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Cruise Me. The Great State of Maine Coastal Cruises

Maine Department of Economic Development

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DICTIONARY OF BUOYS AND MARKERS

Black Can: a black, cylindrical buoy marks the left side of channels entering from seaward.

Red Nun: a red, tapered buoy marking the right side of channels entering from seaward.

Horizontal Striped Buoys: Can or nun buoys, alternating black and red stripes, mark obstructions or junction of channels; principal channel, from seaward, lies to right of a "can" with black top stripe, to left of a "nun" with red top stripe.

Vertical Striped Buoys: Conical or nun buoys with black and white vertical stripes mark middle channel; may be passed close on either side.

No special significance to shapes of spar buoys, bell buoys, lighted buoys, whistle buoys, gong buoys, or combinations. Color, number, or light denotes purpose.

Lighted Buoy: warns of underwater obstruction. Color of light denotes type of buoy, at night.

Bell Buoy: Long tapered pole, colored and/or numbered to denote purpose.

Day Beacons: of varying designs and colorings, marked or numbered according to their purpose. Placed on land or reefs.

PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION SOURCES

Many of the excursion, charter and ferry services publish brochures with more detailed information about their specific services, schedules and rates. Most of these are available from the Maine Publicity Bureau (address below), or Chambers of Commerce in the local areas. We suggest your inquiry should indicate what sections of the coast you would like to visit.

Other Information and Publications about Maine:

Mail inquiries about hunting accommodations will be answered by Maine Publicity Bureau (address below).

Maine Department of Economic Development
State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330

Maine Publicity Bureau
78 Gateway Circle, Portland, Maine 04102

State of Maine Information Center
48 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, N. Y. 10020

State of Maine Information Center
Laurentien Hotel, Dominion, Montreal, Canada

Other Information Centers:

Jct. of U. S. Rt. 1 & Me. Turnpike, Kittery, Maine
Bass Park, Bangor, Maine
U. S. Rt. 302, Fryeburg, Maine (summer only)
Maine Turnpike, North Cumberland, Maine (summer only)
Internat'l Bridge, Calais, Maine (summer only)
All Local Chamber of Commerce Offices

DON'T TAKE IT FROM ME. ... COME SEE COAST FOR YOURSELF!

Although Maine has many attractions for vacation visitors, the famous "rock-bound coast" seems to appeal most to the imagination, and, lingering in the memory, calls them back. "down-east". For many, "Maine" means the Maine coast. And that word, "Maine", conjures in the mind a yearning for the sea breeze against the hide, the pleasant tang in the scent of salt air, the sigh of surf from the offing, accented with the shriek of gulls soaring the on-shore winds. Into this dream the waves come pushing, heaving, booming, swooshing, crashing, splashing, rumbling, pounding the ledges, and--burbling--hurl white spume at cliff and sky, then fall hissing, burbling a gray-green furor, crouching, preparing another leap. By elemental rhythms of motion and sound the sea beckons the human soul closer to nature, to leave the tensions, frustrations, sophistications of city life, to experience anew the simplicity and profundity of creation.

Few find it within their reach to "go down to the sea" in their own ship, yet the sea-urge can be fulfilled easily (if only for awhile). A number of skippers, with small-to-medium-size coastal vessels, make it their happy task to soothe the sea-fevers which now and then afflict us landlubbers.

But there's danger in these Maine coastal cruises, for admittedly nothing can cure real sea-fever, except maybe an overdose of wind and wave--out of season--and even that is doubtful with some cases. These attempts to allay the sailor yen may put wind in your hair, spindrift in your eye, and give you a salty thirst for the big water. Yep! ye might jist git a touch of the nevuh-git-ovuhs. These are trips you could really get "hooked" on.

THIS VACATION PLANNER

supplies general information about the Maine coast, the various types of cruises available, and a list of ports which have excursion, charter, or ferry boats, or where such services are likely to be, and lists sources of additional information.

One in a series of Vacation Planners programmed by the Maine Department of Economic Development, available from 78 Gateway Circle, Portland, Maine 04102. Prospective visitors to Maine are interested in the "facts", and these brochures are designed with this in mind. We would appreciate receiving your comments.

Please write:

Maine Department of Economic Development
State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330

published by
Department of Economic Development
State House, Augusta, Maine 04330

Appropriation Number 1230
THE COASTAL CHARACTER OF ME. ....

Scaled on the map, straight from Kittery Point to West Quoddy Head approaching Casco Bay, Kittery to Lubec is roughly 280 miles, but to follow the Maine coast around its bays, peninsulas, and headlands, the tidal line would take you on a journey of about 3,000 miles. And this zig-zag line shapes up an ideal coastal cruising area, acknowledged by many as the best in the world.

A newcomer to the Maine coast finds it so vast and varied he soon realizes it would take a long, long vacation (like most of a lifetime) to explore it all. Some decide to enjoy one section this year, another next year, etc. Others get so thrilled with one part that they have to return perennially to the same spot. It becomes part of them.

To aid you in planning it is convenient to visualize this coastline divided into six sections of varying characteristics; the separate list of ports are related by their numbers to these six coastal sections:

(1) From Kittery to Cape Elizabeth (about 50 miles by car) is a line of great sandy beaches, broken here and there with inlets, rivers, and protected harbors, but few of the rocky peninsulas and headlands found further east. This section is dotted with coastal resort towns, several as ports for excursion and charter boats.

