

Hidden Gems of the Island

Your Family-Friendly, “avoid-the-crowds” Mount Desert Island Shopping & Dining Guide (2017 Edition)



Photo by www.balancerockinn.com/bar-harbor/

by David Faris

*Brought to you by Desert Springs Ministries
of Hermon, Maine*

Hidden Gems of the Island

Your Family-Friendly, "avoid-the-crowds" Mount Desert
Island Shopping & Dining Guide (2017 Edition)



Photo by www.balancedriver.com/bar-harbor/

by David Faris

*Brought to you by Desert Springs Ministries
of Hermon, Maine*

Receive a full-color, complementary PDF copy
of "Hidden Gems of the Island"
(and share it with your friends!)

Go to www.dsm.world/bar-harbor-mount-desert-island/

Welcome to Maine, the State our family is blessed to call "home"! You dreamed of the day when life would calm down just enough so that you could come to visit... And now, you're here!

We would like to help you enjoy your visit to The Island as much as possible. And that's why we prepared this Travel Guide for you: to help your visit to be (pleasantly) unforgettable.

No one has paid us anything (money or otherwise) to recommend these restaurants or shops. We chose them because each one is a high value, great experience establishment that seems to be neglected by the crowd that floods our backyard like the tide, each summer morning around 8 AM.

WARNING!

- ☹️ If you prefer to stand in line for long periods of time, then this isn't the guide for you.
- ☹️ If you prefer to buy "authentic" China-made souvenirs instead of locally Maine-made goods, close this guide up right away.
- ☹️ And if you are in a rush to see the Island as fast as you can so that you can check it off of your bucket list and head home, then get rid of this guide *immediately*.

Part of the experience of a vacation on the Island is to enjoy ocean breezes and lighthouses, the whales and wildlife, and moments with family and friends you'll never forget.

To enjoy Mount Desert Island at its best, follow us, and other locals like us, as we lead you away from the beaten pathways, to

places where there is still room to sit, and watch the sun go by.



Photo by Linda Buckley

Suggestions to make your stay on the island more pleasant:

- ⚓ If the service you receive isn't what you expected, please let someone know about it as soon as possible. Send your plate back to the cook if your meal isn't exactly what you asked for. Return the goods to the store if there is a problem with their quality or fit.
- ⚓ If a server treats you rudely, let the manager know about it. There's nothing that gets my blood boiling more than for a decent business owner to get a bad review on a travel website over something they would have made right if only they knew about it.
- ⚓ If you are staying on the mainland, do your best to cross

before 8 AM. Once you are across, stay on the Island until after 7 PM. If your reservations are not firm and you find something available, try to stay on the Island. I'd say that the extra rest you'll get in the morning, and the extra peace you'll enjoy after sunset, would be worth the extra \$20-50 you spend to stay on the Island instead of off it.

- ☞ Be at least 15-30 minutes early for your cruises, ferries and boat tours. At the same time, boat schedules are affected by the weather, so you may not leave on time. So have a book to read, with snacks and water bottles, just in case.
- ☞ How you approach the Island will affect what you receive when you get here. Keep your list of things you want to do, see and eat, short. Unless you are an author, an artist or a musician, it is "against the law" to catch up on work while vacationing on Mount Desert Island. <grin>
- ☞ Go into the places, and visit the sights, that others are passing by.
- ☞ Keep it simple and don't try to do too much.
- ☞ Keep a journal
- ☞ Take lots of pictures, with that fancy camera, with your cellphone / Iphone / E-phone... and, most of all, with your heart...



Photo by barharborwhales.com

Our Shopping & Dining

Recommendations

The Chocolate Moose

Address: 2 Derby Ln, Bar Harbor

GPS Coordinates: 44.387114, -68.203705

Phone Number: (207) 288-5088

Website: www.thechocolatemoosebarharbor.com

Because of the tremendous heat of the Sahara Desert, it is very difficult to find quality American chocolate. We dreamed of eating chocolate, ice cream, and other delicious candies that were not readily available for hundreds of miles in every direction.



Photo by The Chocolate Moose Facebook Page

The Care packages we received from our faithful friends often contained gummy worms, chocolate, and other goodies we had been craving. Now that our ministry is based in Maine, we enjoy indulging in all kinds of delicious treats and look for stores like the Chocolate Moose.

