



Village by the Sea is a resort in Wells, Maine, that offers a Not Quite Par — But Close! discount for Canadians. PHOTOS: GREG BURKE/VISITMAINE.NET

# Maine resorts make a deal with Canadians



ROCHELLE LASH  
Checking In

Canadians have been vacationing in the oceanfront town of Wells, Maine, since the 1800s, and several lodging properties want us to keep coming. Halfway between Ogunquit and Kennebunkport, Wells has lots of deals for the lagging loonie.

**Almost at par:** Village by the Sea is an all-suite condo complex with major vacation appeal, moderate prices and a family-friendly setup, less than two kilometres from the Atlantic Ocean.

The new Not Quite Par — But Close! Canadian special is a discount of 20 to 30 per cent, depending on the loonie's fluctuations. Rates are outlined at [vbts.com/canada](http://vbts.com/canada), a site exclusively for visitors from north of the border.

Village by the Sea features more than 80 one- and two-bedroom condos, all with contemporary decor and full kitchens, as well as communal barbecues. Each unit has a private patio or deck, many with views of the adjacent marshland, the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge, and the Atlantic Ocean in the distance.

The property has an indoor heated pool and a summertime outdoor pool, a hot tub and meet-



Highlights of the Village by the Sea resort include an indoor heated pool and summer outdoor pool, a hot tub and a newly renovated ballroom.

ing spaces, including a recently renovated ballroom for weddings.

**Other loonie friends:** Near Village by the Sea, Seagull Inn and Condominiums is hidden by a grove of trees and set back from Route 1. Spread across a pastoral property with two heated swimming pools, a kiddie pool and a hot tub, the Seagull's cottages and townhouses all have kitchens, screened porches and pretty views of either the Rachel Carson refuge or the Atlantic.

Regular weekly rates are US\$699 to \$1,700 until June 27 and US\$939 to \$2,999 from June 28 to Sept. 12, but Canadians can expect 10 to 15 per cent off some of the units.

Eastwinds Resort, with a great location one block from Wells Beach, is offering a 10-per-cent discount to Canadians in early and late seasons: April 29 to June 23 and Sept. 6 to Oct. 31 — both

beautiful periods in Maine. The motel-style Eastwinds has 24 units that can sleep up to four, featuring queen bedrooms, sleeper sofas in the living rooms and kitchens.

Americas Best Value Inn & Cottages is a group of well-priced motel-style rooms and cottages that have been recently renovated. Canadian guests can expect 10 per cent off rates. Features include a heated outdoor pool, in-room coffee, a handy mini-fridge and microwave, and discounts at nearby restaurants.

Ogunquit River Inn, just north of Ogunquit, has a totally new look. After a recent overhaul, it has a striking lobby with aquariums, and guest rooms with new everything — mattresses and bedding, carpets and flooring. The low-rise lodge overlooks the Ogunquit River, and the Atlantic is within view, less than two kilo-

metres away. There are rentals of kayaks and paddleboards on site.

**The Wells welcome:** Wells has a year-round population of about 10,000, but nearly 40,000 summer visitors flock here for the 11 kilometres of beautiful Atlantic Ocean beaches, water sports, cycling, antiquing and ocean-fresh seafood.

The Maine Shoreline Explorer stops at several properties, so guests can go to the beach or to dinner without cars. It also travels to York, Sanford, Ogunquit, Kennebunk and Kennebunkport.

At Wells Harbor, you can rent kayaks, canoes, jet skis and paddleboards, as well as find charter cruises and deepsea fishing.

The Rachel Carson refuge and the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve at Laudholm Farm are fascinating places for walks through marshland, bird watching and the exploration of coastal science.

For cyclists, the Eastern Trail runs through Wells, with shared roads and some no-car stretches.

Wells, known as the antique capital of Maine, is home to almost 25 antique emporiums, many of them on Route 1. Plus, the town has an Amtrak stop, so you can hop a train for a day trip to Portland.

**Food for thought:** Down-home seafood is the specialty at the Wells Beach Lobster Pound, Mike's Clam Shack and Jake's Seafood, which has bountiful lobster rolls.

The appealing Maine Diner should be on everyone's list.

## IF YOU GO

Wells is about a 5 1/2-hour drive from Montreal.

**Tourism information:** wells-maineresorts.com/southern-mainecoast. Wells Chamber of Commerce: 207-646-2451, wellschamber.org. Maine tourism: 888-624-6345, visitmaine.com.

**Village by the Sea:** 800-444-8862, 207-646-1100, vbts.com; 1373 Post Rd., Wells, Maine.

**Price:** Canadian discount (vbts.com/canada) applies daily to May 26, Sun.-Thurs. Sept. 4 to Oct. 22, and daily Oct. 23 to May 25, 2017, bringing the price to US\$77-\$107 for one-bedroom suites Sun.-Thurs.; or US\$115-\$145 Fri.-Sat. Two-bedroom suites, US\$109-\$124 Sun.-Thurs., or US\$149-\$160 Fri.-Sat. Rates include Wi-Fi, pools, fitness centre, game room, bocce ball and basketball courts.

After Sept. 1, Village by the Sea's packages feature the Kittery outlets; Naviina Salon & Day Spa; fine dining at Angelina's Ristorante, the Old Village Inn or Clay Hill Farm, all in Ogunquit; or casual dining at Varano's or Billy's Chowder House in Wells; as well as breakfast at Congdon's Doughnuts or Jake's Seafood in Wells.

Other loonie-friendly hotels (prices fluctuate according to availability and currency): Americas Best Value Inn & Cottages, 207-646-6066, abviwells.com; Eastwinds Resort, 800-638-3366, eastwindsresort.com; Ogunquit River Inn, 207-646-9611, ogunquitriverrinn.com; Seagull Inn and Condominiums, 800-573-2485, seagullvacations.com.

It's a darling of TV food shows and is popular for lobster pie, codfish cakes, seafood chowder, triple-decker sandwiches, all-day breakfast, homemade pies and bread pudding.

On the upscale side, Joshua's is one of the top dining spots in southern Maine. Loaded with country charm, local art and hand-carved woodwork, Joshua's serves farm-to-table cuisine in a restored colonial house that dates to the late 1700s.

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