

Features

Alternate Routes

Local equivalents to glamorous international destinations.



IF YOU CAN'T DO THE BAHAMAS' HARBOUR ISLAND... TRY KENNEBUNKPORT.

Jet-setters like Tory Burch, Lenny Kravitz and Elle Macpherson are drawn to the Bahamas' Harbour Island for its breezy glamour, while some of the world's most prestigious bloodlines—aristocrats, politicians, celebrities, magnates—have made the WASPy enclave their vacation hub since the 1950s. Of course, trains don't run there from North Station, and there's no convenient interstate across the Caribbean. Better to just hit Maine's Kennebunk and Kennebunkport.

A good place to begin a visit is by checking in at the resort village of Hidden Pond, near the secluded Goose Rocks Beach and situated on 60 acres of beach forest. Celebrity chef Ken Oringer chose the spot for his first restaurant outside of Boston—Earth, launched earlier this month—and Cellardoor Winery recently installed a satellite vineyard on the grounds. The rustic-chic complex, complete with daily breakfast baskets, private cottages, screened porches, a tree-house spa and outdoor yoga classes, keeps visitors content on the grounds.

In town, the White Barn Inn offers a different vision of luxury—more claw-footed bathtub than outdoor beach shower—culminating in executive chef Jonathan Cartwright's nine-course tasting menu. It's an easy walk from there to Gooch's Beach and the town center, where some of the state's best boutique shopping can be found in Dock Square. Oh-so-sweet flower and homewares shop Anniebells has Wonderland-like blooms that look ready to burst into song. Daytrip Society sells a well-curated selection of outdoor-inspired goods that range from pétanque sets and Orla Kiely totes to Pamela Barsky luggage tags. For unique finds, petite boutique Minka boasts art and apothecary items made by owners Christopher Larochelle and Michelle Rose-Larochelle and a variety of local artisans.

If you're hoping for croquet with the Bush family, take the Intown Trolley to Walker's Point overlook. Or try to intercept the famous clan at their regular haunt (and Rachael Ray favorite) Mabel's Lobster Claw, which offers simple but exceptional seafood. For uncooked crustaceans, take a trip on the mahogany-planked lobster boat Rugosa, which runs tours along the Kennebunk River and the seal-and-wildlife-dotted coast.

A definite stop should be Old Salt's Pantry, an informal takeaway shop specializing in breakfast sandwiches and lobster rolls. And before the drive home, don't miss H.B. Provisions, where you can buy local delicacies like cinnamon-blueberry coffee cake and wild beach plum jelly to tuck into your suitcase.

Hidden Pond

354 Goose Rocks Road, Kennebunkport | 888-967-9050 | hiddenpondmaine.com

White Barn Inn & Spa

37 Beach Ave., Kennebunk | 207-967-2321 | whitebarninn.com

Anniebells

27 Dock Square, Kennebunkport | 207-967-9099 | anniebells.com

Daytrip Society

4 Dock Square, Kennebunkport | 207-967-4440 | daytripsociety.com

Minka

5 Union St., Kennebunkport | 207-204-1014 | minkahome.com

Intown Trolley

21 Ocean Ave., Kennebunkport | 207-967-3686 | intowntrolley.com

Mabel's Lobster Claw

124 Ocean Ave., Kennebunkport | 207-967-2562 | mabelslobster.com

Rugosa

Departs from the Nonantum Resort | 95 Ocean Ave., Kennebunkport | 207-468-4095 | rugosacharters.com

Old Salt's Pantry

5 Ocean Ave., Kennebunkport | 207-967-4966

H.B. Provisions

15 Western Ave., Kennebunk | 207-967-5762 | hbprovisions.com

Photo Credits: White Barn Inn: Phillipe Schaff; Hidden Pond: Adam Policky