www.parksandlands.com

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Bureau of Parks and Lands



Visit the legendary Mt. Kineo and camp, boat, and fish on Maine's largest lake



GUIDE & MAP

PUBLIC LANDS SHORELINE MOOSEHEAD LAKE

THE MAINE HIGHLANDS REGION

DIRECTIONS

Public lands on Mt. **Kineo, Farm Island and Sugar Island** are accessible by water only, with nearest public boat launch sites at Rockwood and at Lily Bay State Park. A commercial boat shuttle to Mount Kineo State Park leaves routinely



Park leaves routinely Lat 45.614610 / Lon -69.663009 from Rockwood in summer months. NOTE: carry a recent gazetteer. Road systems associated with timber management change frequently. The map in this guide does not show the entire road network.

For attractions on the western shore of Moosehead, take Routes 15/6 through Greenville (also known as the Rockwood Road). Rockwood is 15 miles northwest of Greenville. For attractions along the lake's eastern shore, take the Lily Bay Road that runs north out of Greenville (Lily Bay State Park lies about 8 miles north of Greenville off of State Park Road and Kokadjo lies another 10 miles farther). To reach Day's Academy Grant lands, travel one mile beyond the Roach River crossing in Kokadjo, and turn left onto Spencer Bay Road. There are drive-to campsites along Spencer Bay as well as gravel boat launches and water-access only sites. Cowan Cove and the Kelly Wharf site can be reached by vehicle and are on or near the Day's Academy Public Lands east of Mount Kineo.

FEES

Day use fees apply to Mount Kineo State Park, payable at self-service station at the property entrance. The Public Lands campsites are free of charge and available on a first-come, firstserved basis. Fees are charged, and advance reservations are recommended, for Lily Bay State Park campsites.

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- Day Use Fees & Passes: www.mainestateparkpass.com
- Camping at State Parks: www.campwithme.com
- Boat Launch Online Sortable Listing:



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SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Moosehead Lake can be dangerous

Moosehead Lake water is cold and winds can arise suddenly creating dangerous conditions for boats. Children 10 years of age and under must, by law, wear a Type I, II, or III PFD while on board all watercraft. All boaters should wear a PFD at all times in small boats; notify someone of your intended route and time of return; and monitor conditions carefully (particularly when crossing open waters, including the crossing to Mount Kineo State Park).

Know applicable laws

- The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) Warden Service does search-and-rescue operations and enforces state fish and game laws, boating laws (on inland waters), and ATV and snowmobile laws. To learn more about applicable laws and to purchase appropriate licenses, visit www.maine.gov/ifw.
- Help stop the spread of invasive species
- Eurasian Milfoil is an aquatic invasive.
- Clean all watercraft before they are launched and after retrieval. www.maine.gov/dep/water/invasives/
- Buy only local firewood, do not transport out of state firewood. www.maine.gov/forestpests

Trailerable and hand-carry boat launches are highly variable.Online sortable listing: www.maine.gov/dacf/boatlaunches

Cell phones should not be counted on in an emergency.Coverage is spotty to non-existent. Have a back-up plan.

- Moose, bear and other large animals are abundant.
- Observe from a safe distance; do not flush wildlife.
- Drive slowly on area roads, particularly at times of low light.
- Food must be securely stowed when camping.
- Tents must be kept free of food and food odors.

Logging trucks frequent area roads. Watch out for them and:

- Pull over and stop for trucks regardless of which direction
- they're headed as they have the right of way.
- Avoid roads that are too narrow for two vehicles.
- Do not block side roads or stop in a spot with poor visibility.
 Be prepared for rugged gravel roads (dusty, washouts): travel slowly and carry a spare tire.

Pet owners should exercise caution

• Trappers are permitted to use Maine Public Lands so consider leashing your dog.

Wear blaze orange during hunting season.

Be a responsible visitor and Leave No Trace • Learn more at www.lnt.org





PROPERTY HISTORY

GLACIERS AND FIRST INHABITANTS

he landscape around Moosehead Lake was shaped by a mile-thick ice sheet that covered the area between 18,000 and 12,000 years ago. The ice sheet carried off most of the soil, leaving exposed bedrock and a deep bowl where the Lake now lies. Mount Kineo and Little Kineo have gentle slopes to the northwest and steep southeast faces due to the scouring and plucking action of the glaciers that moved across the region from northwest to southeast. Not long after the glaciers receded, the first Paleoindians came to this area, leaving some evidence of early encampments near Moosehead Lake.

