

Aroostook

OFFICIAL TRAVEL GUIDE





Dear Traveler

Thank you for your interest in Aroostook County, Maine! Throughout this guide you will discover places to stay and eat, along with many other activities that occur in The County during our spectacular four distinct seasons. Whenever your trip, Aroostook County offers unmatched beauty and relaxation for all.

Thank you again for your interest in Aroostook County and we look forward to your being able to experience the best that Maine has to offer.

Sincerely,
Judy Dinsmore
Judy Dinsmore
Office Manager,
Aroostook County Tourism



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Find Your Way

No matter where your journey to Aroostook County begins, rest assured that the destination is well worth the trip.



As big as Connecticut and Rhode Island combined, Aroostook County has some fun stats for you numbers people.

The County is nearly **90 percent** covered by forest, home to over **2,000** lakes, intertwined with **2,300** miles of snowmobile and ATV trails, over **200,000** acres of tillable farmland, and over **60** museums and historical societies to teach you all about it.

PHOTO BY PAUL CYR



Getting to
Aroostook



Dark Skies in Aroostook

Experience some of the best conditions for
dark sky viewing in the eastern United States.

Want to see the Aurora Borealis for yourself?

Why Aroostook?

You don't have to book a trip to Iceland to see the Northern Lights yourself. Aroostook County is an ideal destination due to its exceptionally dark skies, thanks to minimal light pollution and its remote, sparsely populated location. The area's clear, cool air and low humidity provide excellent visibility, particularly during the fall and winter months.

Best Times of Year

Fall (September to November): September and October offer a good chance of seeing the aurora borealis due to increased geomagnetic activity around the equinoxes. Fall often has clear skies, which are essential for viewing the aurora.

Winter (December to February): The longer nights and increased darkness during winter provide more opportunities to see the aurora. While it can be very cold, the clear winter skies can be ideal for aurora viewing.

Wide Views

Popular viewing spots like Aroostook National Wildlife Refuge and Big Rock Mountain offer wide, unobstructed views of the night sky, perfect for seeing the occasional Northern Lights.

PHOTO BY PAUL CYR

PHOTO BY PAUL CYR

PHOTO BY PAUL CYR

Stargazing

The opportunities to stargaze have become increasingly rare in the modern world. While Aroostook County doesn't have any formally designated Dark Sky Parks, as part of the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA), it features several natural areas that are prized for their dark skies and minimal light pollution, making them ideal for stargazing.

1. Aroostook National Wildlife Refuge

This refuge offers open spaces and minimal artificial lighting, creating a pristine environment for stargazing. It's home to diverse wildlife, adding a natural element to your nighttime experience.

2. Mars Hill Mountain

Mars Hill Mountain provides elevated views and reduced light interference from nearby towns, making it a popular spot for observing meteor showers and other celestial events.

3. Deboullie Public Reserved Land

Known for its rugged beauty and pristine conditions, it's a perfect place for stargazing, especially during clear nights when the Milky Way is visible.

PHOTO BY PAUL CYR



PHOTO BY PAUL CYR



The 2024 Solar Eclipse

Watch some highlights!



PHOTO BY PAUL CYR

Stargazing Tips

Check Weather Conditions: Clear skies are essential for stargazing, so check the forecast before planning your trip. Bring the right gear: Binoculars or a telescope can enhance your experience. Dress warmly, as temperatures can drop significantly at night.

Scenic Byways

Hit the road for breathtaking views of rolling hills, dense forests, tranquil lakes, and picturesque farmlands.

St. John Valley/ Fish River National Scenic Byway

The St. John Valley/Fish River Scenic Byway is a picturesque route capturing the essence of the region's cultural and natural beauty. This 92-mile byway follows the St. John River, which forms the border between the United States and Canada, providing stunning views of rolling farmland, dense forests, and the river itself.



Route
Digital
map and
highlights.

Beginning in the town of Dickey, this route winds through several historic communities, including Allagash, St. Francis, Fort Kent, and Madawaska, before ending in Hamlin. Along the way, travelers can explore landmarks like the Fort Kent Blockhouse, a historic site dating back to the Aroostook War, and the Acadian Village in Van Buren, which offers insights into the rich Acadian culture that defines much of the area.

The St. John Valley is rooted in Acadian history, as the area was settled by Acadians who were displaced during the Great Expulsion in the 18th century. The cultural influence of these early settlers is evident in the language, cuisine, and traditions that are still prominent in the valley today.

In addition to its cultural significance, the St. John Valley Scenic Byway offers breathtaking views of the natural landscape. The route is particularly stunning during the fall, when the foliage turns vibrant shades of red, orange, and gold.



Baxter State Park
& Katahdin Woods
and Waters National
Monument



Katahdin Woods and Waters National Scenic Byway

The Katahdin Woods and Waters National Scenic Byway is an 89-mile route in northern Maine that showcases the natural beauty of the region.

Starting in Medway and passing through East Millinocket, Millinocket, and Patten, the byway offers stunning views of Mount

Katahdin, the East Branch of the Penobscot River, and the surrounding North Woods. Highlights include access to Baxter State Park, Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, and the International Appalachian Trail, offering opportunities for hiking, fishing, and wildlife watching.

Historically, the area is tied to the Penobscot Nation and was central to Maine's logging industry. The byway also commemorates conservation efforts that led to the establishment of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in 2016.

Pine Tree Trail Historic Byway

The Pine Tree Historic Trail offers a rich exploration of the region's history, focusing on the legacy of early settlers and the industries that shaped the area. Established to commemorate Maine's bicentennial, the trail highlights the timber and agricultural industries, particularly the significant role of the logging industry and potato farming.

The route begins in Houlton and passes through towns like Presque Isle, Caribou, and Fort Kent, featuring key historical sites, museums, and landmarks from the Aroostook War and the county's development. This scenic trail provides a meaningful journey through the historic and cultural heritage of Northern Maine.

