



Within Walking Distance...

Within walking distance of the resort you will find a wide array of shopping, art galleries, historic architecture and restaurants.

Across the bridge from us, Wiscasset displays its past prosperity as a busy 1800's seaport in its beautiful Federal-style mansions. Two dwellings of the period, Castle Tucker and the Nickels-Sortwell House, are now museums operated by Historic New England's Preservation Society.

The Nickels-Sortwell House, whose elegant facade graces Main Street, was built by Captain William Nickels in 1807. The home's architecture recalls the period when maritime commerce brought lavishness and sophisticated tastes to the community. Soon after the house was built, however, Jefferson's Embargo Act of 1807, followed by the War of 1812, crippled the area shipping industry, and many coastal families, including Nickels', lost their fortunes. As a result, the house was transformed into a hotel around 1830. Towards the end of the 18th century, when Maine had become fashionable as a summer retreat, Alvin Sortwell purchased the building and refurbished it in the Colonial-Revival style. At present the home can be viewed by the public June - October.

Castle Tucker, located on Lee Street, was built in 1807 at the peak of Wiscasset's affluence. Built on a hilltop overlooking the Sheepscot River, the home was designed for Judge Silas Lee by the Scottish architect Robert Stuart and is based on a manor house in Dunbar, Scotland. The Federal-style mansion was constructed at the peak of Wiscasset's prosperity, when the town was the busiest port east of Boston. Lee's death in 1814, combined with the damaging effect of the Jefferson Embargo, forced his widow to sell and the house passed through a succession of owners until 1858, when Captain Richard Tucker, head of a Wiscasset shipping family, purchased and updated the property. Shortly after, he decorated the estate with fashionable furnishings and moved in with his wife. The couple raised five children in the home while Captain Tucker managed various business ventures, including the wharves and iron foundry just below the house, until 1871 when his fortunes dissolved. After Tucker's death, his daughter Jane returned from New York and took an avid interest in preserving the house; her dedication preserved Castle Tucker much as it appeared in the late 19th century and today the "Castle" can be toured June - October.

Just across the street from Castle Tucker is High Street, which is home to some of Wiscasset's most notable historic homes as well as the internationally famous "Musical Wonder House." Built in 1852, this 32-room sea captain's mansion is now a showplace for antiques and historic musical instruments, featuring restored musical boxes, player grand pianos, spring-wound phonographs, musical birds, furniture and clocks, all demonstrated and displayed in rooms decorated with period furnishings. The museum is open May - October. Also located on High Street is Wiscasset's Public Library, which interestingly, was initially built as a bank; there was a brick "jug vault" in the basement which required the use of a ladder to get in and out of it because the vault was surrounded by water and another layer of bricks so that if anyone tried to break into the vault they would drown.

A walk down Federal Street will lead you to the old Lincoln County Jail Museum - built in 1811, it housed prisoners until 1954 when the Thomaston Jail replaced it. Early prisoners were generally French sailors arrested for piracy and privateering or British POW's seized during the War of 1812. During the 1900's the prison was mainly occupied by local miscreants or Prohibition violators. The Museum is open June-October (October - May by appointment only).

At the town docks you will find the train station for the Maine Eastern Railroad. If you're tired of walking, take a load off and go for a ride in a restored vintage rail car. The train travels from Brunswick to Rockland with stops in Wiscasset and Bath. Spend the day at one of the stops and catch the train back to Wiscasset or just enjoy a scenic ride.

Chances are, walking around downtown will build up your appetite; Wiscasset offers a number of spots offering traditional New England menus. Overlooking the water near the town dock is Le Garage. The restaurant building was originally used as an automotive repair garage during the 1920's. Owned by the same family now for 30+ years, Le Garage serves French-inspired cuisine as well as lighter fare.

If you are looking for a lobster roll, the world-famous Red's Eats is "the" place to go (yes, it really is world-famous - even Tom Cruise has eaten there). During July and August, a constant line of 10-20 people stretches around the tiny stand. What makes Red's lobster rolls so great? The roll contains an entire lobster, so you are sure to get your money's worth. Red's also sells everything from hot dogs and grilled cheese sandwiches to fried dough and Round Top ice cream.

If you are not up for waiting in such a long line, Sprague's Lobster, right across from Red's, next to the bridge, is equally as good and has seating right on the water. They offer homemade french-fries and lobster dinners complete with clams and corn. They also have an ice cream stand serving locally made Gifford's ice cream.

Next door to Sprague's is Sarah's Café, whose menu features delicious soups, salads, sandwiches/wraps, pizzas, pasta, seafood and more. They are also popular for their homemade desserts, so save some room after your meal!

On Main Street you will find Treats, a specialty food store featuring tasty soups, salads and sandwiches for takeout. They have an extensive wine and cheese assortment as well.

Past the Post Office on Fort Hill Street is the Edna Rose Café, located at the James Patrick Gallery, where after viewing the Gallery's unique contemporary exhibits, you can sit down for a delectable meal, choosing from a pleasing menu of freshly made cuisine.