First impressions are very important. One of the first things you will notice is friendly Oliver the moose standing courageously outside the entrance. He is a very photogenic creature and is always willing to pose with you at all hours of the day or night.



Photo by The Chocolate Moose Facebook Page

When you enter the store, you are greeted with the scent of delicious candy. The staff is friendly and willing to answer any questions you might have about their many mainly Maine products. The chocolate candies are made on site. As the weather gets cooler, you can warm up with a delicious cup of handcrafted hot chocolate, blended in-house with real ground chocolate, cocoa and steamed milk.

However, not everything is chocolate here. There are jars of giant gummy bears, gummy worms, and other gummy shapes. They also sell homemade pickles and other pickled veggies. These will be a delicious reminder you can bring with you to remember your stay on the Island.

While people at other ice cream shops nearby are waiting over twenty minutes without much

potential of securing a seat, less than a tenth of a mile away, the Chocolate Moose is serving gourmet ice cream in homemade chocolate shells. There is no need to fight for a seat at the Chocolate Moose. This spacious seating allows you to enjoy your treat as you watch the shoppers and tourists go by. And if it's raining or too buggy that day, you can sit inside and enjoy the jazz



Photo by TripAdvisor

music with the friendly staff.

The Chocolate Moose has a fun and relaxing atmosphere with interesting moose facts on the wall to entertain you as you eat. They are partners with the Mount Desert Island Young Men's Christian Association, so your purchases are making an important contribution to the local community.

Shard, a Coastal Living Experience

Address: 19 Cottage Street,
Bar Harbor ME 04609

GPS Coordinates: 44.389813,
-68.205477

Phone Number: (207) 869-9155

Website: shardpottery.com



Photo by visitmaine.com

The country of Chad is landlocked. This means that, while we were there, we had no contact with the ocean or anything we associate with the briny deep. Once we got back to Maine, one of the most refreshing things for us as a family was to finally smell salty sea air and to watch boats make their way through the beautiful blue waters.

Shard has anything and everything you could hope for in a style that is linked to the ocean, which is why we love it so much.

Pottery is what they do best, which accounts for all the kitchenware designed with famous creatures of the ocean on display. Crabs, lobsters, whales and even inanimate seashells are



Photo by barharborinfo.com

featured on the many dining articles here.

If you want a new coffee mug, or are looking to redesign your kitchen with an ocean theme, this place is for you.

Napkins, hand towels and place mats are all excellent additions to your dining room table.

Also, if you are interested in spreading this theme to your living room, you will find that they even sell pillows for your couch.

When you first step into the store, the first thought that might strike you is the unusual color of the walls. The bright aqua blue would be unseemly in a hardware store, but this eye-catching color fits perfectly with the resounding ocean theme. Even more pleasant are the dressing rooms, which are set up to resemble a beach house, with white wooden doors and white beach chairs.

They do sell clothing items, which stylishly share the calming ocean motif in bright colors.

To complete your outfit, you might find a fetching scarf as a memento of your trip. And if you wish to "leave your mark" in the sand, buy one of their Flip-Sidez, which are flip-flops that have a phrase or message on the bottom.

Because the illustrious state of Maine is known for its delightful coastline, it is not unusual to see Maine artwork in this store. Whether a piece of art is comprised of shells or paint, it has most

likely been created in Maine. You might also see some fascinating jewelry there as well, such as a Maine shaped necklace. If you like candy shaped like a moose or a lobster, then you'll love the savory lollipops and other tasty treats.

And if you happen to buy an item with a tag that says "One Shard = One Meal" or "a Plate for a Plate", then you are helping to fight hunger on Mount Desert Island and other parts of Maine.



Photo by visitmaine.com

Bar Harbor Popcorn

Address: 185 Main St. #2, Bar Harbor ME 04609

GPS Coordinates: 44.387259, -68.204521

Phone Number: (610) 509-0278

Website: www.barharborpopcorn.com

Is it a store, or is it a restaurant? Perhaps the confusion as to how to classify Bar Harbor Popcorn has caused this hidden gem to slip through the cracks on TripAdvisor.

I pride myself as a popcorn chef; it's one of the simple pleasures of life that can be enjoyed anywhere in the world our travels have taken us. However, I am entirely incapable of making popcorn as good as this. I do not have access to the quality

ingredients available to Bar Harbor Popcorn. The owner, Craig Wayman, uses mushroom popcorn, which is the best type available. He combines it with the best possible ingredients. He makes it based on the demand, so that you get it as fresh as possible.



