

So many ways to enjoy Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument



Photo by Susan Adams

Hiking

Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument (KWWNM) offers great hiking opportunities, whether you are seeking a short day hike or a multi-day hike along the entire length of the East Branch, you'll be rewarded with spectacular views and experiences. No matter your skill level, KWWNM has a hike for you. Some options take you to Barnard Mountain, Deasey Mountain, Lunksoos Mountain, along Wassataquoik Stream, or along the International Appalachian Trail (IAT).

Paddling

KWWNM boasts some of Maine's best paddling as the Seboeis River and Wassataquoik Stream converge and flow into the East Branch of the Penobscot where Henry David Thoreau paddled on his final trip to Maine in 1857. Whether you're a skilled, whitewater paddler or a novice looking to enjoy one of Maine's best activities, you'll find water that's just right for you on the Seboeis River, East Branch of the Penobscot River, and several ponds and streams.



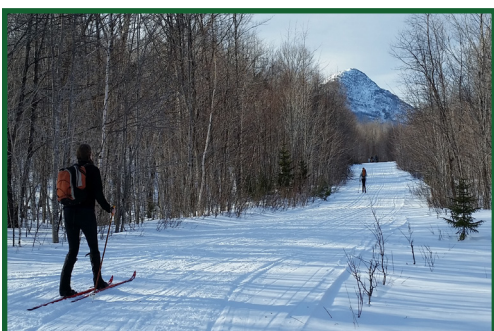
Birding

Birders from around the world will want to visit KWWNM to see many of Maine's "specialty" birds. Spruce Grouse, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, and Black-backed Woodpecker can be found in the patches of spruce-dominated habitat. KWWNM is also where you can see Rusty Blackbirds, a species of high conservation concern, which breed in the boggy wetlands often shared with the elusive Olive-sided Flycatcher. And the beech-maple and mixed-wood forests abound with a rich variety of colorful songbirds. Great birding spots include the area near the Sandbrook Stream camping area and the trail near the Sandbrook Stream bridge, the small pond and short hiking trail near mile two of the loop road, and the Overlook.



Biking

An extensive system of old logging roads and woods trails provides biking enthusiasts with an incredible opportunity to enjoy KWWNM. Park your vehicle at one of the many parking areas noted on the National Park Service (NPS) recreation map and follow the old roadways along the IAT, into Orin Falls, Katahdin Brook, Haskell Hut, Grand Pitch, or any number of other beautiful places including campsites and lean-tos.



Skiing

KWWNM provides year-round recreational opportunities. When the snow flies, strap on your skis and head to the northern portion of the monument. Skiers can park at Mattagamon Gate and ski south starting on the IAT until the trail breaks just north of Pond Pitch. Skiers can continue along the East Branch or head southeast toward Baxter State Park, Big Spring Brook Hut, or strap on their skis and head up to the Overlook for a challenging uphill ski with an unbelievable payoff at the summit.

Camping

KWWNM may be brand new, but it is already home to several campsites, huts, and lean-tos. From the comfort and woodstoves of Haskell and Big Spring Brook huts to the open-faced lean-tos at Wassataquoik and Grand Pitch, to the tent sites at Sandbank Stream, visitors will find something to suit their level of comfort with Maine's wilderness. Be sure to call ahead and speak with the National Park Service regarding reservations and availability.



Photo by Jon Luoma



Accommodations

NRCM has compiled a list of local businesses where visitors can find excellent eats and accommodations, whether you are looking for a hotel, cabin, or lodge, breakfast, lunch, dinner, or snacks.

Please visit our website for the complete list:

<http://tinyurl.com/EatPlayStayKWW>

Getting there

Driving

KWWNM is home to the Katahdin Loop Road, a 16-mile loop that provides access to a trail up Barnard Mountain, the International Appalachian Trail, Wassataquoik Stream, and, of course, the Overlook at mile 6.5 with views of Katahdin, Katahdin Lake, and the southern end of Baxter State Park. The loop road is a winding gravel road with some steep hills and sharp corners so take it slow and keep an eye out for moose and other Maine wildlife.

Currently, there are two main points of access for KWWNM:

To reach the southern portion, visitors may approach from Stacyville on the Swift Brook Road. The Swift Brook Road crosses Whetstone Bridge, which spans the East Branch of the Penobscot River at Whetstone Falls. Beyond the road heads to Sandbank Stream Campsite, Katahdin Loop Road, the Overlook, the International Appalachian Trail, Barnard Mountain, Deasey Mountain, Wassataquoik Ford, Orin Falls, and more. Swift Brook Road also heads toward Hunt Farm, Lunksoos Camps, and parcels on the east side of the East Branch of the Penobscot.

To reach the northern portion, visitors may take Rte. 159 from Patten to Mount Chase and then approach on Grand Lake Road to Mattagamon or Haskell Gate, depending upon the season. This approach provides access to the International Appalachian Trail and the upper reaches of the East Branch of the Penobscot, Stair Falls, Haskell Deadwater, Haskell Hut, Haskell Rock Pitch, Grand Pitch, Big Spring Brook Hut, Messer Pond, the Hulling Machine, the Overlook, and more.



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Protecting the Nature of Maine