

Top Things to See and Do in Maine

Acadia National Park – Acadia National Park abounds with an endless variety of sights, attractions and activities. Outdoor enthusiasts can try biking, hiking, rock climbing, kayaking and sailing. The third-largest island on the east coast of the United States, Mt. Desert is home to Cadillac Mountain.

Appalachian Trail/Mt. Katahdin – Maine’s 281 miles of the Appalachian Trail are generally considered the most challenging of all fourteen states. Lakes, streams, and bogs abound, and moose and loon sightings are common. Maine’s crown jewel, Mt. Katahdin is the northern terminus of the AT.

Art Museum Trail – With more than 80,000 works of art, the Art Museum Trail provides a unique look at Maine artists over the centuries, and paintings and sculpture from numerous American artists, as well as Degas and Renoir. Nine museums – including the beloved Farnsworth and Portland Art Museum – offer art lovers so much to enjoy.

Beaches – The sandy beaches of southern Maine offer 30 miles of charming coastal towns and soft white sand ideal for relaxation. Looking for something different? The rugged rocky coast that sweeps north is perfect for sitting and watching the sea life and boats pass you by. Discover your favorite lighthouse perched on the granite cliffs.

Beer and Wine Trails – Maine’s celebrated beers and wines are the star of these trails. With more than 100 brewers to sample and more than two dozen wineries, you will visit all regions of the state and experience what quality, craftsmanship and passion bring to your cup.

Birding Trail – With most of the state heavily wooded and the coastline dappled with islands, it’s no wonder Maine is a birder’s paradise. Year-round, birders come to Maine to watch migrating birds, and see the state’s famous loons, puffins and sandpipers in the Birding Trail’s 82 sites.

Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens – With 127 acres to explore, visitors can spend the whole day at the Maine Botanical Gardens. With walking trails, a meditation garden, amazing children’s garden and more, and art and sculpture installations throughout, this gem is not to be missed.

Historic Tours – Maine Preservation has created 26 historic tours (titled “Drive ME Historic Tours”) to celebrate Maine’s bicentennial in 2020 by featuring pre-statehood places and the people who forged early Maine with conveniently mapped out trips. Explore Maine’s cultural and architectural roots as you travel by some of the state’s best examples of mid-18th- and early-19th-century architecture.

Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument – Bordering Baxter State Park and coving more than 87,000 acres of mountains and forests, this national treasure is perfect for the outdoor adventurer who loves remote hiking, paddling and exploration. In 2020, the monument was designated an International Dark Sky Sanctuary.

Lighthouses – More than 60 lighthouses dot the scenic coast of Maine. By taking a trip along Maine’s coastal Route 1 and exploring the rocky shores and peninsulas along the way, visitors can experience a true sense of Maine’s maritime heritage by discovering its lighthouses. Perhaps there is no better way to

view a lighthouse than from the water. The Maine Maritime Museum in Bath and the Penobscot Marine Museum in Searsport offer lighthouse cruises.

L.L. Bean – Open all day, every day, L.L. Bean’s flagship store in Freeport is the place to buy quality outdoor apparel and Maine-made gifts, even at midnight. Don’t miss the trout pond!

Moose Safaris – Maine’s 75,000 moose are residents of the state year-round but the best times to go on a moose safari are mid-May to July and early fall. Have your experienced guide take you to the best viewing spots and teach you all about this oddly majestic animal for a true Maine moment.

Local Shops – It’s easy to shop locally and safely while enjoying the charm of Maine’s 10 Main Street Downtowns. Main Street Maine’s [website](#) is a great resource for downtown shopping throughout Maine.

Luxury Getaways – Though Maine is full of natural wonder and wildlife, it also has its share of swoon-worthy luxury to indulge in. From splendid resorts overlooking the dramatic coastline to award-winning dining and elegant shops, Maine is ready to offer you a memorable experience full of relaxation and delight.

Penobscot Narrows Bridge & Observatory – Gorgeous views are everywhere in Maine but perhaps none as unique as the one from the Penobscot Narrows Bridge Observatory, the world’s tallest bridge observatory. The observatory’s 360° view of the Penobscot River and glorious Bay and surrounding Western Mountains is nothing if not breathtaking.

Scenic Byways – When the Federal Government creates a National Scenic Byway or All-American Road, it means something. Only the prettiest, most historic and most enjoyable drives in the country earn these titles. Maine has seven including three designated in 2021.

Sporting Camps/Wilderness Lodges - Deep in Maine’s woods, these historic Maine lodges allow people to disconnect and nestle into nature. They paddle canoes, cast flies, take long walks, and eat delicious homecooked food. They are the perfect escape and an opportunity to hire a [Registered Maine Guide](#) to help you navigate nature.

State Parks – Explore our top state parks and their range of activities and unique features. Note that during the summer months, these parks are often crowded. Consider visiting in the early mornings or late afternoons when it is calmer. Much of the rest of the year, these are wonderful, quiet places to explore.

Windjammer Fleet – A perfect way to see and explore the more than 3,500 miles of Maine’s beautiful coastline is doing so by water. All along Maine’s coast there are opportunities for tour boat excursions, sailing trips, and cruises lasting anywhere from one hour to one week. One of the most unique ways to cruise the coast is aboard one of Maine’s historic windjammers. Windjammer cruises offer an experience of a lifetime as you visit tiny fishing villages, explore islands and lighthouses, and view whales, seals and puffins up close.

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