Only the best ingredients: Photo by TripAdvisor

cold, you end up with popcorn balls. What is the right temperature, and how do you mix the popcorn into such sweet flavors? Come watch Craig get it right every time, with his caramel, maple, and blueberry popcorn treats. He is right there at the store, willing to answer any questions you may have about making popcorn.

If you are a popcorn lover, then this is the place for you. This store is bursting with a variety of popcorn flavors. You will recognize some of the flavors, such as cheese and olive oil. Others may surprise you, such as blueberry and maple.

This popcorn makes an excellent snack throughout your day as you tour the Mount Desert Island area. They also serve delicious frozen lemonade, which will quench your thirst after all the walking you might be doing that day. If you're not a fan of lemonade, they sell water and soft drinks as well.

Before heading to your cabin, room or campsite, make it a point to



Photo by Vivian C., Yelp.com

buy a bucket full of savory popcorn for the van. Be sure to check that the salt quantity is to your liking, as he uses only the minimum necessary for delicious flavor. If you prefer your popcorn more sweet and chewy, you can ask to sample some of the blueberry and maple popcorn to decide which you would like best.

This store is not far from Main Street, so a quick detour won't cause you to get lost in the busyness of your visit to Bar Harbor.

The Bar Harbor Tea Company

Address: 150 Main Street Store #2, Bar Harbor ME 04609

GPS Coordinates: 44.388113, -68.204230

Phone: (207) 288-8322

Website: barharbortea.com

In my home, I'm the big fan of a cup or a glass of tea.

In Chad, Africa, tea is very simple, very sweet, and very hot. Culturally, tea is served

to welcome old friends and celebrate new acquaintances. Since I have returned to the States, I have consumed more iced tea than hot tea. Thankfully, the Bar Harbor Tea Company has the



Photo by Julia Denton (www.defeatdespair.com)

resources and accessories for both kinds.

The Bar Harbor Tea Company gives you a sense of coastal coziness. When you step inside for a closer look, you will be amazed by the colorful display of teapots that are lined up to greet you. It should be easy to find a teapot or teacup to match your personality, due to the wide variety of colors and styles available.

From Maine icons, such as lobsters and lighthouses, to delicate designs, such as birds and flowers, there are all sorts of styles with which to express your unique personality. The teacups have been imported from England and are made of fine bone porcelain from China. Their teapots are also unique in style, and can be matched with some of the teacups.

Some beautifully handmade cozies are also available, with styles that provide a sense of pleantry and warmth to your home, much less to the design of your teapot.



*Photo by Linda
(www.friendshiptea.net)*

You can't get much more local than this store. The tea itself is blended locally, and they make it for both hot tea and iced tea. Handmade tea wallets serve as a stylish and clever way to store your tea, if by any chance you prefer those over the storage containers that are also readily available at this store. The

assortment of tea flavors include Wild Maine Blueberry, Cape Cod Cranberry, and Downeast Breakfast Blend. They also sell honey in different flavors, some of which include blueberry and raspberry.

If you want to increase the fun of making tea, you can buy an infuser with different themes. The style of infusers include sloths, octopi, whales, Christmas trees, and guitars.

It is obvious that the desire of the Bar Harbor Tea Company is to provide you with a soothing shopping experience similar to one you would receive while drinking your favorite cup of tea. You are treated to calm, pleasant music as you observe the many different products they offer. They even give you a chance to take some of music home with you in the form of a CD. You can choose between different kinds of music, such as relaxing Celtic tunes, and mollifying, yet jubilant wedding music.



*Photo by Linda
(www.friendshiptea.net)*

Seafood Ketch

Address: 47 Shore Rd, Bass Harbor ME 04653

GPS Coordinates: 44.238026,
-68.347164

Phone: (207) 244-7463

Website:
www.seafoodketch.com



Photo by Seafood Ketch (yelp.com)

When we Mainers come to Mount Desert Island for seafood, some of us go to Beal's Lobster Pound in Southwest Harbor, and some of us go to Seafood Ketch in Bass Harbor.

Beal's is great if you like to eat your seafood on a picnic table on a rough paper plate, with lobster juice and melted butter running down your arms and cheek.

As strange as it may seem, some of us "natives" actually prefer to eat at a table with a tablecloth and a knife, fork and spoon.

