

Maine: The Outdoor Adventure Capital of the East

Are you looking for your next story about the great outdoors? How do four unique seasons, a rugged coastline and mountain landscapes sound? Maine has no equal when it comes to outdoor adventure opportunities. Maine has:

- 3,500 miles of coastline and about 2,000 islands off the coast
- 32,000 miles of rivers and streams, which is more than the combined length of the Mississippi, Amazon, Yangtze and Nile rivers
- 630,192 acres of state and national parks, including the 92-mile Allagash Wilderness Waterway, Acadia National Park and Baxter State Park - location of Mt. Katahdin and the northern end of the Appalachian Trail.
- 87,500 acres designated as an International Dark Sky Association Dark Sky Sanctuary, a designation that is only the second of its kind in the National Park Service and the first in Maine and New England.

Biking

- The Eastern Trail is a 65+ mile bike route along Maine's south coast. The trail runs from Kittery to South Portland and passes through 12 cities and towns.
- The Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway is a 211-mile route on quiet rural roads that extends from West Gouldsboro, at the top of the Schoodic Peninsula, to Calais, the eastern-most border city linking to mainland Canada.
- The carriage road system of Acadia National Park is ideal for cyclists or pedal-assisted e-bikes. John D. Rockefeller Jr. donated the land and planned the construction of the 45 miles of motor-free crushed rock roads. You can rent e-bikes in Bar Harbor at Pedego Acadia or Acadia Bike.
- Route 11 in northern Maine from Ashland to Fort Kent, and Route 27 in the western mountains from Kingfield to Eustis, are routes for road cyclists who like hills.
- The Bicycle Coalition of Maine organizes bicycling events throughout the state and provides information about biking routes and trails.
- Explore Maine by Bike is a comprehensive guide to bike trails throughout the state. The guide allows you to chart your own course using helpful maps, or to take one or all the 33 tours outlined.
- Summer Feet Cycling offers bicycling tours that range from half-day to multi-day excursions.
- Mountain biking and fat-tire biking are awesome on Carrabassett Valley Trails, Katahdin Area Trails, Bradbury Mountain – the first state park to offer mountain biking - Mt. Agamenticus, and Kennebec Estuary Land Trust and Penobscot River Trails.
- At Mount Abram, you can try out snow biking. The mountain now offers lift-serviced mountain biking.

Paddling, Whitewater Rafting and Boating

- Kayaking is the ideal way to explore Maine's ocean bays, harbors and tidal rivers, including the 375-mile Maine Island Trail, America's oldest recreational water trail reaching from Kittery to Eastport and the Canadian Maritimes. All along Maine's 3,500-mile coast, kayaking outfitters offer half-day, full-day and overnight adventures. Bring your own kayak or rent one locally. Guided trips and instruction are always available.
- From the 92-mile Allagash Wilderness Waterway – to a trip through downtown Bangor – canoeists have many paddling options. Birds and animals at inland wildlife sanctuaries are most easily seen from a canoe, and this is the perfect way to get photographs of brilliant foliage color reflecting off a lake or pond.
- Whitewater rafting on the Kennebec, Dead, and Penobscot rivers offers some of the most exciting and scenic raft waters on the east coast. The rivers, located in central and eastern Maine, are dam-controlled and provide high-water rafting from late-April through mid-October.
- Sailing in Maine is in one word, "spectacular." Day sailors or private charters can be found at most major harbors along the coast. Take in views of the coastline, islands and marine life while someone else does the navigating or head to the state's huge lakes.
- You can also join a club like the Freedom Boat Club Maine with locations in Portland, Yarmouth & Naples. Membership allows you easy access to a variety of boats.
- Portland Paddle offers yoga, kayaks & SUPs on Casco Bay and at Fort Gorges.

Camping

- If you come to Maine by plane or train, you can't easily bring all the things you need to camp and miss out on one of the best things about Maine. Maine Camping Gear, located in Portland, offers camping gear rentals and trip planning services.
- Camping is available at dozens of private campgrounds and state parks for RV's or tent camping, and you can choose from super luxury glamping to rugged back-country sites.

Rock Climbing

- Try your hand at rock and ice climbing in Maine's Mid-Coast with Equinox Guide Service. Climbers of all levels can enjoy the customizable trips.

