

Maine Annual Events

When it comes to special events, fairs and festivals, Maine has something for everyone. Whether it's honoring food, history, heritage, or one of the four seasons, Maine celebrations are known for their authentic charm. The following is just a sample of the events taking place throughout the year.

January:

Rangeley Lakes Snowmobile Club Snodeo Weekend – One of the largest annual gatherings of snowmobilers in western Maine with more than 150 miles of well-groomed trails to explore.

February:

Camden Winterfest – Community ice-carving event along with horse and wagon rides, delicious hot soups, music, sledding and more.

Maine Lakes Winter Carnival – Sled-dog racing competitors from throughout the northeastern United States and parts of Canada take part in this annual event.

Wilderness Sled Dog Race – Sled-dog racing enthusiasts engage in this annual competition in Greenville emphasizing safety, animal welfare and good sportsmanship while having fun.

U.S. National Toboggan Championships – Teams from across the U.S. come to Camden to compete in two-, three- and four-person toboggan races. Other winter activities are also ongoing during the races.

March:

Maine Jewish Film Festival – During this 8-day program, approximately 20 films from around the world are shown to enrich, educate and entertain a diverse community about the Jewish experience.

Rangeley Lakes Trails Center Moose Dash Snowshoe Race – The 5K course takes advantage of the beautiful varied terrain at the trails center. Views and possible wildlife sightings are included!

Maine Maple Sunday – Always on the fourth Sunday in March, you can travel across the state to maple syrup farms and see firsthand how sap is magically turned into your favorite sweet topping.

April:

Annual Kenduskeag Stream Canoe Race – Paddlers set off from the village of Kenduskeag and battle high-water rapids on the way to the finish line in downtown Bangor. Watching the action from the banks of the river can be as exciting as being on the water.

May:

Moose Maine – Each spring, the Moosehead Lake Region hosts a month-long celebration of the area's favorite resident — THE MOOSE! The events take place during the time of the year when moose are most visible.

Annual Downeast Spring Birding Festival – Join us over Memorial Day Weekend for the Annual Down East Spring Birding Festival – a unique birding experience during spring migration and the breeding season.

June:

Acadia Birding Festival – Downeast Maine is a special place for birding, especially during spring migration and the breeding season. There are a wealth of opportunities to see many bird species in their special habitats.

Old Port Festival – Celebrates the beginning of summer in beautiful downtown Portland with multiple stages of music, Maine-made arts and crafts, food from local businesses, kid’s activities, and more.

Annual Windjammer Days Festival – Full-rigged windjammers sail into Boothbay Harbor with fun-filled days of harborside concerts, fireworks, an antique boat parade, a street parade, games and activities for the children, and local food.

Bangor’s Beer Festival – Beer and fun on tap for Bangor’s celebration of craft breweries. Also features local food and entertainment.

Maine Open Farm Day – Open Farm Day is an annual family adventure in which farms throughout all 16 counties open their gates to offer the public an opportunity to learn about the business of agriculture. Open Farm Day gives families the chance to visit local farms throughout the state.

July:

Maine International Film Festival – This annual event in Waterville features more than 80 films from more than a dozen countries, representing the best of American, independent and international cinema.

Native American Festival and Basketmakers Market – The festival combines the art and craft market with music, dancing, and demonstrations. Artists selling high-quality baskets, jewelry, musical instruments, and other crafts gather to share their traditions, history, and culture with visitors.

Maine Potato Blossom Festival – This famous event in Fort Fairfield includes mashed potato wrestling, potato picking contest, Culture Day, pageants, industry dinner, parade, live music, craft fair, fireworks, and much more.

Yarmouth Clam Festival – This annual summer event highlights the community and provides opportunity for Yarmouth-based nonprofit organizations. The festival includes a parade, fireworks, live music, fantastic food and many more family-fun events for free admission.

Bar Harbor Music Festival – The Bar Harbor Music Festival has gained national recognition for featuring new and upcoming talent and presenting glorious music ranging from opera to jazz.