So we go to Seafood Ketch.



Photo by www.seafoodketch.com

Seafood Ketch has the kind of food I dreamed of when I was sweating half my body weight off in the Sahara Desert. The view is amazing; I love the classical Maine view of the lobster boats that caught the food we eat from the deck. The restaurant owners wanted to make sure

you could take in the view, so they made sure there were plenty of windows so you could see out.

You are so close to the sea that Stuart and Lisa Branch have requested that you kindly refrain from fishing from the windows or deck.

Things move slowly in Bass Harbor, so don't come here if you are in a rush to get in and out and on your way. Instead, while everyone else is struggling to get off the Island, come around 5 or 6 PM, and enjoy the quiet and peaceful atmosphere of Bass Harbor with your best friend and those you love.

They have a substantial children's menu with plenty to choose from, and lots of steaks and chicken in case your significant other

doesn't like seafood as much as you do.

The waiting staff at "Ketch" is friendly and very helpful. They know the items on their menu like a lobsterman knows his lobster boat! Ask them about the ingredients you may be allergic to, where the ingredients came from and which one they like best. You'll see what I mean!



Photo by www.seafoodketch.com

For your choice of potato, I would recommend the Ketch Fries – Delicious! You can't find them anywhere else. And for dessert, bring back a piece of the World's Best Carrot Cake or some of Lisa's cheesecake to your hotel room to share before "lights out".

Whatever you choose, I know it will be delicious and worth the price you'll pay.

For the food and the view alone, this restaurant is worth the ride to Bass Harbor.

Udder Heaven Ice Cream Retreat

Address: 369 Maine 3, Bar Harbor ME 04609

GPS Coordinates: 44.431014, -68.267277

Phone: (207) 288-2233

Website: www.udderheaven.com

In Chad, you had three choices of ice cream at the Amandine: soft serve vanilla, chocolate, or a blend of the two. And there was only one Amandine in the whole country: right in the capital city.



No wonder they call this place “Udder Heaven”!

It's easy to get to Udder Heaven. And when you arrive, you'll never struggle to find a place to park. They have plenty of parking spaces, including spots for RVs and buses.

At Udder Heaven, the staff is polite and helpful. They somehow tend to keep the line moving, no matter how long it gets (and it often gets rather long!). Once you've been served, there are plenty of comfortable chairs to sit in, plus picnic tables on the patio.

So, what will it be? A cone or a cup? A Hawaiian Monk, a Nutty Convert or a Flying Nun Sundae?

Or maybe this is your only meal of the day, and you prefer to indulge in a Nowazark or a Brownie Temptation.

Perhaps you've already eaten. Maybe you'd prefer a Friah's Frappe, Nirvana or the Saint Bernard to go.

And as if it weren't already difficult enough to choose your dessert, they not only serve ice cream, but also brownies, whoopie pies, crepes, cinnamon rolls, pies and cookies!



Photo by Katy K., www.yelp.com

Yes, the prices are higher than you would pay at the ice cream stores on the mainland. However, it is the lowest priced ice cream shop on the Island. And yet, the ice cream itself is homemade and compiled using 16% butterfat mix. The result is a super premium ice cream. So, you're getting plenty of value for your money.

The cones are also homemade, and named according to size, from angel small, to saint regular, to sinner large.

Udder Heaven is a wonderful place to bring the children. You'll never lose them, because they will probably gravitate toward the life-sized replica of a cow that allows children to try their hand at milking.

If it's somebody's birthday, your kids might like an ice cream cake in the shape of a lobster, or a homemade ice cream making party! If this is something you may be interested in, be sure to call ahead.



It's easy to get to "Udder Heaven"!

Since you're on the Island anyway, it would be "udder" nonsense to miss a trip to Udder Heaven!

About the Author

"I have a confession to make... I'm actually not from Maine. But my wife is! And we've been in Maine for eighteen years now! Does that count?" ☺

Our family is absolutely convinced that life is an adventure. Jesus said this about those who would believe in Him : "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

And, boy, was He right!!

I was born in Concord, Massachusetts, yet lived most of my childhood in New Hampshire, France and Kuwait.

I grew up in an Atheist home. However, while living in

Litchfield, New Hampshire between our time in Paris and Kuwait City, my Mom got "Radically Saved"! The transformation to her life was so amazing that soon after, my Dad did the same.

