

HIKING

This region is blessed with some of the most spectacular hikes in the Northeast. A wide range of terrain will please both the casual stroller and the serious backpacker. The Appalachian Trail passes southeast of Greenville and touches some of the hikes below on its way to the grand finale atop Mount Katahdin. These hikes can all be done as day trips from the Moosehead area. Whatever your ability, the majestic views and variety of choice will thrill those who love hiking.

PLEASE REMEMBER: Take only pictures and leave only footprints

IF YOU FIND ERRORS IN THE MILEAGE DIRECTIONS PLEASE NOTE THE CORRECTIONS AND LET US KNOW!

NATURAL RESOURCE EDUCATION CENTER OF MAINE (NREC) TRAILS

Difficulty: Easy

This well-marked network of trails has nameplates identifying plant species and other items of interest. It is a great choice for walkers/hikers of all ages. The trail system was created with the assistance of the Maine Forest Service, Maine Department of Transportation, Nickerson Tree Farm, and NREC Trustees and volunteers.

Directions: From the traffic light in downtown Greenville drive south on Route 15 for 2.2 miles. Park at the State Picnic Area on your left.

B-52 MEMORIAL SITE ON ELEPHANT MOUNTAIN

Distance: 1/2 mile round-trip

Time: 45 minutes

Difficulty: Easy

This is a somber memorial to the crash of a B-52 bomber doing training maneuvers in January of 1963. All but two crewmembers perished, and those two spent a cold night in a blizzard on this remote mountain before being discovered. The people of Greenville have preserved the site and the wreckage in honor of the men aboard this flight. Each year in January, a group snowmobile ride is held to this site, and a memorial service takes place.

Directions: From the traffic light in downtown Greenville drive north on the Lily Bay Road. At 7.1 miles look for a dirt road on the right called Prong Pond Road (the sign may be gone, but it is the first right after you pass the signs for Beaver Cove Marina and Beaver Cove Camps). Take the right onto the dirt road and stay straight. After 4.7 miles there is view of Elephant Mountain before you and Baker Mountain in the north. Continue .6 miles further (5.3 total), and cross the bridge at North Brook (there's a campsite, but no sign). Immediately after you cross the bridge, there is a well-traveled left turn, **but you should stay right**. You will soon come to a fork in the road. Take the left fork and at about 6.5 miles total you will see a sign on the right at the trailhead which reads B-52 - Baker Pond Trail. Park here. (If your vehicle has low clearance you should take the well-traveled left turn immediately after North Brook bridge. Go up a long hill. At the fork bear right. When road comes to a T turn right. Trailhead is on the left.)

LILY BAY STATE PARK

Difficulty: Easy

Beautiful location with a network of nature trails and a beach/picnic area that you can enjoy for a nominal day-use fee.

Directions: From the flashing light in downtown Greenville proceed about 8 miles north on the Lily Bay Road (up the east side of the lake). The park entrance will be on your left.

MOXIE FALLS

Distance: 2 miles round-trip

Difficulty: Easy

This is a very easy 1 mile walk into one of Maine's highest and prettiest waterfalls.

Directions: From downtown Greenville proceed north on Rte 15 (Pritham Avenue) to Greenville Junction. Go under the railroad trestle and over a bridge. Take your first left after the bridge onto Depot Street. When you see a road going off to your left (Greenville Industrial Park), stay to the right. At the next fork bear right (Brocha Road) toward the Greenville Town Landfill. You will pass the landfill on your left after a few miles. Stay on the Brocha Road for about 16 miles until it ends. Turn left on Indian Pond Road. Go past Moxie Lake on your left. Take the first road to the right. After approximately 1 ½ miles turn right into the well marked parking area.

LITTLE KINEO MOUNTAIN

Distance: 1.5 miles roundtrip

Time: 2 hours roundtrip

Difficulty: Moderate

This is a very scenic hike across the open summit of Little Kineo. The trail is well marked (blue-blazed). There are several overlooks along the way and spectacular views of Moosehead Lake, Kineo, Katahdin, Big Moose and the two Spencer mountains. The 360-degree views are some of the best in the state.