August:

Maine Lobster Festival – Along with tons of Maine lobsters, this world-famous New England summer event held in Rockland features maritime displays and demonstrations, Maine arts and crafts, harbor cruises, contests, entertainment and a parade.

Great Falls Balloon Festival – This festival, held in Lewiston/Auburn, is one of the largest hot air balloon festivals in Northern New England with activities for all ages and fireworks on Friday evening.

American Folk Festival – Experience the American Folk Festival in Bangor with traditional performers from across the country who continue to celebrate the richness and variety of American culture in this free, 3-day, multi-stage event.

Machias Wild Blueberry Festival – Celebrate Maine’s popular fruit with crafts, food, entertainment, contests and all things blueberry. This is a free festival with events for the entire family.

September:

Maine Salmon & Seafood Festival – A seaside festival in Eastport celebrating the Atlantic salmon industry on the Maine coast. Music, two-day arts and craft show, and salmon dinners.

Common Ground Country Fair – A celebration of rural, sustainable living held in Unity. Sample organic foods featuring Maine-grown ingredients. The fair truly offers something for everyone, including a dynamic children’s area.

Maine Open Lighthouse Day – Sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard, this event gives the public the opportunity to explore and learn about more than two dozen historic Maine lights.

International Seaplane Fly-In – This event takes place in Greenville the weekend after Labor Day when thousands of participants and spectators gather in the Moosehead Lake Region for one of the country’s largest gatherings of seaplanes.

Bethel Harvestfest & Chowdah Cookoff – Start off the fall foliage season with arts, crafts, music, a farmers market, a chowder and apple pie cook-off and many more events.

Acadia Night Sky Festival – There is something for everyone at this annual event that includes workshops, internationally recognized speakers and hands-on experiences. This annual celebration is committed to protecting the quality of Downeast Maine’s starlit nights.

Pirate Festival – Break out your costume and pirate accent for this annual festival in Eastport. With fun activities for the entire family and the famous Pirate Parade.

October:

Fryeburg Fair – A beautiful setting in prime foliage time, Maine’s largest fair includes livestock, an exhibition hall, farm museum, craft demonstrations, harness racing and nightly entertainment.

Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta – Take part in all things pumpkin at this annual event with fun fall activities for all ages. The highlights of this event are the pie eating contest and the pumpkin weigh-in.

Maine Craft Weekend – This statewide tour of Maine craft studios, breweries, businesses and events offers the opportunity to explore the life and work of craft artists in Maine.

Freeport’s Fall Festival – The best New England musicians, artists and makers of fine crafts come together for a two-day festival on the L.L. Bean campus in Freeport.

Harvestfest – York Village and York Beach are the venues featuring live bands, an ox roast, bean-hole beans, and crafters from all over the country.



Harvest on the Harbor – This three-day event in Portland features seminars, tastings, and exquisite dinners crafted by renowned chefs from Maine and afar. Learn from food experts. Sip fine wines, beer and spirits. Enjoy an authentic culinary experience.

November:

Rockland Festival of Lights Celebration – Santa arrives by Coast Guard boat. Visit historic inns, holiday open houses, Parade of Lights, horse-drawn carriage rides, carolers, children’s activities, Santa’s Workshop, extended shopping hours and more.

Country Christmas in Bethel – Activities include the Taste of Bethel, Christmas tree lighting and the arrival of Santa, and horse-drawn wagon rides, along with shopping specials and open houses.

December:

Christmas Prelude – Christmas Prelude in Kennebunkport is a magical season of shopping and special events, including champagne reception, candlelight caroling, tree lighting, arts and crafts shows, pancake breakfast, lobster bake, and the arrival of Santa by lobster boat.

Freeport’s Annual Sparkle Weekend – Main Street Magic Parade of Lights, carolers, talking Christmas tree, Santa and horse drawn carriage rides.

Ogunquit’s Christmas by the Sea – A festival of holiday activities designed for the young at heart in quaint Ogunquit Village. Tree lightings, caroling, bonfires, shopping, open houses and Chowderfest.

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Travel media contact:

Charlene Williams

207-623-4177; cwilliams@marshallpr.com