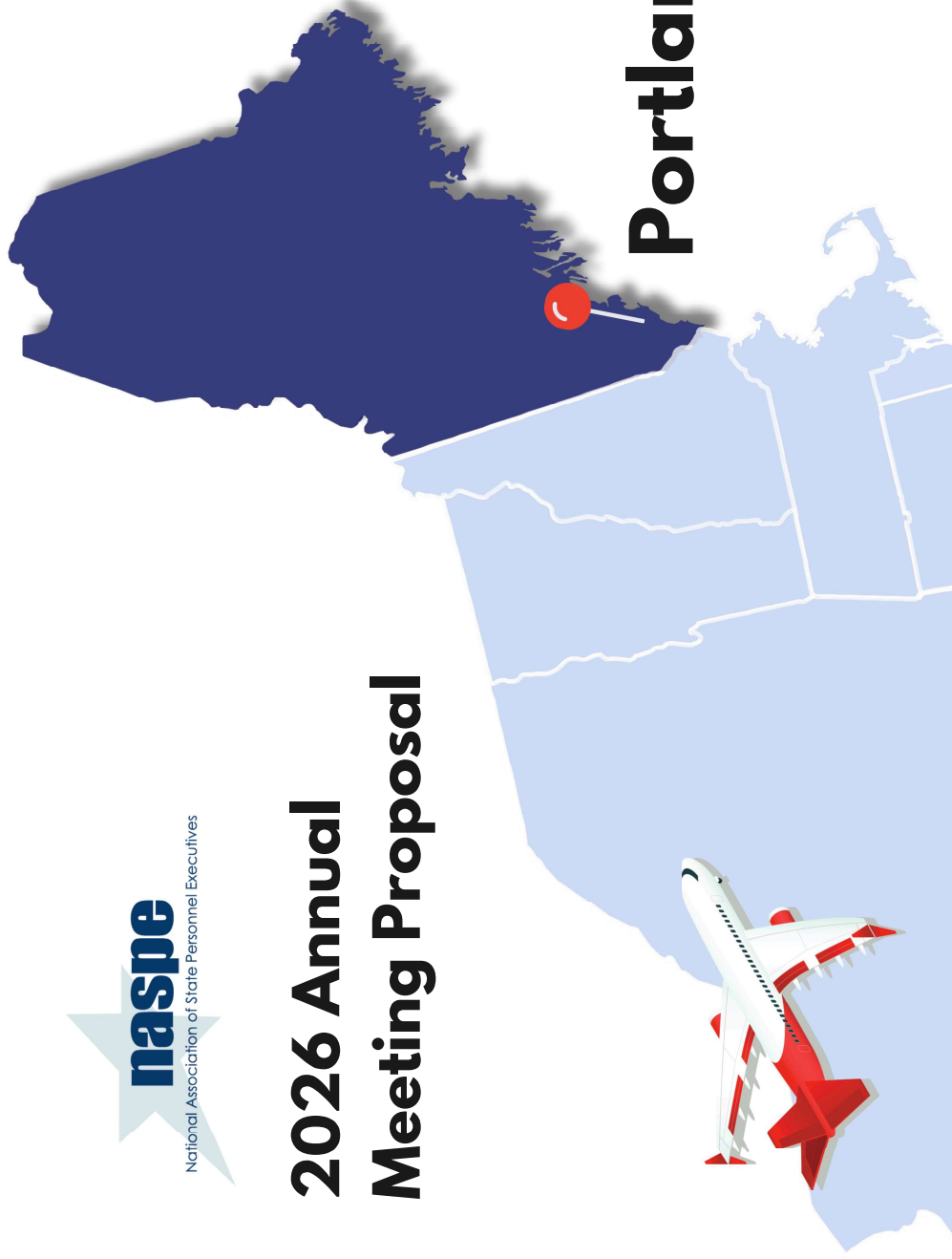




2026 Annual Meeting Proposal





Welcome To...

