



York Harbor, Maine

TEXT AND ILLUSTRATIONS BY Stephen Harby



Artists will find both beauty and history in York Harbor, Maine. This seaside community is part of the town of York (population 12,000), which dates back to the 1600s and was one of the first European settlements in New England. Between 1890 and 1910, Gilded Age tycoons arrived and built rambling summer cottages along the seaside cliffs. Today York Harbor is a thriving year-round community with a burgeoning arts scene, not to mention a renaissance of locally sourced culinary delights.

Eastern Point
watercolor on paper,
11x17

York Harbor is a special place for me—I have been summering here for 60 years. In 1913 my great-grandmother bought an old farmstead named Juniper Ledges and transformed it into a series of terraced gardens, which I remember viewing from the house’s wraparound porches. The property was destroyed by fire when I was 9, and my family replaced it with a Midcentury Modern shingled house. The new structure is made up of three pavilions located where the porches of the old house had been, wrapping around the old foundation.

LOCAL PICKS

What to See and Do in York Harbor



York Harbor
Reading Room



SURF

A stroll along York Harbor’s **Cliff Walk** is enjoyable in any season; it’s open from sunrise to sunset. Start at Harbor Beach or Hartley Mason Reserve and thread your way between the cottages above and the rocks and surf below. You’ll pass the **York Harbor Reading Room**, a private club founded in 1897. As you round East Point, in the distance you’ll see the **Nubble Light** on its promontory of the coast of the village of York Beach, a short drive farther “down east.” In the days before radar and GPS, this was one of many beacons to ward off ships from running aground on the rocks. All this gazing out to sea should bring on a craving for lobster, best consumed “in the raw,” which you can take away from **Off the Boat Lobsters** or **Maine Lobster Outlet**.



Nubble Light

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

AD

Juniper Ledges, Rear
watercolor on paper,
11x17

Like so many parts of Maine's rugged coast, York Harbor is an inspiring place to paint. It's also easily accessible, only an hour's drive from Boston's Logan Airport—although some would say York isn't the "authentic" Maine, since you don't have to drive through endless pine forests to get there, and you can even occasionally bear to swim in the ocean. 🐻

Stephen Harby is an architect, watercolorist, faculty member of the Yale School of Architecture and founder of Stephen Harby Invitational, which organizes travel opportunities for small groups.



The rebuilt Juniper Ledges is made up of three pavilions in the Midcentury Modern style.

LOCAL PICKS



FAR LEFT
York Corner Gardens
watercolor
on paper,
11x17

Corner Gardens, a more permanent roadside institution. Keep an eye open for blueberry pies from **Something Different Baking**. Up the road is

Stonewall Kitchen, the largest employer in York and a significant tourist attraction. Jim Stott and Jonathan King parlayed this business from a stall at the Portsmouth farmers' market to a world-famous brand. Travelers on

their way to more distant points in Maine pull off the interstate for a meal in the café and for the free samples of the kitchen's many jams and jellies. Bon appétit!

ART

Two local galleries present the work of Maine artists year-round. The **George Marshall Store Gallery** (right) presents a

finely curated and often edgy selection of the best up-and-coming artists in the region, and the **York Art Association** presents a broad range of local members' arts and crafts, and includes a gift shop.



TURF

The local farmers and home cooks of York produce an abundance of tempting produce and other edible delights, which reach their peak in late summer and early fall in the farmers' markets and at **York**