



Maritime History

Maine has a fascinating maritime history; here is a list of great attractions to visit for learning more about it!

Maine Maritime Museum

MMM houses fascinating artifacts, photographs, paintings and ship models. Their campus contains over 10 acres of galleries and exhibits, five 19th century shipyard buildings and a life size model of the *Wyoming* (largest wooden sailing vessel ever built). MMM offers seasonal hands on activities and river cruises.

Fishermen's Museum at Pemaquid Point Lighthouse

Pemaquid Point, with its dramatic streaks of granite reaching to the sea, would be a fascinating place to visit even without its picturesque lighthouse. The spot is one of the most visited attractions of the Maine coast, receiving about 100,000 visitors each year. Pemaquid Point was the scene of many shipwrecks through the centuries, including the 1635 wreck of the British ship *Angel Gabriel* in which five people died and all 100 on board lost their belongings. With marine trade, fishing and the shipping of lumber increasing in mid-coast Maine, Congress appropriated \$4,000 for the building of a lighthouse at Pemaquid Point in 1826 to mark the entrance to Muscongus Bay. During the summer months the Lighthouse & adjacent buildings are open to tourists. Be sure to bring a camera - the view from the Point is stunning!

Portland Harbor Museum

The Portland Harbor Museum is located on the grounds of historic Fort Preble in South Portland, overlooking beautiful Casco Bay. Its permanent exhibit on 19th century wooden shipbuilding includes sections of the South Portland-built clipper ship, *Snow Squall*.

Portland Head Light and Museum

The Museum at Portland Head Light is contained within the former Keepers' Quarters at Cape Elizabeth situated along the spectacular shores of Fort Williams Park.

Marshall Point Lighthouse Museum

The Marshall Point lighthouse is located in Port Clyde, Maine. The current light, built in 1857, is 31 feet tall and is constructed of brick and granite. The brick and granite lighthouse was originally equipped with a fifth order Fresnel lens and emitted a fixed white light that could be seen for about 10 miles and remained in the lighthouse until 1935 when the light was electrified. A bell tower was built in 1898 containing a 1,000 pound bronze bell which was eventually replaced by a fog horn in 1969. The bell is on display at the keeper's house.

Maine Light House Museum

The Maine Lighthouse Museum at the Maine Discovery Center, is the proud home of the largest collection of lighthouse lenses, and one of the most important landmark collections of lighthouse artifacts and Coast Guard memorabilia in the United States.

Institute of Maritime History

The Institute of Maritime History (IMH) is dedicated to the preservation and documentation of archaeological remains related to maritime history. Based in Cape Neddick, Maine, IMH is engaged in the surveying and excavation of ship remains which lie along the New England coast. From the arrival of sixteenth century European vessels of exploration to the immense iron ships of World War II, the northeastern states of America have seen a variety of maritime activities. Through a series of educational events, IMH seeks to inform the public not only about material culture related to seafaring, but also how historical watercraft reflected economic and social aspects of the societies for which these ships were designed and put to use.

John Hancock Warehouse & Old York Historical Society

Experience York's seafaring past in a visit to the historic riverfront where the ancient John Hancock Warehouse stands witness to the region's maritime heritage and where history echoes in the flowing tidal waters. The Warehouse, once owned by John Hancock, was built around 1780 and today showcases Old York's maritime collections. While you are at the Waterfront, be sure to visit the George Marshall Store and Steedman Woods. York, founded in the early 1600s, is one of Maine's most historically significant communities. Old York is made up of several historic sites which together represent over 350 years of life in York.

Kennebunkport Maritime Museum

The Kennebunkport Maritime Museum is housed in the renovated Kennebunkport boathouse of author Booth Tarkington and presents a great number of maritime artifacts in addition to the remnants of Tarkington's schooner, *Ragina*.

Penobscot Marine Museum

Maine's oldest maritime museum, The Penobscot is located in Searsport and currently has a yearlong exhibit featuring folk art of a sea-faring nature; everything from ship figureheads, carvings and decoys can be viewed here. The museum's extensive permanent collections focus on the industry & lifestyle of the Penobscot Bay area during the 19th century.