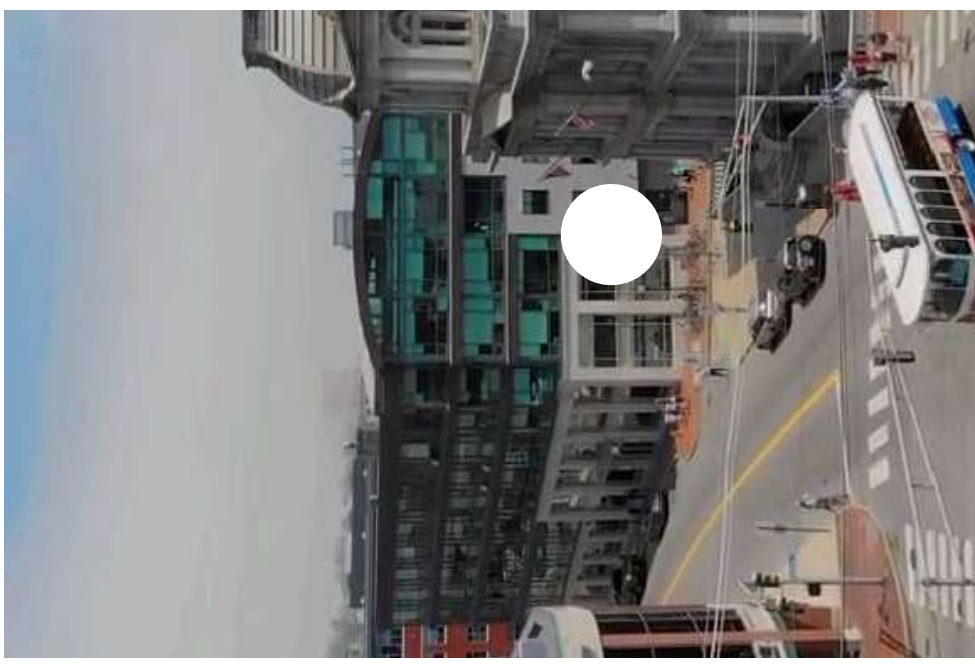
Portland, Maine

2026 ANNUAL MEETING

The State of Maine's Bureau of Human Resources is pleased to submit our proposal for the National Association of State Personnel Executive (NASPE) 2026 Annual Conference to be held in Portland, Maine. Maine has hosted the NASPE Annual Conference in the past, most recently in 2017. We look forward to hosting our colleagues across the country, and 7-person Talent Management Division within the Bureau of Human Resources is happy to provide planning help and on-site support.

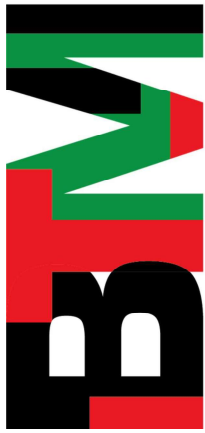
Why choose Maine?

Visitors to the **Greater Portland region** will find more than enough to explore without even leaving the peninsula. Though smaller than some of its east coast rivals, this little city has a **world-class dining scene**, a truly magnificent art museum, and plenty of places to enjoy the scenic **rocky coast**. The city maintains much of its **19th century architecture** and flavor and the character of the trading and fishing settlement it once was when it was established in 1632. Today, visitors will find a **working waterfront** where fishing boats arrive and depart, mingling with a sophisticated urban center.



Supporting Diversity & Inclusion

Explore Maine's rich heritage, history, and flourishing arts scene, from friendly and welcoming Mainers. Enjoy the natural beauty while discovering the state's cultural identity.



Black Travel Maine

Our mission is to expose Black and multiethnic travelers and organizations to the **cultural beauty, richness and delightfully friendly people** of the gorgeous State of Maine. Our custom **curated cultural tours** will highlight everything from the arts, entertainment and the spectacular food Maine has to offer visitors from around the World in hopes to help dispel the age old myth of, "why go there it is too cold and too white."



Black Owned Maine

Black Owned Maine is a nonprofit focused on economic empowerment for Black and Brown people in Maine. The archetypical idea of a **hearth** encompasses BOM's central mission of support. The **warm, nurturing space**, in front of a fire is where family, friends, and partners meet to **rest, recharge, and connect**. BOM exists to create that space and consideration for Black entrepreneurs in Maine.

Portland Freedom Trail

Portland Freedom

Follow the Portland Freedom two-mile, **self-guided walk** through downtown Portland some of Portland's **oldest historic neighborhoods** are about Maine's African American history. One of the stops is an immersive experience is the **Abyssinian Meeting House**, the **oldest African American house** in the U.S., which serves as a worship site and Underground Railroad stop.