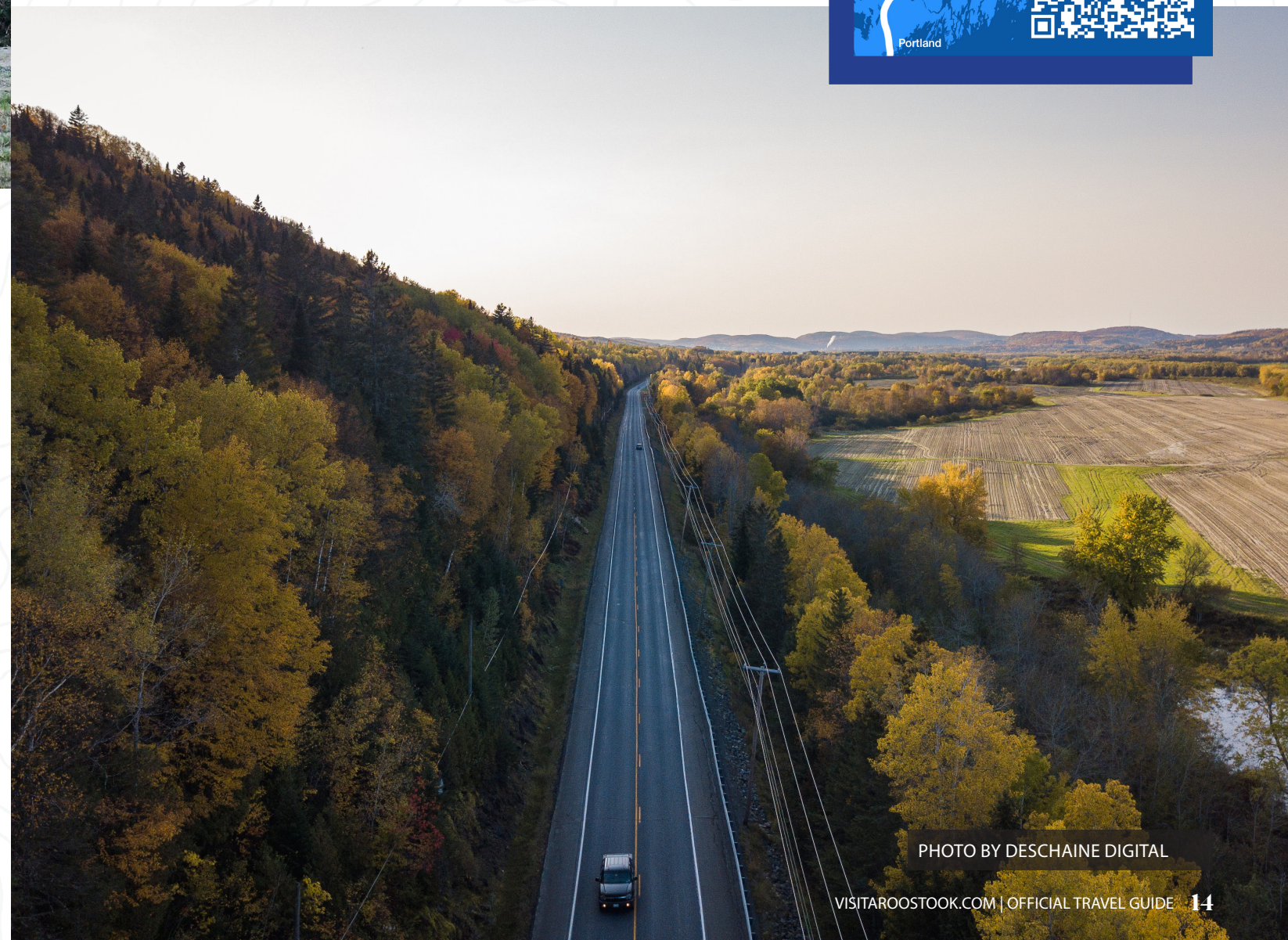




PHOTO BY NORTHERN MAINE BREWING



As craft brewing has gained popularity, some local farms have started to grow hops to supply breweries in the area and beyond. Aura Mills is famous for its sustainable organic farming practices and high-quality barley and wheat, which are prized by brewers for their rich aroma and flavor.

Aroostook Hops produces robust hop strains suited to Maine's climate and offering tours of their farm, and Maine Malt House provides locally grown and malted barley that enhances the flavor of regional brews.

Refresh Yourself

Aroostook County is home to some great local breweries and wineries that offer refreshing stops as you explore the scenic byways and outdoor adventures of the region.

First Mile Brewing Co. in Fort Kent serves up craft beers with a local twist, perfect after a scenic drive along the St. John Valley. Northern Maine Brewing Company in Caribou offers both delicious brews and hearty food, making it a cozy stop after visiting nearby attractions like Aroostook National Wildlife Refuge. If it's wine you're after, Hidden Springs Winery offers visitors a chance to enjoy locally crafted wines in a serene countryside setting.



Restaurants

Find some food along your trip.



PHOTO BY FIRST MILE BREWING CO.



PHOTO BY HIDDEN SPRINGS WINERY

Your Public Lands Checklist



☐ Aroostook State Park

Located near Presque Isle, Maine's first state park offers hiking, camping, fishing, and boating, with trails providing scenic views of Echo Lake and surrounding forests.

☐ Deboullie Public Reserved Land

Near Portage Lake, this remote area features rugged terrain, hills, ponds, and forests, ideal for hiking, camping, fishing, and paddling, with trails leading to scenic overlooks.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL GUDREAU

☐ Salmon Brook Public Reserved Land

A tranquil retreat with opportunities for wildlife viewing, hiking, and fishing.



PHOTO BY DAVID CONLEY

☐ Haystack Mountain

Enjoy a short, scenic hike with rewarding panoramic views of the surrounding forests and rolling landscapes



PHOTO BY MICHAEL GUDREAU

☐ Bible Point

A peaceful and reflective experience where you can explore the natural beauty that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt during his visits.



Wildlife Refuge

☐ Aroostook National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is located on part of the former Loring Air Force Base. It offers a rare chance to explore pristine northern Maine wilderness, where you can observe diverse wildlife in their natural habitat.



☐ Fish River Chain of Lakes

This series of interconnected lakes, including Eagle Lake, is great for fishing, boating, and camping, with public access points offering easy entry to the lakes and surrounding natural beauty.

☐ Umsaskis Lake

Umsaskis Lake is a lake on the Allagash River in the North Maine Woods region of Maine. The lake is on the Northern Forest Canoe Trail.

Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument

☐ A U.S. national monument spanning 87,563 acres of mountains and forestland in northern Penobscot County, Maine.



Scopan Public Reserved Land ☐

South of Presque Isle, Scopan offers forested hills and wetlands, popular for hiking, birdwatching, snowmobiling, hunting, and fishing.



A Quick Guide to Wildlife

Encountering the wildlife of Aroostook promises a deeper connection to the natural world.

A full-page background image showing a snowmobile rider in the foreground, kicking up a large cloud of snow. In the distance, another snowmobile is visible on a snowy path. The background is a dense forest of evergreen trees under a clear sky.

Make the Most of Winter

Are you the type to embrace the colder months?

For the winter enthusiast

With its vast landscapes and wide array of winter sports available, this region becomes a playground for winter enthusiasts.

The region is particularly renowned for its extensive network of trails and facilities dedicated to skiing, snowmobiling, and snowshoeing. Bigrock Mountain in Mars Hill is a focal point for alpine skiing, providing slopes that cater to all skill levels, from beginner to advanced. For those who prefer Nordic skiing, the Nordic Heritage Center in Presque Isle is a world-class facility that attracts both recreational skiers and competitive athletes. The center offers miles of meticulously groomed trails, designed for classic and skate skiing, as well as biathlon facilities, making it a hub for winter sports in the region.

Snowmobiling is also a major attraction, with over 2,300 miles of well-maintained trails that are part of Maine's Interconnected Trail System. These trails, maintained by local snowmobile clubs, offer safe and scenic routes through forests and fields. Aroostook County's robust winter sport infrastructure, combined with its natural beauty and community support for outdoor recreation, makes it an ideal destination for anyone looking to make the most of winter in Maine.

Your Winter Playground

Snowshoeing

Snowshoeing is the perfect way to explore the region's untouched winter beauty at a slower pace. Traverse the serene trails of the Aroostook State Park, or take in the stunning views around Nordic Heritage Center in Presque Isle, where snowshoe trails meander through quiet forests and rolling hills.

Alpine Skiing

Great for those who enjoy alpine skiing without the hustle and bustle of larger, more commercialized resorts, Aroostook has a few great spots providing scenic views and a local vibe typical of the County.

Bigrock Mountain in Mars Hill, which features 35 trails, a 980-foot vertical drop, night skiing, rentals, and lessons, caters to both families and advanced skiers. Lonesome Pine Trails in Fort Kent is a smaller, community-oriented ski area with 10 trails, a T-bar lift, and rope tow, perfect for beginners and intermediates looking for a relaxed, scenic experience without the crowds.

Ice Fishing

Ice fishing in Aroostook County offers a peaceful and unique way to enjoy the winter wilderness. The county's frozen lakes and ponds, like Eagle Lake and Long Lake, are prime spots for catching trout, salmon, and perch. The allure lies in the quiet, scenic surroundings, camaraderie with fellow anglers, and the thrill of pulling a fish through the ice. It's a classic Northern Maine tradition that combines relaxation with a touch of adventure in the heart of winter.

Nordic Skiing

Whether you're a seasoned skier looking for a challenge or a beginner seeking serenity on groomed trails, our winter landscape is ideal for experiencing the quiet beauty and exhilarating freedom of Nordic skiing in Maine's northern frontier.