Mt. Kineo held great significance—both mythic and practical—for Wabanaki Indians such as the Penobscots who have lived around Moosehead over the past 1,000 years. (The name Kineo derives from a Wabanaki warrior of legendary power, Kinneho.) Indians relied on flint-like felsite and rhyolite from Mt. Kineo to make stone tools (such as arrowheads and chisels) that were used and traded throughout New England.



Settlers and Rusticators

European settlers first came to the Greenville area in the 1820s, after Maine became its own state. Several decades later, writer and naturalist Henry David Thoreau documented his perspectives on Moosehead in The Maine Woods: "You see but three or four houses for the whole length of the lake, and the shore is an unbroken wilderness."

That soon changed as the region became popular among wealthy "rusticators" who came by train and steamboat to enjoy outdoor pursuits. Sporting camps sprouted up along Moosehead's shoreline, and on the Kineo peninsula a series of progressively grander hotels was built to accommodate up to 500 guests.





VISITOR RULES

www.katahdincruises.com

- Fires Kindle fires only in authorized campsites with fire rings. Do not cut live vegetation. www.maine.gov/forestpests
 Pets Pets in campsites must be leashed and attended;
- outside of campsites, pets must be under control. **Trash** Carry out all trash.
- Firearms Do not discharge weapons within 300 feet of any picnic area, camping area, parking area, marked hiking trail or other developed area. Loaded firearms are not permitted at campsites or on hiking trails.
- FishingAll those fishing must have a valid license and
review the State's open water fishing regulations.
Fishermen are asked to use lead-free sinkers and
jigs to prevent metal poisoning of loons, eagles
and other wildlife. www.maine.gov/ifw
- PowerUse no chainsaws, generators or other powerEquipmentequipment around campsites.Limit ofCampers may not exceed a 14-day stay in a
\$tayStay45-day period
- AbandonedBureau of Parks and Lands staff may take custodyPropertyof any personal property left unattended for
more than 3 days (unless advance written permission is given).

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Contacts

Western Public Lands Bureau of Parks and Lands P.O. Box 327 / 129 Main Street Farmington, ME 04938 207-778-8231 www.maine.gov/mooseheadlake www.parksandlands.com

Lily Bay State Park 13 Myrle's Way Greenville, ME 04441 207-695-2700 www.maine.gov/lilybay

Moosehead Lake Chamber of Commerce P.O. Box 581 Greenville, ME 04441 207-695-2702 www.mooseheadlake.org



Services & Facilities

- In addition to nearly 90 campsites at Lily Bay State Park, there are more than 90 other primitive campsites (with fire ring, picnic table and pit or vault toilet) on the shores of Moosehead. Some are accessible by road and many are accessible only by water: see map for details.
- Hiking trails at Mt. Kineo State Park, Little Kineo, and Little Moose Public Lands
- Trailerable, hard-surface boat launches at Lily Bay State Park, Greenville Junction, Rockwood, and Norcross Brook
- Trailerable, gravel boat launches at Spencer Bay, Jewett
- Cove, and Cowan Cove. • Lake navigation hazard and safety zone markers aid boaters



Peregrine Falcons

ount Kineo is peregrine falcon territory. Peregrine falcons seek out sheltered ledges for their nests, and lay eggs in March or April. The young start flying by midsummer and are independent by fall. Falcons dive down on prey that is out in open areas, eating birds from tiny warblers to mid-sized ducks. They can attain speeds up to 200 mph when diving, and make agile twists and turns. Peregrine falcons are crow-sized with dark gray back, wings and head, a lighter chest flecked with gray bands, and golden talons. By the 1960s, these remarkable raptors were almost exterminated by pesticide use. A captive breeding and reintroduction program helped their recovery, and in 1987, the first wild pair returned to nest in Maine on the cliffs of Mt. Kineo.





PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

Work and funds to acquire land in and around Moosehead Lake came from many sources. Much of Lily Bay State Park was acquired with a grant from the National Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund. Land for Maine's Future funds were used to acquire Mount Kineo State Park.

Kennebec Water Power Company provides the campsites and boat launch along the Kennebec River East Outlet. Brookfield White Pine Hydro LLC supports Bureau management of waterbased recreation facilities on Moosehead Lake.

Construction of several trails in the area as well as this brochure were made possible in part by funding assistance through the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program, administered by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands.