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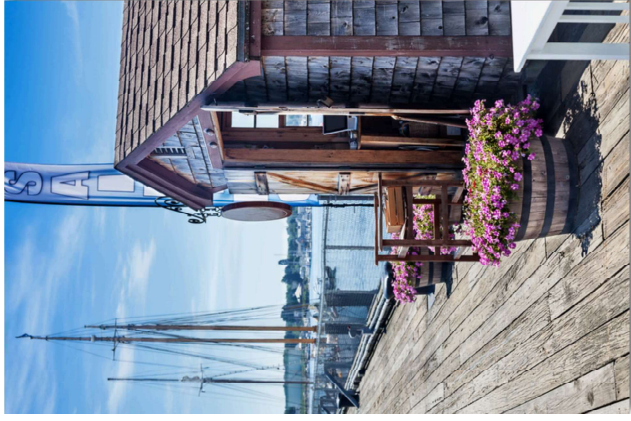
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Weather in July

Maine boasts one of the most pleasant summer climates in the nation. During July, peak temperatures typically average around 70°F across the state. Being a coastal city, light ocean breezes lead to comfortable summer days and refreshingly cool evenings in Portland.



Daytime

78°F



Evening

61°F



Forecast

Sunrise: 5:15AM
Sunset: 8:15PM

Likely to be
partly cloudy
with a 30%
chance of
precipitation

You can get here from there

Scenic drives from across New England

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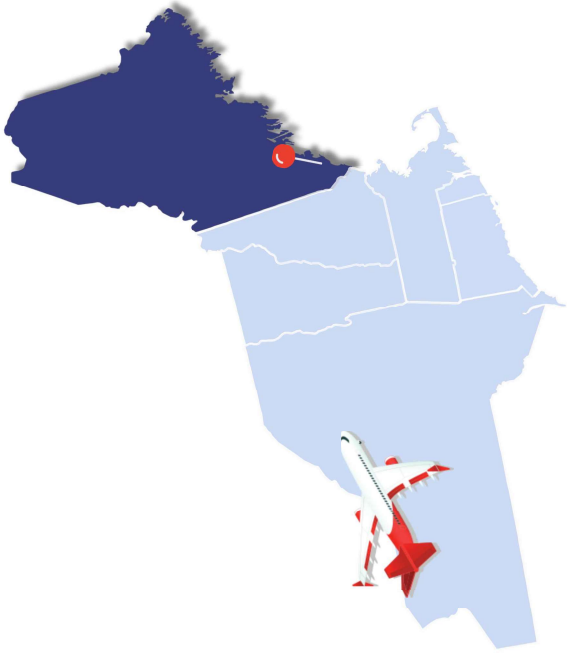
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You can get here from there

Portland International Jetport

This is Maine's largest airport, providing inbound and outbound flights daily and serving more than 2 million passengers annually. Less than 10 minutes from downtown Portland, PWM offers nonstop service to major metropolitan areas including New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Orlando, Nashville, Cincinnati, Denver, Minneapolis, Miami, Washington, D.C., and more.

