



WHITE BARN INN

The White Barn Inn in Kennebunkport, Maine, is opening The Bistro for casual dining.

IF YOU GO

**Maine tourism:** 888-624-6345, visitmaine.com.  
**White Barn Inn, Kennebunkport, Maine:** 207-967-2321, whitebarninn.com, gracehotels.com; rooms start at \$290 U.S. per night for two; suites start at \$540 U.S. with continental breakfast, afternoon tea/brandy, outdoor heated pool, Wi-Fi, fireplaces lounges, bicycles, canoes, beach chairs, evening turndown. Extra: spa treatments, cooking classes.  
**Kennebunkport Inn & One Dock:** 800-248-2621, www.kennebunkportinn.com; Kennebunkport, Maine. Price: including breakfast, bicycles, pool, beach parking passes and fitness gear. Summer rates, approx., \$169-\$389 U.S. After Oct. 21, it's \$109-\$229 U.S. The Eat-Sleep-Play package includes a lobster boat cruise or a ride on the Kennebunkport's In-Town sightseeing trolley.  
**Port Inn, Kennebunk, Maine:** 207-985-6100, portinnkennebunk.com; \$149-\$309 U.S. (May-Oct.) or \$89-\$159 U.S. (Nov.-April) for two. Cribs and high chairs are free. Kids' cots, \$10. Dog-friendly (\$35 per night); outdoor heated pool, Wi-Fi, full breakfast buffet, in-room coffee, newspaper, Show Time Movies on TV, long-distance calls. CAA discount.

# A PEEK AT WHAT'S NEW IN KENNEBUNKPORT

ROCHELLE LASH  
SPECIAL TO THE MONTREAL GAZETTE

Canadians are big fans of The Kennebunks on the Atlantic coast in Southern Maine, and the town has evolved into a hotbed of stylish food and drink to welcome food-centric visitors.

Still, a mainstay of this region is family travel, and there still are bargains at simpler lodgings.

Here is a peek at what's new:

WHITE BARN INN

The White Barn Inn in Kennebunkport is one of New England's most distinguished and exclusive establishments, and with the opening of The Bistro, it will be more accessible to Next Generation gourmets.

A Relais & Châteaux run by grand chef Jonathan Cartwright, this elegant country hotel has an epicurean pedigree and a rare, refined lifestyle. It embraces 26 sumptuous rooms decorated in scads of chintz, a spa and a serene infinity swimming pool surrounded by silver birches and maples.

White Barn dining is rather formal — a Swiss maître d'hôtel, white table linens, a dress code for gentlemen and French-inspired gastronomy with local ingredients.

But with The Bistro, the White Barn is loosening up — a little. You can expect the customary fine china and silverware, attractive presentations and solicitous service, but the new menu features gourmet comfort food; steak-frites, Maine oysters, clam chowder, fish in lemon butter, piquant sides like Parmesan risotto and lobster pizza. Homespun desserts include

bread pudding with white and dark chocolate. For pure folly, The Bistro offers a Bubbles and Bon Bons tasting.

KENNEBUNKPORT INN

Once the last word in Victorian formality, the landmark Kennebunkport Inn at the centre of town has developed a buzzy scene at its stylish One Dock lounge and dining room.

The new-in-2015 dining concept, One Dock Prime will open in June with a classic steak house menu of 18-ounce T-bones and 20-ounce porterhouses, sauces like Bernaise, cabernet and poivre; apps like baked clams and salmon carpaccio; and for dessert, chocolate cake and English toffee pudding cake.

Happy Hour starts at 4 p.m. with Maine oysters, crab cakes and cocktails. On weekends, musical duos add a sexy supper-club feel. In fine weather, the action moves outdoors to a beautiful patio overlooking the Kennebunk River.

