

# Maine

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## DISCOVER YOUR MAINE THING - STORY IDEAS



### - Hit the Road -

From famed U.S. Route 1 to the backroads that take us to unexpected surprises, touring Maine by four wheels or two wheels is a special treat.

- **Maine's Scenic Byways**

Only 150 roads in the United States have been designated National Scenic Byways or All-American Roads and Maine boasts four of them.

- **Acadia Byway**, Maine's only All-American Road, travels through Acadia National Park and the historic villages of Bar Harbor and Northeast Harbor on Mount Desert Island.
- **Old Canada Road National Scenic Byway** follows old river trading routes of the Abenaki tribe. Benedict Arnold made part of this interconnected network of waterways famous on his ill-fated march during the Revolutionary War.
- **Rangeley Lakes National Scenic Byway** is where sportsmen have journeyed since the mid-1800s. That outdoor sporting heritage is alive and well today, from fishing to snowmobiling
- **Schoodic National Scenic Byway** explores a less developed and unspoiled area of the rugged Downeast Maine coast. Seaside villages and working harbors from Sullivan to Prospect Harbor reveal well-preserved examples of New England architecture from the 18th and 19th centuries.

Maine also boasts 10 State Scenic Byways and includes:

- **The Katahdin Woods & Waters Scenic Byway** where you can travel the headwaters of the Penobscot River, view or climb Katahdin and follow in the footsteps of artists who sought inspiration here.
- **The St. John Valley Cultural Byway** is rich with Maine's Acadian heritage and culture. The byway travels a total of 92 miles along the northern border of Maine and through the St. John Valley.
- **The Bold Coast Scenic Byway** is characterized by rocky coastlines teeming with seabirds and seals, and harbors bustling with fishing boats making up part of the Downeast Fisheries Trail.

- **Follow the Artists**

The seven art museums on the **Maine Art Museum Trail** span the state and even go offshore offering more than 73,000 works of art, from ancient to contemporary, in collections featuring works by the many artists associated with Maine, such as Marsden Hartley, Robert Indiana, Alex Katz, Rockwell Kent and others. The new **Langlais Art Trail**, with more than 3,000 works of art by Maine sculptor Bernard Langlais, ties together some 50 institutions and communities across the state. A trail highlight is the Langlais Sculpture Preserve, which is on a portion of the artist's estate in Cushing.

- **Milling Around Maine**

Here's an idea for touring Maine with a theme in mind... Mills have long been a feature of many Maine towns and cities, but while few may be producing goods any longer, some of these impressive buildings have been repurposed. Given their period architecture, large windows, high ceilings and loft-like spaces, they're ideal for transformation. The fact that many are waterside adds to their charms. From **North Dam Mill** in Biddeford that houses artists' studios and more, to the **Somerset Grist Mill** in Skowhegan that boasts a farmers' market and shops, these historic complexes have been renovated in a way that reminds us of yesterday, but adds a modern, hip element to Maine communities.



### - On the Water -

Maine's lakes, rivers, streams and, of course, the Atlantic Ocean provide a bounty of options for outdoor recreation and adventure. Need a story idea that involves water? No problem. Just think...

- **Surfing:** Although the waves aren't huge, the beauty of Maine's beaches is unparalleled and draws surfers year-round. Even in winter, Maine's surfers are out in the swell. You can also grab your own Maine-made surfboard, by Grain Boards, and ride Maine's waves on wood grown in Maine. Live surf shops and helpful helpful outfitters lend themselves to an emerging surf culture along Maine's coast.
- **Fishing:** Anglers love the cool waters off Maine for reeling in prized fish like haddock, cod, shark or tuna. Chartered boats and captains will take out small groups to the best spots for catching the elusive bluefin tuna. The salty waters of the mouth of the Kennebec River is a world class spot for striped bass. Maine is chock full of lakes, ponds, rivers and streams brimming with fish—trout, bass, landlocked salmon. Fly-fishing holds a special place in the heart of Mainer's. The legendary Carrie Stevens created some of the world's best flies, still used nearly 100 years later.
- **Canoeing and kayaking:** With about 5,000 miles of coastline, sea kayakers have lots of possibilities. Make a journey island hopping along the coast or paddle along the 375-mile Maine Island Trail—America's first water trail designed to protect the fragile coastal environment. Paddling the 92 miles of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway can be a trip back in time as the landscape has barely changed since Thoreau himself canoed the waters. Or try the Northern Forest Canoe Trail—374 miles of the 740-mile trail is in Maine.
- **Sailing:** Setting sail on Maine's salt and freshwater bodies of water is a chance to explore our wide-open waters. Maine offers trips on historic schooners and sleek sloops. Many sailing centers offer excursion classes and rentals, and be sure to check for the regattas that take place all summer long.
- **Cruising:** On-the-water nature tours are abundant in Maine and include watching for whales, sighting seals and peeking at puffins.



- From the Air -

Sure, Maine is beautiful by land and sea, but just imagine it by air. From gliders to biplanes to floatplanes, the possibilities are thrilling. From the minute the biplane is "wheels up" you can see the breathtaking beauty of Acadia National Park, the rugged terrain and lighthouses of Downeast, or Maine's largest lake, Moosehead.

And how about landing on Moosehead Lake...a haven for floatplanes? Each September the International Seaplane Fly-In takes place in Greenville when thousands of participants and spectators enjoy one of the country's largest gatherings of seaplanes. And did you know there are several locations in Maine where floatplanes are the preferred mode of transportation? There are many Maine sporting camps and lodges accessible only by floatplane...now that's a real off-the-grid getaway!

Up, up and away...in a hot air balloon. The Great Falls Balloon Festival and the Crown of Maine Balloon Festival are two great reasons to see Maine from high above.



- Take a Break and Fuel Up -

#### **Ahhh...Maine and food.**

- You know we have lobster, but how about trying your hand at lobstering. There are many lobster fishermen and women who can show you what it's like to be a lobsterman for a day.
- Don't forget our favorite bivalve and take an oyster farm tour. There are over a dozen oyster farms along the coast of Maine and several offer tours to see the nurseries. Then, top off the day with a locally brewed pint.
- With more than 60 craft breweries, you won't go thirsty in Maine. Tours and tastings are plentiful.
- Speaking of thirst, quench yours with a cocktail made with spirits from one of the small-batch Maine distilleries. Many offer tasting rooms where visitors can sample wines, spirits and meads that have been produced in Maine, many of them sourcing Maine-grown ingredients.
- From the only existing stone-ground mustard maker to sea-side chocolatiers, and from potato donuts to the new superfood, kelp, Maine promises fresh, original and delicious culinary adventures.