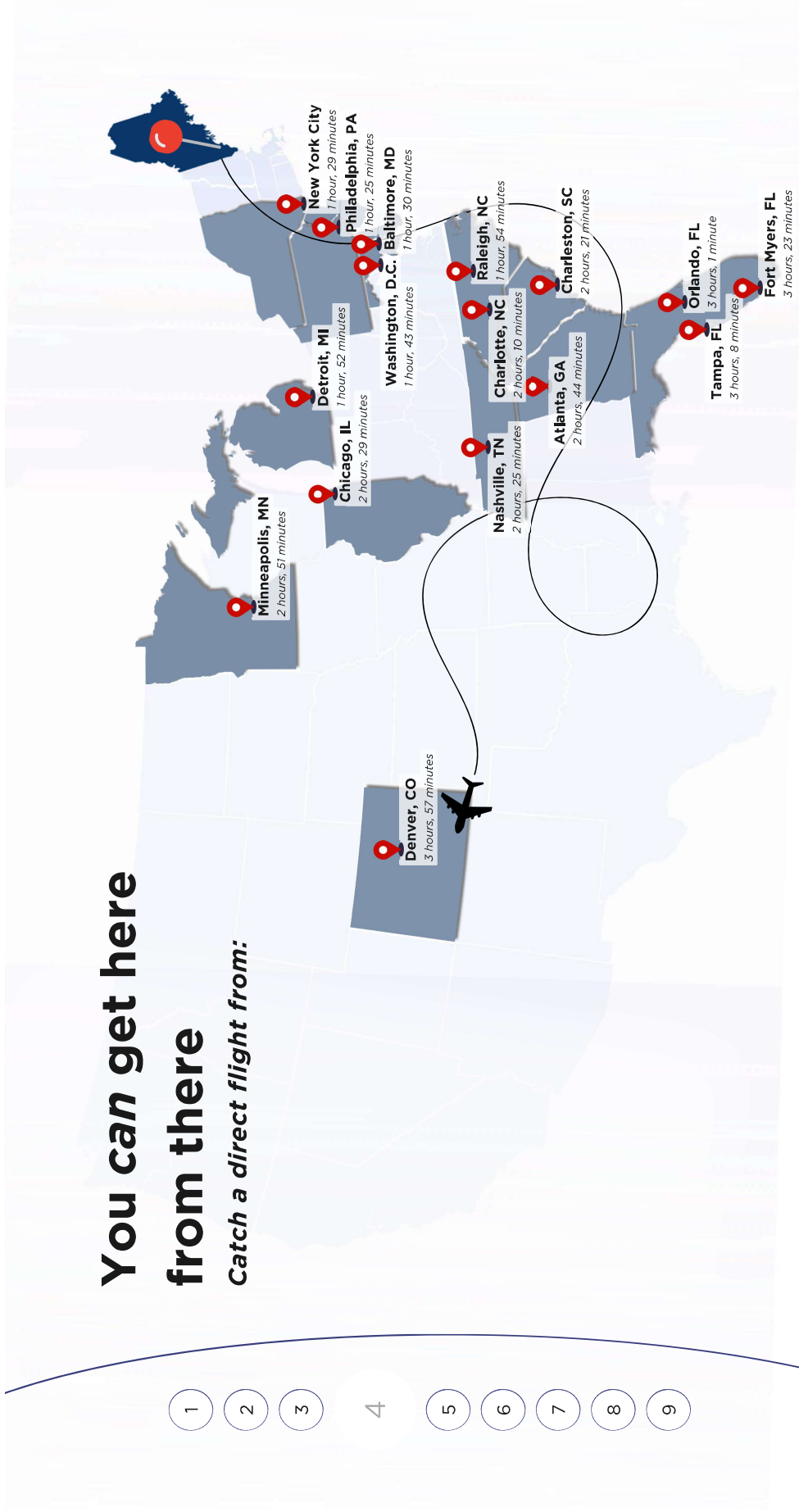
Airlines



You can get here from there

Catch a direct flight from:

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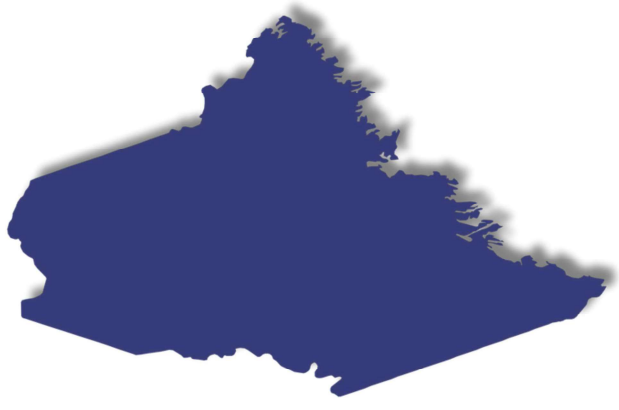


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Landed, and Ready to Roll

Ground Transportation

Visitors can access the greater Portland area using multiple transportation services, including taxi and rideshare services, public transportation, rental vehicles, and car services. PWM partners with several car rental companies, making travel to your next destination easy.



