BAR HARBOR MAINE PORT GUIDE

DIY Waterfront + Lobster
— OR —
Acadia National Park Adventure Day

GATEWAY TO ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

WALKING • SEAFOOD • NATURE • NATIONAL PARK • FALL SCENERY

1 TENDER TO BAR HARBOR



- Most large ships tender to downtown Bar Harbor
- Short ride from ship to town
- You'll arrive right in the heart of Bar Harbor!
- Follow your ship's **LAST TENDER TIME**

2 DOWNTOWN BAR HARBOR



- Unique shops & boutiques
- Cafés, ice cream & bakeries
- Maine souvenirs & local crafts
- Harbor views
- Nautical charm
- Visitor center on Cottage St

3 SHORE PATH



- Scenic waterfront path; check current access
- Connects to Agamont Park
- Great for photos
- **FREE**
- Surfaces and access vary

4 MAINE FOOD (MUST TRY!)



- Lobster roll (a must!)
- Fresh seafood & chowder
- Clam cakes
- Haddock
- Blueberry everything (pie, ice cream, jam)
- Local Maine beer
- Maine-made products

5 AGAMONT PARK



- Waterfront green space
- Beautiful harbor views
- Relaxing place to sit
- Great for photos
- Right in downtown
- **FREE**

6 BAR ISLAND SANDBAR



- Natural sandbar to Bar Island (appears at low tide)
- Great views & a fun adventure
- **Cross only within 1.5 hours either side of low tide; return before tide covers bar.**
- **Do not drive on the bar.**
- **Park entrance pass required beyond bar.**

7 ACADIA NATIONAL PARK (TOP EXCURSION OPTION)



- Stunning coastal scenery
- Mountains, oceans & lakes
- Hiking trails
- Park Loop Road (27 miles)
- Tours, taxis or Island Explorer
- One of the most beautiful national parks in the U.S.

8 CADILLAC MOUNTAIN



- Highest point on the U.S. Atlantic coast
- Panoramic views
- Popular for sunrise (if timing allows)
- Seasonal vehicle reservations plus park entrance pass; confirm dates.

9 SAND BEACH



- Iconic Maine beach
- Beautiful coastal scenery
- Great photo opportunities
- Part of Acadia's Park Loop Road
- Short walk from parking area
- Water is COLD (even in summer!)

10 THUNDER HOLE



- Famous wave action
- Waves rush into a narrow rock inlet and create a boom
- Best at certain tide/conditions
- Easy stop on Park Loop Road
- Incredible coastal scenery

OTHER THINGS TO DO



JORDAN POND
Beautiful lake views & famous popovers



OTTER CLIFF
Dramatic ocean views



COMPASS HARBOR TRAIL
Short, scenic hike (~0.8 miles)



ISLAND EXPLORER
Free seasonal bus; park entrance pass still required; no Cadillac summit service.

VENTURE FURTHER (IF TIME ALLOWS)



- Scenic coastal drives
- Somes Sound - scenic glacially carved inlet
- Local boat tours & lighthouse cruises
- Local art galleries
- Whale watching (seasonal)
- Kayaking tours (seasonal)

GOOD TO KNOW

- Most large ships **TENDER**
- Downtown is very walkable
- Acadia is the major excursion
- Cruise access and landing arrangements can change; confirm your ship call.
- Fall is peak season (gorgeous foliage!)
- Weather can change quickly
- Check tides before walking to Bar Island
- Give yourself extra time to return from Acadia
- Follow your ship's **LAST TENDER TIME**

GETTING AROUND

- Tender boats to shore (most ships)
- Very walkable downtown
- Taxis, trolleys & tour buses available
- Use transportation for Acadia National Park and farther areas

FREE THINGS TO DO

- Walk downtown
- Shore Path
- Agamont Park
- Bar Island sandbar (safe tide window; park pass beyond bar)
- Browse local shops
- Take photos
- Enjoy harbor views

FLEXIBLE DOWNTOWN PLAN

- Tender ashore; allow queue time
- Shore Path if open + Agamont Park
- Main Street shops
- Lunch
- Choose more exploring if time permits
- Return early for final tender

ACADIA EXCURSION ROUTE

- Park Loop Road highlights
- Sand Beach
- Thunder Hole
- Otter Cliff
- Jordan Pond
- Cadillac Mountain (reservations!)
- Choose a few park stops; reserve transport; allow tender queues and return buffer.

BEST PHOTO SPOTS



BAR HARBOR WATERFRONT



SHORE PATH



CADILLAC MOUNTAIN



SAND BEACH



THUNDER HOLE



JORDAN POND

SAFETY & TIPS

- Stay on marked trails
- Keep valuables secure
- Check weather & dress in layers
- Wear comfortable shoes
- Be aware of tides (Bar Island)
- Give yourself extra time for tender
- Cell service can be limited in the park

KID-FRIENDLY?

- Yes! Easy downtown area
- Shore Path is great for families
- Acadia has family-friendly stops
- Island Explorer bus (free)
- Ice cream and blueberries are always a win!
- Choose scenic drives or short walks for little legs.

Checked Oct 2026 - confirm NPS alerts, tides and last tender.