

A Breezy Summer in Acadia

nd in Maine

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Mount Desert Island

Visitor's guide to a lush Maine isle

Getting There

To get to Mount Desert Island, it is best to fly to Bangor and drive about an hour by rented car or shared taxi (about \$30 each). At the airport in Bangor, and at Bar Harbor Airport in Trenton, there are Avis, Hertz and Budget car rentals and taxis.

When you come across the causeway at Trenton Narrows on Route 3, stop at the Visitors Center there and pick up brochures on the towns of Mount Desert Island and Acadia National Park. Information is also available at the Chambers of Commerce in Bar Harbor, Northeast Harbor and Southwest Harbor, and the Park Visitor's Center at Hull's Cove.

Where to Stay

The island offers accommodations on every level: campgrounds, cabins, bed and breakfasts, motels, rooming houses and deluxe hotels.

The **Asticou Inn** in Northeast Harbor (207-276-3344; \$158 to \$186 for two for double room, dinner and breakfast) and the **Claremont Hotel** in Southwest Harbor (207-244-5036; \$118 for double room, breakfast and dinner for two) are first-rate old summer hotels looking over the water. In Bar Harbor, the **Bar Harbor Inn** (207-288-3351 or 800-248-3351; \$80 to \$150 in high season) looks out over Frenchman's Bay.

The **Bass Cottage in the Field** (207-288-3705; \$45 to \$75 for a double; singles \$25 and up) in Bar Harbor is comfortably old fashioned.

The **Harborside Inn** (207-276-3272; \$80 to \$130 double with Continental breakfast), on Route 198 going into Northeast Harbor, has charming rooms with antiques, some kitch-

enettes and porches. Easy walk to town.

Where to Eat

You can't go wrong eating fish, lobster above all. Any place on the island that calls itself a lobster pound is worth a stop. Reservations are required for all of these restaurants.

Try **Abel's** (207-276-5827) off Route 198 at the head of Somes Sound. You eat at picnic tables looking at the sound or in its dining room: excellent lobster and steamers, baked potatoes and home-made pies.

In Bar Harbor, **George's** (207-288-4505), in an old summer cottage behind the First National Bank, is one of the best restaurants on the island. Greek dishes and other creations, including a seafood sausage for a first course. Lamb and eggplant dishes, good wines and a Greek-inspired salad. Try the Mississippi mud pie for dessert. Entrees from \$10 to \$18; dinner for two with wine \$40 to \$50.

Eating at the **Jordan Pond House** (207-276-3316) near Seal Harbor is a Mount Desert Island tradition, looking out at the Bubbles from tables on the lawn or from the birchbark dining rooms where there are fires in the huge stone fireplaces on foggy days. For tea have the popovers and strawberry jam and homemade ice creams; sandwiches, quiche and lobster or chicken for lunch and for dinner there are many seafood choices and cream soups. Lunch (11:30 to 2:30) will cost about \$20 for two; tea (2:30 to 5:30) is \$4.75 a person for tea and popovers, and dinner (5:30 to 9) about \$50 for two with wine.

At the **Claremont Hotel** (207-244-5036) in Southwest Harbor you will find the atmosphere of an old sum-

mer hotel (founded in 1884) with wooden chairs on the enormous sloping lawn and croquet games. Its dining room, with a view of the sound, feeds the regular guests but welcomes visitors for lunch and dinner. Filet mignon, rack of lamb, veal chops and interesting seafood dishes: lobster, shrimp stuffed with crab meat or scallops and homemade breads and desserts including fresh berries and meringues. Appetizers are \$2.95 to \$6.95; entrees \$9.95 to \$14.95; dinner for two about \$50 with wine. Jackets and ties required for men at dinner.

What to Do

The island offers a variety of activities. Among the unusual:

Whale watching combines ocean vistas with seeing the whales themselves — finbacks (50 to 70 feet), humpbacks (35 to 50 feet) and minkes (20 to 30 feet). For an all-day trip, try **Maine Whalewatch**, Capt. Bob Bowman, in Northeast Harbor (207-276-5803), which charges \$25 a person, leaves at 8:30 A.M. For a half-day trip try **Down East Whale Watch**, Bar Harbor (288-3322), also \$25. It leaves at 8:30 A.M. or 2:15 P.M.

Carriage and Haywagon Rides within Acadia National Park are \$9 a person. Reserve at **Wildwood Stable** on Park Loop Road (207-276-3622). **Mount Desert Oceanarium** (Clark Point Road, Southwest Harbor; 207-244-7330) is a museum of sea life. Open daily 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., except Sundays.

Several lobstermen will take along passengers while checking their traps. One worth trying is **Lobster Boat Rides** (207-244-5667) in Bass Harbor: Bill Chamberlain charges \$10 a person. E. D.



below.



Kip Brundage