

2008

Dear Media Friend:

Welcome to Maine. On behalf of the Maine Office of Tourism, we want you to know we take great pride in giving you this glimpse of our wonderful state. We hope the enclosed information provides you with the necessary tools and resources to pursue your interest in Maine.

We want you to enjoy learning more about Maine and in this kit we have included category headings outlining many of the things that make Maine unique. That way, you can pick and choose the type of story you want to tell – from exploring one of Maine’s interesting “trails” to tips on the best local cuisine.

The enclosed packet has been carefully designed to be both reader- and user-friendly, and includes a variety of information we know you will find interesting when considering doing an article or filming a story on Maine. Of course, while we’ve included many items of interest, we realize you will require additional assistance.

For that reason, please consider us a resource, and do not hesitate to contact us for additional information regarding your specific area of interest. Our goal is to assist you in any way we can. We will answer your questions, offer information and suggestions for story ideas and make sure you meet the people you need to in order to make your Maine story come alive.

In addition, the Office of Tourism frequently conducts media visits to Maine, and we would be delighted if you would consider taking part in one of our adventures. Please feel free to contact us regarding a visit. Fortunately, Maine is easily accessible, as you will see from the enclosed mileage chart, complete with transportation information.

In the meantime, thanks again for your interest in Maine. If you have any questions, please call, or visit the Maine Office of Tourism’s award-winning Web site at www.visitmaine.com.

Hoping to hear from you soon, we remain,

Sincerely yours,



Nancy Marshall
Principal



Charlene Williams
Vice President and General Manager

How to Get To Maine

Below is a list of approximate mileage from some major cities:

Distance Chart to Portland, Maine:

City	Miles	Kilometers
Baltimore, MD	497	800
Boston, MA	106	171
Halifax, NS	552	888
Montreal, PQ	256	412
New York, NY	311	500
Philadelphia, PA	402	647
Toronto, ON	574	924
Washington, DC	535	861

Airports:

Portland International Jetport (www.portlandjetport.org)
Bangor International Airport (www.flybangor.com)
Augusta State Airport (www.augustaairport.org)
Knox County Regional Airport in Owls Head
(www.knoxcounty.midcoast.com/departments/airports/index.html)
Hancock County-Bar Harbor Airport (www.bhbairport.com)
Northern Maine Regional Airport (www.flypresqueisle.com)

Rail Service:

Amtrak's "Downeaster" (www.nnepra.com) provides rail service to Maine from Boston and Exeter, New Hampshire, with stations in Wells, Saco, Old Orchard Beach and Portland.

Bus Service:

Concord Coach Lines (www.concordcoachlines.com) serves 12 Maine communities from Boston's Logan Airport and South Station.

Cruise Ship Operators:

For a complete list go to www.cruisemaineusa.com

Public Marinas:

Listings for the South Coast, Casco Bay, Mid Coast, Penobscot Bay and Downeast locations are available at <http://www.maineharbors.com/marina.htm>.

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Media Contact:
Charlene Williams
On behalf of the Maine Office of Tourism
cwilliams@marshallpr.com
207.623.4177

it must be **maine**
www.visitmaine.com

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Charlene Williams
On Behalf of the Maine Office of Tourism
cwilliams@marshallpr.com
207.623.4177

Staying and Dining in Maine is a Treat Worth Traveling For

MAINE (March 2008) - Maine has always had the goods to be a must-visit destination for foodies. Thanks to the arrival of great chefs who saw potential to make the most of those goods, eating Maine-style is now much more than boiled lobster, pot pies and chowders. Fresh seafood, local produce and farm-raised beef and poultry are being presented with new tastes from different cultures, and diners are leaving restaurants happy and full.

