

# HOLIDAY FOOD SPECIAL

PERFECT COASTAL WEEKEND  
IN PORTSMOUTH

BEST HOLIDAY  
SHOPPING TOWNS

A VERMONT INN  
DECKS THE HALLS

# MAINE



5 FESTIVE DESSERTS

MUST-TRY SIDE DISHES

10TH ANNUAL FOOD AWARDS

### SPECIAL PROMOTION

Discover the Seasonal Joys of Christmas on the Maine Coast  
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## Christmas ~on the~ Coast

**A**s daylight shortens on the Maine coast in the first days of December, the yuletide anticipation grows, with communities from Kittery to Eastport opening their towns and hearts to greet the season. Visiting these places, you may first sense the magic in the scent of evergreens—spruce, pine, fir—mingling with the salty air. You stroll along, walking in and out of cozy shops, many offering hot cocoa and cookies, then gaze at the lighted trees that stand in village greens, glowing brighter by the minute as evening falls.

*Opposite, below:* Long after the summer crowds have gone, Ogunquit's small-town warmth glows brightly during Christmas by the Sea, complete with a parade, a beach bonfire, and fireworks.

Something special happens when the Christmas season meets the heritage of fishing communities. Mainers celebrate with “trees” made from lobster traps and decorated with wooden buoys, like the 40-foot-tall one that draws revelers to downtown Rockland. Lobster boats adorned with lights and greenery motor past crowds waving from harbors. In York, the beloved Nubble Light is draped in twinkling white bulbs that flow across the buildings, the fence, the tower—a dramatic vista that draws thousands throughout the season.

And, of course, there are the visits from Santa, who leaves his sleigh somewhere north when he comes to the coast. Harbor towns await his arrival instead by lobster boat or Coast Guard cutter, with young and old alike peering into the distance as the boat draws closer. When it docks, and the white-bearded, red-suited figure steps off, shouts and cheers ring out, a joyful noise that echoes from one generation to the next.

Some of Maine's coastal celebrations last a day or two, others for weeks. What they all share is a message: that spending these winter days and nights in a special place, during a special season, is a gift to everyone that can be opened anew, year after year.



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