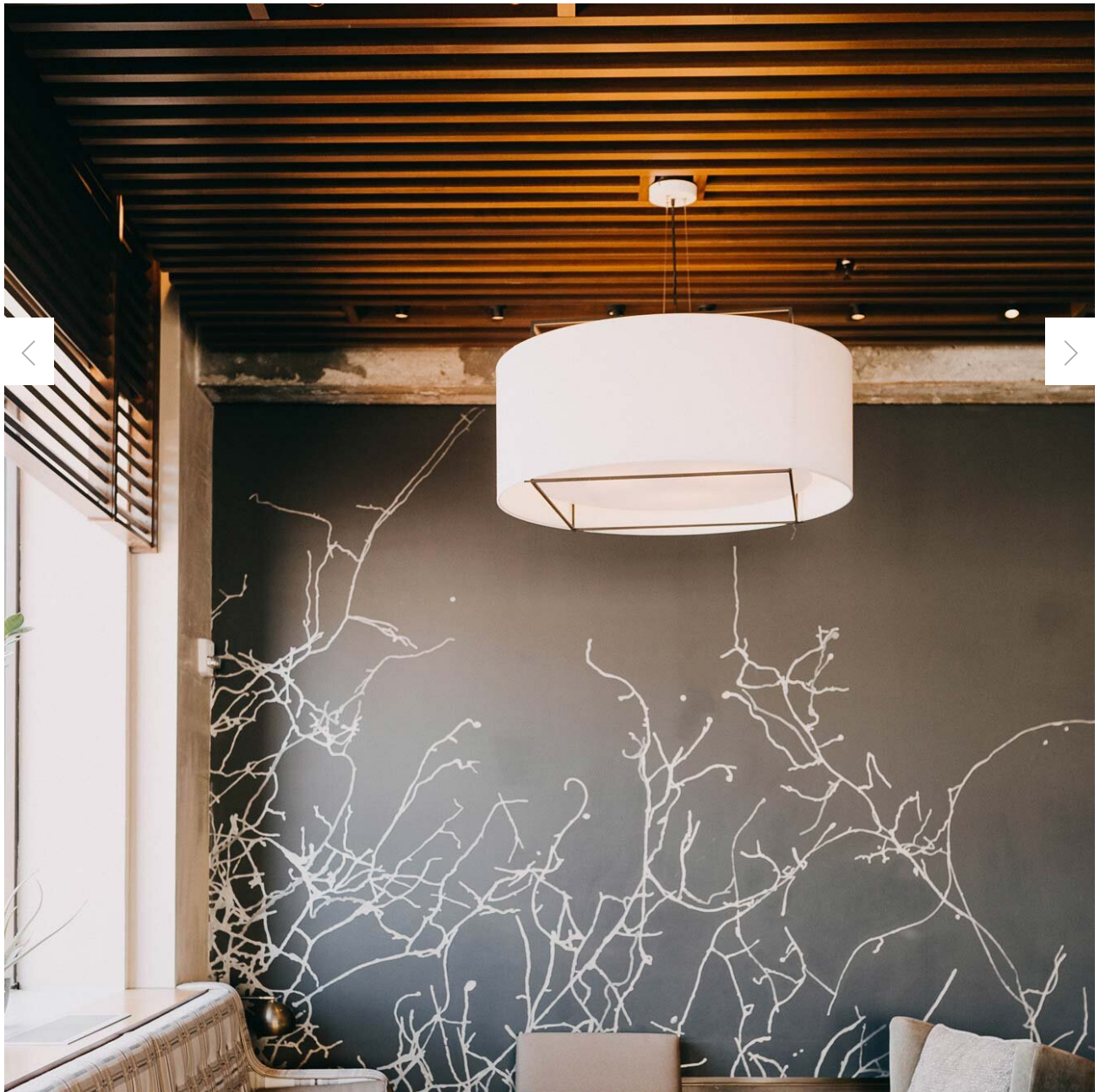
The Yachtsman is perfectly located, removed from the bustle of downtown but just a short walk to the beach, shops, and restaurants. Active travelers may enjoy tooling around on a Raleigh beach cruiser or taking to the water with a kayak, canoe, or SUP—all are complimentary at the adjacent Kennebunkport Marina. In the evening, feel free to take the KRC complimentary "supper shuttle," which makes stops at the resort collection's other grounds, allowing guests to property-hop and enjoy drinks or meals at the various restaurants, from Earth at Hidden Pond to Ocean at the Cape Arundel Inn & Resort.