Timber Management on Maine's Public Lands

Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) actively manages its public land units to achieve multiple sustainable benefits: resource protection, public recreation, wildlife habitat and marketable forest products (revenues from which help fund public land management). The Bureau employs scientifically based practices to achieve exemplary forest management that foster the health and viability of landscape-scale ecosystems. BPL's forest practices are green-certified by two independent auditors: the Forest Stewardship CouncilTM and the Sustainable Forestry InitiativeTM.

No-harvest zones are regularly established to buffer sensitive natural resources and recreational areas in addition to the Bureau's ecological reserve system.



Forestry and Conservation

Forestry has long been critical to the local economy, and log drives were an annual ritual in the area up through the 1970s. Lands now held by the State at Days Academy Grant supplied white birch for spools while other lands at Days Academy fed pulp mills.

The Public Lands by Moosehead Lake were acquired through several transactions. Recognizing the importance Mt. Kineo holds for the people of Maine, the Land for Maine's Future Program funded purchase in 1990 of the entire peninsula north of the cliff face, with help from The Nature Conservancy and Maine Department of Conservation. The former owners of Farm Island, Julia E. Crafts Sheridan and R. Philip Sheridan, generously gave the state the 980-acre island in 1971. The State acquired lands at Days Academy Grant and Sugar Island as part of land trades with two paper companies. The State holds a conservation easement on nine additional miles of shorefront lands (a 500-foot corridor) providing continued public access to more of the lake's eastern shoreline.

Overview

oosehead Lake, New England's largest freshwater body, lies at the gateway to the North Maine Woods and offers camping, fishing, hunting, boating, hiking, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing opportunities. The sheer face of Mount Kineo, with 700-foot cliffs, forms the centerpiece of a spectacular landscape long cherished for its natural beauty and plentiful resources.

Moosehead Lake is the headwaters of the Kennebec River and represents a critical hub in a network of traditional canoe routes. Two ancient carries (where natives portaged boats and gear) linked Moosehead with the West Branch of the Penobscot and the Allagash rivers, and with the Penobscot's North Branch and the St. John River. Paddlers today still enjoy water trails such as the Northern Forest Canoe Trail that stretches from northernmost Maine west to Quebec and the Adirondacks.

The cool, deep waters of the lake are exceptionally clean. Moosehead draws boaters in warm-weather months and fishermen at all seasons, with landlocked salmon (stocked), native brook trout (squaretails), and lake trout (togue). Hunters come in search of black ducks, wood ducks, partridge, whitetailed deer, bear and moose (for which the region is famous). Birdwatchers visit this area as part of the Maine Birding Trail to hear or see up to 20 species of warblers along with less common boreal birds. (www.mainebirdingtrail.com) The cliffs of Mt. Kineo are home to peregrine falcons, and support a critical breeding site for this endangered species that has been active since 1987.

Moosehead Lake Shoreline Western Shore

Along the western shore of Moosehead lies the village of Rockwood, where a shuttle runs out to Mt. Kineo (elevation 1,789 feet). Farm Island (a 980-acre State wildlife sanctuary with three campsites) is also accessible from Rockwood. The Kennebec River East Outlet along this shoreline provides whitewater paddling while the West Outlet offers quieter waters. The Little Moose Public Lands (see map and Regional Destinations) are readily accessible from this side of the lake. There are two large paved boat launches at Greenville and Rockwood.

EASTERN SHORE

Lily Bay State Park (see map and Regional Destinations), along the lake's southeastern shore, offers waterfront camping with easy access to many natural attractions along the lake's eastern side—including boat access to Sugar Island (4,208 acres) and Spencer Bay; hiking opportunities in Days Academy Grant; and class II & III whitewater paddling and fishing along the Roach River. There are five public boat launches on the east shore (Lily Bay State Park, Jewett Cove, Cowan Cove, Norcross Brook, Spencer Bay).