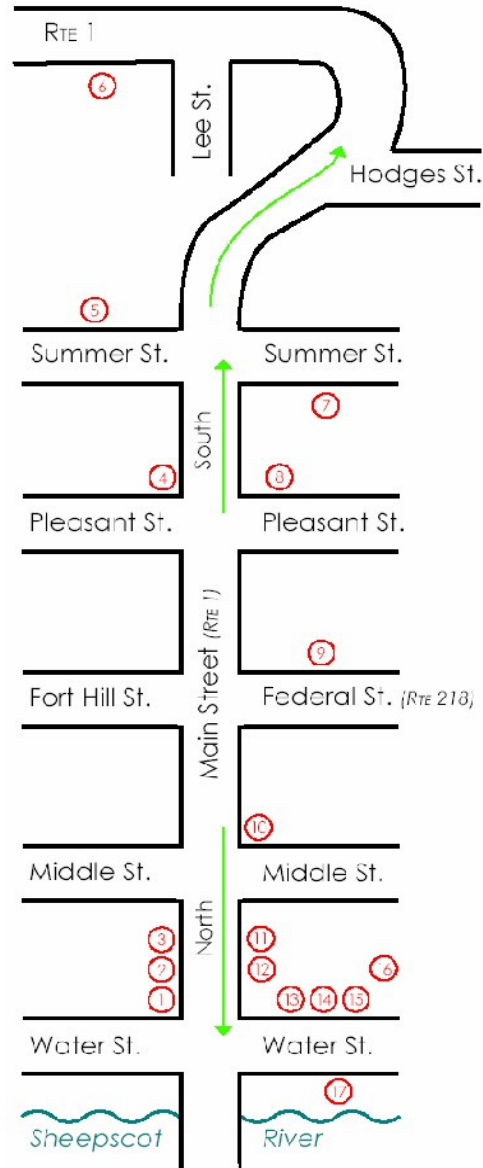
Speaking of galleries, in addition to the James Patrick Gallery, there are two more notable ones to visit, the Maine Art Gallery and the Wiscasset Bay Gallery. The Maine Art Gallery is housed in what was once an 1800's brick schoolhouse on Warren Street. They are a non-profit, self sustaining gallery featuring Maine artists. The Wiscasset Bay Gallery on Main Street exhibits fine American & European works from the 18th-20th centuries. They also display contemporary Maine artwork on a monthly schedule.

Some unique shops right on Wiscasset's Main Street worth visiting include Rock/Paper/Scissors, Smitten and In The Clover; Rock/Paper/ Scissors supplies unique paper, pens, stamps and paints for scrapbooking. Owner Erika Soule says she likes to provide supplies she herself enjoys working with. She recently opened the sister store to R/P/S, Smitten, where she sells distinctive gifts and items for the home, including pillows, quilts, stemware, bags, jewelry and bath products. In The Clover sells superb yet affordable eco-friendly bath accessories, perfumes, jewelry and other gifts. Owner Kelley Belanger says the shop was inspired by her time spent in Aix-en Provence, France, where she was moved by the European way of life.

Another charming shop is The Old Wiscasset Hardware Store on Water Street by the bridge; they have Maine-made products for the home and unique gifts and souvenirs. Also, just across Route One from the Resort is Sheepscot River Pottery, a ceramics studio & gift shop well worth a visit if you are looking for a Maine gift to bring back home. Their pieces are hand painted with Maine themes. They also sell jewelry and other crafts.

Downtown Wiscasset also has several antique shops, most of them located in beautiful historic homes.

1. Michael Dunn Asian Antiquities
2. Dennis Raleigh Antiques & Folk Art
3. Snyder/Wilson Antiques & Folk Art
4. Patricia Stauble Antiques
5. John Henry Antiques
6. Daybreak Manor Antiques
7. Lilac Cottage Antiques
8. Priscilla Hutchinson Antiques
9. French & Van Dyke Antiques
10. Marston House Antiques
11. Jenkins & Ingram Gallery
12. Wiscasset Bay Gallery
13. John Sideli Art & Antiques



Staying on our side of the bridge, you will still find some interesting sites within walking distance. For example, a short walk down Eddy Road to Fort Road will take you to Fort Edgecomb, originally built to protect picturesque Wiscasset when it used to be a busy shipping center. The octagonal 1808 blockhouse and its restored fortifications overlook the Sheepscot River; feel free to sit down - it's a great spot for a picnic - and watch boats motor by. You may even catch a glimpse of a harbor seal or osprey.

Also down the road from us is the "Marie Antoinette House," which has an incredibly interesting history attached to it according to local legend and documents found in the house's attic. During the French Revolution, after Louis XVII was executed, Marie Antoinette was imprisoned and awaiting her own execution in Paris, where Captain Stephen Clough, of Wiscasset, often conducted shipping business. A frequent visitor to France and disgusted with the results of the French Revolution, Clough was sympathetic of the Queen's situation, so he and others supposedly devised a plan to smuggle Marie Antoinette onto his sloop, *Sally*. Captain Clough's wife was preparing their home in Wiscasset to house the Queen. Unfortunately the house would never receive its royal guest. Many of the queen's possessions were loaded onto the *Sally*, including vases, clocks, tapestries and six royal Persian cats. Ultimately, there was a sudden outburst of violence when it turned out that their plan had been discovered. Captain Clough had to make sail with all haste to escape repercussions for his part in the attempted rescue, so with him went the Queen's possessions and the six longhaired cats still in his care. It is assumed by many that the queen's cats bred with American cats, resulting in the origin of the famous "Maine Coon Cat," known to be a large, rugged cat with a water-resistant, longhaired coat and a hardy constitution, and of course, the tell-tale "M" on its forehead. The legend surrounding the house has also served as an explanation of several rare French antiques that have been passed around coastal Maine for generations. The details to the story are, as with any legend, inconsistent, but it is true that Clough was a supporter of the queen and did conduct business in Paris during the time of the Revolution, and his house, which originally stood on Westport Island off of Wiscasset, was moved here to Edgecomb in 1838. It is also true that a supposed piece of the robe the Queen wore at the time of her execution was found in the attic of Clough's home with an attached inscription saying, "this was taken from the dress which Queen Marie Antoinette wore at her execution, by an eye witness, Captain Stephen Clough." We may never know all the truths of this tale, but all the same it is worth a visit to the house, which is a fine example of historic architecture nonetheless.