

RV-Friendly Guide for the Orland & Blue Hill Peninsula Area (Summer 2025)

This guide was created for travelers staying at **8 Powers Drive Lane, Orland, Maine**. Drive times are **approximate** (given normal traffic) and begin at the RV. Hours and events reflect publicly available information for the 2025 season, but always confirm before visiting.

Restaurants within ~20 minutes of Orland (4.0 or better)

Drive-time note: Orland sits on the western edge of the Penobscot River, about **8 miles from Bucksport**—roughly **20 minutes** by car. Bucksport therefore anchors the restaurant list; a couple of Orland eateries also made the cut.

Restaurant	Cuisine (rating)	Hours (2025) & features	Approx. location & drive time
Sandy's Saloon – Orland	American/South-western pub (4.0★).	Open Sun 12 pm – 8 pm; Mon-Thu 4 pm – 9 pm; Fri-Sat 2 pm – 10 pm. Live music and karaoke nights.	47 Wardwell Rd, Orland; 10 min.
Compass Rose Café – Orland	Café & bakery (5★).	Mon-Fri 8 am – 3 pm; Sat-Sun closed. Serves pastries, breakfast sandwiches and good coffee.	21 School House Rd, Orland; 10 min.
Crosby's Drive-In – Bucksport	Casual American & seafood (4.4★).	Daily 10:30 am – ~8 pm, closing time varies. Classic roadside stand with fresh lobster rolls and gluten-free options.	30 State Route 46, Bucksport; 15 min.
Carrier's Mainely Lobster – Bucksport	Seafood/fast food (4.3★).	Mon-Sat 11 am – 8 pm; Sun 11 am – 8 pm. Casual seafood shack with lobster dinners, fried clams and take-out picnic tables.	10 Duck Cove Rd, Bucksport; 15 min.

Restaurant	Cuisine (rating)	Hours (2025) & features	Approx. location & drive time
Glenn's Place – Bucksport	American/bar/seafood (4.2★).	Wed-Sun 12 pm – 7 pm; closed Mon-Tue. Full bar and local seafood dishes.	214 US Route 1, Bucksport; 15 min.
MacLeod's Restaurant – Bucksport	Seafood & American comfort (4.5★).	Wed-Sat 4 pm – 8 pm; closed Sun-Tue. Steak, seafood and house-made desserts.	63 Main St, Bucksport; 15 min.
Warren's Waterfront Restaurant – Bucksport	American diner (4.6★).	Mon-Wed 7 am – 2 pm; Thu-Sat 7 am – 8 pm; closed Sun. Breakfast, lunch and dinner with Penobscot River views.	96 Main St, Bucksport; 15 min.
Bucksport House of Pizza – Bucksport	Pizza & Greek-inspired dishes (4.3★).	Daily 11 am – 9 pm. Thin-crust pizza, subs and salads; dine-in or take-out.	132 Main St, Bucksport; 15 min.
Verona Wine & Bistro – Bucksport	Wine bar with American fare (4.8★).	Sun 11 am – 7 pm; Mon 4 pm – 9 pm; Fri-Sat 11 am – 9 pm; closed Tue-Thu. Offers wine tastings and small plates.	77 Main St Suite 1A, Bucksport; 15 min.

Tips

- **Reservations:** Many restaurants are casual, but MacLeod's and Verona Wine & Bistro recommend reservations at dinner.
- **Seasonality:** Some establishments (Crosby's, Carrier's) are seasonal and may close mid-October. Always call ahead in late fall.

Markets & Food Stops (within ~30 minutes)

Market	What you'll find	Hours & features	Approx. location & drive time
Tozier's Bucksport Store	Small general store with groceries, deli and breakfast sandwiches.	Mon-Fri 6 am – 8 pm; Sat 7 am – 8 pm; Sun 7 am – 7 pm.	127 Main St, Bucksport; 15 min.

