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Enjoy Me. In the Park: The Great State of Maine Baxter State Park

Maine Department of Economic Development

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ANIMALS in BAXTER PARK: Few places offer a better chance to observe and photograph the **moose**. **Whitetail deer** are numerous and sometimes, with patience, you can befriend them. **Black bear** can be cantankerous when part-tame; treat him with respect. There are bird visitors rarely seen in southern Maine, such as **Canada jay** and **pipit**. **Ruffed grouse**, or **partridge**, and the lesser known **spruce grouse** are often seen. You may see **mink**, **weasels**, **snowshoe hare**, or two species of marten: the **fisher** and smaller **pine marten**. Fish are restricted somewhat to those species which inhabit cold northern waters; the most abundant are **eastern brook trout**. An arctic butterfly (**Oeneis Polixenes Katahdin**) is found only on the Tableland of Mt. Katahdin, and is commonly called **Katahdin Arctic**.

PLANT LIFE in BAXTER PARK: Baxter Park has two distinct vegetation zones: most of the Park is forest zone; alpine zone is limited to the upper slopes and Tableland of Mt. Katahdin. A small part of the Park is **NORTHERN HARDWOOD FOREST**; dominated by **beech**, **birch**, and **maple**, mixed with **spruce** and **fir**. Much of the Park is **NORTHERN CONIFEROUS FOREST**; mostly **black spruce** and **balsam fir** trees. Other flora: **mosses**, **liverworts**, **lichens** and **clubmosses**, **painteds trillium**, wild **lily-of-the-valley**, **starflower**, **yellow clintonia**, **goldthread**, **bunchberry**, **rose twisted-stalk**, **pink wood sorrel**. Where logging and fire have removed virgin spruce-fir forest: **aspen** and **paper birch**, some **pin cherry**, **red maple** and **mountain ash**. On the steep upper slopes of Mt. Katahdin are extensive areas exposed to strong winds; spruce and fir, stunted and gnarled, form a dense growth ("Krummholz") only a few feet high. The **ALPINE ZONE** has a number of arctic plants: **alpine azalea**, **alpine bearberry**, **bog-bilberry**, **dwarf bilberry**, **Cassiope**, **Phyllocladus**, **mountain cranberry**, **Lapland rosebay**, **Dipsasia**, and two species of **arctic orchid**. Arctic shrubs: **black crowberry**, **purple crowberry**, **dwarf birch**, **bearberry willow**, and **herb-like willow** form low mat-like growths of vegetation. **Mountain-sandwort** is the most common herbaceous plant. There are various sedges, grasses and rushes, mosses and lichens.

PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION SOURCES

Trail Information Books:

A.M.C. Maine Mountain Guide (covers entire state); Appalachian Mountain Club, 5 Joy Street, Boston, Massachusetts cost: \$3.50

Guide to the Appalachian Trail in Maine, Katahdin Section; Appalachian Trail Conference, Inc., 1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 -- \$1.75

Other Information and Publications about Maine:

Maine Department of Economic Development
State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330

Maine Publicity Bureau
78 Gateway Circle, Portland, Maine 04102

State of Maine Information Center
48 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, N. Y. 10020

State of Maine Information Center
Laurentien Hotel, Dominion, Montreal, Canada

Other Information Centers:

Jct. of U. S. Rt. 1 & Me. Turnpike, Kittery, Maine
Bass Park, Bangor, Maine

U. S. Rt. 302, Fryeburg, Maine (summer only)

Maine Turnpike, North
Cumberland, Maine (summer only)

Internat'l Bridge, Calais, Maine (summer only)

All Local Chamber of Commerce Offices

PART OF ME. IS SORT OF NATURALLY WILD ...

Baxter State Park is a wilderness preserve of more than 200,000 acres--mountainous woodland, ponds and streams. During a period of more than 30 years the former Governor, Percival Baxter, bought parcels of this land and deeded it to be held in trust by the State of Maine, for the benefit of the people "as a state forest, public park and for public recreational purposes...to be kept in its natural wild state and as a sanctuary for wild beasts and birds".

This magnificent gift to the people of Maine includes 46 mountain peaks and ridges, dominated by the imposing Mt. Katahdin with Maine's highest point (4,267 feet), Baxter Peak, named in honor of him whose foresight and generosity preserved for man, as well as animal, this sanctuary from the encroachments of what is called 'civilization'.

