

Acadia National Park

Dining Guide

Editor's Note

This Dining Guide will help you find somewhere to eat all your meals on your trip to Acadia National Park.

This guide includes the most famous place to eat - Jordan Pond House, which is inside the park, plus restaurant recommendations for several key areas near the park, and a supermarket where you can buy supplies for a picnic.

While I haven't been to every single one of these places, those that I haven't tried personally, I've researched in detail before including them here.

If you try somewhere else and love it, feel free to email me and let me know, as I am always updating this list.

Note that most of the places in and around Acadia are only open for the main season May-October.

James

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Parks Collecting



The Maine coast is one of the premier lobster fishing areas in the country, so many of the best restaurants are ocean-side lobster pounds/ shacks with super casual atmospheres and trap-to-table fresh lobster and crab. There is no better place in the entire country to eat lobster at reasonable prices. The area is also famous for popovers - slightly eggy, super-light, muffin-like baked treats that are not to be missed. Of course, if you prefer something other than seafood, there are other options too.

INSIDE THE PARK

JORDAN POND

Jordan Pond House

No trip to Acadia is complete without having popovers at Jordan Pond House. It's been a tradition since 1893. Tables are set up on the lawn outside, with wonderful views of Jordan Pond and the North and South Bubbles. While they are most famous for their popovers, they have a full menu including lobster stew, crab cakes, and sandwiches.

Open May – October for lunch (11:00AM – 5:00PM). It gets very busy!

OUTSIDE THE PARK

BAR HARBOR

Reading Room

A fine dining restaurant at the Bar Harbor Inn with stunning views of Frenchman Bay. It's not cheap, but the food is excellent. Think local oysters, freshly caught lobster, and beef short ribs. Plus, of course, blueberry pie.

Open April – November for breakfast and dinner daily plus Sunday Brunch on the first Sunday of each month. Reservations are recommended (call 800-248-3351).

Café This Way

A casual and kind of quirky café a little hidden down a side street. The menu has lobster and blueberry pie (of course), but other dishes with a slight southern flair like shrimp and grits, plus burgers if you don't eat seafood.

Open May-October, for breakfast daily and dinner Tuesday-Saturday.

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OUTSIDE THE PARK

BAR HARBOR

Mount Desert Island Ice Cream

Right on the Village Green (plus other locations), this is my go-to ice cream place. The handmade ice cream with some funky - and some traditional - flavors has been named one of America's Top 25 Ice Cream Parlors by Food & Wine Magazine for a reason! My personal favorite is the blueberry ice cream - honestly the best I've ever had.

Open seasonally.

Hannaford Supermarket

Located at 86 Cottage Street, a 7-minute walk from Village Green, this is a good supermarket where you can get supplies for a picnic.

NORTH OF BAR HARBOR

Trenton Bridge Lobster Pound

Located on the mainland just over bridge from Mount Desert Island, this is one of several lobster pounds that are rustic, no fuss, not-fancy restaurants serving "lobsters in the rough". Freshly caught and boiled in seawater over a wood fire, and served with nothing but a simple butter sauce, this is some of the best lobster you'll have. They also serve Maine clams, mussels, oysters, crab and scallops, plus the ubiquitous blueberry pie and cakes.

Open Father's Day weekend to Columbus (Indigenous People's) Day for lunch and early dinner.

The Travelin Lobster

Another rustic lobster pound serving no fuss and super fresh lobster and other seafood. The family-owned restaurant is on the north part of Mount Desert Island. Outdoor seating is available. They don't take reservation and it's popular, so be prepared to wait if you're visiting at peak times.

Open May to September for lunch and early dinner (closing hours vary, but are close to dusk).



OUTSIDE THE PARK

THE QUIET SIDE

Thurston's Lobster Pound

A little out of the way, but worth the effort to get there, this is considered one of the best lobster pounds on Mount Desert Island – and my personal favorite. It's casual, but the lobster and crab are freshly caught the same day and its location right on the water's edge is stunning. Non-seafood options are also available, though pretty basic (burgers, etc.).

Open from Memorial Day weekend to mid-October for lunch and dinner, Tuesday – Friday.

Beale's Lobster Pier

There's a friendly rivalry between Beale's and Thurston's. You could try them both and decide for yourself. It's also dockside, casual, and serving fresh lobster and crab. They have a full bar and non-seafood options are available, though unexciting.

Open from May to mid-October, for lunch and dinner.

The Common Good Soup Kitchen

Located in Southwest Harbor, the Kitchen serves a simple (but delicious) breakfast - with popovers, oatmeal, tea, coffee, and juice, plus live music. The best part – it's pay what you can. It's a non-profit organization and the proceeds are used to operate a year-round soup kitchen for local residents, so anything you pay is put to great use.

Open in summer from 7:30AM -11:30AM, Tuesday-Sunday.

Archie's Lobster Food Truck

For a casual meal, this food truck is camped in a large paved area with picnic tables and shade umbrellas set up on the water's edge. The super fresh lobster rolls are a highlight.

Open in summer for lunch and early dinner.



OUTSIDE THE PARK

THE QUIET SIDE

Seawall Picnic Area

If you're on the quiet side, a great alternative to a restaurant is to have a picnic. This is a lovely, scenic picnic area just across the road from the campground. As you drive along the access road, it divides. To the left is the main parking lot and the restrooms. To the right is a very small parking area, but it's often less crowded and is really lovely. The spot is just above the beach and includes sections of rock, patches of lawn, twisted pine trees, and a lovely view to the west.

SCHOODIC PENINSULA AREA

The Pickled Wrinkle

Located outside Winter Harbor where the one-way Schoodic Loop Road meets the main road, this casual restaurant is a favorite with locals and tourists alike. "What's a pickled wrinkle?", you ask. It's a large carnivorous sea snail that's considered a local delicacy. And yes, they do serve them, when they're available. The restaurant has a lovely laid-back vibe and also offers more standard fare like burgers, pizzas, wings, and other seafood.

Open year round for lunch and early dinner.

JM Gerrish Café

A lovely family-run, casual restaurant and ice cream parlor in Winter Harbor. The food is delicious and the service friendly. The homemade pies, seafood chowder, and lobster rolls are all great. They have some outdoor seating on the front porch.

Open for breakfast and lunch, June to September.

CRANBERRY ISLANDS

Islesford Dock Restaurant and Gallery

If you're visiting Little Cranberry Island, this is THE place to eat. Literally right on the dock next to the ferry and the Cranberry Island Fishermen's Co-Op, you can eat freshly-caught seafood with gorgeous ocean views. They also have an art gallery.

Open June to September, Wednesday – Sunday, 3:00PM – 9:00PM plus weekend brunch/ lunch June to August, 10:00AM – 2:00PM.