

# AMERICAN ARTIST PROJECT

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Portland, Maine





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## BroadWay Brunch on the Road



Welcome to Portland, Maine! We are so glad you are able to join us on July 25th. This relaxed yet culturally rich city will be your playground during the American Artists Project's Broadway Brunch: On the Road weekend. From boutique hotels and farm-fresh dining to lighthouses and live music, Portland offers an authentic New England experience with a creative flair. Use this guide to explore high-quality, local-first favorites in easy-to-digest categories. All activities are optional—simply enjoy the journey!



# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

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**Broadway Brunch Information — Page 4**

**Potential Itinerary — Page 5**

**Hotels — Page 6**

**Restaurants — Page 7 and 8**

**Culture and Entertainment —Page 9**

**Music and Festivals — Page 10**

**Museums and Arts — Page 11**

**Costal and Scenic Spots — Page 12**

# BROADWAY BRUNCH ON THE ROAD

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**Monday July 28, 2025**  
**10:30 A.M ET - 12:00 P.M. ET**  
(Time may flex a little depending on venue)

# WEEKEND ITINERARY SNAPSHOT

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## Friday, July 25 2025

### Arrival Day

- Guests arrive
- Optional welcome cocktail hour (TBD location)

## Saturday, July 26 2025

### Optional Exploration Day

- Casual day of optional activities (TBD)
- Possibility: group outing to Peaks Island
  - Known for its coastal charm and legendary ice cream
- Dinner on your own, or small group meetups

## Sunday, July 27 2025

### Opera & Afterparty

- Gourmet Brunch (included)
- Sweeney Todd Matinee at Merrill Auditorium featuring Sarajane Dailey
- Post-show – Exclusive Cast Afterparty on Stage
- Evening free or join others for a nightcap

## Monday, July 28 2025

### Broadway Brunch: On The Road

- 10:30 AM–12:00 PM – Broadway Brunch Event (included)
  - Hosted at a local venue with performances, food, and celebration
- Optional Departures through the afternoon



# WHERE TO STAY

Boutique hotels and elegant inns that offer style, comfort, and walkable access to all your Portland adventures.

**The Press Hotel** – A 4-star boutique hotel in the historic Portland Press Herald building (corner of Exchange & Congress) steps from City Hall and Merrill Auditorium.

Walkability: ~3-minute walk to Merrill Auditorium.

**Standouts:** Valet parking, an acclaimed in-house restaurant (Union), and full ADA accessibility



**Blind Tiger** – An intimate boutique inn occupying two restored 19th-century mansions in the West End (Danforth & Carleton). Each house features eclectic decor and cozy common lounges.

Walkability: 15–20 minutes (0.8 miles) to Merrill

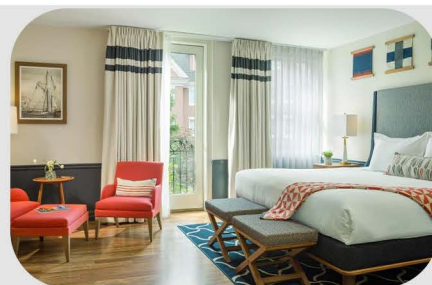
**Standouts:** Homemade breakfast treats, quiet residential charm, but note: No elevator



**Portland Harbor Hotel** – A polished downtown hotel in the Old Port, 5–10 minutes' walk from shops and the waterfront. Contemporary rooms surround a lovely outdoor terrace with fire pit.

Walkability: ~8 minutes (0.5 mi) on foot to Merrill Auditorium

**Standouts:** On-site restaurant and bar, valet parking, has elevators, and 24-hr fitness center.



**Canopy by Hilton Portland Waterfront** – A hip new lifestyle hotel at 9 Center Street in the Old Port. Rooms are modern and locally inspired.

Walkability: ~12 minutes (0.6 mi) to Merrill Auditorium through Portland's charming downtown.

**Standouts:** Rooftop bar with panoramic harbor views, and fully ADA compliant.



**Portland Regency Hotel & Spa** – A boutique hotel & spa housed in a grand 1895 former armory in the Old Port (20 Milk Street).

Walkability: ~10 minutes (0.4 mi) to Merrill, albeit up a slight hill.

**Standouts:** On-site spa and fitness center, an elegant restaurant (Eighteen95), Accessibility, and a rooftop deck.





# RESTAURANTS

Portland punches above its weight in culinary delights. Enjoy fresh New England seafood, creative farm-to-table bites, and decadent sweets. Below, we've grouped top picks by mealtime

## Breakfast and brunch

### Becky's Diner

A Portland institution on the working waterfront, serving hearty breakfasts since 1991. Expect classic diner fare done right – blueberry pancakes, omelettes ([try the lobster omelette](#) for a true Maine twist), and strong coffee.