Directions: From the traffic light in Greenville go north about 20 miles on the Lily Bay Road to Kokadjo. After Kokadjo, turn left where the pavement ends and continue for another 1.2 miles. Reset your odometer and turn left again (there is a sign for Spencer Pond Camps) At 7.2 miles, where there is a sign for Spencer Pond Camps, stay straight on the main road. At 8.3 miles you will cross over a bridge at Spencer Pond. There will be a gorgeous view of Little Spencer Mountain on your right. At 13.9 you'll come to a fork, where you should go left. At 15.4 miles turn right at the sign for Maine Public Reserved Lands (Days Academy Grant Unit). At 16.6 miles bear left. At 17.7 miles look for the trailhead and a small parking area on the right.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This road is used as a snowmobile trail in winter. There are several signs pointing to Raymond's, Kokadjo Trading Post, Rockwood, and Kineo. These signs are intended for snowmobilers and point to roads and trails that are not passable by car or truck.

LITTLE MOOSE MOUNTAIN

(formerly Little Squaw Mountain), LITTLE MOOSE POND, BIG MOOSE POND (formerly Big and Little Squaw Ponds), and NOTCH PONDS:

Distance: 1-8 miles round-trip, depending on route

Time: 1-4 hours round-trip

Difficulty: Moderate

This is a beautiful hike with several picturesque mountain ponds. There are a total of five camping areas on these trails, two at Big Moose Pond, one each at Little Moose, Big Notch and Little Notch Ponds. The short trail (1 mile round-trip) into Big Moose Pond is very manageable for young children. From that point the trail continues to the east over a dam for about .25 miles to the intersection of the Loop Trail and the Greenwood Trail. The left fork goes to Little Moose Pond (.25 mile) and then to Papoose Pond (.5 mile) continuing up the ridge to the Greenwood Motel (4 miles from Big Moose Pond, so you may want to arrange with Northwoods Outfitters for a shuttle to get back). The right fork is the loop trail which climbs to the next trail intersection (.5 miles). The left fork is the loop trail back to the Greenwood Trail between Little Moose and Papoose Pond (.75 miles), commanding a nice view of Big Squaw Mountain. The right fork takes you to Big and Little Notch Ponds (1.5 miles). The trail then passes Baker Falls to the Big Indian Pond Trailhead (1.25 miles). The eastern end of the Greenwood Trail starts on the left side of the Greenwood Motel on Rte 15 (you may park in their lot by the Trailhead sign).

Directions: Follow the directions for the Big Moose Mountain hike. Follow the road beyond the Big Moose trailhead to the fork. Bear left. Stay on this road until it ends. You will see the post heading of the trail on your left.

Directions to the Greenwood Motel: From downtown Greenville go north on Rte 15. The Greenwood Motel will be on your left about one mile after you pass under the railroad trestle at Greenville Junction.

LITTLE WILSON FALLS

Distance: 2 miles round-trip

Time: 2 hours

Difficulty: Moderate

Directions: Go south from Greenville to Monson on Rte 15. Take a left on the Ellitsville Road, just after the "Welcome to Monson" sign. Proceed 7.7 miles. Before the bridge that spans Big Wilson Stream, take a left and go on a gravel road for 0.7 miles to where the road ends at a campsite. Park here. Walk upstream on a trail that follows along the river. After about .8 miles you will come to the Appalachian Trail, designated by white blazes on the trees. Turn left onto the AT and follow it for about .1 mile upstream to the falls. There is a dramatic drop into the gorge, so keep dogs and children close to you at the falls. On your return trip you might want to spend some time at the swimming hole near the campsite. There is a rope swing and some deep pools to jump into.

INDIAN MOUNTAIN – Laurie's Ledge Trail (Please note that fee is charged at checkpoint)

Distance: 3.2 miles round-trip

Time: 3 hours

Elevation: 2338 feet

Difficulty: Moderate

Directions: Go straight through the blinking light in Greenville (traveling north); turn right and head up the steep hill called Pleasant Street. At 2 miles the pavement ends, and at 3.6 miles you'll cross Big Wilson Stream. At 12 miles you come to Hedgehog Checkpoint, and a fee is charged. At 13.8 miles turn left, following signs to LLPC (Little Lyford Pond Camps) and the Head of Gulf Trail. You will pass the Head of Gulf Trail at 14.7 miles. The entrance to Little Lyford Pond Camps will be on your right at 16 miles. The trailhead to Laurie's Ledge trail is .1 mile further on your left. There is a vista facing west near the top that offers spectacular views of Horseshoe Pond, the Wilson Ponds, Big Moose Mountain, Elephant Mountain, Baker Mountain, and glimpses of Moosehead Lake in the distance.

