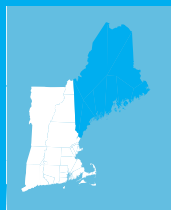


MAINE TRIPS



Known mostly for its stone-strewn shoreline and plethora of frisky moose, Maine is a state of surprising superlatives. Not only is Maine the biggest state in New England, it is also about as large as all the other states combined.

Of course, we've all heard about the mighty Maine lobster – over 90% of the lobsters caught in America are plucked from the state's rocky coast. But as you venture inland through the endless acres of dense forest, you'll uncover the largest crop of blueberries in the nation – Maine produces 99% of the country's little blue fruits. And that's not all: Maine's grand pines (it is known as the Pine Tree State, after all) are felled to make 90% of the United States' total toothpick supply.

PLAYLIST

Although Mainers aren't the biggest chart-toppers, there are some local gems for your ears to feast upon while your eyes take in the scenery out the car window:

- "Dear Mother Ocean," Bruce Thulin
- "Land's End," The String Cheese Incident
- "Collide," Howie Day
- "Hold You in My Arms," Ray Lamontagne
- "How About You?" Johnny Smith
- "Social Quarantine," A Global Threat
- "Salem's Lot," Stephen King (MP3 audio book)

Visitors don't often look past the state's glossy holiday veneer of Cape Cod-style cottages, antiques and dinner tables toppling over with the daily catch. But the truth is that this sparsely populated state has had a hard-knock life. A step off the tourist track reveals Maine's predominantly blue-collar history of hearty fisherman and lonely lighthouse keepers.



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