Even though I was sweet boy growing up ☺, I was a little more hard-headed than they were. I finally committed my life to Christ in Kuwait, thanks to the work of an Australian preacher, based in India.

In my teenage years, I believe the Author of our Faith (Hebrews 12:2) called me to serve Him overseas with my language skills. So I went to Faith School of Theology in Charleston, Maine (now Faith



On Cadillac Mountain

Bible College International). As a single young man, I started out in Chad, Africa, where I have served off and on for 25 years now.

I travel back and forth from Chad to Maine. During the Spring, Summer or Fall, if I'm not overseas, you may find me standing by the side of the road in my African outfit. I am trying to let people know about the amazing work that our partners are doing through Desert Springs Ministries, International.

So, if you see me, wave, or stop and say "Hello!"

In this chaotic world, most Christians don't know what to do to

help the refugees, who have been through unspeakable trauma.

Some agencies provide bottled water. Others provide tents, and shelter. Still others provide food and supplies.

As for Desert Springs Ministries, we provide



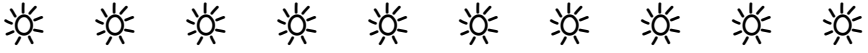
Sand Beach, Mount Desert Island

"MicroBibles".

Our MicroBibles are in high demand among refugees everywhere. We provide them in more than 65 languages. Each one discreetly provides all of the essentials to help a friend to find hope and salvation in Christ.

Through these SD Cards, our prayer warriors and donors are providing help and encouragement through the Word of God, the Bible.

To learn more about us, please visit our website, which is www.dsm.world. To make a donation to our cause, please click on the "Donate" button on our website.



Our Guarantee

We want to be sure that the shops and restaurants we are promoting in this guide are of the best quality in the experience and service they provide to you.

If any of the places I've mentioned in this Island Travel Guide do not measure up to your expectations, or if you have a question about something that is not covered by this guide, please let me know by calling or texting me at (207) 735-8595.

We would especially like to thank Alf Anderson and Martha Searchfield of the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce for their technical assistance in preparing "The Hidden Gems of Mount Desert Island".

Thank you for taking a moment to download this travel guide during your vacation. We hope that it makes your time on the Island even more refreshing and memorable.

Cheers!,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Faris".

www.dsm.world

Conclusion : A Final Word

Before we go, we have a few more Island Gems to bring to your attention. We did not have the time to write about them in greater detail, yet. However, as with the places mentioned above, these restaurants and shops provide excellent service that largely goes unnoticed by the crowds:

Bar Harbor Route 66 Restaurant

Address: 21 Cottage Street,
Bar Harbor ME 04609

GPS Coordinates: 44.389724,
-68.205531.

Phone: (207) 288-3708

Website: www.bhroute66.com

The Blue Door

Address: 135 Cottage Street,
Bar Harbor ME 04609

GPS Coordinates: 44.388618,
-68.214039

Phone: (207) 801-9045

Website:

www.facebook.com/The-Blue-Door-132325320464680

Fair Trade Winds

Address: 119 Main Street, Bar
Harbor ME 04609

GPS Coordinates: 44.388308,
-68.204472

Phone: (207) 288-0056

Website:

www.fairtradewinds.net

The Kimball Shop

Address: 135 Main Street,
Northeast Harbor ME 04662

GPS Coordinates: 44.293058,
-68.288789

Phone: (207) 276-3300

Website: www.kimballshop.com

Milk & Honey Bakery

Address: 3 Old Firehouse Ln,
Northeast Harbor, ME 04662

Coordinates: 44.293772,
-68.287726

Phone Number: (207) 276-4003

Website:
www.milkandhoneykitchen.com

Mystery Cove Book Shop

Address: 1 Dewey Street, Bar
Harbor ME 04609

GPS Coordinates: 44.413994,
-68.253088

Phone: (207) 288-4665

Website:
www.barharborbookshop.com

Sagegrass Gallery

Address: 156 Main Street, Bar
Harbor ME 04609

GPS Coordinates: 44.388090,
-68.204342

Phone: (207) 288-9442

Website:
www.artworkbyjulianna.com

Blaze Bar Harbor

Address: 198 Main Street, Bar
Harbor ME 04609

GPS Coordinates: 44.388003,
-68.204125

Phone: (207) 801-2755



Our Favorite Maine Memories:

