



## Franciscan Guest House

26 Beach Avenue Kennebunk, Maine 04043  
P.O. Box 980 Kennebunkport, Maine 04046  
[www.Franciscanguesthouse.com](http://www.Franciscanguesthouse.com)  
Tel 207-967-4865

The Franciscan Guest House, one of the Kennebunks' best kept secrets, opens the doors for another wonderful season and welcomes families and all travelers to inquire about weekend getaways or full week guest accommodations.

On the banks of the Kennebunk River, a short walk from Kennebunk Beach, and adjacent to the Franciscan Monastery property, the Franciscan Guest House is a truly unique cultural, spiritual and environmental gem in the heart of coastal Maine. Arthur Frommer features the Guest House as a favorite "Harborside Hideaway of Maine" in the June 2004 issue of *Budget Travel Magazine*.

Overnight guests may stay at one of the five Franciscan guest houses, with accommodations ranging from standard rooms to multi-room suites - all including a full homemade Lithuanian breakfast. Among other improvements, the Guest House has completed upgrades to many of its rooms, where guests will find new carpets, drapes, beds, bedding, and cable televisions. As a not-for-profit hotel, guests enjoy old-world hospitality at affordable prices. Rates start in May at \$55 to \$154 per room, double occupancy, until June 23rd, and from \$80 to \$249 double occupancy during the Summer. The Guest House remains open through foliage season with attractive Autumn discounts from 5 September until the end October.

Guests can walk to many local attractions or take advantage of the open-air In-town Trolley, which shuttles visitors from the Guest House to local beaches, downtown Kennebunkport, historic seaport Dock Square, and other scenic highlights such as former President George H.W. Bush's Estate, Walker's Point. Fran Golden, Travel Editor for the *Boston Herald* wrote in a June 22, 2003 feature on the Guest House, "You can't get a better location than this."

The Franciscan Guest House is also adjacent to the Franciscan Monastery, a separate property situated on a 60 acre estate which is visited by more than 50,000 people annually. The Monastery's central building is housed in the original Tudor style mansion, designed for the wealthy industrialist William A. Rogers Esq. and completed in 1908. The great house is complimented by landscapes designed by Olmstead Brothers Architects, founded by Frederick Law Olmstead whose work includes New York's Central Park and Boston's Emerald Necklace. A number of walking trails crisscross meadows, coastal forest and lead to riverfront marshlands. An updated trail map is available at the Guest House. Situated on a 60 acre nature preserve, the Monastery was selected as a Finalist in the Best of the Best of York County 2003 as best location for bird watching as compiled by *York County Coast Star*.

Acquired by a Lithuanian branch of the Franciscan Brothers in 1947, the Franciscan Monastery served as a sanctuary not only for those fleeing religious persecution at the hands of the communists, but also for artistic and intellectual exiles from Lithuania. The grounds feature several shrines and grottos designed and built by these artists; the modernistic main chapel is boldly decorated with bas relief and stained glass by the renowned painter, architect and abstract artist Vytautas Jonynas. His sculptures were chosen to adorn the Vatican Pavilion at the 1964 World's Fair; the main sculpture is now enshrined on the Monastery grounds.

Summertime is full of activities for visitors and overnight guests alike, highlights include:

**Icon Writing Course** - Twelve days intensive instruction on the ancient technique of making Icons as taught by professional iconographers from Monasteries in Lithuania and Italy. This course is held at the Franciscan Monastery.

**"Art at the Monastery"** - Outdoor art/craft festival to be held on the beautiful grounds of the *Franciscan Monastery*, Kennebunk, Maine.

**Lithuanian Cultural Events** - These events at the Guest House feature piano and voice performances, political discussions, and historical discussions in the Lithuanian tradition. Also held at the Guest House is Lithuanian Dancing with dates to be announced.