

## Gather the Family and Get Ready for an Adventure in Maine

Four seasons of adventure and unique attractions in every part of the state make Maine a great destination for visitors of all ages.

### Coastal Excursions

- See humpback, finback and minke whales on whale-watching tours departing from Kennebunkport, Portland, Boothbay and Bar Harbor. Or view the country's largest nesting population of Atlantic puffins or playful seals on other tours.
- Learn about the lives of lobsters and other underwater sea creatures and see how lobsters are trapped and hauled from the ocean on a lobster boat cruise.
- Take the boat to Burnt Island Lighthouse in Boothbay Harbor. Learn about lighthouse life from the keeper and his family and explore the island trails.
- Tidal pool destinations: Rachel Carson Memorial Salt Pond in New Harbor, Seawall picnic area and the Wonderland Trail on Mount Desert Island, Two Lights State Park in Cape Elizabeth and Reid State Park in Georgetown.
- Whether you're looking for sightseeing trips, fishing trips or ecotourism trips, the [Maine Association of Charterboat Captains](#) can help you locate qualified, professional charter services.
- Take an easy hike with stunning seaside views on [Macworth Island](#) – kids will love building a fairy house (using natural materials already on the island, of course). Be sure to stop by the historic pet cemetery that inspired Stephen King's book.

### Railroad Excursions

- [Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad Company & Museum](#) boasts indoor and outdoor exhibits, and train rides along the Portland waterfront.
- At [Boothbay Railway Village](#), ride a steam train around a village of local historic buildings and businesses including the 1847 Town Hall, a general store, barber shop, doll museum and railroad stations.
- The western mountain town of Phillips is home to a revived section of the [Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes Railroad](#). Ride in a vintage coach or caboose through forest and fields and get a walking tour of the site of the Sandy River covered bridge.

### Educational Adventures

- In Augusta, [Old Fort Western](#) recreates daily life in the late 1700s at America's oldest standing wooden fort.
- For rainy day fun, visit a unique children's museum in [Portland](#), [Waterville](#) or [Bangor](#). Portland's Children's Museum & Theatre of Maine reopened in 2021, featuring a new, spacious 30,000-square foot building in Thompson's Point. For an active rainy day, the indoor climbing gym [Volta](#) in Trenton offers climbing opportunities for all ages.
- See native animal species, ranging from a moose and black bear to a raccoon, peacock and box turtle, up close at the [Maine Wildlife Park](#) in Gray.
- In New Harbor, Fort William Henry and the [Colonial Pemaquid](#) site offer a glimpse of life in pre-Revolutionary War America, including a kids' scavenger hunt for artifacts.
- Kids can earn a Junior Ranger badge at Maine's [Acadia National Park](#). Meet a park ranger and pledge to "explore, learn and protect" the beautiful natural wonders of the park while enjoying the many

hiking, biking, swimming and paddling opportunities it offers for the entire family.

- Get the interpretive tour and camp out at Swan Island in the Kennebec River near Richmond. The island is the site of the abandoned village of Perkins Township.
- Gisland Farm Audubon Center's sprawling, 65-acre sanctuary offers fun any time of the year — with its rolling lands and trails that extend through forest, meadow, orchard and salt marsh alongside a pond and the Presumpscot River estuary. Walk through the apple orchard in the fall or admire the fragrant pink peony garden in the summer.
- Wolfe's Neck Center in Freeport has plenty of family-friendly activities, from hiking with goats to biking and kayaking. Opportunities to meet the farm animals will both delight and educate kids. Their Farm Café has ice cream, food-fired pizza nights and more.
- In addition to their sprawling gardens children will enjoy exploring, The Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens offer numerous children's programs and exhibits. In the winter, their holiday light festival, "Gardens Aglow," will wow the whole family.

#### **Amusement and Water Parks**

- New England's largest beachfront amusement park is Palace Playland in Old Orchard Beach. The park has roller coasters, midway-style rides, kids' rides, water slides, carnival games and Maine's largest arcade.
- Saco hosts Maine's biggest combination amusement/water park: Funtown Splashtown USA. The twin park has New England's longest, tallest log-flume ride and the region's largest wooden roller coaster. Just down the road is Aquaboggan Water Park, for those who want water fun all day. Try its 750,000-gallon wave pool, mild and wild water slides, tubing slides, bumper boats, go-karts and mini golf.
- The Wild Acadia Fun Park in Trenton, near Bar Harbor offers an aerial adventure park, water slide, climbing wall, trampoline and an 18-hole mini-golf course.

#### **Additional Maine Experiences:**

- The Maine Lumberjack Show in Trenton.
- Historic forts with space for exploring: Fort Knox in Prospect, Fort McClary in Kittery, Fort Williams in Cape Elizabeth, Colonial Pemaquid Historic Site in New Harbor, and Fort Baldwin in Phippsburg.
- Horse drawn carriage rides on Acadia National Park's carriage roads.
- Moose-watching safaris or a moose-watching cruise in western or northern Maine.
- Trolley tours in Portland, Bar Harbor, Boothbay Harbor and Kennebunkport.
- Freeport's glacier desert, the Desert of Maine, will mystify, surprise and delight kids and adults alike, featuring an expanse of natural dunes, a wooden labyrinth hiding treasures you can take home, a natural playground, historic sites, nature trails and more.
- The Swift River at Coos Canyon in Byron is said to be the first place in America where gold was panned. Amateur prospectors are still finding gold in the river.

For more adventure ideas to please all ages and interests, go to [www.visitmaine.com](http://www.visitmaine.com).

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Media Contact:  
Charlene Williams  
[cwilliams@marshallpr.com](mailto:cwilliams@marshallpr.com)