- The city of Lewiston's French heritage is well represented by Fuel Restaurant, a modern bistro and wine bar. The traditional cuisine includes steak frites and coq au vin, but Executive Chef Justin Oliver also presents fried green tomatoes with kitchen made aioli, goat cheese stuffed dates, and roast lamb sirloin with sweet potato puree, Brussels sprouts and a sauce of port wine and currants.
- For hands-on fun, try a cooking class at Pairings Food & Wine Education Center in Winterport. They offer a variety of classes that pair native fruit wines from neighboring Winterport Winery with the dishes.
- Great relationships between farmers, fishermen, cheesemakers and chefs result in even better food at Fore Street Restaurant in Portland. The menu changes daily to highlight the freshest foods delivered by suppliers. Most tables have a view of the open kitchen with its wood-burning oven, grill, and turnspit, and the wine list is one of the city's best.
- The Porter House Restaurant in Eustis is the place to go after a long day of skiing or leaf peeping. Chef/Owner Brian Anderson kicks up Maine crab cakes with a house coconut curry sauce and orange pineapple salsa, and has a following for his flame roasted corn and Maine lobster soup with potatoes, fresh herbs and sherry.
- In the coastal village of Blue Hill there's a great meal waiting in the parlor of the 1823 home that is Arborvine Restaurant. Chef/Owner John Hikade serves seared Maine sea scallops with mei guing choy, crispy roast duckling with a kumquat glaze and apple ginger chutney, and a chocolate cloud cake with raspberry ganache.

For more information on Maine's culinary scene, be sure to visit the Maine Office of Tourism's new cuisine section of www.visitmaine.com and listen to some of Maine's top chefs talk about cooking Maine style.

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it must be **maine**
www.visitmaine.com

Accommodations

Maine has any number of fine inns and full service hotels, but it's the one-of-a kind getaways that make Maine such a special place when it comes to unusual story ideas.

- Grand living: Watch the sun rise from your bed in an elegantly restored, historic sea captain's home.
- Catered camping: Experience the charm of camping, but leave the hard work like planning, cooking and setting up the tent to the pros.
- Back to the land: Enjoy Maine's clean mountain air in a rustic lodge or upscale cottage.
- Island bedroom: Kayak to an uninhabited island in Penobscot Bay and sleep under the stars.
- Sea Adventure: Spend three, four or six nights aboard a Maine windjammer. These historic schooners offer relaxing sailing, delicious cooked-at-sea meals and desserts, and beautiful scenery of the rocky coast and quaint fishing villages.

Visit the Maine Office of Tourism's Web site at www.visitmaine.com to learn more about what makes staying in Maine so special.

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Media Contact:
Charlene Williams
On behalf of the Maine Office of Tourism
cwilliams@marshallpr.com
207.623.4177

Fun & Adventure is a Family Affair in Maine

MAINE (March 2008) - Four seasons of adventure and unique attractions in every part of the state make Maine a great destination for families.

Coastal Excursions

- See humpback, finback and minke whales on whale-watching tours departing from Kennebunkport, Portland, Boothbay and Bar Harbor. Or view the country's largest nesting population of Atlantic puffins or playful seals on other tours.
- Learn about the lives of lobsters and other underwater sea creatures, and see how lobsters are trapped and hauled from the ocean on a lobster boat cruise.
- Take the boat to Burnt Island Lighthouse in Boothbay Harbor. Learn about lighthouse life from the keeper and his family, and explore the island trails.
- Tidal pool destinations: Rachel Carson Memorial Salt Pond in New Harbor, Seawall picnic area and the Wonderland Trail on Mount Desert Island, Two Lights State Park in Cape Elizabeth and Reid State Park in Georgetown.
- If the pools are short on sea life, visit the Bar Harbor Oceanarium or Maine State Aquarium in West Boothbay Harbor.

Railroad Excursions

- Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad Company and Museum boasts indoor and outdoor exhibits, and train rides along the Portland waterfront.
- At Boothbay Railway Village, ride a steam train around a village of local historic buildings and businesses including the 1847 Town Hall, a general store, barber shop, doll museum and railroad stations.
- Ride the Art Deco era coach cars of Maine Eastern Railroad between Brunswick and Rockland with stops in Bath and Wiscasset.
- The western mountain town of Phillips is home to a revived section of the Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes Railroad. Ride in a vintage coach or caboose through forest and fields, and get a walking tour of the site of the Sandy River covered bridge.

Educational Adventures

- In Augusta, the Maine State Museum tells the story of Maine's first inhabitants, its early industries and the state's geology, while nearby Old Fort Western recreates daily life in the late 1700s at America's oldest standing wooden fort..
- Experience ice harvesting, maple sugaring or a fall harvest celebration at the Washburn-Norlands Living History Center in the town of Livermore.
- For rainy day fun visit a unique children's museum in Portland, Augusta or Bangor.
- See native animal species, from a moose and black bear to a raccoon, peacock and box turtle, up close at the Maine Wildlife Park in Gray.
- Get the interpretive tour and camp out at Swan Island in the Kennebec River near Richmond. The island is the site of the abandoned village of Perkins Township.

