

Hub and Spoke from Bangor, Maine

Approximate time from Portland is just over 2 hours (1 hour to Augusta and 70 minutes from Augusta to Bangor).

Bangor is the economic hub of central and northern Maine with a rich history in the logging and lumber industry. Historically, Bangor was seen as the jumping off point of the North Maine Woods and the last bastion of “civilization” before entering the vast unpopulated “wilderness.” Consequently, Bangor still remains the center for arts, education, commerce and culture in the heart of Maine.

Day 1

Enjoy the outdoors with a walk through the **Bangor City Forest** for great bird watching and the chance to view other wildlife. And speaking of wild, wildly interesting that is, **SK Tours** provides an entertaining tour of Stephen King’s hometown as you see the inspiration for the well-known author’s books and movies. This is a must-do whether you’re a fan of horror stories or not.



That evening, try your luck at the slots and gaming at **Hollywood Casino**, which also offers entertainment, food and beverage.

Day 2

Start the day with a visit to **Cole Land Transportation Museum**. This hidden gem showcases all manner of transportation throughout history and rural life. This is a “must see” in greater Bangor that will educate and jog some memories.



Many visitors have their photo taken at the **Paul Bunyan statue**, located across from Hollywood Casino. Bangor lays claim as being the legend’s birthplace. The statue is 31-feet high and weighs 3,700 pounds, not including its double-sided ax and peavey.

Take part in one of the many walking tours offered by several independent tour operators, as well as the **Bangor Historical Society**, whose waterfront walking tour covers the log drives of yesteryear. The **Bangor CVB** website outlines multiple tour options delivered by several local tour organizers. From Madams & Murders to the oldest Garden Cemetery, you will learn fascinating facts about the Queen City.

For performing arts, choose from **Waterfront Concerts**, the **Penobscot Theatre**, **the Collins Center for the Arts**, or the **Bangor Symphony**. Depending upon schedules for each venue, these options are worth reviewing to add evening entertainment to the itinerary.

Day 3

Spend the day discovering the beauty of the region surrounding Bangor:

To the Southeast: *Approx. time ½ hour.*

For an easy day trip, head to Winterport, a coastal village settled in 1766 that is only 12 miles from Bangor. **Winterport Winery, Pairings & Penobscot Bay Brewery** is a wonderful stop to sip on one-of-a-kind wines and beers.

The owners will share their winemaking skills with you in conversation or in a formal dining experience. The shop is a great place to learn about how they make wine and beer, and to purchase all manner of wonderful goods, including beer flavored ice cream. Then, visit the **Union Meeting House**, or stroll through the **historic downtown and harbor**.

To the Northeast: *Approx. ¾ hour to Ellsworth*

Travel to Ellsworth and head up Route 1 to take the “road less traveled” and follow the **Bold Coast**. Ospreys, eagles, wildflowers and views of **Cadillac Mountain**, fishing villages, working harbors and lobster boats are all the rewards on this beautiful quieter side of **Acadia**.



Travel further up Route 1 to Columbia Falls where you can visit the **Museum of Wreaths Across America** and learn about the annual December trek to Arlington National Cemetery to honor our fallen heroes with wreaths upon their graves. Across the street, visit the **Ruggles House** and be sure to stop into **Columbia Falls Pottery** to find some outstanding made-in-Maine products.

On the trip home, take scenic byway State Route 182, Blackwoods Road, which takes you through blueberry barrens. This byway is named for Colonel John Black, whose family owned much of the forestland in the early half of the 19th century. The **Black Mansion and Gardens and Woodlawn Museum** in Ellsworth is open to the public and offers another wonderful stop that connects to the history of this beautiful area.

To the Northwest: *Approx. 1 ½ hours from Bangor*



Head to the **Moosehead Lake** region and board **Katahdin Cruises’ S.S. Katahdin** for a cruise along scenic Moosehead Lake. The S.S. Katahdin, also known as The Kate, is a National Historic Site. Built in 1914 at Maine’s Bath Iron Works, The Kate is a steamboat (later converted to diesel) that reflects the region’s past and present. Here you’ll learn about the beginning of Maine’s logging story.

Then, have the cameras ready for an adventure of spotting Maine’s most iconic four-legged mammal on a moose safari. Several area outfitters offer moose-watching tours.

End the day with dinner on the shores of Moosehead Lake, Maine’s largest, before returning to Bangor.

To the North: *Approx. 1 hour, 20 min. from Bangor*

Head north to Patten to visit the **Patten Lumbermen’s Museum** to learn more about the history of the lumber industry in Maine. Step back in time to see the equipment once used to harvest the woods and see how a historic logging camp looked.

Take the road less traveled and stay on Route 11 instead of 95 to enjoy the **Katahdin Woods & Waters Scenic Byway**, where you can relive the experiences of the hardy souls who ventured into the great north woods. View Mt. Katahdin in all its glory.

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