Baxter Peak is also the northern terminus of the famed Appalachian Trail, by act of congress, (now known as the Appalachian National Scenic Trail), a 2,000 mile foot trail from Maine to Georgia. 10 miles of this trail are in Baxter Park.

If you love the things of nature, a camping vacation in Baxter Park will be a rewarding, memorable experience.

Austin H. Wilkins, Chairman
Baxter State Park Authority

THIS VACATION PLANNER

provides brief information for those interested in a trip to Baxter State Park, and directs you to additional sources of help in planning such a vacation.

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One in a series of Vacation Planners programmed by the Maine Department of Economic Development, available from 78 Gateway Circle, Portland, Maine 04102. Prospective visitors to Maine are interested in the "facts", and these brochures are designed with this in mind. We would appreciate receiving your comments.

Please write:

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State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330

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Enjoy Me. in the park

The Great State of Maine
Baxter State Park

VACATION PLANNER 24

CAMPING IN BAXTER STATE PARK

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Season: May 15 to Oct. 15

CAMPING restricted to designated campsites or campgrounds. A ranger in charge assigns space to campers.

No pets allowed in park.

Reservations recommended (not accepted by telephone); must be paid in advance and confirmed.

Write: Reservations Clerk, Baxter State Park, Millinocket, Me.

FEES:

Bunkhouse \$1.50 per person per night

Shelters (lean-tos) .75 per person per night, minimum \$1.50

Tent or trailer space .25 per person per night, " \$1. per site

Boats or canoes .50 per hour, or \$2.00 per day

Wood (when available) .50 per bundle

Between season rate \$15.00 per party per day plus above fees

No charge for children under 6 years of age.

For information: Telephone Millinocket 723-5201

ROAD APPROACHES to BAXTER STATE PARK

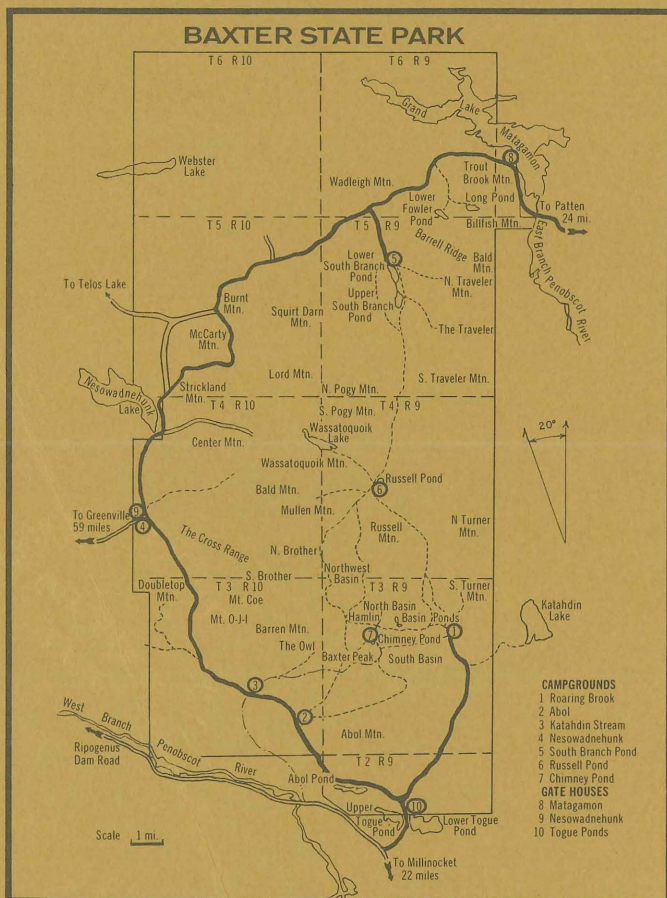
Three major approaches: from (a) west, (b) south, and (c) northeast.

(a) **west:** from Greenville; road forks at Ripogenus Dam. Northern fork, shortest route to western and northern areas of the Park.

(b) **south:** from Millinocket, 16.2 miles, dirt road branches right to Togue Pond and gatehouse, continuing to Roaring Brook. Beyond gatehouse, fork left to Abol, Katahdin Stream and Nesowadnehunk.

(c) **northeast:** from Patten, approximately 30 miles, road branches to South Branch Pond, or continues southwest and south to Nesowadnehunk; branch west to Greenville road, or continue south and southeast toward Millinocket.