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Additional Maine Family Experiences:

- The Maine Lumberjack Show in Trenton
- Historic forts with space for exploring: Fort Knox in Prospect, Fort McClary in Kittery, Fort Williams in Cape Elizabeth, Colonial Pemaquid Historic Site in New Harbor and Fort Baldwin in Phippsburg.
- Horse-drawn carriage rides on Acadia National Park's carriage roads.
- Moose-watching safaris or a moose-watching cruise in western or central Maine.
- Trolley tours in Portland, Bar Harbor, Boothbay Harbor and Kennebunkport.
- Freeport's glacier desert, the Desert of Maine, offers narrated tours and gem stone hunts for children.
- The Swift River at Coos Canyon in Byron is said to be the first place in America where gold was panned. Amateur prospectors are still finding gold in the river.

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On behalf of the Maine Office of Tourism
cwilliams@marshallpr.com
207.623.4177

Only in Maine

MAINE (March 2008) - From the largest globe to the tallest snowman and the only museum of umbrella covers, Maine is home to attractions and natural features that can't be found anywhere else in New England, the United States or the world.

Raye's Mustard Mill – North America's only stone-ground mustard mill. The Raye's have been making award-winning gourmet and specialty mustards in Eastport since 1900.

Portland Observatory – America's last standing 19th century maritime signal station. The 86-foot tall observatory was built in 1807 overlooking Portland Harbor and Casco Bay.

Umbrella Cover Museum – In the early 1990s Nancy S. Hoffman began collecting the covers, sheaths and cases of umbrellas from around the world. Her museum on Peaks Island displays the unique collection.

Solar System Model – The world's largest scale model of the solar system extends for 40 miles between Houlton and Presque Isle and is built on a scale of one mile to 93 million miles. The planet replicas are placed at the appropriate distance from the sun, represented by a huge yellow arch at the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

Milk Chocolate Wildlife – Len Libby Candies in Scarborough is home to the world's only full-size moose made of chocolate: Lenny. He's 1,700 pounds of solid milk chocolate. Lenny's new chocolate friends are Libby, a full-size female black bear, and her cubs Cocoa and Chips.

Penobscot Narrows Bridge Observatory – The span carrying Route 1 over the Penobscot River near Bucksport is North America's only public bridge with an observatory. See mountains, lakes and Penobscot Bay from 437 feet above the river.

Somes Sound – This body of water on Mount Desert Island is the only glacially-formed fjord-like feature in New England.

Burnham Tavern – In June of 1775, residents of Machias and surrounding towns gathered at Job Burnham's to plan the first naval battle of the American Revolution. The locals captured the British ship *Margaretta* in victory.

Frisbees Market – America's oldest family run grocery store in Kittery since 1828.

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The Virginia – In 1607 members of the Popham Colony built a 30-ton pinnace named Virginia, the first English ocean-going ship built in North America. A replica of the ship is being constructed at the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath.

Cribstone Bridge – This bridge connecting Orr’s Island and Bailey Island is constructed of granite blocks laid in a latticed “cribwork” formation to allow the movement of the ocean tides through the structure. It’s the only design of its kind in the world.

World’s Tallest SnowPeople – The ski resort village of Bethel has the Guinness record for the world’s tallest snowman. The feat was achieved in 1999 when Angus, King of the Mountain was built to a height of 113’ 7”. The town is currently attempting to build the world’s tallest snowwoman who will stand 120 feet tall.

Aroostook Valley Country Club – A passport is not necessary to play at this golf course with a parking lot and pro shop in Fort Fairfield, Maine, and 18 holes and a clubhouse in Grand Falls, New Brunswick Canada.

Old Sow Whirlpool – This tidal whirlpool, which can be seen from ferries near the harbor of Eastport, is the largest of its kind in the western hemisphere.

100-mile Wilderness – The 100 mile stretch of the Appalachian Trail between the town of Monson and Abol Bridge at the southern entrance to Baxter State Park is the longest section of uninterrupted wilderness on the 2,175-mile footpath.