Rental Car & Additional Transportation Services



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Visit Portland...and Beyond

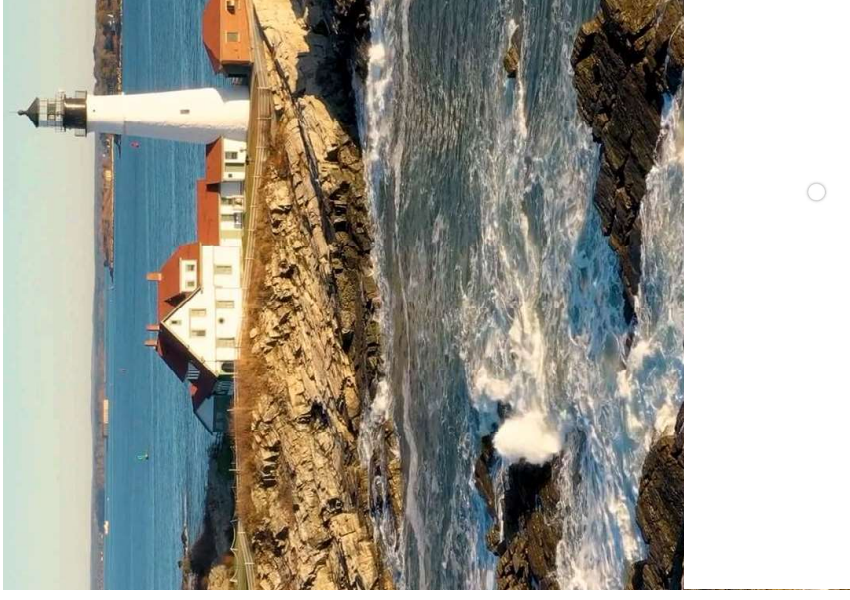
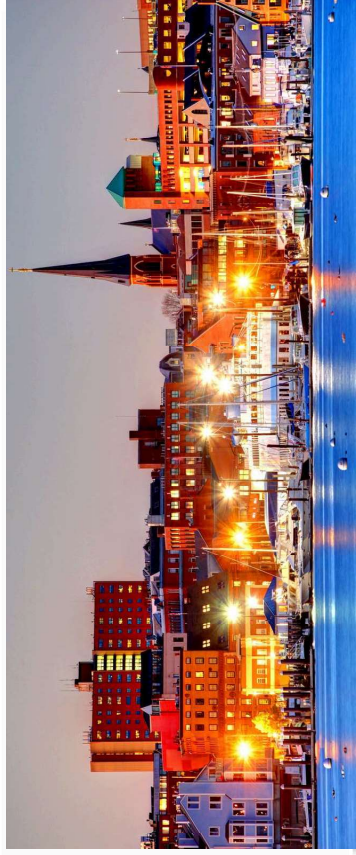
[Visit Portland](#) has a wealth of resources for planning meetings and events in Maine. Their website is a one stop shop for accommodations, venues, group activities, and more all in the greater Portland area.

Both the city and the rest of the Pine Tree State are home to a little bit of everything. From **foodies** to **outdoor adventurers**, this **arts and culture hub** has something for everyone.

Why Choose Maine

Top 10 Reasons

Activities



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Option #1: Portland Regency

Discover a **unique historic getaway** at The Portland Regency Hotel & Spa, where **modern comfort** meets **old New England charm**.

Colorful boutique shops, locally owned cafes, art galleries, and lovely 19th Century buildings surround this landmark property in downtown Portland's restored Old Port district. Guests can easily explore this **vibrant waterfront neighborhood** on foot or **venture offshore** to see humpback whales, tiny islands, and coastal wildlife.

Originally constructed in 1895 as a home for Maine's National Guard, the hotel is considered a landmark property by the Historic Hotels of America. Today, The Portland Regency Hotel & Spa offers unparalleled old world luxury and customer service in downtown Portland.

As a historic landmark, The Portland Regency Hotel & Spa provides a truly unique setting for corporate gatherings and celebrations Maine. With **6,000 square feet of elegant meeting space**, this convenient downtown property was built to host unforgettable events. Visit the [Meetings & Events page](#) to learn more about full-service catering and event planning services.



