

Maine is a great destination during any season. I grew up in the town of Ogunquit and have many memories that I can share with your group today. Ogunquit is located on the coast of Maine; it is a short drive for many in the Boston area. If you live in Canada, or as far as Pennsylvania, you can reach Ogunquit in less than a day's drive. Tourists can enjoy Ogunquit at any age; families, couples, singles, and seniors will find much to do.

The ocean can be viewed from almost anywhere in town; the walks that you can take on the Marginal Way have breath-taking views. Foliage changing in autumn is so different by the sea – have you ever experienced it? Even if you are not a professional photographer, your digital camera will bring home lots of memories. Long walks on the beaches are interesting to say the least; shell collectors and bird watchers will view many interesting examples of shore life. Even in the winter the ocean can bring you a sense of peace that is hard to describe. In all seasons you will see the surfers enjoying the perfect wave.

Christmas by the Sea is a special time in December. The whole community gets involved in a celebration of the season and the holidays. Perkins Cove and downtown Ogunquit offer many activities, and the bargains are amazing in the local shops. The restaurants offer a chowder/chocolate tasting that is a competition in many ways. My suggestion is to sample every chowder and chocolate dessert at least twice.

I attended the Ogunquit Village School and the businesses were always so generous to the kids and to the visitors. Business people get ready for the new season with the Annual patriots Day weekend. This is a long weekend in April with many things going on and lots of people enjoying food and entertainment. In May we always have an interesting Memorial Day weekend. You will love this parade; it is different from any you have seen. The beach will be busy but not many will venture in the water past their ankles, until later in the summer the museums and galleries offer many shows, and you can visit them for a small donation.

In the summer season the activities are endless. Try to dine at every restaurant and I bet it will take you weeks. They are all different but I am sure you will find favorites, regardless of the time of day. Try at least one Maine lobster dish even for breakfast. The Ogunquit Playhouse is a popular night event. I saw my first play there when I was only 5 years old. They offer shows for kids and adults that are amazing. You might think you're in New York City, but when you leave the Playhouse you will not find the noise and lights of any city.

--Christopher Hebert, Wells High School Class of 2009