Four Seasons of Outdoor Adventure

The Moosehead Lake region provides diverse recreational experiences throughout the year. While opportunities are many, here are a few seasonal highlights:

- **Spring**: Fishing for landlocked salmon, brook trout, and togue (lake trout) has drawn visitors here for generations. In the forests, migratory birds of the boreal and northern hardwood forests call out upon their arrival.
- Summer: Hiking, boating and paddling, camping, swimming, wildlife watching, and fishing make summertime ideal to experience Moosehead's shoreline. 160 public campsites are available at Lily Bay State Park and the remote campsites scattered along Moosehead's shoreline. Hiking trails at Mount Kineo State Park, Little Kineo Mountain, and Little Moose give a wide view of the lake and surrounding forests.
- Fall: As the air chills around Moosehead in the fall, foliage turns brilliant shades of red, yellow, and orange. Photography and sight-seeing are at their peak. Fall also means the start of hunting seasons for game ranging from grouse to moose.
- Winter: Snow and ice transform the Moosehead region into both a playground and a stunning winter landscape. Wellmarked and groomed snowmobile trails spread out across the region and make the Moosehead area a major snowmobile destination. Anglers ice-fish on the lake in search of trout and salmon. Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing lure those looking for adventure and exercise in beautiful settings.

Surface fishing for salmon and trout is usually best in the weeks following ice out (typically early to mid-May) or when the waters cool in September. Be prepared for black flies and mosquitoes, particularly in May and June.

REGIONAL DESTINATIONS

The Moosehead Lake Shoreline Lands lie within The Maine Highlands Region that encompasses Baxter State Park and other notable North Woods attractions in Piscataquis and Somerset Counties. Nearby destinations include:

- · Lily Bay State Park as shown on the map, offers 91 wooded and lakeside campsites and two boat launches along 925 acres bordering Moosehead Lake nine miles north of Greenville. www.maine.gov/lilybay
- Seboomook Public Lands encompass more than 40,000 acres with waterfront camping on Seboomook Lake, just west of the Penobscot River Corridor. For more information a Seboomook Public Lands Guide and Map is available from the Bureau of Parks and Lands.
- · Penobscot River Corridor offers boating and more than 75 campsites along more than 50 miles of frontage on the Penobscot River and associated lakes. www.maine.gov/penobscotrivercorridor
- · Big Spencer Mountain is a popular hiking destination with a 2-mile summit trail (including some ladders and steep sections). From the Golden Road, take the Greenville Road south toward Kokadjo approximately 7 miles to a rough gravel road (Culvert Road) on right, and travel 5 miles to trailhead (on left).
- Little Moose Public Lands, with more than 15,000 acres just west of Greenville, includes most of the Little Moose Mountain Range where visitors can enjoy backcountry hiking, snowmobiling, fishing, hunting, and camping. www.maine.gov/littlemoose

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

- Baxter State Park, with more than 200,000 acres and 46 mountain peaks, provides abundant hiking, paddling and primitive camping opportunities. www.baxterstateparkauthority.com
- Debsconeag Lakes Wilderness Area (The Nature Conservancy), spanning 46,271 acres, contains mature forests and the highest concentration of pristine, remote ponds in New England. www.nature.org/Maine



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On all trails, wear sturdy footwear, carry water and extra layers, and take care near cliffs—particularly in damp and slippery conditions. If traveling to Mt. Kineo via the boat shuttle in Rockwood, confirm departure

Mt. Kineo State Park is not accessible by road. Most visitors arrive via a commercial boat shuttle from Rockwood (a crossing of 0.8 miles) that operates during summer. From the boat landing on Mt. Kineo, turn left and follow the shoreline path leading past private property to State Lands. A roundtrip hike of the peninsula on the trails listed below is 4.2-5 miles; allow 3 hours in good conditions. The Mt. Kineo summit has a converted fire tower (used until about 1960 by the Maine Forest Service) with an observation deck that offers 360-degree views.

- Indian Trail (0.9 miles to summit from Carriage Trail) climbs
- Bridle Trail (I mile to summit from Carriage Trail) provides a less steep route to the summit for hikers, from second intersection off
- Carriage Trail (2.2 miles from boat landing to Hardscrabble Point)
- North Trail (1.9 miles from Hardscrabble Point to summit) provides a more gradual ascent up the eastern side of the peninsula.
- Little Kineo offers a primitive trail in a remote setting. Hikers enjoy a relatively easy hike with great views in many directions from several open ledges. The trail to the summit is 0.9 miles, one-way.

Snowmobile and ATV Trails: Shared-use roads provide access for ATVing, snowmobiling, horsebackriding, and mountain biking. Roads that have designated recreational uses are signed as shared-use. These and trails specific to ATV and Snowmobile use are noted on the map. Road users should be prepared to encounter both pedestrians and vehicles. The Bureau does not encourage snowmobiling on lakes because

For maps and additional information about ATVing and Snowmobiling contact the Bureau's Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office at (207) 287-