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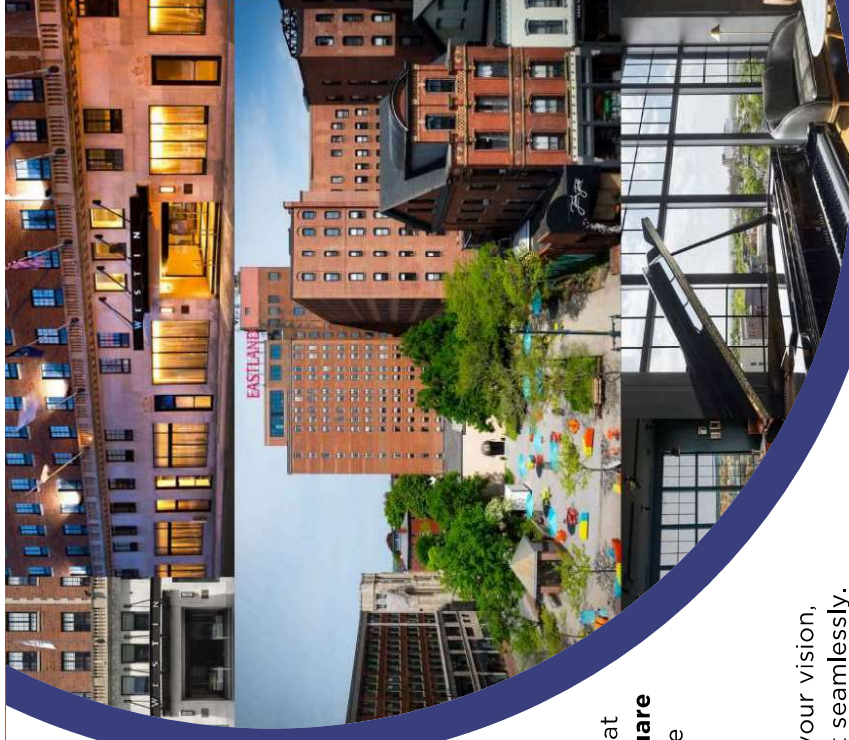
Option #2: The Westin

The Westin features an ideal location in the **heart of the vibrant Arts District** in downtown Portland. Step outside and discover the many **things to do in Portland, Maine** including the Portland Museum of Art, the State Theatre, Cross Insurance Arena and more. A **short walk takes you to Portland's Old Port district and Casco Bay**. Whether you're looking forward to a restful weekend to unwind and recharge, a celebratory trip, a beautiful Portland, Maine wedding or a productive business meeting, you'll find everything you need at this **beautiful historic hotel**.

Dynamic meetings and dazzling functions come alive in the **tastefully designed meeting rooms** and **elegant grand ballroom** at the Westin Portland Harborview. Featuring more than **15,000 square feet of stylish and sophisticated function and meeting space**, the hotel can help bring your Portland Maine event, meeting and message to life.

Rely on a perceptive, professional planning team to work within your vision, coordinating and executing every detail of your meeting or event seamlessly.

The **talents** of the **culinary team** are sure to please and impress, whether you are hosting an intimate group dinner or an upscale awards banquet. Personalize everything from meeting breaks to goodbye brunches, and **audiovisual support** will provide services and equipment tailored to your needs to set the perfect tone with décor, lighting, and sound.

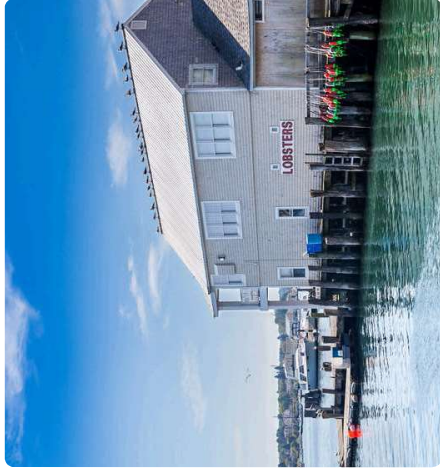


Build Your Own Adventure

Explore the rich variety of cultural, historical, and entertainment experiences that Maine offers. Live like a local: visit the iconic lighthouses that dot the shoreline, get a taste of local history, touring museums and historic sites that offer insights into Maine's past, then take a bite of your next indulgence, exactly *The Way Life Should Be*.

