Destination Guide Portland Maine

Portland, Maine is a great destination for vacations, events, reunions and retreats. The city is located in southern Maine, the state known as Vacationland. Portland is close to the ocean, shopping, parks, athletic facilities, and many other attractions.

[History](#)

Portland existed long before Maine even became a state, and the area was first settled by Native Americans in the 17th century. Portland was named following the American Revolution, and Maine became a state about 30 years later. Portland became a major trading port and was initially the capital of the state, which was later moved to Augusta. There was a fire on Independence Day 1866 that destroyed a large portion of the city. Portland was rebuilt, and today residents are active in protecting the city's historical significance. The city is also on the National Register of Historic Places.

The People

The people of Southern Maine are known as open-minded individuals, who are accepting of other people and cultures. Although Portland is a busy city, the people are polite, friendly, and pleasant. Locals are particularly involved with art, theater, and music. There are three major colleges in Portland, the University of Southern Maine, Southern Maine Community College, and the Maine College of Arts (MECA), so many of the residents in Portland are students. Portland is an ideal place to begin a professional career. With its churches, great schools, festivals, museums, and shopping centers, Portland is also a top choice to raise a family. Portland residents are an eclectic mix of individuals and part of what makes the city so unique.

Where to Stay

If you're planning a visit to the city, there are many places to stay that are comfortable and affordable. For stays in the city, the Days Inn, the Hampton Inn, the Holiday Inn and the Portland Marriott are all within half a mile of the Maine Mall in the heart of South Portland. The Days Inn is the most affordable, with rooms starting around $100 a night, and a room can be reserved at the Marriott, Hampton, or Holiday Inn for around $200 a night. If you prefer an artistic setting, there is another Holiday Inn located in the Arts District, along with the Eastland Park Hotel, which is about the same price. For accommodations closer to the ocean, try the Portland Harbor Hotel, the Portland Regency Hotel or the Hilton Garden Inn, located near the Old Port. These are more luxurious accommodations and a bit more expensive, but you can reserve a room for around $300 a night.

Where to Eat

There is no shortage of great places to eat in Portland, Maine. Maine is known for its selection of seafood, potatoes, and fresh fruit, among other foods. To get authentic Maine seafood, try Portland Lobster Company, which has everything from lobster to clam chowder, as well as a variety of sides to choose from. This was named one of Maine's best restaurants in 2011. Five Fifty-Five is another choice, serving cheese dishes, sweet desserts, wine, vegetarian options, and steak. For a completely vegetarian option, try the Green Elephant Vegetarian Bistro on Congress Street or O'Naturals on Exchange Street. For an authentic Maine dessert, go to Maple's Gelato, a restaurant that uses fresh ingredients in its frozen treats.

Places of Interest

One of the first things that often strikes visitors about this city is the culture. Portland is an artistic city that has its own Arts District with historical museums and art exhibits. There are also plays, music festivals, and other events that take place throughout the year. Not surprisingly, one of the most popular summer activities in Portland is going to the ocean. Old Orchard Beach is only about 30 minutes from the city. Old Orchard has sandy beaches, gorgeous views, great food, and even rides to enjoy. There are also several other beaches in nearby Scarborough, such as Ferry Beach and Scarborough Beach State Park. If you like shopping, there are many options throughout the city. The Maine Mall in South Portland is the biggest mall in Maine and offers a variety of stores and smaller shops. For athletic

events, check out a [Portland Sea Dogs](#) game at Hadlock Field in the summer or attend a [Portland Pirates](#) Hockey game at the Cumberland County Civic Center in the winter. To relax at the end of the day, consider looking into the [Casco Bay Lines Ferry](#), where you can take a peaceful tour along Maine's coast.

These are only a few places that make the city of Portland, Maine an incredible destination. To experience it yourself, plan a trip to Portland, Maine this year. This is a unique city, different from many other popular vacation spots.

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