Market	What you'll find	Hours & features	Approx. location & drive time
Hannaford Supermarket (Bucksport)	Full-service grocery store with bakery, deli and seafood counter.	Mon-Sat 7 am – 9 pm; Sun 7 am – 8 pm.	370 Main St, Bucksport; 15 min.
Tradewinds Marketplace (Blue Hill)	Medium-sized market noted for friendly staff and local products.	Mon-Sat 6:30 am – 9 pm; Sun 8 am – 8 pm.	15 South St, Blue Hill; 25 min.
Blue Hill Co-op	Community-owned grocery offering local and organic produce, meats, bulk goods and a café.	Mon-Sat 8 am – 7 pm; Sun 8 am – 6 pm.	70 South St, Blue Hill; 25 min.
Quill's End Farm	Honor-system farm store selling raw milk, yogurt and farm-fresh goods.	Open daily dawn to dusk . Bring cash and a cooler!	192 Front Ridge Rd, Penobscot; 20 min.
Eat'n Lobster Seafood Market (Blue Hill)	Fresh lobster, clams, scallops and haddock; also sells prepared chowders.	Wed-Sun 10 am – 6 pm; closed Mon-Tue. Phone orders: 207-374-7058.	531 Ellsworth Rd, Blue Hill; 25 min.
Johnson's Shellfish (Blue Hill)	Shellfish market known for fresh lobster and oysters.	Mon-Sat 10:30 am – 5 pm; closed Sun.	86 Tenney Hill, Blue Hill; 25 min.

Farmers-market vibe

- Blue Hill's **Saturday farmers' market** (May–Oct) is held on the fairgrounds and features local produce, baked goods and crafts. Ask at the co-op for the latest schedule.

National & State Parks (Popular Spots)

Park / Site	Highlights	Visitor info (2025)	Approx. drive & notes
Acadia National Park – Cadillac Mountain	Acadia's 27-mile Park Loop Road offers coastal cliffs, carriage roads and Jordan Pond. The 3-mile Cadillac Summit Road climbs to the highest peak on the U.S. Atlantic coast and offers panoramic	Vehicle reservations are required May 21–Oct 26, 2025 to drive up Cadillac Mountain. Reservations cost \$6 (30 % released 90 days ahead, 70 % two days ahead) and	~ 50 min to the Hulls Cove visitor center. Parking at the summit is limited; arrive early and save the reservation to your phone (cell service is spotty).

Park / Site	Highlights	Visitor info (2025)	Approx. drive & notes
	sunrise views.	must be purchased through Recreation.gov ; they are not sold at the park . An Acadia entrance pass (daily or annual) is still needed.	
Fort Knox Historic Site & Penobscot Narrows Bridge & Observatory – Prospect	1840s granite fort overlooking the Penobscot River; nearby bridge observatory elevator rises 420 ft for 360° views.	Operating hours 2025: May 1–June 30 9 am – 5 pm ; July 1–Aug 31 9 am – 6 pm ; Sept 1–Oct 31 9 am – 5 pm ; fort itself stays open one hour later. Grounds open year-round 9 am – sunset. On-site ticket purchase only: fort admission \$4.50 (ME residents) or \$6.50 (nonresidents); observatory combination ticket \$7.50/\$9.50. Pets welcome on leash but not in observatory.	~ 25 min south via ME-15. Climb the fort's granite bastions and ride the elevator for spectacular views of the Bucksport/Verona island area.
Lamoine State Park – Lamoine	Oceanfront campground and day-use area on Route 184 offering camping, boating, fishing and a beach. A quieter alternative to Acadia.	Park has 62 campsites and 2 group sites with picnic tables and fire rings. Camping season runs May 15 – Oct 15 ; reservations via CampWithME.com . Day use includes a beach, picnic areas and staff who offer ideas for scenic drives.	~ 30 min east (8 mi south of Ellsworth). Great base for kayaking and exploring Frenchman Bay without Acadia's crowds.
Holbrook Island	1,230 acres of	Open year-round	~ 40 min to the