Top Nordic Ski Trails

The Nordic Heritage Center
Fort Kent Outdoor Center
Aroostook State Park
Four Season Trail Association
Aroostook National Wildlife Refuge
Riverfront Park Trail

Snowmobiling

When it comes to snowmobiling, we always say “you just need to come here once”. With over 2,300 miles of groomed, interconnected trails that wind through breathtaking forests, rolling hills, and frozen lakes, Aroostook offers some of the best riding in the Northeast. Known for 120” of annual snowfall, uncrowded trails and warm hospitality The County is a snowmobiler’s paradise.



Long Rides

Aroostook County’s snowmobile trails are known for their exceptional quality. The trails are meticulously groomed by local clubs and volunteers, ensuring smooth, safe riding conditions throughout the season. Collaboration between snowmobile clubs, local businesses, and government agencies ensures well-funded, well-marked, and well-maintained trails. Being part of Maine’s Interconnected Trail System (ITS), the county offers access to an extensive network that allows for long, uninterrupted rides.

The region’s reliable snowfall provides consistently good trail conditions and extends the snowmobiling season. With well-developed infrastructure, including rest stops and access to fuel, food, and lodging, the trails are both practical and enjoyable. Those local snowmobile clubs also bring decades of expertise (and a warm spot for a cup of coffee), ensuring that the trails are planned, maintained, and adapted to deliver an unparalleled experience for riders. Check out our six can’t miss snowmobiling destinations on the next page!

Ghost Trains

Located in the North Maine Woods off ITS 85, the abandoned locomotive cars once used for hauling lumber in the great Northern woods make for a fascinating destination for snowmobilers. In winter, this trail is only accessible via snowmobile and is a solid day trip. Begin your journey in Ashland and be sure to bring extra gas and food as there are no trailside services on this route.

International View

Frenchville, 81 B off ITS 85. Nestled in the St. John River Valley, the International View trail features open fields, forests, lakes, rivers, sprawling views, and an abundance of wildlife as you face toward the Canadian Border the ‘Camp Star Barn’ on the Roussel Trail.

Loring Airforce Base

Limestone, 100B off ITS 81. Loring AFB is one of the largest SAC bomber bases of the Cold War. The mostly abandoned Loring AFB and Arch Hangar is a history buff’s dream, and what better way to explore the facility than by snowmobile?

Number 9 Mountain Tower

Bridgewater, 70A between ITS 81 and ITS 83. The County is primarily a rolling flat land with various high points. This is one of the few peaks in Aroostook County that is accessible by snowmobile - the views spill over a patchwork of forests and fields.

Infinity View

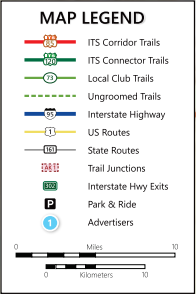
Littleton, ITS 86. Whether you’re a seasoned rider or new to the sport, the Infinity View Trail is a great way to thrash through the massive expanse. The view has not been formally measured but is estimated you can see a straight line of ITS for about 1.5 miles.

Border Trail

Caswell, ITS 81. This well-marked and scenic trail takes riders directly along the US and Canadian border. Three foot tall granite markers dot the path. A passport and Canadian snowmobile permit is required to cross.

NORTHERN MAINE SNOWMOBILE TRAILS 2024-2025

Produced by the Association of Aroostook
Chamber of Commerce Executives



Snowmobile Registration

Maine residents can renew snowmobile registrations online, but new registrations must be done through a registration agent or the MDIFW office in Augusta. Nonresidents can register or renew online.

Registration fees:

Resident: \$56

Nonresident:

3-day: \$75

10-day: \$100

Full season: \$120

After registering, you’ll receive a confirmation page to use immediately, with official registration and stickers arriving within 30 days. Registrations can also be obtained through licensing agents or by mail.

Register online at:
www.maine.gov/ifw

ITS Junction Coordinates
WGS 84 datum. Be aware that due to unexpected trail relocations actual junctions may have to be moved during the season.

Junction	Latitude	Longitude
AK1	45° 52' 18.51"	-68° 24' 34.78"
AK2	45° 35' 07.61"	-68° 21' 33.42"
AK3	46° 16' 14.98"	-67° 50' 26.82"
AK4	46° 00' 27.07"	-67° 58' 59.38"
AK5	46° 14' 25.08"	-67° 50' 59.00"
AK6	46° 01' 19.14"	-68° 17' 24.72"
AK7	46° 37' 25.57"	-68° 23' 37.51"
AK8	46° 31' 55.04"	-68° 11' 23.09"
AK9	46° 31' 58.58"	-67° 53' 15.23"
AK10	46° 44' 27.10"	-68° 08' 59.57"
AK11	46° 32' 03.15"	-67° 53' 22.18"
AK12	46° 46' 58.79"	-68° 09' 27.71"
AK13	46° 39' 26.32"	-68° 19' 56.17"
AK14	46° 47' 42.37"	-68° 09' 03.96"
AK15	46° 45' 36.21"	-68° 27' 40.50"
AK16	46° 51' 49.13"	-68° 13' 41.79"
AK17	46° 41' 45.42"	-67° 58' 59.18"
AK18	46° 51' 59.21"	-68° 13' 58.12"
AK19	46° 44' 08.08"	-68° 02' 42.99"
AK20	46° 46' 36.85"	-67° 50' 25.75"
AK21	46° 51' 56.11"	-68° 03' 45.44"
AK22	46° 41' 53.34"	-67° 58' 20.13"
AK23	46° 53' 57.22"	-68° 01' 29.55"
AK24	46° 44' 37.72"	-67° 52' 02.29"
AK25	46° 52' 43.71"	-67° 53' 08.80"
AK26	47° 01' 47.77"	-68° 10' 08.72"
AK27	46° 58' 08.39"	-68° 39' 57.75"
AK28	47° 02' 48.15"	-68° 08' 48.73"
AK31	47° 01' 36.53"	-68° 59' 56.88"
AK33	47° 09' 31.90"	-67° 57' 23.13"
AK35	47° 19' 53.77"	-68° 38' 56.64"
AK37	47° 17' 24.54"	-68° 18' 56.77"
AK39	47° 19' 48.63"	-68° 19' 29.25"
PT 11	45° 48' 07.11"	-68° 42' 45.25"
PT 13	45° 51' 19.98"	-68° 37' 35.98"
PT 14	45° 52' 50.49"	-68° 36' 13.78"
PT 15	45° 53' 49.59"	-68° 25' 56.86"
PT 16	46° 01' 40.54"	-68° 39' 56.79"
PT 18	46° 08' 30.38"	-68° 32' 50.91"
PT 21	46° 01' 25.83"	-68° 28' 03.79"
PT 23	46° 21' 48.85"	-68° 27' 27.07"



Digital Map

Including snowmobile club listings and quick travel references.

Signature Events

Aroostook County hosts a variety of winter events that celebrate the region's snowy landscape and vibrant community spirit. Signature events include the Can-Am Crown International Sled Dog Race (Fort Kent), the SnowBowl (Caribou), Fort Kent Winter Carnival (Fort Kent), and the Moosestompers Winter Carnival (Houlton). These events offer a mix of sports, community festivities, cultural events, and traditional winter activities.

Can-Am Crown International Sled Dog Race



PHOTO BY A PARADIS

Ice Fishing Derbies

Ice fishing derbies are vibrant, community-focused events, drawing anglers to compete on frozen lakes like Long Lake, Eagle Lake, and Square Lake. Participants vie for prizes by catching the largest or most fish, with categories often including trout, salmon, and perch. These derbies combine competition with festivities, featuring family-friendly activities such as barbecues and raffles, and often contribute to local conservation efforts through fundraising and promoting sustainable fishing practices.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL GUDREAU



Moosestompers

SnowBowl

The SnowBowl, hosted at Spud Speedway in Caribou, is a multi-day winter festival featuring Northeast SnoCross racing, a Rave-X stunt show with snowmobile tricks, and a variety of other activities including a vintage snowmobile show, a groomer rodeo, and snowmobile demos. The event also offers guided snowmobile rides through historic sites, complemented by local food trucks, a beer garden, and live music, making it a festive gathering for winter sports enthusiasts and families.

