

NEW ENGLAND TRAVEL

Editors' Picks
575+
Places to Stay,
Dine & Play

The All-In-One, Indispensable, Bring-It-With-You
THE BEST OF NEW ENGLAND 2008
Guide To Everything You Need For Your Great Escape

SUNRISE STRIP
Early morning at New Hampshire's Hampton Beach State Park.

2008 Annual (Display Until 6.23.08)
\$4.98 U.S. \$5.99 CANADA

PLUS:
Uncharted Beach Towns
New England's Nine Toughest Golf Holes
The Ultimate Lobster Roll
... And a \$3,000-a-Night Suite

81 >
newenglandtravel.com
0 74851 87376 2

FROM THE EDITORS OF
Boston

SUGARLOAF GOLF CLUB

Nestled high above Carrabassett Valley, Sugarloaf Golf Club features a course designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr. with exceptional views of Bigelow and Crocker Mountains. The clubhouse on the 10th tee adds to the lustre, as do the moose you might see hanging out on the practice green. 5092 Access Rd., Carrabassett Valley, 800-843-5623, sugarloaf.com.

DOWN EAST/ACADIA**LODGING****ASTICOU INN**

It's no wonder the inn is such a popular wedding spot—you couldn't ask for more picturesque gardens and grounds. The Azalea Garden, modeled after a traditional Japanese design, bursts with color in the spring, and the Thuya Garden (named for the indigenous white cedars) feels and smells like England. Clay tennis courts add to the vintage atmosphere, but there are modern amenities to spare, including free WiFi, a heated pool, and live entertainment three nights a week. The dining menu is exquisite, and, of course, heavy on the lobster. 15 Peabody Dr., Northeast Harbor, 207-276-3344, asticou.com. \$\$

BALANCE ROCK INN

A grand staircase, coffered ceilings, lily ponds, and rose gardens transport guests to a time when green was merely a color and tea was served with sandwiches and scones. (Here, it's served daily in the Piano Room.) The time-warp feeling continues when you step into downtown Bar Harbor, where 19th-century buildings house antiques shops, galleries, and cafes. It's a welcome respite from the din of city dwelling. 21 Albert Meadow, Bar Harbor, 207-288-2610, 800-753-0494, balancerockinn.com. \$\$

THE INN AT BAY LEDGE

Perched atop an 80 foot cliff on Mount Desert Island, the Inn boasts incredible views of Frenchman Bay. Surrounded by towering pines, it's also just a stone's throw away from the Inn's private beach. Spend your days biking, sailing, golfing, or just enjoying the fresh air. 150 Sand Point Rd., Bar Harbor, 207-288-4204, innatbayledge.com. \$-\$\$\$

MANOR HOUSE INN

Built in 1887, this three-story Victorian mansion sits in the center of Bar Harbor's West Street Historic District, only a mile from Acadia National Park. After a home-cooked breakfast buffet each morning, explore the beautiful scenery of southeast Maine, whether that means hiking, whale watching, kayaking, or enjoying a seaside picnic. 106 West St., Bar Harbor, 207-288-3759, barharbormanorhouse.com. \$-\$\$

DINING**BURNING TREE**

Fans of this low-key establishment are vocal, and it's easy to see why. The food is not only delicious, but also beautifully presented. Local

art hangs on the walls, and much of the produce comes from the restaurant's own gardens. A member of the attentive staff can suggest a wine to complement your entrée—whether it's crab au gratin or juicy chicken pot roast. 69 Otter Creek Dr., Otter Creek, 207-288-9331. \$\$\$

THE DOCKSIDER

The Docksider is a classic, hidden gem on a tiny side street in the village of Northeast Harbor. It doesn't serve spectacularly innovative fare, but it elevates typical seafood-shack staples to finger-licking levels. Lobster is a no-brainer, but the burgers are unexpectedly good, too. And then there's the ice cream... 14 Sea St., Northeast Harbor, 207-276-3965. \$-\$\$

JORDAN'S POND HOUSE

After exploring Acadia National Park, stop by Jordan's for a quick lunch or a spot of tea, which they've been serving here for over 100 years. Their popovers are pretty famous, and for good reason: they're served warm, filled with ice cream, and topped with chocolate sauce. You may find yourself unable to resist ordering seconds. Park Loop Rd. (near Seal Harbor), Acadia National Park, 207-276-3316, jordanpond.com. \$\$ (lunch), \$\$\$ (dinner)