Park / Site	Highlights	Visitor info (2025)	Approx. drive & notes
Sanctuary State Park – Brooksville	mainland forest and 115 acres on Holbrook Island preserved for low-impact recreation. Trails, beaches, picnic areas and wildlife abound; island accessible only by boat.	9 am – sunset; no fees. Activities include walking, cross-country skiing, swimming, paddling and wildlife watching. Dogs allowed on leash. Parking is limited; boat charters can drop visitors on the island.	mainland trailhead. Hike the Backshore Trail to estate ruins or paddle to the island for a full day of exploration.
Camden Hills State Park – Camden	5,710-acre park with Mt. Battie and Mt. Megunticook; offers panoramic views of Camden Harbor and Penobscot Bay.	Open year-round 9 am – sunset. Offers hiking, biking, snowshoeing, winter camping and group picnic shelters. Fee collected at entry booth; winter camping in rustic shelter by reservation.	~ 1 hr 15 min south via US-1. A longer side trip but worth it for Mount Battie's postcard views—especially during fall foliage.

Park passes

- **Acadia:** purchase entrance passes at park entrances (Hull's Cove visitor center, Thompson Island, or online) and the Cadillac Mountain reservation separately.
- **Maine State Parks:** a **day-use fee** (per vehicle) is collected at most parks; annual state-park passes are available at parks or online through Maine's Bureau of Parks and Lands.

Boat tours & charters near the peninsula

Operator	Experience	Details & 2025 pricing	Departs from
Maine Boat Charter	Private sailing tours on classic vessels <i>Luna</i> and <i>Maple</i> exploring Blue Hill Bay and the Acadia region.	2-hr private charter \$395; 3-hr \$495; overnight \$975. Also offers skiff trips and multi-day charters through Eggemoggin Reach.	Brooklin & Bucksport, with pick-ups around Blue Hill Bay.
Good Tide Tours	Scenic island charters, sunset	Tours showcase seals, porpoises, bald	Stonington town dock (Deer Isle).

Operator	Experience	Details & 2025 pricing	Departs from
	cruises and wildlife tours on the lobster boat <i>Blue Dream</i> .	eagles, lighthouses and granite history. Private island pickups/drop-offs available. Text 808-634-8695 for reservations.	
Deer Isle Ocean Tours	Custom boat trips aboard the lobster boat <i>Bugaboo</i> (up to 6 passengers).	Offers lighthouse tours, scenic cruises, dinner trips to North Haven and island drop-offs. Boat has enclosed cabin, head and deck. Call 207-956-1222.	Stonington.

Blue Hill Peninsula Activities & Local Delights

Fish markets

– **Eat’n Lobster Seafood Market (Blue Hill)** – Fresh lobster, clams and other seafood with a high customer rating; open Wednesday-Sunday 10 AM–6 PM. Bring a cooler and try their chowders. – **Johnson’s Shellfish (Blue Hill)** – Small market on Tenney Hill offering live lobsters and oysters; open Monday-Saturday.

Galleries & arts

– **Cynthia Winings Gallery (Blue Hill)** – Housed in a restored barn at 24 Parker Point Rd; features contemporary Maine landscapes, narrative and abstract works along with an outdoor sculpture garden. – **Courthouse Gallery Fine Art (Ellsworth)** – Located in the historic courthouse/registry buildings; 4,500 sq ft of exhibit space and a sculpture park. Founded by Karin and Michael Wilkes, the gallery represents contemporary Maine artists and offers exhibitions, talks and publications.