Portland Food Tours

Maine DayVentures



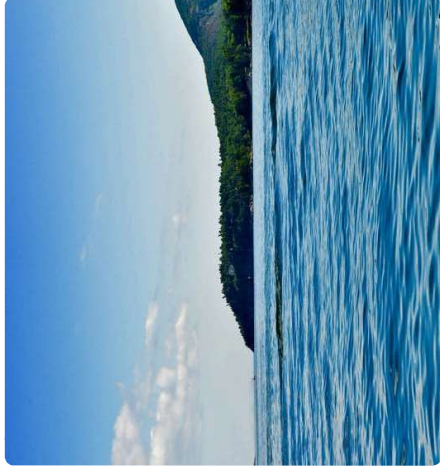
History & Architecture Walk

Maine DayVentures



Whale Watching

New England EcoAdventures



Lighthouse Cruise

Portland Discovery Land & Sea Tours



Wine Sails

Wine Wise



Lighthouse Bike Tours

Summer Feet Cycling & Lighthouse Bikes

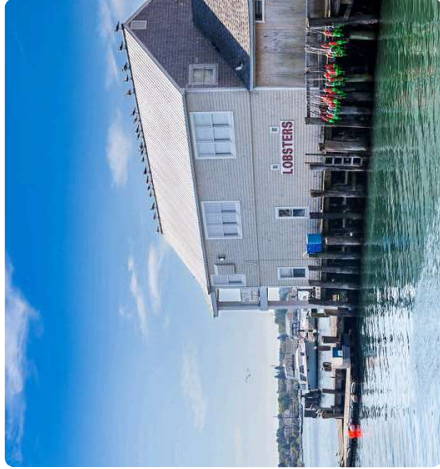


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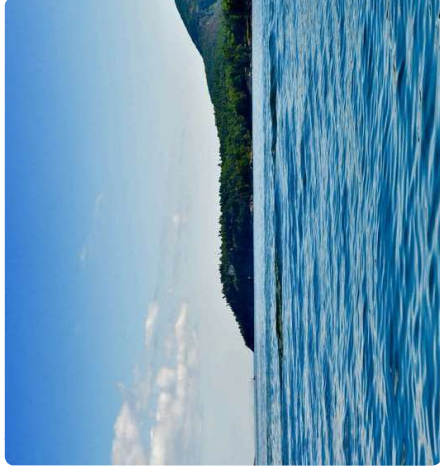
History & Architecture Walk

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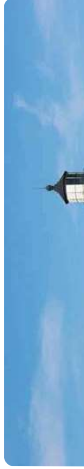
Whale Watching

New England EcoAdventures



Lighthouse Cruise

Portland Discovery Land & Sea Tours



Wine Sails

Wine Wise



Lighthouse Bike Tours

Summer Feet Cycling & Lighthouse Bikes



Lighthouse Cruise

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Wine Sails

Wine Wise



Lighthouse Bike Tours

Summer Feet Cycling & Lighthouse Bikes



Hands-on Lobster Boat Tours

Rugosa



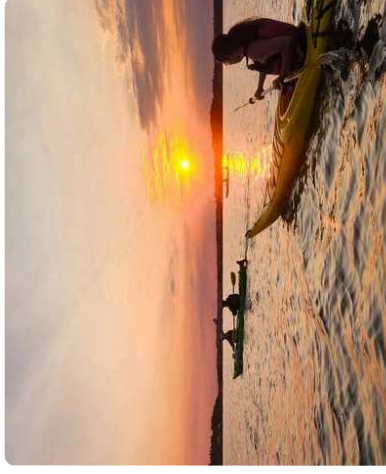
Casco Bay Ferry

Casco Bay Lines



Sea Kayaking Tour

Portland Paddle



Food

With nationally-lauded restaurants, local hidden gems, lobster shacks and more, Portland has gained a national reputation for innovative restaurants, craft brews, and award winning chefs. We've listed a few below, but trust us- this is just the tip of the iceberg.

The Highroller Lobster Co.

Seafood



Cong Tu Bot

Vietnamese



Norimoto Bakery

Euro-Japanese Bakery



Eventide Oyster Co.