NUMBER FOUR MOUNTAIN

Distance: 4 miles round-trip

Time: 3- 4 hours round-trip

Elevation: 2890 feet

Difficulty: Moderate to challenging

This trailhead is difficult to find. The beginning of the trail is an overgrown road for approximately ¼ mile. The trail then ascends steeply on a blue blazed trail. There are some rewarding scenic overlooks near the top. The summit has an abandoned fire tower.

Directions: Go north 18.2 miles from the traffic light in Greenville on the Lily Bay Road. Turn right (about .4 miles past the Frenchtown town line marker) on a dirt road marked with many mailboxes. This is the Frenchtown Road (along the south shore of First Roach Pond). From here travel 2.3 miles and take a right, then drive another 1.4 miles and take a left. At .9 miles you will cross a wooden bridge. Go another .1 mile and look carefully in the grass on the left for a white paper company sign marking the trailhead to Number 4.

MOUNT KINEO

Distance: 2.2 miles round-trip for shortest trail; 8.2 miles round-trip for longest

Time: 2 hours round-trip for shortest trail

Elevation: 1789 feet

Difficulty: Moderate to challenging

Descriptions: There are three separate trails that can be used to reach the summit of Kineo. All trails are blue-blazed, although the Indian Trail trailhead is not clearly marked.

a) Indian Trail - This is the shortest route to the fire tower and is also the one with the most views. Trail is strenuous. However, it is near to the cliff in many spots and is not a good place for those with a fear of heights. Length: 0.7 mile to Bridle Trail, then 0.4 mile to fire tower.

b) Bridle Trail - This is the original fire warden trail. Trail is easy. It begins 0.3 mile from the Indian Trail down the path called the Carriage Trail (which leaves the landing). There are no views along the trail. Length 1.1 miles.

c) North Trail - This is the longest trail. Including the entire length of the Carriage Trail, it is 4.1 miles to the summit. For the first part the trail follows the shore of Moosehead Lake all the way to Hardscrabble Point, where there are a few campsites. From here the North Trail continues along the shoreline over many roots and rocks, then begins a strenuous climb through some old hardwoods to the summit. There are limited views.

Directions: From the railroad trestle in Greenville Junction go 18.1 miles north on Rte 15. Turn right on a road marked with signs for the Rockwood town landing and docks. From the Rockwood docks it is about a 10 minute ferry ride to Kineo. In the summer there is generally a shuttle that leaves from the public boat landing in Rockwood every hour, although the times may be inconsistent. A small fee is charged. Kineo Shuttle telephone number: (207) 534-9012.

CHAIRBACK MOUNTAIN (Please note that fee is charged at checkpoint)

Distance: 8.2 miles round-trip
Time: 6 hours round-trip
Elevation: 2219 feet
Difficulty: Challenging

Although steep at first, the trail levels out and is a very pleasant hike to the summit. There are incredible views of the White Cap Range, Baker Mountain, Elephant Mountain and even part of Big Spencer Mountain. The last part of the trail winds through a steep rocky slope, so use caution. There is a blue-blazed side trail to East Chairback Pond.

Directions: Go straight through the blinking light in Greenville (traveling north); turn right and head up the steep hill called Pleasant Street. At 2 miles the pavement ends, and at 3.6 miles you'll cross Big Wilson Stream. At 12 miles you come to Hedgehog Checkpoint, and a fee is charged. At 13.8 miles turn right. Continue to follow signs to Gulf Hugas parking lot for several miles. The Appalachian Trail crosses the road before the Gulf Hugas parking, but there isn't any room to park. Continue 0.3 mile to the Gulf Hugas parking lot, then walk back to the trail.

BARREN MOUNTAIN

Distance: 8 miles round-trip; plus 1 ¼ further to Cloud Pond
Time: 6 hours round-trip
Elevation: 2670 feet
Difficulty: Challenging

Finding this trail is a real challenge, but once you do you will be on a remote and strenuous part of the Appalachian Trail. Impressive sites along the way are the Barren Slide and Barren Cliffs. There is a fire tower at the summit. Cloud Pond is a remote mountain pond about 1 ¼ miles further that is well worth visiting.

