

# Fun Things to Do in Ogunquit, Maine from Beaches to Lighthouses

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June 14, 2021



Walter Bibikow/DigitalVision/Getty Images

Welcome to *Two Days Away*, our series featuring weekend-long itineraries within a five-hour drive of your city—because sometimes we all just need a little adventure fix.

As I hopped aboard the *Cricket*, a tiny wooden sailboat with seating for only six guests, I knew I was in for a true Maine experience. We left Ogunquit's Perkins Cove and traveled under the wooden footbridge, which had to be raised drawbridge style to accommodate our sailboat's mast, passing by lobster boats coming in to dock for the afternoon. Ogunquit native Captain Grant Hubbard of the family-owned Finestkind Scenic Cruises regaled us with stories about lobster's evolution from "trash fish" served only to prisoners to its luxury status. He gave us a feel for this town that banded together to ban chains like Dunkin' Donuts and



McDonald's back in 2006 and to keep the beaches free of amusement parks and open to everyone. The town is also a noted LGBTQ haven, and many of its businesses are LGBTQ-owned.

A visit to Ogunquit, Maine, feels like stepping back in time, and the residents like it that way. Ogunquit boasts fewer than 2,000 year-round residents, and visitors come to this town in southeastern Maine for its beaches, plentiful seafood restaurants, and laid-back way of life.

## Travel Time:

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1.5 hours from Boston



[Thomas H. Mitchell/500px/Getty Images](#)

## **If you do only one thing: Walk the Marginal Way**

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Start in Perkins Cove and walk this 1.25-mile ocean-side path along the rocky coastline leading to sandy beaches where families gather for a day in the sun. Rather than parceling off the land to private homeowners, this strip on the "margin" between land and sea was donated to the town in 1925 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2022.

The picturesque footpath is the source of many paintings depicting its rocky outcroppings, sandy coves, and honeysuckle-lined paths. The iconic Lobster Point Lighthouse is a favorite point of interest, though it's not a functional lighthouse but rather a disguised sewage pumping station. The path is used primarily for walkers, as bikes are prohibited, and dogs are only allowed from October through March.

Stop and take in the views from the many benches along the way, and time your Marginal Way walk to coincide with low tide so you can explore the tide pools. There's even an oversized lifeguard chair perched on the rocks that's a fun photo spot.



Photo courtesy of Visit Maine

## Fill your weekend with

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### Head to the beach

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Even in the peak summer months, you can find a spot in the sand to enjoy the ocean breezes. Ogunquit Beach, often named one of the country's best for its soft sand and swimmable (though cold) water, is the most popular. Plan to arrive early on weekends in the summer, park in one of the pay lots in town, and walk your gear to the beach. At low tide, there's a wide swath of sand to set up your picnic, and at high tide, you can walk quite a distance in the water without it going past your waist.

If you're looking for a more secluded activity, rent kayaks or stand-up paddleboards to explore the nearby tidal river (but pay attention as the river completely disappears at low tide).

## Take in some art

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We spotted the [Ogunquit Museum of American Art](#) on our sail out of Perkins Cove. The museum and its sculpture garden have a stunning view of the town and the Atlantic Ocean, so it's worth a visit if just for that. It celebrates Ogunquit's artist colonies, which date back to the 1950s. Just a short walk from the museum and across the footbridge in Perkins Cove are a number of galleries if you want to purchase some art to take home with you.

## Visit the Nubble Lighthouse

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Just a short drive from Perkins Cove is the [Nubble Lighthouse](#) on Cape Neddick. The often-photographed lighthouse sits on a small rocky island and is still in use today. Park near the gift shop, grab a lobster roll and wild blueberry lemonade from [Fox's Lobster House](#) and find a spot on the rocks to enjoy the view. If you want to see the lighthouse from the water, Finestkind offers a Nubble Lighthouse cruise in one of their larger vessels (with a cash bar onboard).



[Barnacle Billy's Inc. & Barnacle Billy's etc](#)

## Where to eat and drink in Ogunquit

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**Lobster and sit-down meals:** When you've worked up your appetite after a day in the sun, pick your own lobster from the tanks at the [Ogunquit Lobster Pound](#), which has been serving up lobsters boiled in seawater for over 90 years. We loved this spot's lively atmosphere and attentive service. [Barnacle Billy's](#) is a fun option for a sit-down meal with a view of Perkins Cove. Grab a spot on the sundeck if the weather is nice, and enjoy a rum punch with a bowl of clam chowder and Billy's boiled lobster. If you need a quicker dining option, [Billy's Etc](#) is next door, offering counter service and many of the same food offerings as the original. Be sure to save room for the blueberry pie, served a la mode (of course).

**Quick options:** Perkins Cove has no shortage of walk-up stands like Footbridge Lobster, serving Maine-style lobster rolls (cold, with mayo) or Connecticut-style (warm, with butter) if you prefer. Walk along Main Street to find lots of other dining options, from hand-crafted pizza at [Cornerstone](#) to fresh haddock tacos and lobster flatbread at [Rose Cove](#).



Dunes on the Waterfront | Photo by Kate Loweth

## Where to stay

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**Dunes on the Waterfront:** If you truly want to relax and escape the action, [Dunes on the Waterfront](#) offers recently renovated oceanfront cottages in a serene location along Ogunquit's tidal river. Instead of packing cottages into every inch of waterfront space, the

property embraces its coastal view with a central grassy area where guests gather around lawn games and a nightly bonfire.

Bikes are available to get into town, or you can spend the afternoon under a delightful yellow umbrella by the heated pool. Grab a kayak, paddleboard, or rowboat to cross the tidal river at high tide, or walk across when the tide is out (it's pretty swampy but a fun adventure).

Our favorite activity was boarding the Dunes Cabana, a pontoon boat captained by Ogunquit local Laura Rose (prior owner of Rose Cove restaurant before her son took over). She let my teen son steer the pontoon through the estuary and told us about the town's history and the animals seen in the river. The pontoon can take guests to the beach on the other side, so you don't have to worry about finding parking.

When you're ready for dinner, walk through the fence in the back of the property to enjoy a meal at the Lobster Pound or catch a ride on the golf cart shuttle when you want to go into town.

**Other local spots:** There are plenty of other hotel options in Ogunquit, including the majestic [Cliff House Resort](#), located on the rocky coast just north of the Nubble Lighthouse, and [Auberge on the Cove](#), a two-story property right across the footbridge from the Perkins Cove action.

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