#### Atmosphere:

Busy, unpretentious, and friendly. Open early; no reservations ([prepare for a short wait on weekend mornings](#)).

### Bayside American Cafe

A family-run brunch cafe known for creative specials and baked goods. The menu spans decadent stuffed French toast, waffles, and benedicts to lighter lunch fare. [They're famous for their granola-encrusted French toast](#) and seasonal pancake flavors.



#### Atmosphere:

Warm and homey, with a sun porch and patio seating. [Expect a wait on weekends](#), but portions are generous and worth it.

### Hot Suppa

A popular brunch hotspot blending Southern comfort with Maine ingredients. This cozy West End eatery is "[scratch-made...with local ingredients](#)". Try their signature chicken & waffles or eggs Benedict with corned beef hash. They serve breakfast/brunch every day until 2pm.



#### Atmosphere:

Lively and casual, in a vintage diner-style space. Hot Suppa frequently earns "[Best Breakfast/Brunch](#)" accolades in local polls.

## Lunch

### Eventide Oyster Co.

Portland's celebrated modern oyster bar. It offers a rotation of ultra-fresh local oysters on the half shell and [a must-try: the Brown Butter Lobster Roll](#), a James Beard Award-winning twist served on a steamed bun. Also enjoy clam chowder, peekytoe crab toast, and craft cocktails.



#### Atmosphere:

Small, chic, and often bustling. They don't take reservations, so consider an off-peak lunch to snag a spot.

### Duckfat

A beloved casual spot famed for its Belgian-style fries fried in duck fat. The menu features gourmet panini ([the duck confit panino is a favorite](#)), seasonal soups and salads, and milkshakes made with local gelato. It's perfect for a quick bite between activities.



#### Atmosphere:

Rustic-industrial and cozy (limited seating). Tip: If it's crowded, Duckfat's "Frites Shack" takeout window lets you enjoy fries and shakes outdoors.

### Highroller Lobster Co.

A fun, retro-themed lobster eatery started as a food cart. Now in a brick-and-mortar diner, Highroller serves up lobster rolls your way ([Try their unique lime mayo or jalapeño ranch](#)). They also offer lobster grilled cheese, a lobster taco, and creative sides.



#### Atmosphere:

Bright red booths, upbeat music, and a young vibe. It's a great lunch stop for a less traditional lobster roll experience. Bonus: local beers and floats round out the menu.



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## Dinner & Upscale Dinning

### Scales

An elegant [waterfront restaurant](#) on Maine Wharf specializing in the freshest. The dining room's floor-to-ceiling windows overlook the harbor. Enjoy classics like fried clams and lobster alongside refined dishes.



#### Atmosphere:

Upscale-casual New England vibe – think white beadboard, nautical touches, open kitchen. **Reservations recommended** (it's spacious, ~150 seats, but popular).

### Twelve

Twelve earned national accolades as [one of the best new restaurants](#) offering modern New England cuisine in a stylishly restored waterfront building. The menu is seasonal and artful – e.g. Maine shellfish crudo with wild herbs, or aged lamb with foraged mushrooms.



#### Atmosphere:

Chic and minimalist, with an open concept. Expect a prix-fixe or tasting format. Ideal for a special night out – **Advance reservations are a must.**

### Fore Street

Listed among [America's top restaurants for decades](#). The open wood-fire grill and brick oven in the center of the dining room turn out rustic, soulful dishes featuring Maine's best produce, meats, and seafood. The menu changes daily.



#### Atmosphere:

Warm, brick-walled and upscale yet unpretentious. It's "dressy casual." **Reservations recommended**, though the bar area serves full menu for walk-ins.

## Sweets

### Harbor Candy Shop

A must if you take the day trip to Ogunquit (see Coastal & Scenic Spots). This [vintage candy store](#) on Ogunquit's Main Street has crafted handmade chocolates and candies since 1956. Great for edible souvenirs or an afternoon pick-me-up. (Pro tip: The dark chocolate sea salt caramels are heavenly.)



#### Treats:

Stepping inside feels like entering a European chocolatier – glass cases of truffles, buttercrunch toffee, needhams (a Maine coconut candy) – all made on-site with quality ingredients.

### The Holy Donut

Famous for [Maine potato donuts](#) made from local mashed potatoes for a uniquely moist texture. There are two Portland locations (Exchange St. in Old Port, and Park Ave). **Go early for the best selection** (they often sell out by early afternoon).