ROADS IN THE PARK are narrow, winding dirt roads. Not recommended for large house trailers.



CAMPGROUNDS ACCESSIBLE by AUTOMOBILE

1. Roaring Brook Campground: on the south bank of Roaring Brook, southeast side of the Park, 26 miles from Millinocket. Area around it is natural wilderness; several cleared foot-trails; some trails ascend mountains, others along streams or level wooded areas.

Moose frequently seen at Sandy Stream Pond, 1/2 mi. on Sandy Stream Pond Trail; circuit trip 2 1/2 mi. South Turner Trail (2 mi.); steep and rugged; view of Katahdin basins and Baxter Peak. Ed's Lookout, only 1/2 mi, a climb for children or beginners; splendid view. Trails to Chimney Pond (3.3 mi.) and Russell Pond (7 mi.). Popular with family groups, nature lovers, bird watchers. Fishing: Sandy Stream Pond, Whidden Ponds, Roaring Brook, Sandy Stream.

Nearest automobile approach to Chimney Pond and Russell Pond campgrounds; suitable as a stop-over for those coming or going to those campgrounds.

Facilities: 12 lean-tos; 14 tent sites; 12 person bunkhouse; 3 sheltered picnic tables; piped-in drinking water.

2. Abol Campground: on the southwest side of the Park, in a wooded area, at foot of the Abol Trail, 24 mi. from Millinocket. Abol Trail is the oldest and most historic of all Katahdin trails; a direct ascent to the summit of Katahdin, 2 3/4 mi. to the Tableland; another mile to Baxter Peak. Many trails off Nesowadnehunk road to ponds, streams, and to the Appalachian Trail down Nesowadnehunk Stream to Penobscot West Branch. Suitable for those who wish to spend most of their time on the Tableland or slopes of the mountain; a secluded woodland camping area; a quiet base from which to explore the many trails to mountains and ponds on the south and west side of Katahdin. Fishing, birdwatching, flowers.

Facilities: 12 lean-tos; 8 tent sites.

3. Katahdin Stream Campground: southwest side of the Park; 26 mi. from Millinocket; oldest and probably best known campground in the Park; on Katahdin Stream; washing and bathing allowed; excellent view of the mountain.

Appalachian Trail goes through to the Tableland (3 1/2 mi.) and to Baxter Peak (5.2 mi.); a mile up this trail are beautiful Katahdin Falls; many outstanding views of the lakes and streams. The Appalachian Trail leads south along Nesowadnehunk Stream (numerous waterfalls and rapids) to the Penobscot West Branch (5 1/2 mi.); continues 4 mi. to Katahdin Stream campground. Trails to Grassy and other ponds. O-J-I, Doubletop, Sentinel Mountains may be reached by trails from the approach road.

One of the largest in the Park; suitable for groups of campers or family parties; a good base for a hiker with a car who wishes to explore the numerous trails to summits and ponds on the south and west side of the mountain.

Fishing: many ponds, Sourdnehunk and Katahdin Streams. Facilities: 15 lean-tos; 17 tent sites (10 with sheltered tables); 2 bunkhouses (4 and 6 person); piped drinking water.

4. Nesowadnehunk Campground: on the west side of the Park, 36 mi. from Millinocket (9 1/2 mi. beyond Katahdin Stream Campground); 55 3/4 mi. from Greenville. Great views of the outlying mountains; a good base for exploring the western peaks and ranges, and the valley of Nesowadnehunk Stream. Popular with family parties, and those who wish to explore the lesser known western ranges. Trail to Russell via Wassataquoik; trail to Doubletop. Canoeing; good fishing.

Facilities: 12 lean-tos; 11 tent sites; 12 person bunkhouse.

5. South Branch Pond Campground: in the northern portion of the Park, on Lower South Branch Pond, 35 3/4 mi. from Patten. Impressive view toward Katahdin; autumn foliage is superb. The base for a climb of The Traveler, one of the outstanding and trailless mountains of the Park; a marked trail to the summit of North Traveler (3 mi.); The Pogey Notch Trail, 9 1/2 mi. to Russell Pond campground. For those with cars, many trails lead from Grand Lake road to mountains and ponds in the northern section; moose, bear, other game frequently seen. Ponds provide swimming, boating, and fishing. Boats and canoes for rent.

Facilities: 15 lean-tos; 19 tent sites; 6 person bunkhouse.