Directions from Greenville: At the blinking light in Greenville, turn right up the steep hill called Pleasant Street. Soon the pavement ends, and at 3.6 miles you'll cross Big Wilson Stream. Continue on the main dirt road and at 7.3 miles turn right. At 7.5 miles take a left and at 9.2 miles stay on the main road. In this area there is a great view of Barren and Borestone, with Lake Onawa in between. Take a right at 11.3 miles. Stay straight at 12.7 miles, and at 13.0 miles is the brown sign marking the AT. Head toward the sound of Long Pond Stream. You will have to ford Long Pond Stream. Depending on water conditions, prepare to get at least your feet wet!

After hiking the trail, you should check out Vaughn Falls, 0.5 mile west (southbound on the AT).

The trail leaves the road uphill from Barrens' trailhead, and is marked with a rock cairn. It takes you to the 20-foot high Vaughn Falls.

GULF HAGAS – (Please note that fee is charged at checkpoint)

Distance: 8.5 miles round-trip for entire trail, or 1 mile each way along gorge

Time: 8 hours round-trip for entire trail

Difficulty: Rim Trail is challenging. Pleasant River Road Trail is moderate.

Called the Grand Canyon of Maine, this magnificent gorge is nearly 4 miles long with vertical slate walls 300 to 400 feet deep. The West Branch of the Pleasant River drops some 400 feet creating numerous waterfalls, chutes and pools. The gorge and adjacent land have been purchased by the National Park Service. The Hermitage (a majestic stand of towering King's Pine) was declared a National Landmark in 1968. The Nature Conservancy now owns this land. The trail starts with a ford across the knee-deep Pleasant River. The hike includes a loop trail of approximately 8.5 miles. The Rim Trail is difficult but will take you by spectacular scenery along the gorge. To visit the Hermitage, look for signs on the right after crossing the river. From the parking lot it is 6.4 miles to Gulf Hagas Mountain and another 4 miles to White Cap Mountain.

Directions: From the Greenville traffic light travel north on the Lily Bay Road and take your first right up Pleasant Street. At 2 miles the pavement ends, and at 3.6 miles you'll cross Big Wilson Stream. At 12 miles you come to Hedgehog Checkpoint, where you will have to pay a fee. Maps are offered here. At 13.8 miles turn left, following signs to LLPC (Little Lyford Pond Camps) and the Head of Gulf Trail. You will see the Head of Gulf Trail at 14.7 miles.

BIG MOOSE MOUNTAIN (formerly Big Squaw Mountain)

Distance: 6 miles round-trip

Time: 3-4 hours

Elevation: 3196 feet

Difficulty: Challenging

Big Moose offers tremendous views of the Moosehead Region and Mount Katahdin. The trail is well marked. Halfway up the trail you will pass an old Ranger cabin. From there, a steep, step-stone path goes up the southeast side of the mountain. The remnants of an old fire tower are at the summit (built in 1905, the first in the U.S.) From the top of the mountain there is another trail that goes north to the top of the Squaw Mountain Ski Area and the top of the double chair lift.

Directions: From the traffic light in downtown Greenville travel north for 5.1 miles on Rte 15 going toward Rockwood. Take a left on the dirt road marked by a sign for Maine Public Reserve Lands---Little Moose Unit. Travel about 1.5 miles on this road. Look for the trailhead and parking on the right.

BIG SPENCER MOUNTAIN

Distance: 4 miles round-trip

Time: 5 hours

Elevation: 3230 feet

Difficulty: Challenging

Big Spencer is a prominent Moosehead Lake landmark. The views from the top include Lobster Lake, Chesuncook Lake, Katahdin, Moose Mountain, Mt Kineo, Allagash wilderness lakes, and many other lakes, ponds, and mountains. About .8 miles up the hiking trail is an old Forest Ranger cabin. From there, a steep trail leads to the top. There are short wooden ladders over some of the more slippery areas. An abandoned fire tower is at the summit.

Directions: Drive to Kokadjo. Take the left fork .2 miles north of Kokadjo. Continue on main road for 8 miles. At the bridge that crosses Bear Brook (on right is BB campsite) turn left and drive 6.1 miles. Trailhead is on the left. Vehicles with low clearance can make it to within 200 yards of trailhead.

