Escape to Me. The Great State of Maine Flat Water Canoeing

Maine Department of Economic Development

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7. Moosehead L: Greenville to N. W. Carry & return. 200 mi. (50 feet: beware sudden squalls. strong winds, power boats.
8. Aroostook L: trip: 40 mi. 3 days, D: 2 ptg, Jackman, Wood P. 1 ptg to Fish P. S. return to Jackman by Moose R: inquire directions to avoid falls.
9. Penobscot R: Mattawamkeag to Howland, 22 mi.; (3a), two 1 mi. rapids. and one of 2 mi. 1 ptg (dam above Howland); to Old Town. 24 mi. (1b) to Bangor-Upham and dam - make it not worth the effort: Bangor to Sandy Point, 25 mi., strong tidal effects, waves from winds: unsafe for canoes beyond Sandy Point.
10. Mattawamkeag R: Smyrna Mills to Pleasant L. 9 mi. (3ab): to Haynesville, 18 mi. (2a); to Wypitoblick, 21 mi. (2a); to Rt. 170 bridge, Kingman, 12 mi. out here. heavy rapids downstream. Fish S. & W. Branch Mattawamkeag: Patten to Mattawamkeag L. 15 mi. (1b); good fishing; to Haynesville, 18 mi. (2a)
11. Aroostook R: Sebec, 11 mi.; to Moosehead L, 13 mi. (2a); to Jonesport R. 15 mi. (2a); to Indian Lake, 18 mi. (2a); to Presque Isle, 28 mi. (here to Ft. Fairfield may be polluted unpleasantly).
12. Chipenocook Lakes: Grondin, 11 mi.; to Sebec, 11 mi.; to Jonesport R.
13. Fish R: lakes from St. Agatha, Long L. to Mud, Cross, Square, Eagle Lakes, to Fish R. 29 mi. plus more lake paddling. (1a) can continue up river to Fish River L. (1a) or St. John R. to Frenchville, 30 mi. a few miles from start point (with 5 mi. of quick-water, some sharp drops, 2 or more ptgs).
16. Damariscotta R & L: circle trip, 50 mi. 3 days. Damariscotta Mills up lake, then east then, through bay: ptg 1/5 mi. to Pemaquid P.R. & Pemaquid (ptg here & at Bristol): tidewater, cross John Bay, only well-experienced canoeists in favorable weather only) to S. Bristol, up R. to starting place.
17. Bagaduce R: Walker P. to Castine, 15 mi.; tidewater with coves, bays, etc., (check sluice under bridge at N. Brooksville before running tide affects it markedly).
18. Chipenocook Lakes: Grand L. east of Orient; Spindrik L. to Vanecher, 30 mi. (much more available), D: mostly wild area; river section past Forest City, 1 ptg. (4 drop); St. Croix R. below Vanecher should be run only by well experienced canoeists: mostly rapids to (class III & IV).


**EQUIPMENT**

Canoes: 18'-20' recommended; many guides say shorter ones are unsafe. Aluminum or molded fiberglass are lighter than canvas-covered ones but easier to maintain; also aluminum seems to hang up on rocks easier and to have more drag in the water. A slight keel is advantageous on a lake but interferes with maneuvering when running downstream. Paddles: 3 to each canoe on long trips or running rapid streams: fir or pine bread and scuff easily - choose fiberglass, spruce with blade guard, or hardwood (lash is lighter than most); length about as tall as user. For running rocky rapids or poling upstream a 12' pole is good.

Rope: 1/4", 10'-15' tied to bow and stern for lining down rapids: Rescue throwline: 1/4", 50'-100'.

**For Transporing** car roof-rack, extra wide to hold 2 canoes: the canoes to car - don't trust the fasteners of carrying racks to hold canoes during travel.

Make Check List of equipment & supplies, but remember space and weight limits - portages are usually a 'lug-un-yourself' deal. Consider essentials: for fish, camp, sleep, cook; eat; for fire-building, canoe patching, first-aid, personal care, clothing, lighting, raingear; remember USGS maps, compass, waterproof packing boxes & bags, life-jackets or vests. and don't forget insect repellent or you may remember it during your whole trip and for a long while after!

**THIS VACATION PLANNER**

provides a brief outline of canoe trips suited to novice and intermediate skills. Pointers are given to help make these camping-canoes trips happy and safe adventures for you. More difficult trips are suggested in the companion Vacation Planner "Canoeing Quick-Water in Maine".