(2) From Portland Head to Small Point is a 20 mile wide entrance to Casco Bay, sheltered with long promontories and islands—numerous enough to be advertised as the Calendar Islands, one for each day of the year—and many opportunities for beautiful cruising among them.

(3) Small Point straight to Port Clyde is roughly 36 miles; in this coastal section several rivers pour into the Atlantic; the coastline here is characterized by long narrow peninsulas and islands, with bays thrusting far inland; a perfect climate to explore on the many cruises available.

(4) From Port Clyde to Isle au Haut (30 plus miles) spans the opening of Penobscot Bay which wedges inland more than 40 miles to Bucksport (and with tidewater way beyond that)—a beautiful big triangular bay with fascinating islands—one of the most magnificent sailing areas in the nation. Rockland and Camden are the ports from which most of the windjammer cruises sail.

(5) Isle au Haut to Schoodic Point (35-40 miles): This section is popular cruising ground and the scene of some of the longest sailing in Blue Hill Bay and Frenchman’s Bay, flanking Mt. Desert Island which holds most of Acadia National Park, famous for its beautiful seashore, mountain and forest scenery.

(6) From Schoodic Point to West Quoddy Head is a stretch of over 65 miles, several sizeable bays and a sparsely settled coast which even so has over a score of snug harbors. Although there are few regularly scheduled cruises from ports in this section, it could be just what you’re looking for in a charter boat trip, a comparatively little-visited country appealing to the sailor with a touch of the explorer in his soul. Bassamquddy Bay, although noted for the unusual tides and currents at its entrances, provides very good cruising ground in protected waters.

The following list indicates the number of vessels and the total passenger capacity of the vessels inspected and registered by the U.S. Coast Guard for each particular port. If there are only those vessels registered for more than 6 passengers, and the ports where they are registered are not necessarily the ports from which they usually operate, the other towns indicated below this list are indicated as ports where you probably would find boats making excursions for charter. The coastal section number relates the ports to the descriptive text of the coastal sections.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Port</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fork*</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ogunquit*</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wells</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kennebunkport</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biddeford*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacca</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine Point</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland*</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1,316</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fairhaven</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yarmouth</td>
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<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saco</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bath</td>
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<td>250</td>
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<td>Woolwich</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>Boothbay Harbor*</td>
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<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medomak</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountauk</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section 1: Kittery, Cape Porpoise, Old Orchard Beach, Biddeford Pool, Section 2: Freeport, Brunswick, Harpswell, Bailey Island, Section 3: Falmouth, Bath, Newagen, Owl's Head, Section 4: Prospect Harbor, Lincolnville, Rockport, Belfast, Searsport, Rockport, Bucksport, Jackman, Section 5: Swans Island, Blue Hill, Southwest Harbor, Northeast Harbor, Mount Desert Island, Bass Harbor, Winter Harbor, Ellsworth, Sedgwick, Southwest Harbor, Bucks Harbor, Machias, Cutler, Lubec, Calais

TIME AND COST: Many excursion, passenger, ferry, and mail boats ply their way between ports and carry visitors to many of the islands. Cruises fit most any budget and time limits: about an hour for the shortest (costs only $1.25), taking two to three weeks to week-long cruises costing $110 to $175. Of course arrangements can be made with charter boat captains for more extensive or more expensive cruises. Most of the scheduled cruises take two to four hours and about that many dollars. But you can spend a delightful day sailing from the same port, by taking morning, afternoon, and evening cruises. At some ports-of-call the stops are brief, while at others there is time to explore islands or the small harbor towns.

EATING: Between sailings there is time for zestful sea-food or sea-side lunches. Some cruises have a layover period where facilities are usually good for filling up with a “shore dinner.” There are evening cruises featuring dinner aboard, or to some spot for a “clambake,” or a stopover at some well known sea-side restaurant. The week-long sailing cruises on the windjammers include the eats, with unusual, memorable situations sometimes, for extra fun.

FERRY SERVICE is provided from several ports to various islands: most are on modern craft which accommodate cars, enabling visitors to drive around some of these picturesque islands. The frequency of the summer schedule makes such visits very convenient. Ports and islands served by ferry are indicated on the Official Maine Highway Map. The large ferry “Blue Nose,” between Bar Harbor and Nova Scotia, usually requires reservations well before expected travel date.

CHARTER BOATS are available for small fishing parties (see Vacation Planner #6, Salt-Water Fishing and for special cruises with small groups, but fairly sizable vessels can be chartered, even with ballroom or banquet hall accommodations up to 300 people (from Portland and possibly other ports).

WINDJAMMER CRUISES, aboard former fishing or merchant schooners refitted for passenger comfort (or newer vessels built like them), can provide a “thrill of a lifetime” vacation. If you wish you can help the crew hoist and lower sail, trim the “sheets,” or you may even take a turn as helmsman and feel the thrill of the wheel’s kick under full sail. Voyages are usually planned as you sail, where winds, weather, and whim may dictate—with this kind of variety it’s no wonder folks want to stay aboard for two or three weeks (or more) and reservations are booked way ahead of time.

WHAT TO SEE AND DO ASHORE: You won’t run out of entertainment, or activities, or things to study. Many ports of the coast are geared for tourist interests: art colonies, art shows, summer theaters, a wide range of specialty museums, fashions and crafts shops with the usual goods to take home plus a whole other group of unfamiliar significance; lighthouses; a variety of festivals, regattas, etc.