Hiking

- The opportunities for hiking in Maine are endless. The Appalachian Trail and the Maine International Trail are home to 267 miles of the Appalachian Trail near Goose Eye Mountain in Oxford County and ending at the trail's northern terminus in Baxter State Park. From Baxter Peak, hikers can begin a new journey on the International Appalachian Trail, stretching 100 miles to the New Brunswick, Canada border and continuing to Belle Isle, Newfoundland.
- The Camden Hills State Park trail system offers some of the best small mountain coastal hiking on the east coast.
- The Bold Coast Trail along the rugged Downeast coast is the longest stretch of undeveloped shorefront on the eastern seaboard. The trail has six and 10-mile loops, camping and dramatic vantage points as much as 150 feet above crashing ocean surf.
- Maine Trailfinder expands to include events and trailside amenities as well as some fun stories. It is also the new home of the Great Maine Outdoor Weekends which have actually

become week-long events.

- Oxbow Brewing has 18 acres of trails for biking, hiking, skiing and snowshoeing in Newcastle, and the Oxbow Beer Garden in Oxford is located at Carter's X-C ski center – fat-biking, snowshoeing and cross country skiing.
- One of the best ways to enjoy a hike is by bird watching. The slow, easy pace is great for all ages and you can spot some of Maine's numerous species on any hike. Try the Rangeley Lakes Birding Trail and new Birding Festival in June with guided trips to find over 100 possible species.
- Some of Maine's most outstanding natural features and secluded locations are found on Maine's Public Lands. There's over half a million acres of public lands to explore in Maine!

Golf

- Maine's golf courses have a secluded feel, whether the setting is on a 4,000-foot mountain range, rolling farmland, or the edge of the ocean.
- The nine-hole Mount Kineo Golf Course awaits guests on an island in Moosehead Lake.
- For a taste of Scotland, The Links at Outlook in the southern town of South Berwick features rolling dunes and scattered sand bunkers on a 140-acre layout set in open fields.
- The 1893 Poland Spring Country Club is the oldest resort course in America, while the three-year-old Sunday River Golf Club in Newry was chosen as one of Travel + Leisure Golf's "Top 10 Best New Courses in the World."

Snowmobiling

- An impressive network of 14,000 miles of well-maintained snowmobile trails crisscrossing the state from Kittery to Fort Kent means that when the snow flies, it sometimes seems there is suddenly more to Maine. Snowmobiles allow effortless access to remote parts of the state that take on even greater beauty with a coating of snow. Don't miss events like Snodeo and Sledfest.

Nordic and Alpine Skiing & Snowboarding

- There's a slope for every level of skier or snowboarder at more than a dozen alpine ski areas in Maine. They range from intimate, family-oriented municipal mountains where beginners can perfect their snowplow, to major resorts with high-speed lifts, glades and superpipes, along with exciting nightlife. Average snowfall at ski areas ranges from 60 to 90 inches; many locations also make their own snow.
- Aroostook County is the premier destination for Nordic skiing. Vast stretches of fields, forests and rolling terrain are ideal for cross-country adventures. Most ski resorts have groomed Nordic trails on site or nearby. A growing winter activity in Maine is biathlon, the Olympic sport that combines Nordic skiing and target shooting. The Nordic Heritage Sport Club in Presque Isle and the 10th Mountain Ski Center in Fort Kent host regional, national and international biathlon events and offer public clinics.
- For an extreme mountain experience for advanced skiers and snowboarders, try Burnt Mountain Cat Skiing at Sugarloaf – where a backcountry-style adventure awaits.

Fishing and Hunting

- Maine is home to the country's best Eastern brook trout fishery, and a top destination for small mouth bass and landlocked salmon. The state's open water fishing season begins April 1, but anglers can fish year-round on 17 rivers.
- Some of the best fly-fishing waters in New England can be found in the Rangeley Lakes region. And, anglers looking for striped bass will find plenty on the Kennebec River south of Bath.
- Serious hunters come to Maine for the moose and black bear whose numbers are greater than in any other state in the east. Upland bird hunting is growing in popularity and the state recently began a wild turkey hunt season.
- Hire a Registered Maine Guide for all your fishing and hunting trips in Maine.

Surfing and Paddle boarding

- You may not immediately associate Maine with surfing, but the sandy beach communities along the southern Maine coast offer summer surf camps and individual equipment rentals and lesson options for all levels, and York-based Grain Surfboards crafts locally grown wooden boards for devotees. Autumn is considered to be the best time to surf in Maine; temps aren't too cold for most yet, and the swells are consistent.

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Media Contact:
Charlene Williams
cwilliams@marshallpr.com