This is one in a series of Vacation Planners programmed by the Maine Department of Economic Development and available from Gateway Circle, Portland, Maine 04102. Prospective visitors to Maine are primarily interested in the 'facts', and these brochures are designed with this in mind.

We would appreciate receiving your comments.

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J.A. 17010
THE MAIN THING ABOUT CANOEING IS ... MAINE

In number and variety of canoeing waters Maine has no equal in the eastern U. S. [or perhaps anywhere of comparable area]: small ponds to large lakes; peaceful, meandering brooks; eager quick-water streams; turbulent torrents hurling through water-white rapids; easy-going small rivers to strong sizeable ones; and protected tidewaters where some of these meet the sea.

Many of these watercourses challenge the skills of seasoned experienced paddlers. Thousands of ponds, lakes, and waterways in Maine even beginners who have learned and practiced the basics of canoe handling will find an abundance of enjoyable canoe voyages—easy, short paddling near civilization, or extended camping trips into wooded wilderness.

But to insure the enjoyment please use sensible safety procedures and always prepare yourself with adequate information, maps, and guidance. Competent Maine guides on wilderness canoe trips have often demonstrated that the old saw, "...always paddle your own canoe," may be poor advice!

Robert Elliot
Vacation-Travel Director
Dept. of Economic Development

PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION SOURCES

Publications Mentioned in This Folder:
A.M.C. New England Canoeing Guide
Appalachian Mountain Club
5 Joy St., Boston, Mass. 02108

Forest Campsites - Maine Forest Service
State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330


Family Camping in Maine - Me. Cooperative Campsites Ass'n, available from Maine Publicity Bureau

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
40 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, N. Y. 10020

State of Maine Information Center, Laurentien Hotel, Dominon, 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, Northumberland (summer only)
Intern'l Bridge, Calais, Maine (summer only)
All Local Chamber of Commerce Offices

GENERAL INFORMATION

87% of Maine’s acreage is forestland and many of the canoe trips have the fascination and allurement of the wilderness. This is both an invitation and a warning! To canoeing Maine invites you to come — but be prepared if you choose a route into the wilderness. This requires planning and provision. Over half of the 17 million acres of forest is in unorganized towns, and much of it remote from stores, gasoline service stations, and other conveniences and supplies.

CAMPING & FIRES: More than 98% of the forestland through which the waterways flow is privately owned. Canoeists should recognize that they are landholders or as such they are welcome guests while respecting property rights. 10 million acres comprise the Maine Forest District. Here, in cooperation with the landholders, Campsites and Lunchgrounds are administered by the Maine Forest Service and maintained for public use. Approximate locations are indicated on the current Official Highway Map. It is lawful to camp or to kindle out-of-door fires only at authorized sites unless a special permit is first obtained from a Maine Forest Ranger. Outside the Forest District, permission must be obtained from the landowner. See publication, "Forest Campsites," for details.


ACCESS: Public roads reach most of the canoeing waters. A few in the Forest District have best access by air or railroad, and several by private roads which the owners of these professionally managed timberlands share with the public in a multiple-use concept. Each company has its own policy for public use of their work roads - some roads are generally open, others have road access and public use is denied. These restrictions begin with the entrance, and so it is best to plan your trip and apply for permits in advance. Contact the companies whose roads you plan to use. Information can be obtained from Paper Industry Information Office, 133 State St., Augusta, Maine 04330.

AIRPLANE SERVICE: may be arranged through major airports, outfitters & sporting goods suppliers, or floatplane bases at: Bangor-Brewer; China; Greenville; Jackman; Meddybemps; Milbridge; Newcastle; Napake; Newcastle; Portage; Rangeley; Sebago Lake; Sebuck Lake; Shin Pond; Stonington.

CANOE RENTAL: Inquire at local Chambers of Commerce. Known sources at Belgrade Lakes; Greenville; Jackman; Milinocket; Princeton; Rangeley.

GUIDE SERVICE: To get guides inquire from local Fish & Game Wardens; Forest Rangers; Sporting Camps and Lodges; local Chambers of Commerce.

PERSONAL PREPARATION & GUIDANCE: If not familiar with the area and character of the stream or river we strongly recommend that you use a guide or a suggested trip which stay close to civilization, and heed the following pertinent advice. If you choose not to use a guide be sure to: (1) obtain an adequate map (see MAPS section) and pass, and know how to use them; (2) obtain the best information you can about the waterways you plan to travel [see TRIP INFORMATION]; (3) choose trips which will test and expand your canoeing skills, strength and stamina; (4) have sufficient woodland and camping skills [for camping-canoes trips]; (5) know and heed the regulations about campfires and fire building.

