

The seaside allure of Maine's Southern Coast, part 2

Four seasons of fun await visitors to **Kennebunkport**, a classic seaside village of steepled churches, weathered fishing shacks and stately sea captains' mansions. Easy access via the Maine Turnpike and low airfares from the West Coast make this "old Maine" destination with world-class shopping a magnet for many.

Summers are what made Kennebunkport famous. Locals know well that their built-in natural air conditioning, the coastal salt air of the Atlantic, gently cools the summer sunshine as it brings relief from inland heat waves.

What to Do: A two-hour sail aboard the [Schooner Eleanor](#) is a great way to explore the area's rugged coastline. Although her hull was built using modern techniques, Eleanor is in every other way a traditional gaff rigged schooner. Flying four sails with a large teak cockpit and spacious cushioned cap tops to stretch out on, Eleanor will give you the feel of yachting in the 1930s. Captain Rich Woodman has been sailing schooners off the Kennebunkport coast for more than twenty years. (207-967-8809)



Schooner Eleanor, Kennebunkport, Maine

Six wonderful beaches, none too big or too small, are in Kennebunkport or nearby. North of the village, Goose Rock Beach at three miles long, is a favorite with walkers as well as the sand pail crowd. Views of Timber Island and Eastern Goose Rocks just off the coast add to the feel of a picture-perfect setting. If you're looking for rock scrambling and dramatic surf, be sure to try Arundel Beach off Ocean Avenue.

Guided Walking Tours Kennebunkport literally begs for an exploratory walk. The local [Historical Society](#) conducts hour-long walking tours to acquaint visitors with truly pristine examples of Colonial, Federal, Greek revival, and Victorian Homes. If you'd like to stroll at your own pace and convenient, you can purchase a guide book that gives in-depth descriptions and backgrounds of some of the village's most illustrious historic buildings. KportHS@gwi.ne

Another option is the [Intown Trolley](#) offering a 45 minute narrated sightseeing tour of the Kennebunkport area. The points of interest include President Bush's Estate, the Franciscan Monastery, the beaches, Dock Square, the rocky coast and the large summer "cottages" along Cape Arundel.

Where to stay: Right in the Village of Kennebunkport, the [Captain Lord Mansion](#) is an inn with a legacy that dates back to Maine's shipbuilding heyday in the early 1800s. Each of the inn's 20 rooms is named after a famous schooner from the adventurous era when trading ships sailed the high seas. You'll find grandfather clocks, Tiffany lamps, four-poster, climb-aboard beds and a fine collection of artwork on display throughout the mansion. The kitchen serves a three-course home-made breakfast with two seatings so you can sleep in or get an early start as your mood dictates. (800-522-3141)



Where to eat: Restaurants range from the classic Maine clam shack to fine dining with postcard views from every window. For a romantic evening, the restaurant [On the Marsh](#) in a converted barn and farmhouse, circa 1800, serves the freshest local ingredients. Candlelight dining is complemented by idyllic views of the 3-acre tidal salt marsh. On the Marsh was rated one of the top ten restaurants in Maine and has been a James Beard presenter.. (207-967-2299)

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