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



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

GUIDE & MAP

PUBLIC LAND

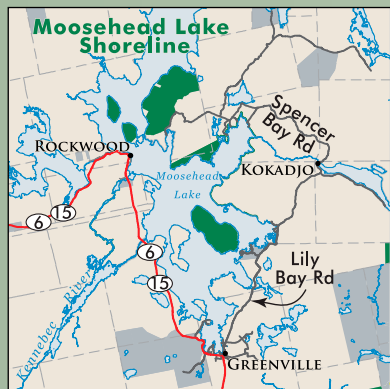
SHORELINE

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 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.



Lat 45.614610 / Lon -69.663009

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 Land east of Mount Kineo.

FEES

- Day use fees apply to Mount Kineo State Park, payable at the self-service station at the entrance. The Moosehead Lake Shoreline & Little Moose Public Land campsites are free of charge and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Lily Bay State Park charges day use and camping fees. Advance reservations are recommended for Lily Bay's campsites.
- Day Use Fees & Passes: www.MaineStateParkPass.com
- Camping at State Parks: www.CampWithME.com
- Boat Launch Online Sortable Listing: www.maine.gov/dacf/boatlaunches



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, and 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



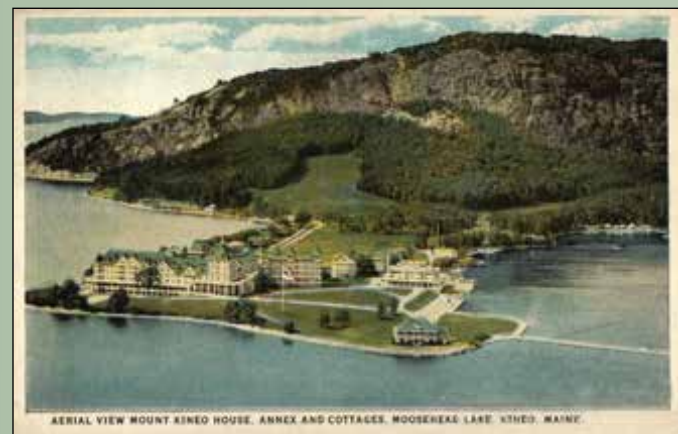
Looking out over Moosehead Lake from the summit of Big Moose Mountain
Photo by Katie Nemmer

PROPERTY HISTORY

GLACIERS AND FIRST INHABITANTS

The 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 were built to accommodate up to 500 guests.



Lily Bay State Park's Beach
Photo by Rex Turner

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.Int.org



CONTACTS

Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands
Western Region Public Lands Office
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



Mount Kineo is briefly lit by the sun on a cloudy fall day
Photo by Rex Turner

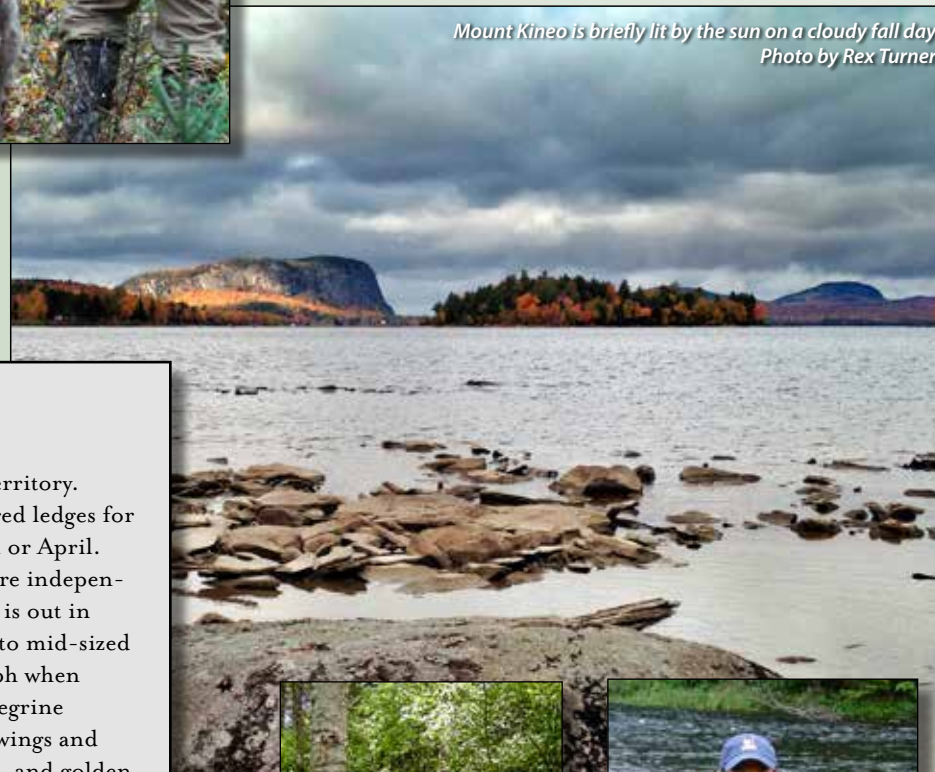
PEREGRINE FALCONS

Mount 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—the cliffs of Mt. Kineo.