MAPS: U. S. Geological Survey topographic maps are most useful [see Publications section]; available in many sporting goods stores, some supermarkets and other stores. Two index maps available. Some stores also sell Timberland Service Maps by Prettiess and Carlisle Co., Bangor, Maine. Caution: Highway maps are intended for other purposes.

TRIP INFORMATION

Adapte information about the many canoe trips in Maine would fill a book so we recommend a book, A.M.C.'s New England Canoeing Guide', for details about these waterways [see Publications section]. It is pre-eminenty the best available. It is also the only one that can be relied on in every detail—for these waters are changeable things. We urge you, when you get into the area, to check locally about water conditions, dams and other obstructions or hazards.

Inquire at Forest District Ranger Stations—Divisional Fish & Game Wardens or Divisional Supervisors; near the coast, from Sea & Shore Warden Supervisors.

Although we list the trips in this brochure as flat-water, staunchly recommended for the canoeist of average ability, the water level and flow rate; some may be rocky and rough in low water; high water may cover rocky rapids, but the increased flow may develop eddies, creating other way challenges. Either way could be hazardous. Wind can develop dangerous waves, especially on larger lakes. Also paddling against a headwind can be exhausting and ailment producing.

Only a few of the popular canoeing waters are listed here. Many other accessible ponds and streams will be seen on a highway map, and even more on USGS maps. Caution: unknown waterways are more safely moving, upstream: downstream can pull you into unexpected hazards.

Abbreviations and symbols to provide brief information:

/G: a guide is available; /G'/: we strongly urge guide service.

Average description of water and environment: (1) smooth; (2) mostly smooth; (3) mixed smooth & rapids; (4) continuous rapids; (a) attractive, scenic; (b) mediocre; (c) canoe during high water. These may be combined, e.g. (2a), meaning mostly smooth with scenic attractions.

Difficulty of trip: (1) easy; (2) moderate; (3) hard; (4) hazardous.

A.M.C. Canoeing Guide: (class I), (class II), etc.; in this list we have tried to select trips which do not exceed class II except when such greater difficulties can be either portaged or lined down. Note: the speed for all rapids in the waterways listed. Inquire further before running streams.

R: River; L: Lake; P: Pond, S: Stream; T: dangerous or impassable; pt: portage(s) or carry, preceded by number of portages.


POPULAR CANOE TRIPS

1. Saco R: Swan's Falls to Hiram, 33 mi., 1-3 days; (2b) A: safe, no portage [1 easy trip can be carried] 'wilderness' canoeing close to populated area. Below Hiram 44 mi. to ocean, 6-10 pt. [no otherwise (2b)].

Moose P: Rt. 202 to Saco R, 12 mi.; 1 pt. around 3 dams.

Kezar L: N. Lovell to Saco R, 17 mi. (1a); 1 pt.; (2)

2. Rangeley Lakes: /G'/ 45 mi.; 3-4 days; /G'/ /G'/ /G'/; Rangeley L 6 P; Rangeley L 1 mi. (a); 1 pt.; (2) /G'/ /G'/; L Cupsopuc L; /G'/ /G'/; L Richardson Lakes; 2-3 pt. plus 8 mi. pt. [trucking service available] to Umbagog L, [can be reached from Atkinson L.]

3. Kennebec R: The Forks to Bath, 125 mi.; 1 week; (2) /G'/ /G'/ /G'/ /G'/ /G'/ /G'/; Shawnagunk Mtns. below Augusta; good take out at Richmond; stronger tidal effects to Bath; check about pullop logs, esp. at Norridgewock & Monmouth. (a) /G'/ /G'/ /G'/ /G'/ /G'/ /G'/;


5. Belgrade Lakes circle trip: 32-41 mi.; 2 days; (1a) /G'/; North P-Great P-Long P-Belgrade S-Messalonskee L to Oakland a few miles from starting place.

6. Chain of Ponds: 5.7 mi. (a); /G'/ /G'/ /G'/; beautiful, no pt. (1pt to: N. Branch Dead R to flagship L-15 mi.) (a); /G'/ /G'/ /G'/ /G'/ /G'/

7. Flagstaff L to Long Falls Dam: 10 mi. (3a) /G'/ /G'/ /G'/; with pt. at Long Falls D. continue to Grand Falls (through marsh to old dam); on no. 14 mi. hike to Grand Falls & return (continued on other side)