#### Treats:

Flavors range from Dark Chocolate Sea Salt (a cult favorite) to Maple Bacon and seasonal fruit glazes. These indulgent treats are perfect for breakfast or a coffee break. Note: They offer some gluten-free flavors too.

### Mount Desert Island Ice Cream

Artisanal small-batch ice cream shop on Exchange Street. MDI Ice Cream is known for "forward-thinking flavors that delight adventurous palates. [They make only 5 gallons at a time](#), ensuring top quality. Grab a flight of mini-scoops to sample multiple flavors.



#### Treats:

You'll find inventive options like Blueberry Basil, Sea Salt Caramel, and Girl Scout Cookie (alongside perfect versions of the classics). Another local favorite for frozen treats is Gelato Fiasco, just around the corner.



# CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT

Beyond the Broadway Brunch event, Portland's arts scene offers plenty to explore



## Merrill Auditorium

Portland's historic performance hall (attached to City Hall) hosting the Opera Maine production of *Sweeney Todd*. Merrill Auditorium is renowned for its restored Kotschmar Pipe Organ – one of only two municipal organs in the U.S. The venue's excellent acoustics make it home to the Portland Symphony and touring shows. During your visit, [you'll be here Sunday for the Opera Maine matinee starring Mela Sarajane Dailey](#) as Mrs. Lovett, followed by an exclusive afterparty on stage. (No need to book anything – your tickets and event access are arranged!)

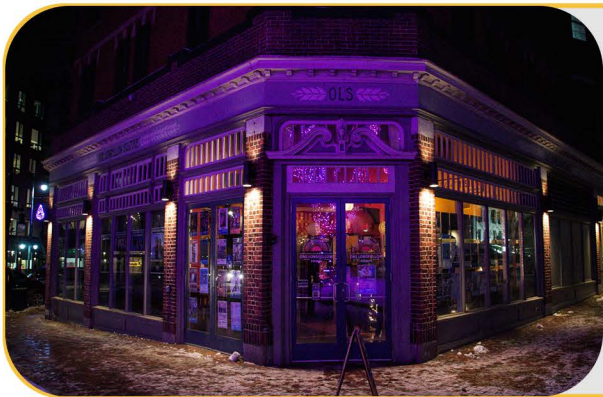


## Ogunquit Playhouse

If you're up for a scenic 45-min drive down the coast, this venerable 93-year-old summer theater is worth the trip. The Playhouse delivers Broadway-caliber musicals in an intimate clapboard theater reminiscent of classic summer stock.

In fact, from [July 24–Aug 23, 2025](#), they're staging **Cole Porter's "High Society,"** a witty musical of 1930s elegance. Catch an evening show in Ogunquit and maybe meet the cast afterward.

Tip: The Playhouse often attracts Broadway talent and features top-notch production values – all in a charming seaside setting.



## Live Music & Jazz Clubs

Portland has a vibrant music scene. For an intimate show, check out **One Longfellow Square**, a 200-seat Arts District venue praised as a "wonderful, intimate venue for great music". They host jazz, folk, and world music

Another option is **Blue**, a tiny club on Congress Street that showcases live jazz every Saturday night and eclectic genres

For larger acts, the historic **State Theatre** brings in national touring bands – in fact, on [Saturday July 26](#) the State hosts acclaimed Americana duo Drew & Ellie Holcomb if you feel like a night of live music after dinner.



## Festivals & Events

During your stay, Portland is hosting the **Maine Outdoor Film Festival** ([July 23–27](#)). Each night at dusk, enjoy indie adventure films screened outdoors in parks around the city (bring a blanket or lawn chair).

Portland's famous **First Friday Art Walk** occurs the week after your visit (Aug 1), but galleries and studios are still lively this weekend; you may find pop-up art events or live music in the Old Port.

On Saturday morning, don't miss the **Portland Farmers' Market** in Deering Oaks Park ([7am–1pm](#)) – wander among farm stands overflowing with wild blueberries, maple syrup, and artisan cheeses, often accompanied by live folk music.



# MUSEUMS & ARTS

Craving some culture? Portland and southern Maine have excellent museums highlighting regional art, history, and design

## Portland Museum of Art (PMA)

The state's largest art museum (within walking distance on Congress Square). Highlights include Maine's own Winslow Homer (**don't miss his 1876 "Weatherbeaten" seascape**) and works by the Wyeth family, as well as impressionist gems (Monet, Degas). The museum itself is an architectural gem, incorporating a modern glass entry with the vintage 1801 McLellan-Sweat Mansion. Plan 1–2 hours to explore, and check if any special exhibits of Maine artists are on view.