Pownalborough Court House – This 1761 landmark along the Kennebec River in Dresden is the only remaining pre-Revolutionary War court building in Maine.

The Old Gaol – The original jail at this York site was built in 1656. The 1719 structure open to visitors today is the oldest standing prison in the United States and one of the oldest British-built public buildings in the country. One of 10 historic properties maintained by Old York Historical Society.

Seashore Trolley Museum – This Kennebunkport museum contains the world’s largest collection of trolleys and electric streetcars. Tours, trolley rides, and special events throughout the summer.

Eartha – The world’s largest revolving and rotating globe (41’ 1.5” in diameter) is on display at the headquarters of the DeLorme mapping company in Yarmouth.

Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village – New Gloucester is home to the world’s only active Shaker religious community. Members of the United Society of Believers, known as Shakers, established a community beside Sabbathday Lake in 1783. The village, its museum buildings and the Shaker Store are open to the public.

Media Contact:
Charlene Williams
On behalf of the Maine Office of Tourism
cwilliams@marshallpr.com or 207.623.4177

Maine Farmers Get Creative

MAINE (March 2008) - Today's Maine farmers are providing a lot more than milk from cows and more than corn and green beans from their fields. In fact, you might say it's becoming common to eat what the cow yields and drink what the field grows. Longtime farm owners are making creative changes to make the most of their crops:

- Dairy and goat farmers are adding value to their herds and flocks by handcrafting traditional and gourmet cheeses. The Maine Cheese Guild maintains information about more than 20 creameries around the state, along with markets and events where cheesemakers sell their products.
- Cold River Vodka, produced at Freeport's Maine Distilleries, is made with potatoes from Green Thumb Farms in Fryeburg and water from the Cold River aquifer. It is the United States' only ground-to-glass potato vodka distillery where tours are offered to the public. The super-premium vodka is labeled as The Spirit of Maine.
- The Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association is the oldest and largest state organization of its kind in the country. MOFGA certifies Maine farms and their products, offers year-round workshops and conferences at its education center and hosts the annual Common Ground Country Fair, held each September in the town of Unity.
- Two farms in the town of Union are turning the fruits from their orchards and fields into handcrafted wines. Savage Oakes Vineyard & Winery makes a sweet apple wine and grows nine varieties of grapes to produce table wines like Marechal Foch Rose and Seyval Blanc. The farm sells its own naturally raised beef and pork to complement the wine choices. At Sweetgrass Farm, visitors can experience Maine's only combination winery and distillery. Keith and Constance Bodine hand-craft a semi-dry Bleujolais blueberry wine, Cranberry Smash dessert wine, and Back River Gin, an American style dry gin that is getting rave reviews for its unique aroma and smooth taste.
- Maine Fiberarts in Topsham recently completed a renovation and expansion of its visitor center. The organization produces *The Maine Fiberarts Tour Map: Studios & Farms*, a complete guide for locating artists' studios, fiber producing farms, suppliers (yarn shops, fabric stores, basketry supplies, etc.), learning centers, galleries, and processing mills year-round on Maine's beautiful byways and back roads.
- Maine has a long list of farm bed and breakfasts that offer warm hospitality, comfortable accommodations and the unique experience of life on a working farm. Some have llamas, others have goats that produce cashmere, cheese and soap. The Maine Farm Vacation Association is a good starting point to find a unique farm B&B.

Other Maine agritourism story suggestions include:

- Choose-and-cut your own balsam Christmas tree at farms statewide.
- Maine cranberry growers.
- Tour the wild blueberry barrens of Washington County.
- Maine Maple Sunday and spring sugaring operations at maple syrup producers.

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Media Contact:
Charlene Williams
On behalf of the Maine Office of Tourism
cwilliams@marshallpr.com
207.623.4177

Maine Trails: Your Roadmap to the Best of Maine

MAINE (March 2008) – To make the most of a visit to Maine, select “trails” have been created to focus on particular interests and attractions. The following guides can be accessed from the Office of Tourism’s Web site at www.visitmaine.com.