Music venues & organizations

The peninsula has a surprisingly rich musical scene:

Venue / organization	Description
Bagaduce Music Lending Library (Blue Hill)	Public lending library with over 250,000 music works , offering concerts and educational programs.
Blue Hill Bach	Presents historically informed Baroque music; celebrates its 15th season with a

Venue / organization	Description
	week-long summer festival of concerts and talks.
Deer Isle Music Hall & BBQ	Restored American Legion hall serving barbecue with live music and dance nights.
Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival (Blue Hill)	One of the oldest chamber-music programs in the U.S., with summer studies and concerts dating back to 1902.
Opera House Arts (Stonington)	Historic 1912 opera house producing professional theater, music, film and dance year-round.
Surry Arts & Events at the Barn	Rustic barn venue presenting classical, jazz and world music by local and international artists.
The Grand (Ellsworth)	Art-deco theater offering concerts, films and educational programs for the region.

Events & festivals (Summer – Fall 2025)

Date(s)	Event & location	Highlights
Jul 15-19, 2025	Blue Hill Bach – 15th Anniversary Festival (Blue Hill).	Five days of Baroque concerts celebrating Vivaldi, Bach and Purcell, plus free talks and masterclasses. Tickets \$35 (general) / \$10 (students).
Aug 7-17, 2025	“Rooted” at the Stonington Opera House – comedic play about an eccentric botanist.	Performances held nightly; check Opera House Arts for times.
Aug 9, 2025 (9 AM – 2 PM)	Annual Blueberry Festival – First Congregational Church of Blue Hill.	Blueberry pancakes (9-11 AM), lobster rolls and hamburgers (11 AM–2 PM), live music, crafts and children’s games. Silver Circus performs noon–1 PM.
Aug 9, 2025 (10 AM – 4 PM)	Blue Hill Maritime Heritage Festival – Blue Hill Waterfront.	Boat-building demos, wood-carving, historic boats, maritime exhibits and live sea-shanty music. Many boats offer rides.
Aug 28 – Sept 1, 2025	Blue Hill Fair – 233 Ellsworth Rd, Blue Hill.	A down-to-earth country fair with carnival rides, lumberjack shows, magic acts, livestock competitions and a 5K race. Thursday is

Date(s)	Event & location	Highlights
		“Dollar Day” with \$1 admission and rides; Saturday features horse pulls, watermelon eating contest and a Little Texas concert.
Aug 9, 2025	Halls of Power: Presentation at Surry Rural Hall (Surry) – 6 PM.	Discusses Maine’s historic meeting halls and features a talk by Michelle Hauser.
Various dates (Aug)	Artist workshops & open studios (multiple venues) – block printing, lino-cut tea towels, mosaic making and more.	Check the Blue Hill Peninsula Chamber calendar for specific classes and times.

Boat rentals & paddling

- **Kayak rentals** are available at several outfitters in Blue Hill and Castine; check with the **Blue Hill Heritage Trust** for trailered kayak launches on Salt Pond and Herrick Bay.
- **Sailing lessons** can be arranged through local yacht clubs (Brooklin Boat Yard’s sailing school and WoodenBoat School in Brooklin).

Other local delights

- **Farm tours & u-pick:** Many Penobscot and Blue Hill farms allow visitors during berry season. Follow signs for pick-your-own blueberries (July-Aug).
- **Contra Dance (2nd Saturday)** – The Surry Community Center hosts an old-time **contra dance on the second Saturday of each month** with live fiddle music. Bring soft-soled shoes and a snack to share.

How to use this guide

- **Plan your meals:** Keep this booklet handy in the RV. The restaurant table lists hours and drive times so you can decide whether to eat out or cook in.
- **Stock up smartly:** Use the market list to restock groceries. Always have a cooler for seafood purchases.
- **Explore beyond Acadia:** Acadia is world-famous, but state parks like Lamoine and Holbrook offer solitude and easy access to water without the crowds. Don’t forget Fort Knox for a history-plus-views combo.
- **Check events often:** The peninsula’s event calendar changes regularly. Bookmark the **Blue Hill Peninsula Chamber** (bluehillpeninsula.org) and local social pages for updates through October 2025.

Have fun exploring Downeast Maine — and enjoy the comfort of having your own RV as a home base!