## Victoria Mansion

A National Historic Landmark also known as the Morse-Libby House, this 1860 Italianate brownstone villa offers a rare glimpse of Victorian-era splendor. Famed for its extraordinary original interiors (90% intact), it's considered **"among the most important historic homes of the 19th century"**. Take a 45-minute guided tour to hear stories of lavish summer living before the Civil War. (The mansion is downtown on Park Street – check hours, as it's typically open May–Oct.)



## Wadsworth-Longfellow House

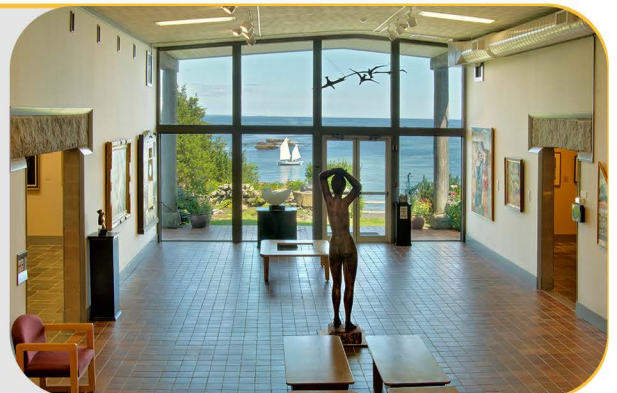
History and literature buffs will enjoy this modest but fascinating home, the childhood home of poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (built 1785) tucked behind the Maine Historical Society on Congress Street. **It's the oldest standing structure** on the Portland peninsula. A guided tour leads you through the 19th-century rooms where Longfellow grew up. The adjacent museum gallery highlights Maine history artifacts. It's a quick visit (30–40 minutes) and conveniently central.

Fun fact: Longfellow's poem "The Lighthouse" was inspired by Portland Head Light



## Ogunquit Museum of American Art (OMAA)

If you venture to Ogunquit for the play or Marginal Way, consider a stop at this small seaside art museum celebrating Maine's artist colony legacy. OMAA houses a permanent collection of **3,000+ works** spanning the late 1800s to today. The sculpture gardens overlooking the ocean are serene and photo-worthy. It's a digestible museum – maybe an hour to see it all – and often features engaging contemporary exhibits in summer (check their 2025 exhibits schedule). **The coastal setting alone makes it worth the visit for art lovers.**





# COASTAL & SCENIC SPOTS

No trip to Maine is complete without soaking in its natural beauty. Portland and its surrounds boast plenty of picturesque vistas perfect for a morning outing or free afternoon

## Portland Head Light

Portland Head Light stands as one of Maine's most iconic lighthouses. It was first lit in 1791 and remains the most photographed lighthouse in the state. Portland Head Light, in nearby Cape Elizabeth (a quick 15-minute drive from downtown), sits perched on a rocky promontory in Fort Williams Park.



Stroll the clifftop paths for stunning ocean views and explore the small lighthouse museum (in the keeper's cottage) which showcases lenses and maritime artifacts. This is a prime spot for a picnic – Fort Williams has picnic tables, old fort ruins, and even a seasonal lobster roll truck if you get hungry.



## Cape Neddick "Nubble" Lighthouse

This postcard-ready lighthouse near York sits on a small island just off Cape Neddick. Built in 1879 and still active, "The Nubble" is best viewed from Sohier Park—an easy stop with free parking, lawn space, and an ice cream truck nearby. (Tip: visit at sunset for golden views of the tower against the Atlantic sky.)

## Mount Agamenticus

About 40 minutes inland, this former ski hill offers a 360° view from sea to mountains. You can drive or hike (~30 mins) to the top for peaceful scenery, a summit deck, and nature trails. (Wheelchair-accessible viewpoints are available thanks to recent upgrades.)



## The Marginal Way (Ogunquit)

This 1.25-mile paved cliff walk links Ogunquit's town center to Perkins Cove. Expect dramatic seaside cliffs, small coves, and garden views along the way, with benches for lingering. At the end, grab chowder or sweets at Perkins Cove. (Mostly level path with a few stairs—go early or late for fewer crowds and soft light.)



## Casco Bay & the Islands

Portland's harbor opens into Casco Bay, dotted with forested islands. Hop on a Casco Bay Lines ferry—Peaks Island is just 20 minutes away with rentals, beaches, and WWII bunkers. Or stay on the mainland and walk the Eastern Promenade, a scenic coastal path with sailboat views, kayak launches, and a vintage train. (Great photo ops at sunset from the Eastern Prom.)







**ENJOY YOUR TIME IN  
PORTLAND, MAINE!**