CAMPGROUNDS ACCESSIBLE by TRAIL ONLY

6. Russell Pond Campground: in the center of Park; reached only by foot trails, 7 mi. north from Roaring Brook Campground or 9 1/2 mi. south from South Branch Pond Campground; small, isolated; ideal place to see game and birds. Moose feed in adjacent bog and Turner Deadwater. Beaver have a long dam at the foot of the pond; many varieties of birds and small game are seen.

Lookout Trail, 1 1/2 mi; views of the North Peaks, Turner and Wassataquoik Valley; trails to Wassataquoik Lake (2 1/2 mi.); Wassataquoik tote road with Grand Falls and Inscription Rock; Pogey Notch Trail (9 1/2 mi.) to South Branch Pond Campground; Old Pogey road (10 1/2 mi. to McCarty Field); North Peaks and the Northwest Basin Trails lead to Katahdin; Russell Pond Trail through Wassataquoik South Branch Valley to Roaring Brook Campground.

A favorite for those who can carry their own food and equipment for the entire stay.

Fishing in Russell Pond. Canoes for rent.

Facilities: 4 lean-tos; 3 tent sites; an 8 person bunkhouse.

7. Chimney Pond Campground: in the Great Basin of Katahdin; reached only by foot trails; shortest route is from Roaring Brook, 3.3 mi. Above it rise the 2,000 to 2,500 foot cliffs of Pamola, South Peak, and Baxter Peak, enclosing it in a half circle. Many trails to Baxter Peak.

Base for those who can carry in food and equipment for the entire stay. Traverse the Knife Edge, and see more of the summits of Katahdin than Baxter Peak and the portion of the Tableland between it and the Abol Slide and the Hunt Spur. Facilities: 11 lean-tos; 7 tent sites; 2 bunkhouses (12 persons ea.)

TRAILS on KATAHDIN

There are 46 mountain peaks and ridges, 18 of which exceed an elevation of 3,500 feet, the highest being Baxter Peak, 5,267 feet. The Park is intersected by about 83 miles of trails, as follows:

	MILES
The Hunt Trail	Katahdin Stream to Baxter Peak 5.20
Abol Trail	Nesowadnehunk Road to Thoreau Spring 2.76
Marston Trail	Nesowadnehunk Road to North Brother 3.74
Chimney Pond Trail	Roaring Brook to Chimney Pond 3.30
South Turner Trail	Roaring Brook to South Turner 2.00
Russell Pond Trail	Roaring Brook to Russell Pond 7.00
Saddle Trail	Chimney Pond to Baxter Peak 2.17
Cathedral Trail	Chimney Pond to Baxter Peak 1.70
The Knife-Edge Trail	Pamola to Baxter Peak 1.10
Dudley Trail	Chimney Pond to Pamola 1.25
Hamlin Ridge Trail	Chimney Pond to Hamlin Peak 1.96
Northwest Basin Trail	The Saddle to Russell Pond 7.96
North Peaks Trail	Hamlin Peak to Russell Pond 6.85
Old Pogey Road	Russell Pond to McCarty Field 10.45
Pogey Notch Trail	Russell Pond to South Branch Pond 9.65
North Traveler Trail	South Branch Pond to North Traveler 2.55
Helon Taylor Trail	Roaring Brook to Pamola Peak 3.17
The Owl Trail	Katahdin Stream to the Owl 2.00
Rum Mountain Trail	Abol to South Peak 4.50
South Branch Mtn. Trail	South Branch Pond to South Branch Mountain 4.00

GUIDE BOOKS: For accurate trail information for Mt. Katahdin and surrounding peaks, see PUBLICATIONS and INFORMATION SOURCES panel.

COMFORT AND SAFETY SUGGESTIONS:

1. High top hiking shoes or boots.
2. Ample supply of insect repellent.
3. Warm sleeping gear. Summit can be chilly, a sweater is worth the trouble to carry it.
4. Some supplies for sale at several ranger stations, but it is best to come fully equipped with food, fuel, sleeping equipment and cooking utensils.
5. Save time and effort by bringing your own wood if possible.
6. To hike unmarked trails, bring a compass and know how to use it. Topographic maps usually at ranger stations and sporting goods stores.
7. For hiking the summit trails a canteen of water.
8. Do not undertake trips beyond your capacity. Rugged mountain terrain makes night-time travel without a light extremely hazardous.
9. Please stay on the trail at all times.