SnowBowl



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER A MILLS



Winter Events

These events celebrate the region's culture, heritage, and natural beauty.

Wonderful Waters

Discover the thrill of spring paddling, where the melting snows swell rivers and streams.

As the ice recedes...

Paddling on the Allagash Wilderness Waterway in the spring is a transformative experience that showcases Maine's rugged wilderness at its most vibrant. As winter's grip loosens, the Waterway's 92-mile length, stretching through remote forests and alongside serene lakes and swift-flowing rivers, comes alive. Spring paddlers are often treated to the sights and sounds of the wilderness reawakening, with migrating birds returning and moose frequently spotted along the shores. The spring thaw also raises water levels, offering smoother paddling and the opportunity for some exhilarating rapids in certain sections.

Navigating the Allagash in the spring does require some preparation due to the variable conditions. Water temperatures can be very cold, and the weather can change rapidly. However, the challenge is part of the appeal, giving adventurers a sense of solitude and communion with nature that's hard to find elsewhere. Canoeists and kayakers can explore historic sites along the waterway, like old logging camps and trapper huts, adding a touch of historical intrigue to their journey. This season is perfect for those who appreciate the quiet beauty of the North Maine Woods and the thrill of an early season paddle.

PHOTO BY DAVID CONLEY

Experience Spring

Hiking

Spring hiking in Aroostook County features trails that wind through awakening forests and past serene waterways. Aroostook State Park offers trails with views over Echo Lake, while the more secluded Deboullie Public Reserved Land provides rugged paths and pristine lake scenery. This is the season for enjoying the fresh, floral-scented air and observing wildlife as nature rejuvenates.

Fishing

Spring fishing thrives as waters warm and fish such as brook trout and arctic char become active.

Local sporting camps such as Libby, Red River, and Chandler Camps enhance the experience by offering guided fishing, accommodations, and expert advice, ensuring anglers have access to the best spots in the region's pristine wilderness.

Events

Aroostook celebrates spring with several engaging events. The Spring Craft Fair and Fiddlehead Festival in Presque Isle spotlight local crafts and the cherished fiddlehead fern season with crafts, food, and outdoor activities including a river race and 5K run. The Aroostook Sportsman's Spring Show, also in Presque Isle, caters to outdoor enthusiasts with exhibits on fishing, hunting, and conservation. These events not only highlight the county's cultural and natural assets but also bring the community and visitors together to enjoy the season.

Spring also kicks off a host of exciting canoe races. You can check them out at the QR below!



Canoe Races
Explore some of the upcoming races!

PHOTO BY CHRIS SHANE



Start Your Summer off Right

From hiking and biking through lush forests and rolling hills to attending the famous Potato Blossom Festival, Aroostook provides a serene escape with the warm welcome of small-town charm.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL GUDREAU

Cycling in Aroostook County, Maine, offers a diverse and scenic experience for both casual and serious cyclists. The area is known for its vast landscapes, ranging from rolling agricultural fields to dense forests, providing a serene and inviting backdrop for bike rides. The relatively low traffic on rural roads coupled with challenging terrain in some areas makes Aroostook a favored destination for cycling enthusiasts.

USBR 501 Highlights

Presque Isle

Start your ride in Presque Isle, where you can explore Aroostook State Park. Enjoy scenic trails, picturesque views of Echo Lake, and opportunities for picnicking, making it an ideal beginning for your cycling adventure.

Fort Kent

Ride through Fort Kent to visit the historic Fort Kent Blockhouse. Take in panoramic views of the St. John River, learn about the region's role in the Aroostook War, and enjoy the rich cultural heritage of this charming border town.

One of the highlights of cycling in Aroostook County is the U.S. Bicycle Route 501 (USBR 501). This route is part of a developing national network of bicycle routes that connect urban and rural areas across the U.S. USBR 501 in Maine traverses through Aroostook County, offering cyclists a well-mapped and marked route. It passes through key communities and scenic areas, showcasing the natural beauty and cultural heritage of northern Maine. This route provides cyclists with a safe, scenic, and direct path across varied landscapes, making it ideal for longer rides and touring.

Houlton

Ride in the Houlton area for mostly flat riding with huge sky views and charming farm land scenery.

Madawaska

Head to Madawaska, a center of Acadian culture. Explore the Acadian Village, savor local Acadian cuisine, and immerse yourself in the vibrant traditions and history that define the area. The scenic landscapes and welcoming community make Madawaska a memorable stop on your journey.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL GUDREAU

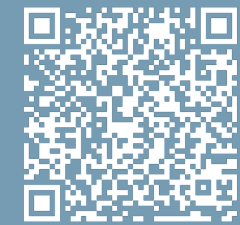


Bike Routes

View all 38 mapped routes in the region.

Golf

Golf in Aroostook County, offers a tranquil and picturesque setting for golfers of all skill levels. The County's cool summer climate makes for ideal golfing conditions, where players can enjoy long, leisurely rounds under expansive skies. Additionally, the less crowded courses ensure a peaceful game without the rush.



**Golfing
Resources**



Caribou County Club

Portage Hills Country Club

Va Jo Wa Golf Course

Fort Kent Golf Club

Long Lake Country Club

Limestone County Club

Aroostook Valley Country Club

Houlton Community Golf Course

Mars Hill Country Club

One of Northern Maine's best kept secrets is right in Mars Hill. The Mars Hill Country Club is located at the base of Mars Hill Mountain, one of the most picturesque areas of Northern Maine.

Presque Isle Country Club

A scenic and challenging 18-hole golf course, providing a premier golfing experience surrounded by the natural beauty of northern Maine.

Aroostook's Most Colorful Season

Experience the vibrant tapestry of fall colors in Aroostook, where the crisp air and brilliant foliage of over 65 native tree species create a breathtaking backdrop for outdoor adventures.

Painted Trails

ATVing in Aroostook County during the fall is a particularly captivating experience, as riders traverse through landscapes painted with the hues of autumn. The region has an extensive network of ATV trails, making it a favorite among enthusiasts for its variety and scenic beauty. Some of the more popular trails and destinations include:

The Aroostook Valley Trail connects to several other major trails and offers a mixed scenery of forests, farmlands, and river views. It's perfect for experiencing the changing colors of the fall foliage.

The Bangor and Aroostook Trail is known for its historical significance. This trail follows the old railroad routes offering a journey through time with beautiful natural surroundings that become especially picturesque during autumn.

Deboullie Public Reserved Land is not exclusively for ATVs, but the area around Deboullie is accessible for riders and is renowned for its stunning natural features, including remote lakes and rugged terrain amidst the fall colors.

These trails not only offer great rides but also connect to local communities where riders can enjoy hospitality and services tailored to ATV visitors. The cooler fall weather provides comfortable riding conditions, and the lesser crowds compared to summer make it an ideal time to explore the wilderness of northern Maine on an ATV.

Foliage Tips

For the best fall foliage experience, plan your visit for late September to mid-October. Early morning or late afternoon light enhances photography opportunities. Stay updated with local reports for peak colors and be flexible with plans to capture the most stunning scenes. Peak foliage starts in the northwest corner of Aroostook and works its way southeast daily. This means if you move with it, you can get peak foliage for 3-4 days! It's better to be early to view the leaves rather than late, so check with a local chamber for the most up-to-date foliage report.

Aroostook State Park

Near Presque Isle, this park offers vibrant fall views from Quaggy Jo Mountain.

Haystack Mountain

A short hike near Castle Hill leads to stunning panoramic views of the colorful autumn countryside.

Scopan Public Reserved Land

Near Ashland, this area features trails and Scopan Lake, where the fall foliage reflects beautifully on the water.

Million Dollar View Scenic Byway

Breathtaking panoramas of vibrant foliage, rolling hills, sparkling lakes, and Katahdin offering travelers an unforgettable autumn drive.



Foliage Tracker

These reports represent the official word on foliage conditions in Maine.