Oyster Bar



Duckfat

Belgian Fries & Milkshakes



Luke's Lobster

Seafood



GF



Cong Tu Bot
Vietnamese



Flatbread Company
Wood-fired Pizza

V GF



Eventide Oyster Co.
Oyster Bar



YardieTing
Jamaican Restaurant



Luke's Lobster
Seafood



Rwanda Bean
Coffee Shop



Flatbread Company

Wood-fired Pizza

V

GF



YardieTing

Jamaican Restaurant



Rwanda Bean

Coffee Shop



Becky's Diner

Diner

GF



Green Elephant

Vegetarian Bistro

V

GF



Scales

Seafood



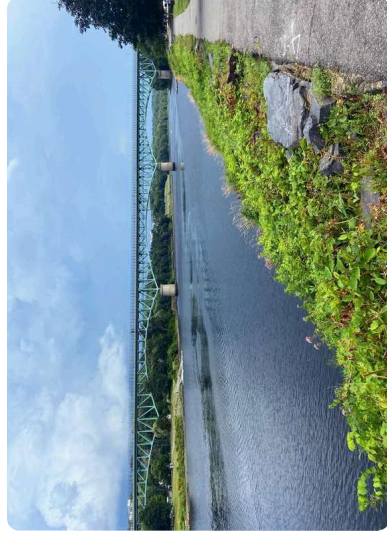
Extending Your Stay

We are nicknamed **“Vacationland”** after all. Discover a beautiful state through quintessential charming Main Street communities, farm-to-table eats, natural resources, and one-of-a-kind stays.

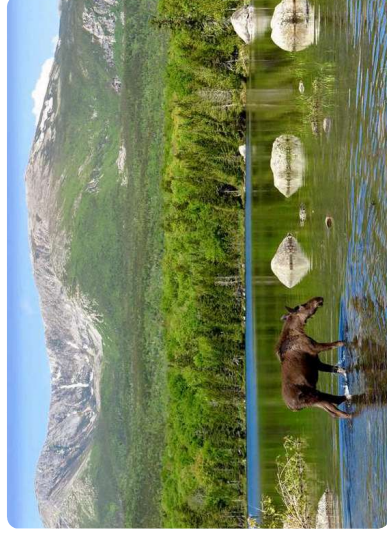
Aroostook County



Kennebec Valley



Baxter State Park



Beaches, Islands, & Midcoast

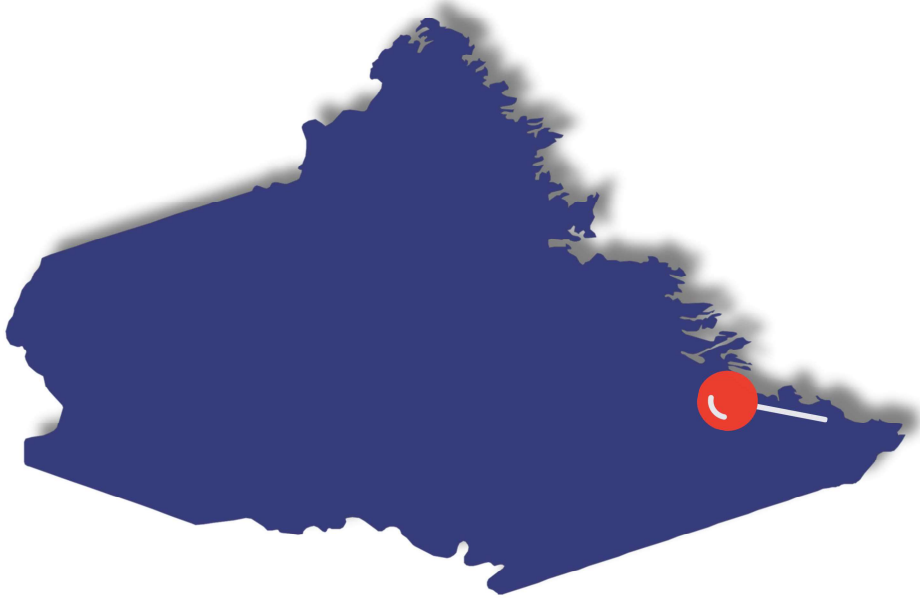


Lakes & Mountains



DownEast & Acadia





Thank you!

We look forward to NASPE members falling in love with our beautiful state, whether that's at the 2026 Annual Meeting or on their own time. Thank you for considering Maine as a host for an upcoming NASPE Annual Meeting.

For questions, please reach out to Jessica Crosby at jessica.a.crosby@maine.gov.

Warm Regards from Vacationland