The property operates seasonally, May to October, and offers a special Prelude Package during December. A wonderful getaway for couples or the solo traveler, and a relaxed venue for groups, this property is smoke-free, pet-free, and adults-only.

The hotel can naturally be reached by boat. Slip and boat rentals are on offer in the marina, making it easy to come and go up the riverway. But have no fear, boat or no boat, the Yachtsman Hotel & Marina Club aims to give everyone a taste of yacht life. Tie on a head scarf, grab your favorite shades, and channel your best Jackie O.

HOT OFF THE PRESS:

THE PRESS HOTEL



In the lounge of Union restaurant, plush sofas offer a chic respite.



headlines. On the seventh floor, an elegant penthouse suite includes a private deck that provides a panoramic view of the city, Back Cove, and Casco Bay.

The hotel restaurant, Union, is a hot spot for residents and guests alike. Helmed by award-winning executive chef Josh Berry, it serves farm-to-table menus for breakfast, brunch, lunch, and dinner.

The Inkwell, the hotel's cafe and lounge, serves coffee and house-made pastries morning and afternoon and operates as a lounge from 4 to midnight daily, offering a full bar and light fare, and an "Off the Record" happy hour during the week. Parked off the main lobby in the former city room where journalists once typed up the local scoops, it is easy to imagine, as you sip a perfectly poured latte or cocktail, the energetic click-clack of the day's news being put to paper.

The hotel offers valet parking and a Mercedes Sprinter to help guests arrive and depart. A 24-hour gym and free bicycle rentals are available for guests who like to stay active.

The interior design incorporates witty nods to its newsroom roots, from the letterpress sculpture by Matt Hutton behind the reception desk to the remarkable *Swarm*, by Erin Hutton, a two-story installation of antique and vintage typewriters that appear to swirl down the wall. The lower level includes a gallery where local artists are on permanent display and exhibitions are curated quarterly.

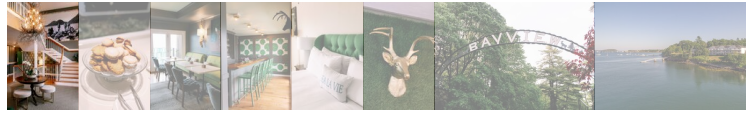
Bon mots also pop up in unexpected places. Should you think of some of your own, feel free to peck out a letter on one of the hotel's working typewriters. The front desk team will happily mail it for you, worldwide, gratis. It is little details like this that make The Press Hotel's motto, *Beyond Words*, ring true. In fact, we think absolutely everything about it is good news.

RUSTIC LUXE:

THE BAYVIEW HOTEL



In the lobby of the Bayview Hotel earthy glamour abounds. A chandelier “nest” is complemented by a copse of birch trees.



In the late 1800s, families from New York and Boston flocked to Downeast Maine, looking to be inspired and get back to nature. If at first their lodgings were rudimentary, they eventually built increasingly opulent “cottages” that allowed them to heed the call of the wild with all the comforts of home. Known as the “Rusticators,” they were an important part of the settlement of the area and the creation of Acadia National Park.

The Bayview Hotel in Bar Harbor, established in 1985 and recently bought and renovated by Kimberly Swan of The Swan Agency Sotheby’s International Realty and The Swan Hospitality Group, pays homage to those early pioneers, offering a hip, luxe haven from which to explore the natural beauty of the seaside, wilderness, and town. All 26 of the establishment’s uniquely appointed rooms include a four-poster king- or queen-sized bed, lush linens, and a private deck overlooking Frenchman Bay. “People call and ask for an ocean view, and we tell them, ‘That’s all that we have!’” laughs Kimberly Swan.

The elemental, nature-based decor, a collaboration between Swan and Washington, D.C., and Bar Harbor–based Betsy Stires, integrates the colors of the surrounding environment. Dark-charcoal walls evoke the craggy mountains and shoreline, while the verdant green upholstery and bits of blue recall the forest and the bay. The design mixes plush velvet furniture with touches of rustic whimsy, from a copse of locally harvested birch trees in the lobby to the striking, immense twig chandelier that looks like the nest of the world’s most glamorous bird.

The pet-friendly property pays tribute to many four-legged beasts. In fact, the deer featured in the portraits by painter Aaron Mitchell decorating the Rusticator Lounge are none other than Buck, Dodo, Stranger, and Lilac, Swan’s own pet deer. In the morning, full breakfast can be enjoyed beneath their benevolent gaze, while in the evening, chef Nora Stanley prepares a variety of small plates and head bartender Jane Cornman mixes original cocktails.