Route 11

This route is ideal for a scenic drive, stretching from Fort Kent to Patten. It winds through classic northern Maine landscapes, offering expansive views of the colorful fall foliage.

Signature Events

Attending events during the fall offers a unique opportunity to experience the region's vibrant community spirit against the backdrop of stunning autumn landscapes.

The fall season brings crisp, clear weather and a breathtaking display of foliage, adding to the enjoyment of local festivals, cultural events, craft fairs, and outdoor activities.

Crown of Maine Balloon Fest



PHOTO BY PAUL CYR

Crown of Maine Balloon Fest

While it technically kicks off the fall season, it's a major highlight of the region.

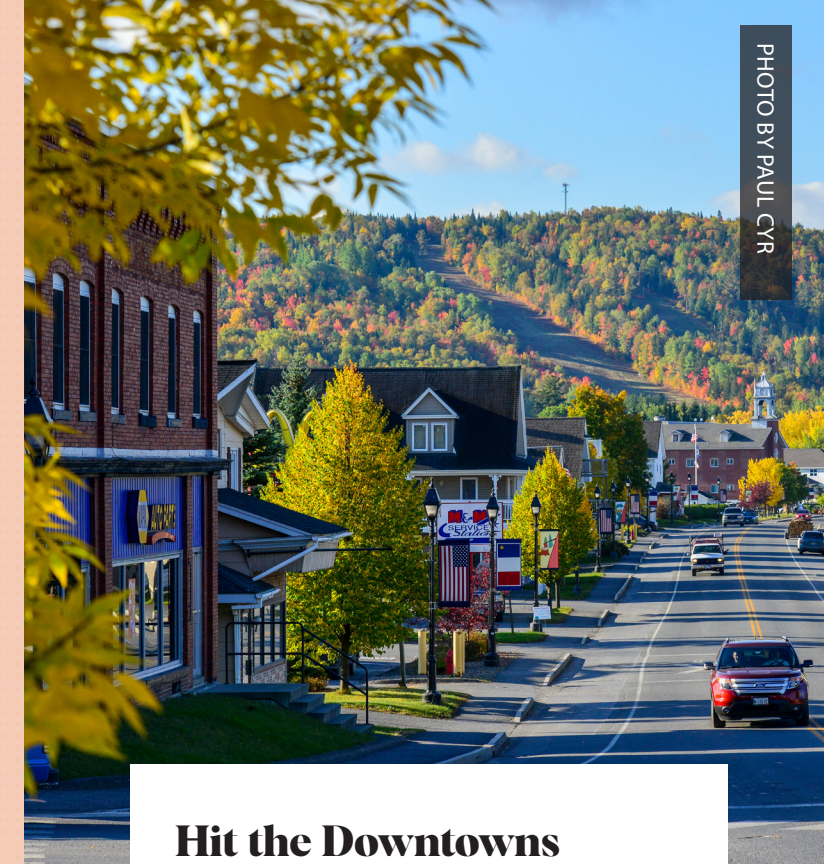
This festival draws thousands of visitors with its hot air balloon launches, tethered rides, and a stunning balloon glow at dusk. Along with the balloon activities, the event features craft fairs, live music, and food vendors. The festival is a beloved tradition, marking the transition from summer to fall with the colorful spectacle of balloons.

Hit the Downtowns

As the region celebrates the harvest season, it's the perfect time to shop locally. Farmers' markets overflow with fresh, locally grown produce, ideal for canning and preserving the flavors of autumn.

The Harvest Festival in Houlton is a highlight, featuring seasonal foods, crafts, and activities that reflect the area's agricultural richness. Visitors can also explore the annual Craft Fair in Caribou, where talented artisans showcase handmade goods, from knitted items to unique woodwork.

PHOTO BY PAUL CYR



Oktoberfest



PHOTO BY MICHAEL GUDREAU

Fall Events

These events celebrate the region's culture, heritage, and natural beauty.



Annual Metaksonekiyak Community Days



PHOTO BY ROSALIND MORGAN

Farmers' Markets and Roadside Stands

In Aroostook County, the abundance of fresh produce, farmers' markets, and the culture of roadside stands paint a vivid picture of the region's deep agricultural roots.



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER A MILLS

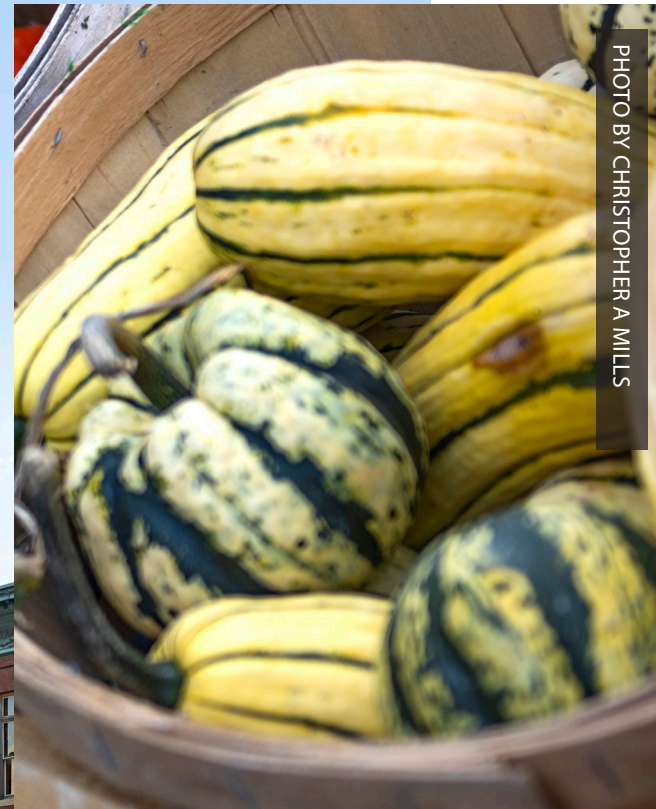


PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER A MILLS

PHOTO BY REDSUP PHOTOGRAPHY



Aroostook is particularly famous for its high-quality potatoes, but local farms also produce a variety of other fresh fruits and vegetables. During the growing season, these farms often set up roadside stands that become a common sight along the county's scenic drives.

Run by local farmers, many from multigenerational farming families, these stands often work on an honor system, reflecting the region's strong community spirit. Buying from these stands connects you directly with the people who grow the food, providing a personal touch and supporting the local economy.

Presque Isle Farmers Market

One of the most well-known markets in the county, this market operates at Riverside Pavilion, offering a wide variety of local produce, baked goods, and crafts.

Houlton Community Market

Located in Market Square, this market is a hub for fresh vegetables, fruits, and handmade products, drawing both locals and tourists.



Farms

Farms and agriculture in Aroostook.



It's Not Just Potatoes

These dishes represent the heart of Aroostook County and Acadian culinary traditions, offering a taste of the region's rich cultural heritage. Despite the title, a lot of these do include potatoes... Up for a culinary scavenger hunt? See how many of these you can check off on your visit!



Food and Drink
Explore our restaurant listings and start checking these off!



