

STORY IDEAS

Learn a New Skill

Maine is the ideal place to stretch yourself and explore your potential by learning a new skill. The world famous [Wooden Boat School](#) in Brooklin is where many an amateur boat builder has learned to help construct a 19th century Swampscott Dory or a Sassafras Canoe. Learn basic woodworking at the [Center for Furniture Craftsmanship](#) in Rockport while [The Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts](#) in Newcastle offers residencies for ceramic artists. Go to [Visit Maine](#) for more on honing artistic skills in Maine.

Focus on Family

Maine is one of the best family destinations in the country. From tent camping to a lakeside cottage stay, a road trip to a seaside vacation, there are a host of [family activities](#) waiting to be discovered. They include fishing, hiking and watersports in locations ranging from luxury oceanfront resorts to wilderness cabins in northern Maine. There are [children's museums](#) and [animal parks](#) scattered throughout the state, not to mention Acadia National Park and a roster of [state parks](#) to explore. At the end of the day, it's all about spending time with family in the extraordinary settings of Maine.

Maine is the Outdoor Capital of the East

With four seasons and coastal and mountain landscapes, Maine has no equal when it comes to outdoor adventure opportunities. Here are the facts:

- 630,192 acres of state and national park land
- 3,500+ miles of coastline and 2,000 coastal islands
- 32,000 miles of rivers and streams
- 6,000 lakes and ponds; 500 miles of alpine ski trails; and more than 200 mountains with trails

As an added bonus, the [Registered Maine Guides](#) program certifies experienced, professional guides who can be hired to enhance your outdoor experience in Maine.

Recreate Responsibly

It's all about respect for the land and for yourself. If you enjoy the outdoors, from hiking and camping to snowshoeing and snowmobiling, you probably think Maine's mountains, waters and forests are just as worthy of respect as we do. Whether you're venturing out into Maine's abundant public or private lands, a state park or [Acadia National Park](#), [Look Out for ME](#) gives you tips on doing your part to conserve the state's natural resources, season after season, and for generations to come.

Camping & Glamping

Maine is synonymous with camping, with a dozen state park campgrounds, from Bradbury State Park in southern Maine to Cobscook State Park at the edge of Downeast Maine. There are the prized campgrounds within Acadia National Park, wilderness campsites scattered throughout northern Maine and nearly 200 licensed private campgrounds that can accommodate everything from tent camping to RV camping. The continued popularity of glamping has seen the opening of resorts such as Terramor Outdoor Resort and Huttopia Southern Maine. The past year was a boom time for camping in the state and the best time to make reservations is as early as possible. Go to [Visit Maine](#) for details on camping and glamping destinations.

Historic Lodging in Maine

Maine's historic architecture is one of the many appealing features of the state — farms and homes often look

straight out of the 18th or 19th centuries, and more than 1,600 properties in Maine are on the National Register of Historic Places. A handful of these are also B&Bs, inns or hotels that welcome guests into the lovingly preserved past. Check the list of Maine's [historic lodging](#).

Shopping Experiences

Maine may be known for L.L.Bean and Stonewall Kitchen, but there are dozens of smaller companies that offer Maine-made goods, from local food purveyors to artisans focused on crafts, sporting goods, gifts, fiber arts, clothing, and much more. The best source is [Maine Made](#), an organization that builds recognition for Maine products and their producers.

Cuisine Scene

Portland rewrote the playbook for dining in Maine, but that innovation and creativity has spread throughout the state. Now it's easy to have a memorable meal in small towns in the Western Mountains or Downeast Maine, or in former factory towns turned restaurant-havens like Biddeford and Saco. Alfresco dining will likely be the rule this summer, from picnic tables at lobster shacks along the coast to Portland eateries with sidewalk dining, waterside decks or garden settings. [Visit Maine](#) has the details.

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