BORESTONE MOUNTAIN

Distance: 4 miles round-trip

Time: 3-4 hours

Elevation: 1947 feet

Difficulty: Challenging

NO DOGS ALLOWED

The Borestone Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary is a check station about 1 mile along the trail. It is sometimes manned by the National Audubon Society, which owns the land around Borestone. The check station itself--when open---offers interesting exhibits for children. A small fee may be charged. There are also interesting nature stations along the trail. After leaving the check station, the trail goes by two ponds to the face of Borestone. The last 600 feet of elevation includes small sheer rock faces that are difficult to climb when wet. The view at the top is expansive, with a bare summit and two peaks.

Directions: Go south from Greenville on Rte 15. Take a left on the Elliotsville Road, just after the "Welcome to Monson" sign. Proceed 8 miles and cross over the bridge over Wilson Stream. Turn left after the bridge. Cross the railroad tracks. Trail is approximately .1 miles on the right, with a parking area on the left of the road.

LITTLE SPENCER MOUNTAIN

Distance: 4 miles round-trip

Time: 4 hours round-trip

Elevation: 3040 feet

Difficulty: Challenging

Trail (not blazed) rises moderately through a hardwood forest, then becomes very steep as it enters softwoods, including some giant pines. There are gorgeous views along the way. After crossing through a few slides the trail comes to a narrow chimney. Use caution in this area;

send only one hiker through at a time. There are ropes here to assist the hiker on the way up. There are a few more slides to cross, and the trail is very close to the cliff edge in some parts. Soon the trail mounts the ledges where there is some great blueberry picking when in season. From here there are no more difficult areas, and it is a moderate walk to the summit, where there are 360 degree views of Katahdin, Big Spencer, Big Moose, Mount Kineo, Moosehead Lake and Jackman area mountains. Some spots along the way have treacherous footing on loose rock. Dogs and young children will not be able to climb this.

Directions: Follow directions for Big Spencer Mountain to Kokadjo. After Kokadjo turn left where pavement ends. Continue for another 1.2 miles then turn left again. After another 7.2 miles turn right at a sign for Spencer Pond Camps. At this turn you will see Little Spencer. If you can see the ledges on it, keep in mind that the trail goes straight through that very same ledge. Drive 2.1 miles toward it (stay left). Look carefully for the trailhead on the right, as it isn't well marked. Park off the side of the road.

WHITECAP MOUNTAIN

Distance: 2 miles of road and 2.5 miles of trail to the top, one-way.

Time: 5 hours round-trip

Elevation:

Difficulty: Challenging

This trailhead is difficult to find. It includes a lovely, remote section of the Appalachian Trail. About halfway up is a lean-to. The trail from here to the tree line is steep. The top is an open alpine area with fabulous views of Katahdin.

There are two different ways to reach the spectacular views atop White Cap. If you plan to spend time in the Gulf Hagas area then you should check out the White Brook Trail. The more traditional route to White Cap is referred to locally as the Logan Brook Trail (although it's just the regular old southbound AT), since it follows Logan Brook for much of the way up the mountain, and the trail passes the Logan Brook Lean-to along the way.

Directions from Greenville to the White Brook Trail: To reach the White Brook Trailhead, follow Gulf Hagas directions (remember, there's a fee), but at 13.8 miles stay right. At 21.5 turn left. Begin new mileage here. At 2.4 miles turn left and cross a bridge. At 2.6 miles turn right, and at 3.8 miles turn left. From here it may be too rugged for most vehicles other than 4x4s. There is a gravel pit at 6.1 miles, and at 6.4 miles the road becomes impassable, but you should start seeing blue blazes. Follow them for a half-mile, and soon you should come to the trailhead sign. At the AT intersection, turn right and follow the white blaze to the summit of White Cap.

Directions from Greenville to the Logan Brook Trail: Drive 18 miles north on the Lily Bay Road. Look for a wide dirt road on the right marked by a row of mailboxes. Take this turn onto the Frenchtown Road. At 9.3 miles turn left. At 10.8 turn right, passing near Second West Branch Pond. At 11.4 miles turn left (it's actually the turn straight ahead). At 12.4 turn right. At 13.4 miles the road ends at a snowmobile bridge. 0.5 miles beyond the bridge, the AT crosses the road. Begin the hike by turning uphill (right).