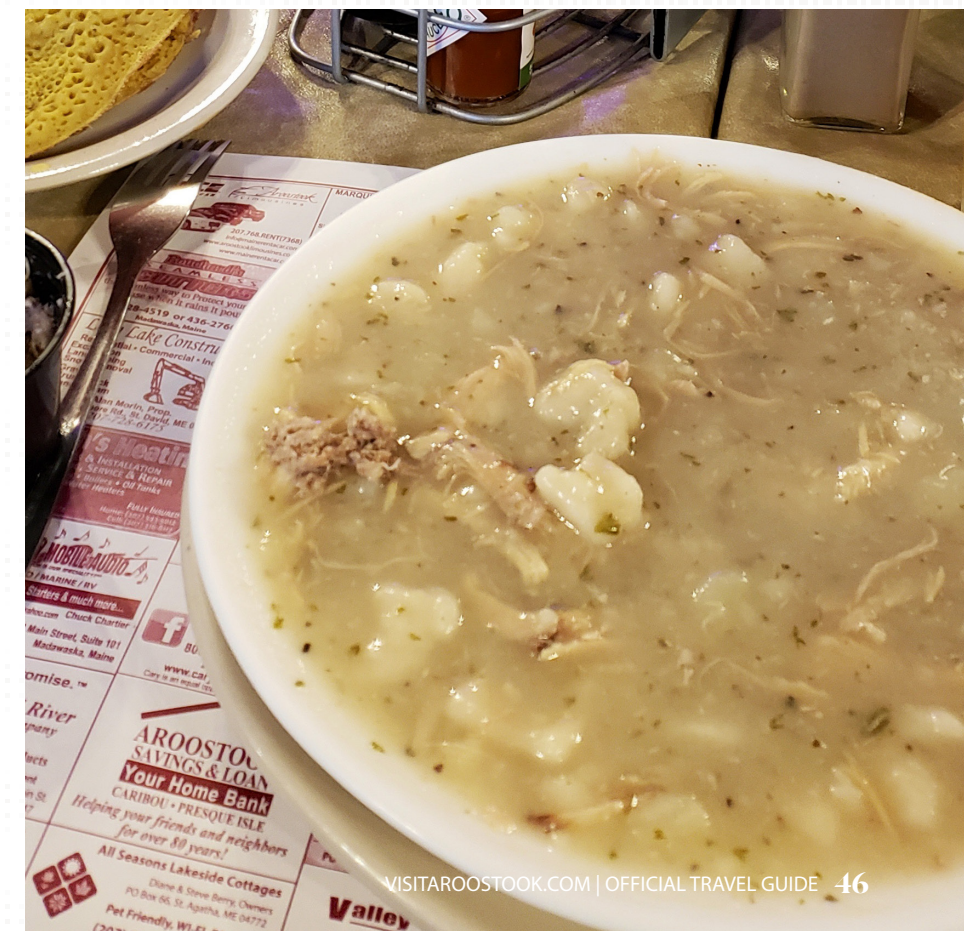
1 Ployes

A traditional Acadian buckwheat pancake, ployes are a staple in Aroostook County. They are typically served with butter, syrup, or cretons (a type of pork spread). Ployes are often eaten with meals or as a snack.



2 Ericot

This hearty dish combines a flavorful chicken stew with vegetables, served alongside ployes. It's a comforting meal often enjoyed during the colder months.



3 Tourtière ☐

A savory meat pie made with a mixture of ground pork, beef, or wild game, tourtière is a classic Acadian dish, often served during the holidays but enjoyed year-round.



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER A MILLS

4 Potato Donuts ☐

Ok, you got us... These have potatos. Made using mashed potatoes in the dough, these donuts have a moist, tender texture and a subtle richness. These slightly denser donuts come in flavors like glazed, cinnamon sugar, and chocolate. Celebrating the region's potato farming heritage, they are popular in local bakeries and at county fairs, offering a unique twist on the traditional donut.

5 Rappie Pie ☐

While more common in the Acadian regions of Nova Scotia, rappie pie has found its way into Aroostook cuisine. It's a grated potato casserole typically mixed with meat or seafood, and baked to golden perfection.



6 Poutine Râpée ☐

This Acadian dish consists of a boiled potato dumpling stuffed with pork and served with molasses or brown sugar. It's a unique combination of savory and sweet, beloved in Acadian communities.

7 Molasses Cookies ☐

Reflecting the region's love for molasses, these cookies are a sweet treat often found in Acadian households. They're soft, spiced, and full of rich molasses flavor, perfect for dessert or with a cup of tea.



Must Dos and Must Eats

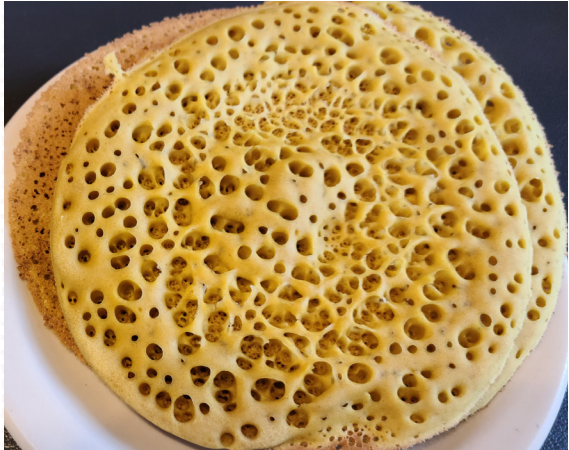


Spot a Snowy Owl

Up here, you can observe a wide array of bird species in their natural habitats, surrounded by the beauty of northern forests. Keep a close eye out for owls!

Try a Ploye

A ploye, a traditional Acadian buckwheat pancake, offers a unique, light, and savory taste.



Visit a Sugar Shack

A sweet, authentic experience of watching maple syrup being made and tasting it fresh from the source.



Rent a Canoe

Explore Aroostook's pristine rivers and lakes at your own pace, and don't forget the life jackets!

Ride in a Hot Air Balloon

It's not the easiest thing to book, but if you can, you'll experience the breathtaking views of the region's scenic landscapes from the sky



Visit a Blockhouse

Get a glimpse into the region's military past with a fascinating look at the structures used during the Aroostook War.

Have Poutine for Lunch

A delicious combo of crispy fries, rich gravy, and fresh cheese curds that reflect the region's culinary traditions.



Explore the Solar System

Drive along US Route 1 and see how many planets you can spot! This model stretches 40 miles from the sun at the northern maine museum of science, to pluto at the Houlton visitors center.



Climb Peekaboo Fire Tower

Peekaboo Mountain is a great, family-friendly hike to a fire tower where the views are magnificent in all directions.



Stop at a Roadside Stand

Enjoy the freshest local produce and handmade goods while supporting our vibrant agricultural community.



A Guide to Shopping on Main Street

Loring Air Force Base

Discover the hidden history of Loring Air Force Base, a key site in America's Cold War legacy.



PHOTO BY DESCHANE DIGITAL

A Pivotal Site in History

Explore the fascinating remnants of Loring Air Force Base, a pivotal site in Cold War history, nestled in the northernmost reaches of Maine. Once one of the largest and most critical Strategic Air Command bases, Loring played a key role in national defense. Today, the base stands as a testament to this era, offering visitors a unique opportunity to delve into military history.

The base's most iconic structure, the Arch Hangar, is one of the largest arched-roof hangars in the world. Built to house B-52 bombers and their support equipment, this massive building is a marvel of military engineering, reflecting the scale and importance of Loring during its operational years.



Visitors can explore the vast interior, where the echoes of its bustling past still linger.

Loring also features an extensive network of underground bunkers and storage facilities, once used to house nuclear weapons. These bunkers, hidden beneath the earth, provide a chilling reminder of the Cold War's tensions and the base's strategic importance. Touring these areas offers a rare glimpse into the secretive world of Cold War military operations.

Whether you're a history enthusiast, military buff, or simply curious about this unique piece of American heritage, Loring Air Force Base offers an unforgettable journey into the past.

Its preserved structures and haunting atmosphere make it a compelling destination for anyone interested in exploring a crucial chapter of the 20th century.



PHOTO BY PAUL CYR



Museums and Cultural Events

Aroostook County is the largest county east of the Mississippi River, and is known for its rich history and cultural heritage.

Originally inhabited by the Wabanaki tribes, Aroostook County saw European settlement in the early 19th century, with significant influence from French Canadians. The county was the site of the Aroostook War, a border dispute with British Canada, resolved peacefully in 1842.

Aroostook became a major agricultural hub, particularly for potato farming, which, along with logging, dominated its economy. Over time, economic shifts led to diversification, though agriculture remains central.

The county retains a strong cultural identity, influenced by its Native American, Acadian, and Irish roots.