The hotel is a relaxing destination on its own and the perfect headquarters from which to explore all that Mount Desert Island has to offer, from the quaint seaside town of Bar Harbor to the incomparable beauty of Acadia National Park. After a day of sightseeing or hiking, you can retire to a stylishly elegant room and welcome the evening from your private deck. This balance of rusticity and luxury in equal measures feels in keeping with the vision of the region’s intrepid settlers.

George B. Dorr, widely considered the “Father of Acadia,” would surely approve. An 11-by-8-foot birch-framed photograph of him and fellow founders greets guests on the staircase landing as they ascend to their rooms. Something tells me he would feel right at home in the Owner’s Suite, where a four-poster rattan bed by Palecek is complemented by a decor of earth tones and natural fibers—rustic refinement at its best.

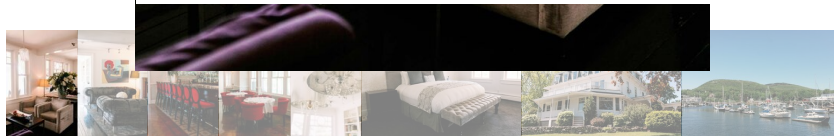
With such a cozy, hip interior, we’d be tempted to stay inside, but that would be a mistake with so much natural beauty to explore outdoors. Surrounded by wilderness and just steps from the shore, the understated opulence of The Bayview Hotel lets you make like a Rusticator—no roughing it required.

THE JEWEL OF CAMDEN:

CAMDEN HARBOUR INN



Jewel tones, plush fabrics, and plenty of fresh flowers make the space feel sumptuous and special.



Known as “The Jewel of the Maine Coast,” Camden is also home to one of the region’s most historic and luxurious lodgings, the Camden Harbour Inn. If you’re looking for some *luxe, calme, et volupté*, look no further. Why am I speaking French? This last property in our roundup is a member of the prestigious Relais & Châteaux collection of international hotels and restaurants, and offers just that—comfort, calm, and beauty.

Originally known as Mountain View House, the New England Victorian inn has been in continuous operation since 1874. Dutch owners and partners Raymond Brunyanszki and Oscar Verest purchased the inn in 2007, and their care and recent renovations bring European refinement and exemplary service to Maine’s midcoast. The inn’s 20 rooms include junior and grand suites that offer guests a choice of sumptuous accommodations. It is also home to Natalie’s, one of the most exclusive dining destinations in New England, where Old World charm meets modern cuisine by award-winning executive chefs Chris Long and Shelby Stevens. A complimentary breakfast of pastries and à la carte menu items is served in the restaurant daily and can be enjoyed outside on the inn’s gracious, heated porch.

Situated on a hilltop overlooking Penobscot Bay and Camden Harbor, with Mount Battie in the distance, the inn operates year-round and is ideally located to capture the beauty of the region’s four seasons, in all weather.

The rich jewel-tone rooms designed by Brunyanszki and Mascha Brunia Interieurs, of the Netherlands, blend contemporary design with Southeast Asian accents and antiques. All are luxuriously appointed with feather beds, fine linens, comfy robes and slippers, and nightly turndown service. My favorite part? The personal note and gourmet Belgian chocolates on the pillow.

The Royal Dutch Suite provides a truly decadent escape, with a living room and bedroom that feature glowing fireplaces, and a spa-like bathroom that includes a rain shower, steam shower, air bath, and Finnish sauna. The suite includes every modern amenity and a wet bar with Illy espresso maker for coffee or cocktails in bed.

“Your Adventure Awaits You” is one of the inn’s taglines, and their unmatched assortment of special packages ensures truly unique ways to explore all the region has to offer, from a lighthouse tour in a vintage VW van to a day trip aboard a working lobsterman’s boat to private cruise and schooner sails in the bay. After your day of sightseeing or shopping in

Camden's one-of-a-kind boutiques, we recommend wrapping up the day with a hot-stone massage in the inn's private spa.

The perfect spot for a wedding, romantic getaway, or special treat, the inn offers unparalleled service and continental elegance. If you're searching for the ultimate in relaxation, fine dining, and modern luxury, consider it your go-to destination. In the jewel of Maine's midcoast, Camden Harbour Inn truly sparkles.

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