

Ogunquit, in Indian, means “Beautiful Place by the Sea.” It’s certainly an appropriate name for this timeless town. To visit the state of Maine without spending time in Ogunquit is incomprehensible to anyone that is familiar with the beautiful beaches and the friendly atmosphere that is commonly affiliated with this family-oriented town. Personally, I have generations of family rooted in Ogunquit, and I myself have grown up and worked there every summer.

Some of my fondest memories consist of walking the short distance to the bustling center of town, where you can find fun for any ages. Walking down the cobbles sidewalks, one can find anything from art studios to candy shops. Ogunquit has a strict ‘no chain restaurants or stores’ policy, so the overcrowded traffic found in a McDonald’s or Wendy’s is not a concern. Everything is entirely authentic. Instead of a Dairy Queen, Ogunquit is home to Rose Cove, a well-known ‘make your own sundae’ shop. Rather than a space-consuming busy Five Star Cinema, The Leavitt is a single-screened movie theater located right on the edge of town.

If you’re not prone to walking, the trolleys run regularly and have frequent stops throughout town. The quaint fashion allows adults and children to sit by the open side of the trolley and sight-see throughout the ride. The trolley will take you down to Perkins Cove, where you can sit and watch the boats come in and out of the cove, or you can take a walk through the Marginal Way. I consider the Marginal Way the Eighth Wonder of the World for its location right on the cliffs by the ocean. There are benches placed throughout the paved path where you may sit and appreciate the beautiful weather and the breathtaking view. The beaches are untouched by construction and stretch from the Main Beach in the center of town to Footbridge Beach, so there is more than enough room to play and lounge! And although there is an abundance of things to do during the day, there are plenty of things to fill your night as well.

If you appreciate a great performance, a fun atmosphere, and friendly people, then the famous Ogunquit Playhouse is a necessary stop during your stay in Ogunquit. If plays aren’t for you, there are plenty of nightclubs where you can dance your heart out and embarrass yourself singing karaoke. Whether you’re a beach-goer, a walker, a shopaholic, a diner, or a theater fanatic, Ogunquit is the place for you.

--Laney Yeomelakis, York High School, Class of 2009