

Day Trips

Historic Castine and the Shore of Penobscot Bay:

Take a right out of Harbor Ridge and turn right onto Seal Cove Road. Turn left on Route 102 and go about 10 miles to Route 3. From the intersection of Route 3 and Route 102 (head of the Island) go 9 miles and turn right at the light for Myrick Street (Darling's Auto on your left). Go to the second light and turn left onto Route 1 and Route 3. Go one half mile and turn right onto High Street. Go about 1.5 miles and turn left onto Main Street, which is downtown Ellsworth. Continue on Routes 1 and 3 until you pass the Big Chicken Barn and Used Bookstore (Great place to stop). Approximately four miles past the Chicken Barn, you will take a left onto Route 175 and pass through the village of Orland; then turn south along the shore of Penobscot Bay.



After about 12 miles, Route 175 turns left but continue going straight onto Route 166. Turn right onto Route 166A after about two miles and then right again onto Route 166 after about four miles. Route 166 ends at Castine's town dock where you can walk around the village, see the many old buildings and savor the town's varied history. Castine is the home of Maine Maritime Academy and its training ship, The State of Maine.

When you leave Castine stay on Route 166 for six miles or so and then turn right onto Route 199 toward Penobscot. After four miles go straight onto Route 175 South through the village of Penobscot. From here you will continue on and stay on Route 175 to Brooksville, crossing the reversing falls on the Bagaduce River.

Continue for another six miles or so and turn right to West Brooksville on Route 176. Several fishing harbors, including Smith Cove, Orcutt Harbor and Buck's Harbor, are on this road. After 10 miles, you will come to the junction with Route 175. Go straight towards the junction with Route 15 for less than a mile.

From here turn left towards the town of Blue Hill. After seven miles, Route 172 joins Route 15; follow Route 172 to the village of Surry on the shore of Patten Bay. Continue on 172 back into Ellsworth, and then continue on to Route 3 and 102 to get back to Southwest Harbor.

Total round trip is approximately 120 miles.

Schoodic Section - Acadia National Park:

Take a right out of Harbor Ridge and turn right onto Seal Cove Road. Turn left on Route 102 and go about 10 miles to Route 3. From the intersection of Route 3 and Route 102 (head of the Island) go 9 miles and turn right at the light for Myrick Street (Darling's Auto on your left). Go to the second light and turn right onto Route 1. After about four miles you will reach the village of Hancock. Continue another two miles and you will reach Sullivan Harbor Scenic Turnout with spectacular views of Frenchman Bay and the mountains of Mount Desert Island. Sullivan Harbor Village is less than a mile from the Scenic Turnout. At the junction of Route 1 and State Route 186 you will turn right and continue on to Winter Harbor, which is a busy fishing village port. After another six miles, you will make a left turn at the flagpole. In less than a mile you will turn right to Schoodic Point. Frazer Point Picnic Area is just up the road on the right.

Now you should be on a one-way road. After two miles you will take a left on the road to Schoodic Head where you can enjoy views of the islands of Frenchman Bay. A foot trail leads to the top of Schoodic Head and beautiful views towards the east. Schoodic Point is just another two miles farther. After leaving the Point, continue on the one-way road along the eastern side. There are several places to pull off the road to enjoy the views, including Blueberry Hill and Popplestone Beach.



In the village of Birch Harbor, turn right at the junction with Route 186. Prospect Harbor is an important fishing port and the site of one of Maine's few remaining sardine canneries. Take a right on Route 1 North and then after two miles, take another right at the Chicken Mill Creek Road. The Bartlett Estate Winery, maker of fruit wines, is less than a mile down this road. Tours and a tasting room are available on a seasonal basis. After passing the winery, continue onto Route 1 and turn left onto Route 1 South to return to Ellsworth. Simply follow Route 3 and 102 back into Southwest Harbor.

This round trip is approximately 110 miles.

Deer Isle and Stonington:

Take a right out of Harbor Ridge and turn right onto Seal Cove Road. Turn left on Route 102 and go about 10 miles to Route 3. From the intersection of Route 3 and Route 102 (head of the Island) go 9 miles and turn right at the light for Myrick Street (Darling's Auto on your left). Go to the second light and turn left onto Route 1 and Route 3. Go one half mile and turn right onto High Street. Go about 1.5 miles and turn left onto Main Street, which is downtown Ellsworth. From here you need to continue until the junction with Route 172. Bear left past the Old Registry Building. At the top of the hill is the 1820's Colonel Black House, open for tours from May to October.

From here you will be going through the village of Surry at the head of Patten Bay. Continue on Route 172 towards Blue Hill. The village of Blue Hill and the junction with Route 15 are straight ahead. Continue traveling straight through the village with its historical buildings and stately homes. Go another mile straight past the junction with Route 175. After another four miles, you will turn left onto Route 176 and continue on Route 15. You will reach Caterpillar Hill, which has a fantastic view of Penobscot Bay, Eggmoggin Reach and many other offshore islands.

Turn right at the stop sign in Sargentville and continue on Route 15. You will pass over the bridge of Eggmoggin Reach and after a mile or so you will reach the pretty village of Deer Isle, which boasts many handsome and historical buildings.



Stonington is at the south end of the island and is a busy fishing port and an important granite quarry center. From here the mail boat sails to Isle Au Haut. Proceed along Stonington's Main Street and turn right at the Opera House. Bear left just past the elementary school. On the western shore of the island is the village of Sunset. Turn left onto Route 15 after you pass through Sunset.

After crossing the bridge again over Eggmoggin Reach, you will enter the village of Sargentville on Route 175. After about eight miles you will come to the town of Brooklin and the road to Naskeag Point. Continue on Route 175 to Blue Hill Falls for another nine miles. The fascinating reversing falls are a response to the changing tides. As the ocean rises, water rushes into Salt Pond. When the tide falls, the water rushes out again. Turn right at the junction with Route 172. Make another right onto Route 15, passing through the village of Blue Hill, staying on Route 172 and continuing to Ellsworth.