

BEACH STREET CAFÉ

Manchester-by-the-Sea

Bob and Tracy Atwater bought the place in 1984 and have since firmly established Beach Street Café as the quintessential small-town eatery. Come here for the authentic charm, the fabulous staff, and—among many other commendable dishes—the cheeseburger we adore. **The Burger:** Cheeseburger, side of French Fries. **The Beef:** Five ounces of 85 percent ground beef, trimmed and custom-ground daily in the Crosby's Supermarket butcher shop across the street. **The Bun:** Bob calls it a 3-D seed bun, which is square, not round. As far as buns go, it's a style typically found around roast beef sandwiches rather than burgers, but it works brilliantly here. **The Toppings:** Swiss cheese, tomato, and dill pickle chips. **The Fries:** Standard shoestring potatoes, but done with skill. **The Vibe:** A bustling village meeting place for a cross section of the town's seniors, school kids, lobstermen, landscapers, lunching ladies, moms with toddlers, and guys wearing ties. Tracy's delightful paintings adorn the walls, while gulls glide over Manchester Harbor, visible through the window. Commuter trains groan in and out of the village on tracks just feet away. *35 Beach Street, Manchester-by-the-Sea, 978-526-8049.*