

**'The Yorks,' where heritage meets great views
Overlooking the Atlantic, York Harbor Inn offers a wide range of attractions**

By [Rochelle Lash](#), Freelance Travel Writer
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The York Harbor Inn long has been a centerpiece of "The Yorks," a trio of quaint, historic communities on the southernmost coast of Maine.

The "Yorks" are linked by a six-kilometre stretch of coastal Route 1A and are a five- to 10-minute drive from each other. York Harbor is a picturesque seaside village of elegant manor houses and a handful of inns along the Atlantic coast. York Village, one of the oldest communities in the United States, was incorporated in the 1600s. It is home to historic buildings, including the fascinating Old Gaol, where prisoners were fed lobsters, which were plentiful and had yet to be considered a delicacy.

York Beach has a vintage air and timeless amusements for kids - the sand, the ocean, a carousel and old-time candy shops and ice cream parlours. Goldenrods Luncheonette has used the same recipe for saltwater taffy since the 1890s, and Sweet Josie's Candy Shoppe has made fudge, ice cream and penny candy for decades.

The York Harbor Inn began during the 1800s as a stagecoach and rail stop halfway between Boston and Portland, Me. It gradually grew into a handsome 54-room inn with an unusual configuration: it's a cluster of B&B-style lodges with different names and innkeepers. This adds up to a variety of accommodations, ranging in design for families and sports fans in need of conveniences, comfort and roomy spaces, to couples seeking privacy, luxury and romantic surroundings.

"We wanted to have a substantial-sized establishment, but we wanted to maintain the intimacy of a country inn and the historic aspect of York, yet with all the comforts possible," said Garry Dominguez, who owns York Harbor Inn with his brother, Joe. "We call our collection of B&Bs 'the campus.'"

At the heart of the establishment is the Country Inn, the main building with 22 guest rooms, a formal dining room, the Ship's Cellar Pub and a ballroom. The Harbor Hill Inn, the Yorkshire Building and the Harbor Cliffs B&B are situated on the same property, within 30 meters of the main lodge. The 1730 Harbor Crest Inn is a hilltop B&B about a kilometer inland. The inn makes the most of its waterfront location. The dining room and many guest rooms have glorious views of the Atlantic.

All lodgings feature appealing antique-style furniture, wireless Internet, cable television, telephones and hairdryers. The wide price range for rooms is based on size, view and extra amenities. Some rooms have decks overlooking the Atlantic, gas fireplaces in the shape of iron stoves, whirlpool tubs and heated bathrooms floors.

York Harbor Inn is considered to have the best dining in the region, with such casual fare as lobster flatbread, seafood ravioli, burgers and lobster rolls on the same menu as seared scallops, lobster Thermidor, ahi tuna and filet mignon. The dining room, decked out with white tablecloths, has a formal service with sorbet between courses and truffles with coffee.

Locals and tourists gather in the Ship's Cellar Pub for lunch, dinner and live entertainment. Built to look like the interior of a grand vessel, the pub has a fine mahogany bar, nautical artwork, portholes, and studded leather seats in "the bow." Happy-hour wines by the glass cost \$5, and a free buffet of hors d'oeuvres is offered during the week. Local singers perform on most Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sunday.

The spirit of summer will explode at York Beach during York Days. The July 27-Aug. 5 festival features concerts, sandcastle building, craft fairs and fireworks. The Nubble Lighthouse, a local landmark perched high on a rocky cliff overlooking the ocean, is a focus for the annual event Christmas in July. The Nubble will be draped in shimmering white lights and a nighttime concert will take place in the surrounding park on July 29.

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If you go:

York Harbor is a five-hour drive from Montreal. Take Highways 10 and 55 to the U.S. border, then Highways 91 and 93 to southern New Hampshire and Route 101 east and Interstate 95 north into Maine to Exit 7 for York/Ogunquit.

York Harbor Inn: 800-343-3869, www.yorkharborinn.com. Prices of rooms and suites range from \$149 to \$289 U.S. a night (weekdays to weekends), for two, double occupancy, including continental breakfast. Three luxury suites cost more. Golf and dinner packages are available. Prices on most rooms decrease Sept. 2. Lunch and dinner are served daily.

Tourism information: 207-363-4422, Old York Historical Society, 207-363-4974, www.oldyork.org.

York Days Festival, 207-363-1040, July 27-Aug. 5.

