Why Go?

With more lobsters, lighthouses and charming resort villages than you can shake a stick at, Maine is New England at its most iconic. The sea looms large here, with mile upon mile of jagged sea cliffs, peaceful harbors and pebbly beaches. Eat your way through food- and art-crazed Portland, one of America's coolest small cities. Explore the historic ship-building villages of the Midcoast. Hike through Acadia National Park, a spectacular island of mountains and fjord-like estuaries. Let the coastal wind whip through those cobwebs and inhale the salty air. Venture into the state's inland region, a vast wilderness of pine forest and snowy peaks.

Outdoor adventurers can race white-water rapids, cycle the winding shore roads, or kayak beside playful harbor seals. For slower-paced fun, there are plenty of antique shops, cozy lobster shacks, charming B&Bs and locally brewed beer on hand.

And, oh, did we mention the lobster?

Best Places to Eat

- Fore Street (p382)
- Shepherd’s Pie (p397)
- Red’s Eats (p391)
- Primo (p395)
- Five Islands Lobster Company (p390)
- Mâche Bistro (p403)

Best Places to Stay

- LimeRock Inn (p395)
- Norumbega (p397)
- Danforth (p381)
- Cabot Cove Cottages (p375)

When to Go

Portland

- Jun–Sep Coastal towns fill up with lobster-hungry travelers.
- Oct Leaf peepers descend upon villages with cameras at the ready.
- Nov–Mar Skiers and snowmobile riders attack the mountain trails.
Maine Highlights

1. Exploring the cafes, bars and galleries lining the cobblestone backstreets of Portland’s 19th-century Old Port district (p377)
2. Bagging the peak of Baxter State Park’s Mt Katahdin (p408), the end point of the 2179-mile-long Appalachian Trail
3. Exploring iconic American art in Rockland’s Farnsworth Art Museum (p395)
4. Picking up a cozy new fleece and preppy-chic wellies at the original LL Bean (p386) in Freeport
5. Painting or photographing the windswept rocks of Monhegan Island (p393)
6. Hiking up Cadillac Mountain, then taking a (chilly) dip in Echo Lake at Acadia National Park (p403)
7. Tying on your bib and cracking a freshly steamed crustacean at one of Maine’s many lobster pounds (p372)