Tim Harrington, the inn's co-owner, created One Dock's sophisticated interiors with designer Louise Hurlbutt. It's a fresh, striking look in vivid blue and white, with studded white leather chairs and a delightful mix of bold stripes and checks. Harrington and Hurlbutt also curated the fabulous art collection that ranges from classic seascapes to an avant-garde photomural.

The inn's 35 rooms and suites sprawl over two connected buildings, the traditional, antique-filled Main Mansion and Riverhouse wings. Riverhouse was modernized in 2014 with vivid colours and textured walls.

The inn is part of the Kennebunk Resort Collection (KRC), so guests also can use the Tree Spa at the deluxe resort Hidden Pond and the heated outdoor pool at Lodge on the Cove.

The KRC Dinner Trolley connects its restaurants, among them Earth at Hidden Pond known for organic gastronomy; and The Tides Beach Club, a seaside-chic bistro and cocktail bar.

PORT INN RENOVATED

The newly renovated Port Inn in Kennebunk is a treasure of well-priced convenience.

The two-story hotel on Route 1 is a stop for the colourful Shoreline Explorer Trolley which travels to Kennebunkport, Wells, Ogunquit and The Yorks from June 27 to Labour Day. It's about a \$3 to ride to the Kennebunk Beach, which is seven kilometres from the Port Inn.

Besides a handy location near services and restaurants, the Port Inn is excellent value, especially for small families.

All of the 46 rooms have king or double-queen beds, plus microwaves and mini-refrigerators, great for baby food or snacks. And five efficiencies, with kitchenettes and pullout sofas, can handle up to four people.

The best part is that everything has been redecorated from scratch — new bedding including triple sheeting and down pillows, mattresses, furniture, wallpaper, sea-inspired artwork, as well as updated bathrooms.

Kids love the heated pool outdoors and the movies on TV indoors.

## Extraordinary South America and more



Dave Frinton  
co-founder/  
President  
CruisePlus

My first picks this week is your choice of a 21 day San Diego to Valparaiso package or a 35 day itinerary all the way around to Buenos Aires. The shorter version departing on October 6th starts with one night pre cruise in San Diego, ports in Puerto Vallarta, Huatulco, Puerto Chiapas, Guatemala, Ecuador, Peru (with an overnight in Lima), La Serena and into Santiago. You will have 2 nights in a lovely hotel in Santiago before flying home on October 27th. \$4199 CAD per person includes roundtrip air from Montreal, the 3 nights hotel, the cruise in a well located ocean-view stateroom, a small shipboard credit and all taxes. Should you wish to extend, you'll cruise southern Chile through the magnificent fjords, the Strait of Magellan, Cockburn & Beagle Channels, Glacier Alley and other ports including Punta Arenas, Ushuaia, Falkland Islands, and Uruguay before a cruise overnight and 2 hotel overnights (instead of Santiago) in Buenos Aires before flying home on Nov 10th. This price is \$6299 CAD pp with the same inclusions as above, but also with a \$400 per stateroom shore excursion/onboard credit and a \$70 specialty dining package for two. These are great deals for this destination!

We've got lots of Med & Baltic packages. To name a few, there's a 13 night June 27th departure aboard the ms Zuiderdam that includes 2 nights hotel in Barcelona, your 11 night cruise with Saint Raphael, Monte Carlo, Calvi, Livorno, Tunis, Palermo & Salerno before arriving in Rome. High category balcony staterooms, Montreal air, and all taxes are \$3649 CAD pp. We also have a prime summer date (July 19) which includes 2 nights in Venice, cruising to Greece, Turkey, Italy, France, Monaco & Spain and then 1 night in Barcelona onboard. It's a hot time of year, but this is a hot price! \$5399 CAD pp for this 24 night package in a high category balcony stateroom includes air, and all taxes. Add some additional nights in Rome or Barcelona at the end of these cruises if you like. Finally, ask about last minute Baltic sailings in May and June. There's some terrific value on these 12 night cruise itineraries (roundtrip Copenhagen) including St Petersburg aboard the elegant ms Eurodam.

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