PHOTO BY JEFF CLARK



PHOTO BY JEFF CLARK

Midsommar Festival

The Midsommer Festival in New Sweden, Maine, is a vibrant annual celebration of Swedish heritage held in late June. Rooted in the traditions of the town's 19th-century Swedish settlers, the festival features traditional music, folk dancing, and the raising of a flower-adorned maypole, symbolizing the joy of summer. Attendees can enjoy Swedish cuisine, including pickled herring and meatballs, while embracing the town's cultural roots in a joyous, community gathering.



Maine Potato Blossom Festival

The Maine Potato Blossom Festival, held annually in Fort Fairfield in mid-July, celebrates Aroostook County's agricultural heritage as a top potato-growing region. The weeklong event features a grand parade, potato-picking contest, agricultural exhibits, a carnival, live music, and the crowning of the Potato Blossom Queen, all ending with a fireworks display.

Additional Cultural Events

.....

Metaksonekiyak Community Day

Ploye Festival

Mawiomi of Tribes

Acadian Festival

Victorian Christmas at the Estey



PHOTO BY JEFF CLARK

Mawiomi of Tribes

Resources

For more info on Aroostook County, including seasonal highlights, travel tips, and an information center, go to VisitAroostook.com.

Tourism Hotline
888-216-2463

Chambers of Commerce

Central Aroostook
207-764-6561
centralaroostookchamber.com

Greater Fort Kent Area
207-834-5354
fortkentchamber.com

St. John Valley
207-728-7000
stjohnvalleychamber.org

Greater Houlton
207-532-4216
greaterhoulton.com

Limestone Area
207-764-6561
limestonemaine.org/chamber

Airports

Presque Isle International Airport (PQI)
207-764-2550
flypresqueisle.com

Bangor International Airport (BGR)
888-826-6893
flybangor.com

Car Rentals at PQI

Acc Rent a Car
888-826-6893
acerentacar.com

Avis
800-218-3469
avis.com

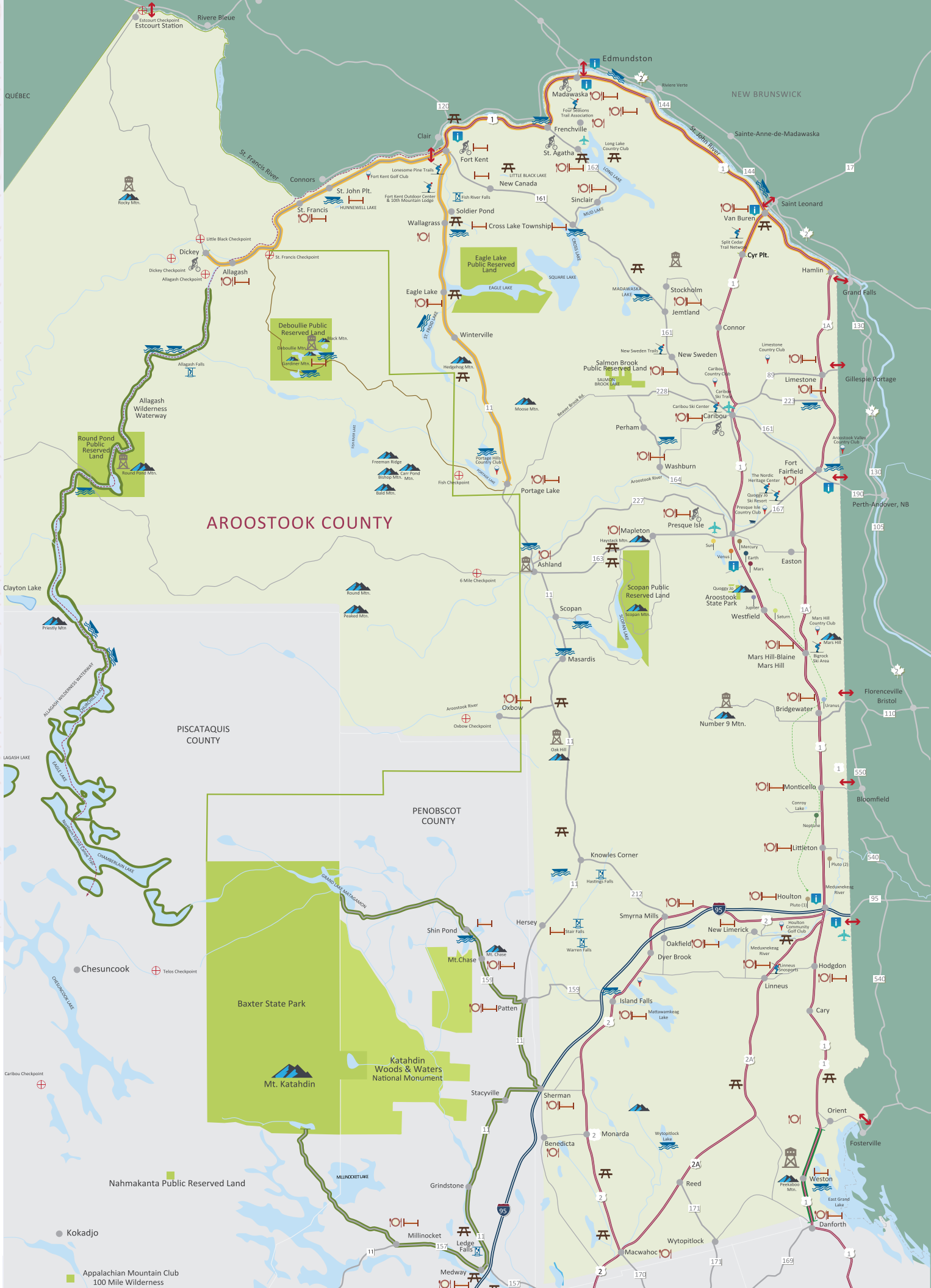
Budget
800-218-7992
budget.com

Buses

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johntcyrandsons.com

Map Legend

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|
| Airport | Fire Tower | Mountain | Waterfall | St. John Valley / Fish River National Scenic Byway |
| Boat Launch | Food/Restaurant options available | Picnic Area | Katahdin Woods & Waters National Scenic Byway | North Maine Woods boundary |
| Border Crossing | Golf Club | Ski Area | Million Dollar View Scenic Byway | |
| Checkpoints | Lodging options available | Tourist Information Center | Northern Forest Canoe Trail | |
| Dirt Road | | | | |



Hotels and Motels

SureStay by Best Western
207-769-0111
71 Main Street, Presque Isle

Hampton Inn
207-760-9292
768 Main Street, Presque Isle

Bear Paw Inn
207-4425-6241
94 Main Street, Mars Hill

Northeastland Hotel
207-768-5321
436 Main Street, Presque Isle

Caribou Inn and Convention Center
207-498-3733
19 Main Street, Caribou

Russel's Motel
207-498-2567
357 Main Street, Caribou

Crown Park Inn
207-493-3311
30 Access Highway, Caribou

Bunker Inn
207-325-6072
17 Virginia Pl, Limestone

Aroostook Hospitality Inn
207-455-8567
23 Langille Road, Washburn

Overlook Motel
207-444-4535
3232 Aroostook Road, Eagle Lake

Dean's Motor Lodge
207-435-3701
2075 Portage Road, Portage

Martin's Motel
207-728-3395
93 Main Street, Madawaska

Aroostook Hospitality Inn
207-484-6200
95 Main Street, Van Buren

Inn of Acadia
207-728-3402
St. Thomas Street, Madawaska

The Northern Door Inn
207-834-3133
356 W Main Street, Fort Kent

Gateway Motel
207-728-3318
735 Main Street, Madawaska

Long Lake Motor Inn
207-543-5006
596 Main Street, St. Agatha

Four Corners Inn and Suites
207-728-3318
735 Main Street, Madawaska

First Settlers Lodge
207-448-3000
341 US Route 1, Weston

Katahdin Valley Motel
1-888-500-2418
32 Main Street, Sherman

Brookside Inn
207-757-8456
2277 US-2, Smyrna Mills

Wolastoq Inn and Suites
207-694-0767
672 North St, Houlton

Ivy's Motor Lodge
207-532-6538
241 North Street, Houlton

Shiretown Inn
207-532-9421
282 North Street, Houlton

Campgrounds

Wilderness Pines
207-538-4500
83 West Conroy Lake Road, Monticello

Canadian Border KOA Journey
207-532-6739
659 North Street, Houlton

Arndt's Aroostook River Lodge and Campground
207-764-8677
95 Parkhurst Siding Road, Presque Isle

