

TRAVEL

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O&E Monday, September 9, 1991

Sea the sights at Bar Harbor

Maine shore
has charmBy Iris Sanderson Jones
special writer

The Atlantic coast of Maine begins at Lubek, across the bridge from Campobello Island, New Brunswick, the Canadian island where President Franklin Delano Roosevelt spent his childhood summers. It ends at Kittery, a few miles south of Kennebunkport, where President George Bush and his family spend their vacation days.

By road, it is 228 miles from Lubek to Kittery, but if you stay on Highway 1 you miss the tiny seacoast villages found in every cove and at the end of every rocky peninsula.

Follow the shoreline and you will travel 3,478 miles to go that same distance from Lubek to Kittery, which tells you everything you need to know about the perils and pleasures of coastal Maine.

THAT SHORELINE is a meander of rocky peninsulas and river estuaries cluttered with lighthouses, boat harbors, funky seaports, fishing fleets and sailing vessels of every kind.

There are sailboats, fishing boats, motor boats and high masted schooners from Bar Harbor to Rockland and Boothbay Harbor.

You could spend lifetimes exploring all the charms of that wrinkled coast. Here is one of the hundreds of interesting spots accessible from Highway 1 between Eastport and Brunswick, where Highway 1 is swallowed up by Interstate 95.

Bar Harbor is a cheerful, busy tourist town full of tour buses and tour boats.

**FOOD'S IN BLOOM--
SEE TASTE BUDS**
Every Monday in TASTE

By Iris Sanderson Jones
special writer

Bar Harbor, Maine: Or "bah-hah-bur" as they call it here in Maine. Early settlers called the nearby Island Eden; today it is Mount Desert Island, home of the popular Acadia National Park.

It was off-season when I turned off Route 1, looking for just the right accommodation. I didn't want luxury or sophistication, just a place where I could have my morning coffee on a deck overlooking the sea.

I began to get the picture as I approached town. Emery's Cottages on the Shore, No Vacancy, Edgewater Motel and Cottages: No Vacancy.

Down Cottage Street, down Main Street, through the polished signs of tourist shops. Past signs that read No Vacancy, No Vacancy. The price went up as I approached the Golden Anchor. "Sorry, Ma'am, we're full."

It went up again when I walked my sweatshirt and Easy Spirit down the driveway to the casual elegance of the Bar Harbor Inn. "Sorry Ma'am, we're completely full."

I LOOKED enviously at a deck on an old Tudor house nearby as I

walked back to my car and drove to the Chamber of Commerce. "I didn't expect you to be so busy," I said. "My dream was to have my morning coffee on a porch overlooking the sea."

And that's how I got to a bed-and-breakfast called Ullikana in the Field, that same Tudor house with the very deck that I had seen while walking down the driveway of the Bar Harbor Inn half an hour before.

The room cost \$80. Not much sea, but I could see a little patch of water, especially when the wind blew the trees hard enough. I could smell the sea, hear the boat motors, watch the Whale Watching boats come in. And I was just around the corner from the main street of town.

Bar Harbor is a great cheerful clutter of shops, restaurants, sea captain's houses, bed-and-breakfasts, tour boats, fishing boats, people and traffic. If you love to shop, tour and join the lineups for a variety of New England restaurants, you will love Bar Harbor.

OTHERWISE, HAVE lobster chowder and fried clams at a greasy spoon on Main Street called the Acadian, where the local fishermen eat, order the cheapest and best lobster in town, and go on to Mount Desert Island and the national park.

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There was an artists' colony and a cottage colony on the island in the 19th century; by the turn of the 20th century the "cottages" were owned by people like J. P. Morgan, Joseph Pulitzer and John D. Rockefeller.

Rockefeller built 67 miles of carriage roads on his 15,000 acres before donating his land to the government as Acadia National Park. The Mount Desert Mountains slope down to the rockbound coast for which Maine is famous.

I spent several hours in the park, exploring the old villages, the inns and the 500 varieties of wildflowers. Then I went "home" to my little porch at Ullikana in the Field.

The next morning, I had my coffee in the breakfast room. I had a wonderful deck that almost overlooked the sea, but it was raining.



Photo by IRIS SANDERSON JONES

A bed-and-breakfast called Ullikana in the Field is in a Tudor house at Bar Harbor, Maine.

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