

scarborough me

Scarborough ME, a picturesque coastal town located in southern Maine, is known for its stunning beaches, rich history, and vibrant community. Nestled between the bustling city of Portland and the serene landscapes of the Maine countryside, Scarborough offers a perfect blend of natural beauty, recreational opportunities, and local charm. This article delves into the many facets of Scarborough, exploring its attractions, history, economy, and community life.

Geographical Overview

Scarborough is situated in Cumberland County, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the southeast and the Presumpscot River to the northwest. This strategic location provides residents and visitors alike with easy access to both coastal and inland activities.

Beaches and Natural Attractions

One of the main draws of Scarborough ME is its beautiful coastline. The area boasts several public beaches that are popular for swimming, sunbathing, and water sports.

- Scarborough Beach State Park: A favorite among locals, this state park features miles of sandy beach, dunes, and tidal pools. It's an ideal spot for picnics, hiking, and enjoying breathtaking ocean views.
- Pine Point Beach: Known for its picturesque scenery, Pine Point Beach is perfect for families. The shallow waters make it safe for children, and the beach is lined with charming homes and quaint beach shops.
- Higgins Beach: Slightly more secluded, Higgins Beach is a popular spot for surfers and those looking for a quieter beach experience.

Beyond the beaches, Scarborough is home to various parks and nature reserves that provide opportunities for hiking, birdwatching, and enjoying the outdoors.

- Scarborough Marsh: This expansive salt marsh is a haven for wildlife enthusiasts. With over 3,000 acres of wetlands, it's home to numerous bird species and offers trails for kayaking and canoeing.
- Cliff Walk: A scenic walking path that offers stunning views of the coastline and opportunities to observe local flora and fauna.

Historical Significance

The history of Scarborough ME is rich and varied, dating back to its founding in 1636. Originally settled for its agricultural potential, the town has evolved through significant historical periods.

Colonial Era

Scarborough was one of the earliest settlements in the region, and its fertile land attracted many settlers. The town played a crucial role during the colonial era, particularly during the conflicts with Native American tribes and later during the Revolutionary War.

19th Century Development

In the 19th century, Scarborough began to transform, particularly with the arrival of the railroad. This allowed for increased commerce and tourism, as visitors from surrounding areas sought the beauty of Scarborough's beaches.

- Notable historical sites from this period include:
- The Scarborough Historical Society: Housed in a restored 19th-century building, it provides insights into the town's past through various exhibits and archives.
- The Libby Memorial Library: Established in 1905, this library is not only a resource for literature but also a community gathering space that hosts events and programs.

Community and Lifestyle

Scarborough's community is characterized by its friendly atmosphere, active civic engagement, and commitment to preserving its natural beauty. The town has a population of approximately 20,000 residents, and it offers a variety of amenities and services that cater to families and individuals alike.

Education System

Scarborough is known for its strong educational system, which includes several elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school that consistently ranks among the top in the state. The Scarborough School Department emphasizes a comprehensive curriculum, extracurricular activities, and community involvement.

Local Events and Festivals

The town hosts various events throughout the year that foster a sense of community and celebrate local culture. Some notable events include:

- Scarborough Summer Festival: This annual event features local artisans, food vendors, live music, and activities for children, making it a fun-filled day for families.
- Farmers' Market: Held weekly during the summer months, the farmers' market showcases local produce, handmade crafts, and live entertainment, promoting local agriculture and small businesses.

Economy and Employment

The economy of Scarborough ME is diverse, with major sectors including retail, healthcare, and tourism. The town's proximity to Portland enhances its economic opportunities.

Business Environment

Scarborough has a mix of large retailers and small businesses that provide residents with various shopping and dining options. The town is home to several commercial districts, including:

- Scarborough Village: A charming area with boutique shops, cafes, and restaurants.
- The Maine Mall: Located just a short drive away in South Portland, this is the largest shopping mall in Maine and offers a wide range of retail options.

Tourism Impact

Tourism plays a significant role in Scarborough's economy, with visitors flocking to its beaches and natural attractions. Seasonal activities like fishing, boating, and hiking draw tourists, which in turn supports local businesses.

Real Estate and Living in Scarborough

Scarborough is an attractive place to live, offering a range of housing options from historic homes to modern developments.

Residential Areas

The town features various neighborhoods catering to different lifestyles:

- Waterfront Properties: For those looking for a coastal lifestyle, waterfront homes along the ocean or marsh offer stunning views and easy access to water activities.
- Suburban Communities: Areas with single-family homes and townhouses provide family-friendly environments with access to parks and schools.

Cost of Living

The cost of living in Scarborough is relatively moderate compared to other coastal towns in Maine. While housing prices can be higher due to the desirable location, residents enjoy

a good quality of life with access to excellent amenities.

Conclusion

In summary, Scarborough ME is a charming coastal town that offers a unique blend of natural beauty, rich history, and a vibrant community. With its stunning beaches, strong educational system, and diverse economy, Scarborough is not just a place to visit but a wonderful place to call home. Whether you are looking for outdoor adventures, cultural experiences, or a tight-knit community, Scarborough has something to offer everyone. As the town continues to grow and evolve, it remains a beloved destination for both residents and visitors alike.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the top attractions to visit in Scarborough, ME?

Some of the top attractions in Scarborough, ME include Scarborough Beach State Park, Pine Point Beach, and the Scarborough Marsh Audubon Center.

What outdoor activities can I enjoy in Scarborough, ME?

Scarborough offers a variety of outdoor activities such as hiking, bird watching, kayaking, and cycling, especially in areas like Scarborough Marsh and the local beaches.

Are there any family-friendly events happening in Scarborough, ME?

Yes, Scarborough hosts various family-friendly events throughout the year, including summer concerts, seasonal festivals, and community fairs.

What is the best time of year to visit Scarborough, ME?

The best time to visit Scarborough, ME is during the summer months (June to August) for warm weather and beach activities, but fall also offers beautiful foliage and pleasant temperatures.

What dining options are available in Scarborough, ME?

Scarborough has a range of dining options, from casual seafood shacks to upscale restaurants, featuring local seafood, farm-to-table cuisine, and international fare.

Is Scarborough, ME pet-friendly?

Yes, Scarborough is generally pet-friendly, with many parks and beaches allowing pets. However, it's always best to check specific locations for their pet policies.

What public transportation options are available in Scarborough, ME?

Scarborough is served by the Greater Portland Metro bus service, providing public transportation options to and from neighboring towns and the city of Portland.

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