- **Maine Golf Trail** – This guide has details about more than 40 of the state’s golf courses open to the public. Maine courses offer mountain, lake, and oceanfront layouts, and affordable rates and uncrowded tee times mean more holes to play on a weekend getaway or extended stay. The guide has a map of the featured courses, and provides a description of the setting, amenities and course ratings and statistics.
- **Maine Art Museum Trail** – A colorful guide to seven of the state’s most respected art museums from the Ogunquit Museum of American Art to Bangor’s University of Maine Museum of Art. Maine’s art museums are known for their mix of respected Maine and American art shown amongst first-rate European works by names like Renoir, Degas and Picasso. The Maine Art Museum Trail guide provides a descriptive taste of what these museums and their communities offer, accompanied by detailed driving directions.
- **Maine’s Watchable Wildlife** - Memories of Maine often center on spotting that first moose foraging for fauna in a backwoods bog or hearing that loon’s cry break the morning silence. In many cases, spotting Maine’s exciting wildlife is about being in the right place at the right time, but having help from the pros can help you track down what you’re looking for on land or water. Enter the guide to Maine’s Watchable Wildlife, which contains viewing tips, descriptions of wildlife habitat, profiles of land and marine animals and a calendar of animal-themed events.
- **Maine Maritime Heritage Trail** - With 5,500 miles of coastline, it’s no surprise that Maine has a long maritime history. This trail guide shares information about museums, historic homes and forts, shipyards, Naval history and fishing villages. The guide has a map of attractions and briefs about heritage offerings in each region of the state.
- **Maine’s Scenic Byways** - Maine is home to one All-American Road, three National Scenic Byways and eight state scenic byways. These touring routes range in length from 87 miles on the Rangeley Lakes National Scenic Byway to three miles on the State Route 182 Scenic Byway. They all share breathtaking scenery. The byways trail guide lists attractions, recreation opportunities, side trips and events along each drive.

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Media Contact:
Charlene Williams
On behalf of the Maine Office of Tourism
cwilliams@marshallpr.com
207.623.4177

Maine is an Outdoor Lover's Paradise

MAINE (March 2008) - Here are the facts: 542,629 acres of state and national park land; 5,500 miles of coastline and 2,000 coastal islands; 32,000 miles of rivers and streams; 6,000 lakes and ponds; 500 miles of alpine ski trails, and more than 200 mountains with trails. With four seasons and coastal and mountain landscapes, Maine has no equal when it comes to developing outdoor adventure story opportunities.

Alpine and Nordic Skiing and Snowboarding

There's a slope for any level of skier or boarder at Maine's 17 ski areas. They range from small family-oriented municipal mountains where beginners can perfect their snowplow to major resorts with high speed lifts, glades and superpipes, and great nightlife. Average snowfall at ski areas ranges from 60 to 90 inches, and many locations also make their own snow. Aroostook County is the premier destination for Nordic skiing. Vast stretches of fields, forests and rolling terrain are ideal for cross country adventures. Most ski resorts have groomed Nordic trails on site or nearby.

- **Biathlon Boom:** A new and growing winter activity in Maine is biathlon, the Olympic sport that combines Nordic skiing and target shooting. The Nordic Heritage Sport Club in Presque Isle and the 10th Mountain Ski Center in Fort Kent host regional, national and international biathlon events and offer clinics to the public.

Biking

- The Eastern Trail is a 62-mile bike route under construction along Maine's south coast. The trail will run from Kittery to South Portland and pass through 12 cities and towns.
- The carriage road system of Acadia National Park is a good option for riders with hybrid or fat tire bikes. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. donated the land and planned the construction of the 45 miles of motor-free broken stone roads.
- Route 11 in northern Maine from Ashland to Fort Kent and Route 27 in the western mountains from Kingfield to Eustis are routes for road cyclists who like hills.
- Families can enjoy the side streets of downtown Fryeburg and its 12 public parks.
- The Bicycle Coalition of Maine organizes bicycling events throughout the state and provides information about biking routes and trails.

Paddling, Whitewater Rafting and Boating

- Kayaking is the ideal way to explore Maine's ocean bays, harbors and tidal rivers. From Kittery to Eastport, kayaking outfitters offer half-day, full-day and overnight adventures. Bring your own kayak or rent one locally. Guided trips and instruction are always available.
- From the 89-mile Allagash Wilderness Waterway to a trip through downtown Bangor, canoeists have many paddling options. Birds and animals at inland wildlife sanctuaries are most easily seen from a canoe, and it's the perfect way to get photographs of brilliant foliage color reflecting off a lake or pond.
- Whitewater rafting on the Kennebec, Dead, and Penobscot rivers offers some of the most exciting and scenic raft waters on the east coast. The rivers, located in central and eastern Maine, are dam-controlled and provide high-water rafting from late April through mid-October.
- Sailing in Maine is in one word "spectacular." Day sailors or private charters can be found at most major harbors along the coast. Take in views of the coastline, islands and marine life while someone else does the navigating.