Birch Point Lodge Campground
207-463-2515
33 Birch Point Lane, Island Falls

Whispering Falls Camgroud and Cabins
207-834-6329
620 Aroostook Road, Fort Kent

Fieldstone Cabins and Rainbow Cove RV Park
207-768-1688
287 Lakeshore Drive, Stockholm

Grand Isle Campground
207-227-1177
288 Main Street, Grand Isle

Lakeview Camping Resort
207-543-6331
10 Lakeview Drive, St. Agatha

Neil E. Michaud Campground
207-769-1951
164 Houlton Road, Presque Isle

Steve's Place
207-769-9109
111 Washburn Road, Washburn

Kacie's Place
207-492-1323
Limestone Street, Caribou

Lodges and Sporting Camps

Mt. Chase Lodge 207-528-2183
1517 Shin Pond Road, Patten

Libby's Sporting Camp 207-435-8274
Oxbow Road, Oxbow

Lugdon Lodge 207-444-4557
1695 Sly Brook Road, Eagle Lake

Red River Camps 207-435-6000
Hewes Brook Road, Portage

Shin Pond Village 207-528-2900
1489 Shin Pond Road, Mt. Chase

Long Lake Camps and Lodge 207-543-6390
111 Sinclair Road, Sinclair

Eagle Lake Sporting Camp 207-444-5108
T16R6 23 Furlong Road, Eagle Lake

Umcolcus Sporting Camp 207-841-0508
1243A Oxbow Road, Oxbow

Hewes Brook Lodge 207-453-7036
Portage

Katahdin Lodge 207-528-7731
626 Aroostook Scenic HWY, Smyrna Mills

Backwooks Guide Service and Cabins 207-528-7731
72 Townline Road, Caribou

Lakeside Lodge 207-543-2129
246 Sinclair Road, Sinclair

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Museums and Historical Features

A.B. Leavitt House
Sherman Mills

Aroostook County
Historical and Art Museum
Houlton

Boy with the Leaky Boot
Pierce Park, Houlton

Hancock Barracks
Houlton

Houlton Amphitheater
Monument Park, Houlton

Oakfield Railroad Museum
Oakfield

Patten Lumbermen's Museum
Patten

Southern Aroostook
Agricultural Museum
Littleton

Rest in Peace Museum
Island Falls

Ashland Logging Museum
Ashland

Benjamin C. Wilder 1852
Homestead and Agricultural
Museum
Washburn

Blockhouse Museum
Fort Fairfield

Caribou Historical Center
and Museum
Caribou

Caribou Performing Arts
Center
Caribou

Community Bandstand
Fort Fairfield

Covenant Church
New Sweden

Double Eagle II Park
Presque Isle

Francis Malcolm Science
Institute
Presque Isle

Friends Church
Fort Fairfield

Historic Fairmount
Cemetery and Civil War
Monument
Presque Isle

Larsson-Noak Historic
District
New Sweden

Louie's Antique Chainsaws
Allagash

Loring Military Heritage
Center
Limestone

Maysville Museum
Presque Isle

McElwain House
Caribou

McIntosh Schoolhouse
Fort Fairfield

Children's Museum of
Aroostook County
Presque Isle

Nylander Museum
Caribou

Presque Isle Air Museum
Presque Isle

Railroad Museum
Fort Fairfield

Reed Art Gallery
UMPI, Presque Isle

Rosie O'Grady Balloon of
Peace Monument
Caribou

The 1875 Vera Estey House
Museum
Presque Isle

The Aroostook Band of
Micmacs Museum
Presque Isle

The James School
Presque Isle

Thomas Park
New Sweden

Tri-Cultural Museum
Stockholm

Acadian Archives
UMFK, Fort Kent

Acadian Landing and
Tante Blanche Museum
Madawaska

Acadian Village
Van Buren

Blockhouse Museum
Fort Kent

Historic Governor Brann
Schoolhouse
Van Buren

Isaie and Scholastics
Martin Acadian Homestead
Madawaska

Musee Culturel du Mont-
Carmel
Lille

Mama Kelly's Allagash
Museum
Allagash

Historical Societies
Allagash Historical Society
526 Dickey Rd, Allagash
Haystack Historical Society
1565 Main St, Mapleton

Aroostook Genealogical
Society
44 Park St, Caribou

Central Aroostook Historical
Society
US Route 1, Blaine

Caribou Historical Center
1033 Presque Isle Rd, Caribou

Fort Kent Historical Society
3 Market St, Fort Kent

Frontier Heritage Historical
Society
18 Community Center Dr, Fort
Fairfield

Presque Isle Historical
Society
PO Box 285, Presque Isle

St. Agatha Historical Society
34 Brook Rd, St. Agatha

Salmon Brook Historical
Society
1267 Main St, Washburn

Smyrna-Merril Historical
Society
3411 County Rd, Smyrna Mills

Stockholm Historical Society
280 Main St, Stockholm

Island Falls Historical Society
16 Nina Sawyer Ln, Island Falls

Madawaska Historical
Society, Madouesk Historic
Center and Acadian Cross
Historic Shrine
393 Main St, Madawaska

Maine Acadian Heritage
Council

New Sweden Historical
Society
116 Station Rd, New Sweden

Woodland Historical Society
1149 New Sweden Rd,
Woodland



"Where Imagination Comes to Life!"

The logo for the Children's Museum & Aroostook County features the words "Children's" in blue and "museum" in green, with a stylized house icon to the right. Below it, "Aroostook County" is written in blue. To the left of the logo is a photograph of a young boy in an orange and black astronaut suit, holding a white helmet. Below the photograph is a photograph of the museum's interior, showing a colorful play area with a sign that reads "Children's Museum & Aroostook County".

www.childrensmuseumaroostook.com

facebook.com/childrensmuseumaroostook

830 Main Street, Aroostook Centre Mall, Maine 04769

Whether you are coming to Caribou, Maine for the first time, returning to your hometown, or looking to relocate, you can find everything you need at cariboumaine.org/visit.

cariboumaine.org/visit

Activities

From special events and festivals to unique Aroostook County experiences, you can find something fun to do all year long.

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Dining

Restaurants, groceries, take-out services and delivery. You can always find something delicious to eat in Caribou, Maine!

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Need a gas station, shop-ping, banking or repair services? You're covered with all of the services needed to make your stay more comfortable.

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Stays

Whether you're staying for a night, a weekend, a month or looking to make Caribou your new home, find a place to stay here.

[Find Places to Stay →](#)



The heart of the St. John Valley

Photo Credit: Deschaine Digital

www.stjohnvalleychamber.org
356 Main Street, Madawaska, ME 04756
info@stjohnvalleychamber.org
207-728-7000

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Francis Malcolm Science Center, 776 Houlton Road,
P.O. Box 186, Easton, Maine 04740

The Common Gallery
422 Main St. Suite C, Presque Isle, ME 04769
facebook.com/thecommongallery
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*Raphael Gibbets "From My Kayak" Art Show, May 2023

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Aroostook County offers a high quality of life with a close-knit community, 4 seasons, and easy access to outdoor recreation. We share our northern border with Canada (Quebec & New Brunswick), allowing for quick trips to enjoy large cultural centers and unique experiences.

The County has many affordable homes and abundant land; 5+ acre lots are common in more rural locations. There is ample space for children to roam, outdoor activities, and privacy. The median home value in Aroostook is \$149,000, which is significantly lower than the US House Median Value of \$338,100.

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