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 Land
- 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



Hiking on Little 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 water-based 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.



Moosehead Lake Sunset
Photo by Rex Turner

TIMBER MANAGEMENT ON MAINE'S PUBLIC LANDS

Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) actively manages the Public Lands 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 Council™ and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative™.

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



OVERVIEW

Moosehead 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, white-tailed 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. Little Moose Public Land (see map and Regional Destinations) is 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, and 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, plus 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. Well-marked 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

Moosehead Lake Shoreline Public Land lies 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 Land encompasses more than 40,000 acres with waterfront camping on Seboomook Lake, just west of the Penobscot River Corridor. A Seboomook Public Land Guide & Map is available from the Western Region Public Lands Office of 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 Land, 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.BaxterStatePark.org
- 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

Campsite Latitude/Longitudes			
Moosehead Lake Shoreline			
Beach Haven 45.6458, -69.6012	Farm Island 2 45.718, -69.7616	K3 45.567583, -69.7346	Paradise Cove 45.6049, -69.5908
Big Duck Cove 1 45.7775, -69.6465	Farm Island 3 45.7144, -69.7654	Kayak Ledge 45.5828, -69.6192	Roach Inlet 45.7095, -69.5522
Big Duck Cove 2 45.7739, -69.6458	Fox Island 45.6797, -69.5735	Kelly Wharf 45.7511, -69.7058	Ronco Cove 45.6734, -69.6486
Big Duck Cove 3 45.7707, -69.6397	Galusha Cove 45.6056, -69.6058	Lucky Point 45.6915, -69.5879	Salmon Island 45.6982, -69.5531
Birch Path 45.6032, -69.5854	Hardscrabble Point 45.7126, -69.7518	Lucky Shore 45.6944, -69.5865	Sand Cove 45.5998, -69.5784
Canoe Cove 45.7699, -69.6558	High Bank 45.624, -69.5812	Masterman Island 45.6402, -69.7048	Seboomook Point 45.8513, -69.6839
Cowan East 45.7002, -69.6738	Jewett Cove 45.6871, -69.5454	The Narrows 45.6691, -69.6122	Spencer Bay 45.7144, -69.5584
Cowan West 45.703, -69.6862	K1 45.57855, -69.7262	North Point 45.6437, -69.6127	Spencer View 45.6464, -69.6055
Deer Island 45.6016, -69.6683	K2 45.5756, -69.727233	Outward Bound 45.6683, -69.6516	Sunset Cove 45.5924, -69.6244
Farm Island 1 45.7214, -69.7594			

Moosehead Lake Shoreline's campsites are primitive. Each authorized site has a fire ring, picnic table, and a nearby privy.

Lily Bay State Park	
Dunn Point Campground 45.5728, -69.5636	Rowell Cove Campground 45.5801, -69.5504

Boating / Navigational Aids Information

There are more than 200 buoys and markers on Moosehead Lake and boat launches are highly variable. Online resources are available for pre-trip planning:

Navigational Aids: www.maine.gov/dacf/nav-aids
Buoy Map: www.maine.gov/dacf/buoymap
Boat Launches: www.maine.gov/dacf/boatlaunches
Ice Out: www.maine.gov/dacf/iceout

Moosehead Shoreline

Trails and Interest Points

- Hiking Trail
- ATV Trail
- Snowmobile Trail
- Multi-use Trail (ATV & Snowmobile)
- Northern Forest Canoe Trail
- Ranger Station
- Parking
- Boat Launch, Trailerable*
- Boat Launch, Hand-carry*
- Picnic Area
- Tent Site (Number of Sites)
- Tower

Transportation

- Major Road, Highway
- Secondary Road, Street
- Gravel Road

Land Designations

- BPL Land

*Trailerable and hand-carry boat launches are highly variable. Use the Online Sortable Boat Launch Listing: www.maine.gov/dacf/boatlaunches
 **Kineo Boat Landing subject to annual agreement

TRAILS

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 times before hiking and gauge plans accordingly.

- 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 steeply along open ledge to the summit;
- Bridle Trail** (1 mile to summit from Carriage Trail) provides a less steep route to the summit for hikers, from second intersection off the Carriage Trail;
- Carriage Trail** (2.2 miles from boat landing to Hardscrabble Point) follows the west shore of the peninsula;
- 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 of potential hazards.

For maps and additional information about ATving and Snowmobiling contact the Bureau's Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office at (207) 287-4957. Within Maine Only: 1-800-462-1019.