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Hiking

- The AT and the IAT Maine is home to 267 miles of the Appalachian Trail beginning near Goose Eye Mountain in Oxford County and ending at the trail's northern terminus in Baxter State Park. From Baxter Peak, hikers can begin a new journey on the International Appalachian Trail, stretching 100 miles to the New Brunswick, Canada border and continuing to Belle Isle, Newfoundland.
- The Camden Hills State Park trail system offers some of the best small mountain coastal hiking on the east coast.
- The Bold Coast Trail along the rugged Downeast coast is the longest stretch of undeveloped shorefront on the eastern seaboard. The trail has six and 10 mile loops, camping and dramatic vantage points as much as 150 feet above crashing ocean surf.

Golf

Maine's golf courses have a secluded feel, whether the setting is a 4,000-foot mountain range, rolling farmland, or the edge of the ocean.

- The nine-hole Mount Kineo Golf Course awaits guests on an island in Moosehead Lake.
- For a taste of Scotland, The Links at Outlook in the southern town of South Berwick features rolling dunes and scattered sand bunkers on a 140-acre layout set in open fields.
- The 1893 Poland Spring Country Club is the oldest resort course in America, while the three-year old Sunday River Golf Club in Newry was chosen as one of *Travel + Leisure Golf's* Top 10 Best New Courses in the World.

Snowmobiling

With a network of 13,000 miles of well-maintained snowmobile trails crisscrossing the state from Kittery to Fort Kent, when the snow flies it sometimes seems there is suddenly more to Maine. Snowmobiles allow effortless access to remote parts of the state that take on even greater beauty with a coating of snow.

Fishing and Hunting

- Maine is home to the country's best Eastern brook trout fishery, and a top destination for small mouth bass and landlocked salmon. The state's open water fishing season begins April 1, but anglers can fish year-round on 17 rivers.
- Some of the best fly fishing waters in New England can be found in the Rangeley Lakes region. And, anglers looking for striped bass will find plenty on the Kennebec River south of Bath.
- Serious hunters come to Maine for the moose and black bear whose numbers are greater than in any other state in the east. Upland bird hunting is growing in popularity and the state recently began a wild turkey hunt season.

Competitive Sports

Maine is a destination for competitive running events and triathlons.

- One of New England's first marathons each year is the Sugarloaf Marathon and 15K in May. Despite taking place in the shadow of Maine's second tallest mountain, the race is mostly downhill.
- The L/A 5K Bridge Run has seven crossings over the Androscoggin River and canals in downtown Lewiston and Auburn. The fast-growing 5K happens in August.
- Tri-Maine Productions organizes a triathlon race series that takes place May through September. The Zone Urban/EPIC Triathlon & Festival takes place in July and is a mile ocean swim, 24 mile bike, 10K run in Portland and Falmouth. New this year is the Rangeley Oquossoc Mountain Pursuit (The ROMP) in August. In addition to the swim, bike and run event, there will be a mountain bike race, kids race and cookout.

For more information on outdoor adventure in Maine, visit the Maine Office of Tourism's award-winning Web site at www.visitmaine.com or call 1-888-95-MAINE.

Media Contact:
Charlene Williams
On behalf of the Maine Office of Tourism
cwilliams@marshallpr.com
207.623.4177

Maine's Traditions are Showcased in Arts and Cultural Offerings

Performance and visual arts and music have a respected place throughout Maine:

- Historic summer theaters: Madison's Lakewood Theater is the oldest summer theater in America, operating since 1901. The Theater at Monmouth specializes in professional productions of Shakespeare set in an intimate former opera hall. The Deertrees Theatre & Cultural Center in Harrison was built in the 1930s by opera director and singer Enrica Clay Dillon. Today, the facility offers a mix of live music, dance and comedy performances along with the professional Deertrees Theatre Festival.
- The Bates Dance Festival at Bates College in Lewiston convenes an international community of choreographers, dancers, educators and students to study, perform and create new work.
- Monhegan Island is home to a 150-year-old art colony that has inspired works by George Bellows, Robert Henri, Rockwell Kent, Jamie Wyeth and others.
- The Bangor Symphony Orchestra is the nation's oldest, and the Portland Symphony Orchestra, is an 85-member orchestra which performs at the 1,900-seat Merrill Auditorium.
- For an alternative view of the silver screen: The Strand Theatre in Rockland shows current and independent films in a restored 1923 movie house. Waterville's Railroad Square Cinema is a Sundance Film Institute Art House Project designee, and host of the annual Maine International Film Festival in July. Frontier Café, Cinema and Gallery offers touring film festivals, documentaries and international films inside a renovated 1800s textile mill in Brunswick.

Culture and Heritage

Maine is known as being a state steeped in tradition. From the rugged shipbuilders who put Maine on the maritime map to the Native Americans whose woven sweet grass baskets have transcended from function to fine art, Maine is still deeply connected and proud of its past.

Maine's maritime heritage offerings include:

- The Maine Lighthouse Museum in Rockland is the country's largest collection of lighthouse and Coast Guard equipment and memorabilia.
- The Maine Maritime Museum in Bath features excursion cruises, tours of a working shipyard, boat building workshops and gallery exhibits.
- The Penobscot Marine Museum in Searsport houses a complete historical village where visitors can learn about the sea captains that held the helm of Maine's most storied ships, and children can try their hand at raising the sails.

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Logging and Lumbering Industry story ideas include:

- The Maine Forest and Logging Museum at Leonard's Mills in Bradley is an interactive living history site that transports visitors to a 1790s logging and milling community.
- The Patten Lumbermen's Museum offers nine exhibition buildings full of logging equipment, a reproduction of a 1820s logging camp built without a single nail, tools of the trade and antique photographs documenting Maine's logging history.
- The Rangeley Lakes Region Logging Museum displays a collection of Alden Grant oil paintings that document life in early 20th century lumber camps, an exhibit of crosscut and chain saws and photographs, and hosts a woodsmen's competition during Logging Festival Days in July.

Maine's Native American traditions are showcased at:

- The Abbe Museum in downtown Bar Harbor - host to more than 50,000 Native American artifacts spanning 10,000 years.
- The Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance operates the Wabanaki Arts Center Gallery in Old Town, for the exhibit and sale of traditional baskets and jewelry made by members of four Maine Indian tribes. The annual Alliance Basket Sale and Demonstration at nearby University of Maine takes place in December.
- The annual Sipayak Indian Day Celebration happens in August at the Passamaquoddy Tribe reservation at Pleasant Point. The three-day festival features traditional dancing and drumming, canoe races, Indian movies and children's activities.

Maine's French connection is celebrated at:

- The Acadian Festival in Madawaska - the state's largest cultural festival and includes a re-enactment of the first Acadian landing in northern Maine, traditional Acadian supper, barge rides, a festival parade and lots of fun.
- Museum L-A in Lewiston tells the story of the men and women (many native Canadians) who helped the shoe, textile and brick mills of Lewiston and Auburn thrive in the early 1900s.
- The Ployes Festival in Fort Kent honors the French Acadian pancake and includes a Ploye eating contest, a Ploye cooking contest, Acadian foods and a street bazaar.

For more information about Maine's arts, culture and heritage offerings, please visit the Maine Office of Tourism's Web site at www.visitmaine.com or call (888) 95-MAINE.

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Charlene Williams
On behalf of the Maine Office of Tourism
cwilliams@marshallpr.com
207.623.4177

The Maine Event

MAINE (March 2008) - Maine's best attributes are celebrated year-round at events across the state.

Summer and fall are signified by agricultural fairs cropping up in Maine's heartland. With so many fairs, it's tough to choose, but each has its own flavor.

Maine's festivals are also a way of embracing the state's rich cultural heritage. Events allow visitors to celebrate Maine's maritime tradition, awe at the artistry of Native American basketry, dance and culture, and honor the rich traditions of Maine's proud Franco-American contingent.