MÂCHE BISTRO

This eclectic bistro changes its offerings weekly, but its commitment to locally grown produce doesn't waver. The owners travel to area farms almost every other day to keep tabs on what's sprouting. Mâche also takes its wine seriously, with more than 50 choices on the list. 135 Cottage St., Bar Harbor, 207-288-0447, machebistro.com. \$\$

RED SKY

A lot of restaurants claim they're "elegant without being stuffy," but few have perfected this elusive combination as well as Red Sky. The constantly changing menu consists of fresh, organic produce from local farms whenever possible, and the bread is baked daily. Save room for the wicked desserts, like Magical Lemon Cake. 14 Clark Point Rd., Southwest Harbor, 207-244-0476, redskyrestaurant.com. \$\$\$

DIVERSIONS**ATLANTIC CLIMBING SCHOOL**

Try rock climbing minus (some of) the fear. With an experienced guide at your side, conquer the soaring sea cliffs and take in a beautiful view of Acadia National Park. Choose from a half-day course, full-day course, or multiple courses. 67 Maine St., Bar Harbor, 207-288-2521, acadiaclimbing.com.

BAR HARBOR

Once an exclusive resort for the super-wealthy, Bar Harbor now welcomes all travelers eager to explore this outdoor paradise. Rent bikes and pedal the Park Loop Road, climb the sea cliffs of Acadia, golf at the Kebo Valley Golf Club, go kayaking among the islands of Frenchman Bay at dawn or sunset, or charter your own schooner. When the snow falls, the park's 55 miles of carriage trails lend themselves to superb cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. 207-288-5103, barharborinfo.com.

THE KIMBALL SHOP

The inventory at this home shop rivals many larger stores in Boston. From formal glassware to women's clothing and hand-painted Herend collectibles, you can find products to cook, serve, and clean up after your meals, all at reasonable prices and stocked in a charming setting. 135 Main St., Northeast Harbor, 207-276-3300, kimballshop.com.

LULU LOBSTER BOAT

Hop on this downeast-style boat and let Captain John demonstrate the art of lobster fishing. You'll have a chance to spot seals, wild birds, and bald eagles, and peek at privately owned islands, summer cottages, and a picturesque lighthouse. 56 West St., Bar Harbor, 207-963-2341, lululobsterboat.com.

MICHAEL GOOD DESIGNS

With an extensive metalsmithing background, Michael Good's earrings, necklaces, and pendants display sculptural precision. His gallery also showcases the work of other local artists. Knox Rd., Bar Harbor, 207-288-8128, michaelgood.com.

SHAW JEWELRY

Samuel Shaw fell in love with the coast's terrain while coming of age on an island in Maine. He translates that passion into organic jewelry designs that meld natural beachstone with precious gems. Case in point: His "twig nest" brooch, which features beachstone eggs nestled in 14-karat-gold twigs, with diamonds scattered throughout. 100 Main St., Northeast Harbor, 207-276-5000, shawjewelry.com.

LAKES AND MOUNTAINS**LODGING****THE BETHEL INN RESORT**

First-time visitors can't miss the Bethel Inn: The sprawling yellow building on the town common has nearly 100 rooms—plus luxury townhouses. Spend the day skiing at Sunday River, only six miles away; then unwind at the Inn's spa, formal candlelit dining room, or more laid-back Millbrook Tavern and Terrace restaurant. On the Common, Bethel, 207-824-2175, bethelinn.com. \$\$\$

MIGIS LODGE

A stay at this lodge is hardly roughing it. With 31 private cottages, complete with fireplaces and handmade quilts, situated along the banks of Sebago Lake, this retreat is a perfect escape for you and your little ones. Migis offers kid-friendly activities (for children 5 and up) that include hiking, swimming, paddling, and organized sports. You know, stuff kids actually want to do. Sebago Lake, S. Casco, 207-655-4524, migis.com. \$\$

THE SUDBURY INN

Nestled right in the middle of ski-haven Bethel, the Sudbury Inn is a town favorite known for its comfortable rooms and welcoming lobby, complete with polished wood floors and roaring fireplaces. The wide front porch overlooks busy Main Street, while the attached Suds Pub draws a lively crowd for live music and traditional bar food. 151 Main St., Bethel, 800-395-7837, thesudburyinn.com. \$-\$\$\$