

Canoe the Wild Allagash Trips

5-7 Days, spring, Summer and early fall



Below is information about our 5-7-day Allagash canoe trips. If after reading over this information, you have any questions, be sure to let us know.

Best time to Go: Mid-May through late September with peak season being the last week of June through early September. Keep in mind in a typical season, the bugs can be quite bad from the end of May through the first two weeks of June. July and August are pleasant and less bugs. The fishing is best in May through early July but is dependent upon water levels from season to season.

Skill Level: No previous canoeing experience necessary. We're really good at teaching the basics of how to handle a canoe. Must be good on your feet and able to unload your gear from your canoe, set up, and take down camp daily. For our 5-day trips we recommend the minimum age be 12. For our 7-day trips we recommend the minimum age be 14. We've had folks in their 80s take part on our trips.

Custom and Private Group Outings: while the listed trips on our schedule are mostly open for individuals, groups and friends (unless marked otherwise), to sign up on, we can quote you a price for a custom private canoe trip for your group or family.

Registered Maine Guides: Our guides have good back country and canoeing skills, have good people skills, are very organize, and will work with you to impart camping and canoeing skills as needed.

Five-Seven Day Trip Itinerary: All trips meet in the town of Ashland at 8AM on day one. We'll have your car parked in a secure location close by while on the trip. After loading up into our vehicle/vehicles, we'll enter the North Maine Woods and travel over good dirt roads to our put in location. **Seven day trips** typically put in at Indian Stream or Chamberlain/Telos Lake throughfare, includes visiting the 'ghost trains' on Eagle Lake, paddling lively but not over the top-class II Chase Stream Rapids, a mixture of lake & meandering river section, Round Pond and Musquacook Deadwater. **Five-day canoe trips** typically begin on Churchill Lake and end at Michaud Farms or Allagash Village. At trip's end, we'll load up and give you a ride arriving back in Ashland around 2:30 in the afternoon on the last day of your trip.

What is Provided:

Logistics: We take care of all pre-trip planning, packing of group gear, menu, shopping for food and packing meals. With years of experience and many outings on Maine and Canadian rivers, we've become quite efficient with the whole process including best place to start and end your trip, where to camp, what rapids to scout, river distances and time needed to travel, points of interest, camp setup & takedown, providing quick shelter, proper fire wood selection and building the campfire, the knowledge & experience of your canoe route so you can have a safe and enjoyable time.

Gear We Provide: We provide all necessary camping equipment including river bags to keep your clothing dry, compact sleeping pad, quality and spacious outfitter tents, type III life jacket, paddle, spare paddle, durable Old Town canoes, compact camp chairs to relax around the campsite, group tarp, cooking & eating utensils, well stocked First Aid kit and for a little added peace of mind, a Garmin InReach two-way satellite communicator.

Sample Meals served on the Trip: Breakfasts include the best organic coffee, assortment of regular & herbal teas, & hot chocolate, oatmeal with fruit, buttermilk pancakes, served with real Maine blueberries & syrup, and the traditional Maine guide breakfast of fresh eggs, meat, potatoes. Lunches are on the fly and may include make your own wraps with assorted breads, variety of meats and cheeses, Tuna, lettuce, pickles and tomatoes. Snack foods may include trail mix & bars. Suppers may include locally raised filet Mignon steaks, wild caught Alaska sockeye salmon, vegetables, fresh cooked biscuits, spaghetti with homemade sauce, Taco Soup, chicken, rice, vegetables & dumplings, fresh salads and freshly baked desserts in our Dutch oven style dishes including brownies, strawberry shortcake, and Apple Crisp. We can accommodate vegetarian diets. Note for the gluten free folks, please contact us to discuss what to bring to substitute as needed. Vegan diets require bringing substitutes that require no extra cooking as space over the fire and pots are limited.

What is Not Included: All meals prior and after the river portion of your trip, transportation from the Bangor and Presque Isle airports (if needed), gratuities, although not required, it is customary to tip your guide, suggested amount 10-15% for exceptional service, fishing license, trip insurance including, medical, evacuation, and trip cancellation. To view multiple providers and policies, Visit: Squaremouth.com

You Provide: Personal clothing and sleeping bag (packing list sent after registering for a trip).

Extra Costs: Optional fishing license for those who desire to fish. Nonresidents ages 16 and older 3-day fishing license is \$43.00 for a 7-day nonresident fishing license, ages 15 & under can fish for free. Licenses can be purchased on line. Go to my resource's web page for a link to the Maine.gov website. There are no hidden costs.

A few options for staying the night prior to you trip: When traveling north on interstate 95 and a one hour's drive to our meeting place in Ashland is Vacationland Estates in Island Falls offering condo style units that can be rented by the night (call several weeks in advance to check on availability 207-463-2884). The Hampden Inn in Presque Isle (east of Ashland) involves an overall longer drive but puts you within a 1/2 hour drive of our meeting place. In Oxbow off route 11 is the Homestead Lodge with off season rates. It is 18 miles south of Ashland and just over a 20-minute drive to our meeting location. Another option is the River's Edge Motel and Pizza in Medway just off interstate 95, a 1.5 hour drive to our meeting place in Ashland.

New to canoeing? Be sure to view our instructional videos made in collaboration with Old Town Canoe. This short 3-part series covers: Basic Canoe Strokes, Canoe Paddling Maneuvers, Running Rapids. You can view them on our website by clicking on the gallery tab then click on the video tab.

Common Q & A

- NO pets allowed
- Maintained outhouses at all Allagash campsites
- Toilet paper is supplied but most bring a secret stash of their own
- Bringing boxed wine or a few cans of beer is fine. Responsible drinking only please. It is against the law to drink while canoeing.
- NO marijuana or Cannabis (CBD) Products. If this is a must, then please use a different guide service.
- We'll often mix and match canoeing partners based on what works best.
- Solo paddlers welcome when bringing your own solo boat
- Camp chairs are provided
- Allagash campsites are well maintained and are on a first come first serve basis. Each site has a fire pit with grate, picnic table with a rain fly pole, and areas to pitch a tent.

- We provide outfitter style tents that are easy to set up and take down. Outfitter tents come with a heavy #10 zipper and heavy-duty floor.
- There is no cell phone coverage in the Allagash.
- Paddling Chase stream Rapids is optional as a park ranger can transport you around to the base of the rapids and you can wait approximately two hours for your group to arrive.
- A typical day involves rising up at 6AM (often earlier on the big lakes to avoid potential headwinds that may arise from time to time by late morning), having breakfast and break camp getting underway around 8:30AM. We typically average around 5+ hours of paddling per day. Our approach is not to make the trip a marathon rather to arrive into camp by 2-3 in the afternoon allowing time to set up camp with some down time built in for relaxing, swimming, exploring and perhaps a short paddle to view wildlife including moose!

Please contact us with additional questions you may have and we look forward to having you on the trip!

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Link for buying fishing licenses on line: www.maine.gov/ifw/licenses_permits/fishing.htm