The state's love affair with food from the sea is celebrated all summer long, with events celebrating the best of our ocean's harvest from clams to lobster to salmon. But Maine's food fests aren't just limited to seafood. In March, sweet tooths are satisfied when the state's sugar shacks open to the public for Maine Maple Sunday. And don't forget wild blueberries- tart and tasty antioxidant rich berries are fêted throughout late summer with celebrations in central and eastern Maine.

The arts are also heralded with some uniquely Maine events. After all, where else do the hills really come alive with the sound of music but at the Kingfield POPS orchestra concert in July? In August, the American Folk Festival rocks Bangor's waterfront, showcasing the nation's finest performing groups as they share traditional music and dance of their region, culture and heritage.

Maine is also home to many events that can't be found anywhere else. Take for example the Moxie Festival in Lisbon Falls, the only known festival celebrating a soft drink. Or the highly hilarious North American Wife Carrying Championships, held at Sunday River Resort in October. And don't forget Chester Greenwood Day in Farmington in December, an event celebrating the inventor of the earmuff.

A sampling of Maine's many annual events include:

January

Snowmobile SNODEO- Rangeley: Four-day snowmobile festival with radar runs, fireworks, food and parade.

February

U.S. National Toboggan Championships - Camden: Teams from around the country hit the Toboggan chute at top speeds.

Musher's Bowl Winter Carnival - Bridgton : Sled dog racing, horse-drawn hayrides and ice skating.

-MORE-

it must be **maine**

March

Maine Maple Sunday - Statewide: Sugarshacks open their doors and show how maple tree sap gets turned into syrup, maple butter, candies and other sweet treats.

Maine Jewish Film Festival- Portland: Nine day, four-theater independent, professional Jewish film festival.

April

Kenduskeag Stream Canoe Race - Greater Bangor: This rite of spring takes paddlers of all levels down through 16 miles of 35 to 40 degree water.

Fisherman's Festival- Boothbay Harbor: Fish fry, Miss Shrimp Princess pageant and lobster crate races make this a Maine coastal classic.

May

Warblers and Wildflowers - Bar Harbor: Birding festival showcases springtime splendor and solitude of one of Maine's most visited spots.

Moose Maine - Greenville: Dedicated to Maine's most popular four-legged resident, month-long celebration features canoe race, craft fair, kids activities and more.

June

Old Port Festival - Portland: Maine's largest one-day event with live music, great food and terrific company.

Lupine Festival - Deer Isle-Stonington: Coastal lupines lauded with art shows, boat rides and a lupine loop driving tour.

July

Kingfield POPS - Kingfield: Bangor Symphony Orchestra plays in rural Maine as sun sets over the majestic western mountains.

Moxie Festival - Lisbon Falls: The only known festival celebrating a soft drink, this one is a fan favorite.

August

Maine Boats, Homes and Harbors Show - Rockland: Fifteen hundred feet of dock space accommodate some of the world's most gorgeous boats. Food, artists, demonstrations and great live music too.

Great Falls Balloon Festival - Lewiston/Auburn: In a lawn chair or a canoe, watch dozens of balloons launch from a downtown park beside the Androscoggin River.

September

Celebrate Bowdoinham: A fun small town festival beside the Cathance River. There's a main street parade, 5K road race and fun run, farmer's market and arts and crafts fair.

MDI Garlic Festival - Southwest Harbor: Celebrate the local garlic harvest on Mount Desert Island with chef prepared garlic delicacies and smoked meats, wine tastings and live music.

October

Fryeburg Fair: The grand finale of Maine's agricultural fair season is one not to miss. Maine's finest for sure!

Living History Days - Bradley: Traditional crafts, traditional tastes and period dressed pioneers at the Maine Forest and Logging Museum.

November

Christmas by the Sea - Camden: The three-town celebration of the holiday season where Santa arrives by lobster boat.

Lighting of the Nubble - York: Count down with the crowd until the holiday lights shine on one of Maine's legendary lighthouses. Plus, watch a dive team raise a lit Christmas Tree from the ocean floor.

December

Chester Greenwood Day - Farmington: A celebration of the inventor of the earmuff with an earmuff-themed parade, chili cook-off and music concerts.

Gingerbread Festival - Presque Isle: Three gingerbread building events for families, children and professional cookie constructors.

For a complete listing of annual and special events, go to www.visitmaine.com.

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