

Maine resorts reach out to Canadians with loonie-friendly deals



ROCHELLE LASH
Checking In

At least two hotels on the coast of Maine are offering discounts for the loonie. Here is a peek at Kennebunkport and East Boothbay. **Scenic seaside:** Ocean Point Inn & Resort is the quintessential Maine getaway, perched on a picturesque point of land on a rocky shore of the Atlantic.

It is a vintage landmark resort, founded nearly 120 years ago, just over an hour's drive north of Portland.

Ocean Point Inn is a folksy and comfortable domain tucked between a forest of firs and the ocean, with beautiful views of the water, several lighthouses, neighbouring islands, a pier and boats — picturesque lobster-fishing boats, powerboats and sailing craft.

Ocean Point can lodge about 100 guests in a collection of accommodations: a main inn, an oceanfront lodge, a motel and several cottages. They're clustered around an outdoor heated swimming pool and a restaurant in the main inn. You can customize your visit: Some rooms have mini-fridges and some have decks.

Everyone — especially families — enjoys the outdoor heated pool. There also are a hot tub and lounge chairs with ocean views.

Because of the twists and turns along the coastline, Ocean Point Inn has a rare western view facing spectacular sunsets. That's the scenic backdrop for fine dining at The Ocean Point Inn, one of the region's top restaurants where the scene is set with elegant Windsor chairs and white table linens.

Ocean Point's menu is strong on seafood — Maine mussels, homemade crab cakes, lobster stew, scallops, haddock, clam chowder — as well as duck, lamb, veal, steak and ribs, followed by fresh blueberry pie baked with Maine berries. The hotel has a menu for children and a buffet breakfast for all.

Everyone gathers in the lounge

IF YOU GO

Maine tourism: 888-624-6345, visitmaine.com. Rates are approximate and fluctuate; discounts are subject to availability.
Ocean Point Inn (open until Oct. 10): 800-552-5554, 207-633-4200, oceanpointinn.com, Boothbay Harbor, starting at about US\$99 for two, with rooms up to US\$129 in Farmhouse Motel and others at US\$249. Canadians get 22- to 23-per-cent discounts on three nights or more, Aug. 21-Sept. 2, in Farmhouse Motel, bringing the starting rate to about US\$99; or to about US\$149 in some Oceanfront rooms. Prices include buffet breakfast, Wi-Fi, pool, hot tub. Children 16 and under stay for free in Farmhouse Motel.
Rhumb Line Resort (open year-round, except January): 800-337-4862, 207-967-5457, rhumbline-maine.com, Kennebunkport, US\$139-\$219 for two (until Sept. 4.). Children 16 and under stay for free. Canadians pay 20 per cent less, Sun.-Thurs., Sept. 4-Oct. 22; and daily, Oct. 23-Dec. 30 (except U.S. holidays and certain events). Rates include continental breakfast, pools, hot tubs, fitness centre, Wi-Fi. Downeast Feast, US\$29.95 until Labour Day.

— specialties include iced latte, cocktails and wine plus soft drinks such as pomegranate sodas, ice-cream floats and wild berry smoothies.

East Boothbay and the larger town of Boothbay Harbor are launches for lobster fishing as well as cruises to observe whales and seals. The area also is known for exciting sea kayaking in waters ranging from the wavy open sea to protected harbours and inlets.

On land, Boothbay Harbor is



The sociable Rhumb Line Resort in Kennebunkport, Me., has indoor and outdoor pools and nightly lobster bakes. It has so many guests from Quebec that its website is in English and French. *RHUMB LINE RESORT*



The picturesque Ocean Point Inn & Resort in East Boothbay, Me., has a variety of family-friendly accommodations. *OCEAN POINT INN*

home to shops, an 18-hole golf course, the Maine State Aquarium and the impressive Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens — one of New England's most impressive preserves of flora.

Weatherproof life: The Rhumb Line Resort has so many guests from Quebec that its website is in English and French. And to keep neighbours from the north coming, it will offer Canadians approximately 20 per cent off lodging rates after Labour Day.

Rhumb Line is The Kennebunks' only hotel with indoor and outdoor heated pools and whirlpools, as well as a fitness centre.

Set in a grove of trees about two kilometres from a small sand and rock beach, Rhumb Line is one of the area's most respected lodges, and is prized for its relatively moderate rates in the tourist town of Kennebunkport.

Open year-round, Rhumb Line, built around a courtyard, has 54 rooms, many of which have been recently upgraded and redecorated. It's motel-style, and it's practical and convenient, with free continental breakfast and family-friendly rooms with kitchenettes or mini-suites with pullout sofas.

In summer, weather permit-

ting, the resort lights up the pool deck for nightly Down East Feasts of lobster, steamed clams, corn on the cob and clam chowder. The open-air Admiral's Table Bar & Grill serves Maine seafood, sandwiches, salads, the signature Rhumburger and lobster rolls. The steamed lobster is a steal at \$15 U.S. and cocktails, beer and wine start at \$4.

Rhumb Line is an unusual name — if you're curious, it is a navigational term for a line that crosses all meridians of longitude at the same angle. It's complicated, and maybe you have to be a sailor.

Kennebunkport's In Town Trolley stops at Rhumb Line's door hourly, approximately 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., so guests can visit Kennebunk Beach (five kilometres) or Dock Square (three km), the heart of town. (207-967-3686, intowntrolley.com).

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