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Millinocket Maine: the Shortest and Easiest Route to Mount Katahdin

Roy Flint Service

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THE SHORTEST AND EASIEST ROUTE TO MOUNT KATAHDIN
The Call of Katahdin

Mt. Katahdin (from the Indian Ktaadn, the preeminence) is the monarch of Maine mountains. Thrusting its spruce-clad slopes and rocky summit a mile into the clouds, this giant of the East is the first spot in the United States to greet the morning sun.

While nearly a thousand summers yearly gaze upon the 200 lakes visible from Katahdin's top "like fragments of a broken mirror scattered over a green plush carpet," thousands of others are content to fish and hunt, camp and tramp within the shadow of this mighty mountain whose praises have been sung by men of letters for generations.

Ten miles on the base and 5,267 feet in height, Katahdin, the sentinel of Maine, is the eastern rim of the Penobscot West Branch and Soudunahunk River basins. Here are dozens of trout-filled, gem-like lakes set in the forest—new worlds for the intrepid fisherman to conquer. The big, small game hunter will find here his conception of paradise. Deer, moose and other wild life are seen daily to the delight of the nature lover and camera sport. Trails and wood roads, needle carpeted and tree-arched overhead, connect numberless lakes and thread the forests.

A large area which includes Mt. Katahdin, is known as Katahdin Park—a game sanctuary for all time and a breeding ground that makes the land adjoining the 12 mile square preserve one of the finest game territories in all Maine.

Millinocket — The Gateway to Mt. Katahdin

Millinocket, in Penobscot County, 92 miles north of Bangor, is one of the most fascinating and romantic towns of northern Maine. On account of its strategic location for the manufacture of pulp and paper and its magnificent water power with a 141 foot head, Millinocket literally grew almost overnight into the "magic city of the East." The town, named after Millinocket Lake, from the Abenaki "many islands,"

is located in the giant "frog" of woods lying between the confines of the East and West Branches of the Penobscot River.

The town is in the Shadow of Mt. Katahdin, a mile in the fair 25 miles to the north, but which looks only a few miles distant.

The growth of the town was coincident with the building of the mill of the Great Northern Paper Company in 1899 and 1900 by the late Garrett Schenck and his associates. These mills became the largest in the United States and until very recently the largest in the world, having a daily capacity of 400 tons at Millinocket, 300 at East Millinocket and 100 at Madison.

Millinocket, with a population of 5,800 has four churches, four splendid schools, municipal playground with a bathing beach, smart up-to-date stores, a theatre and a fine modern hotel.

All the luxuries of an exacting age can be purchased here as well as a complete outfit of "grab" and "duffle" for the woods. A fine cement street end where the new 36 mile Millinocket-Soudunahunk road into the forest begins.

Famous Hunting, Fishing and Recreation Camps in Katahdinland


McDOUGAL'S CAMPS at Nahmakanta Lake, Mrs. Robert McDougal, Norcross, Maine. Whether you come for the thrill of red or gray or merely for the restfulness, charm and isolation of woods and lake—you will find full satisfaction here. Excellent table. Comfortable log cabins. Booklet.


Trails to Mt. Katahdin

Principal Trails to the Summit:
Abol Trail
Chimney Pond Trail
Hunt Trail
St. John Trail

Distances from Millinocket and also between points:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Between Points</th>
<th>From Town</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smith Pond</td>
<td>4 Miles</td>
<td>4 Miles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carry separating Millinocket Lake (on right) and Ambajejus Lake (on left)</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Brook</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pockwockamus Bridge</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Here road forks — Abol and Hunt Trails to left — St. John and Chimney Pond Trails to right)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abol Field</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abol Trail — start</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>21.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Summit, via Abol Trail</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>21.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abol Trail to Hunt Trail — start</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Summit via Hunt Trail</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>29.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Togue Pond</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>17.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. John Trail — start</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>21.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. John Trail — base</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summit via St. John Trail</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>29.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Windey Pitch from Togue</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depot Camp</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>24.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roaring Brook</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>26.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chimney Pond (foot trail)</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Summit, via Chimney Pond Trail</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sporting Camps along the way: Millinocket Lake, Ambajejus Lake (by boat), Togue Pond, Katahdin Lake, (4 miles from Depot), Daicey Pond and Kidney Pond (each 4 miles north of Hunt Trail).

Good Places to Tent: (West) Pockwockamus Bridge, Abol Field, Hunt Trail, Foster's Field; (East) Picnic Grounds 2 miles east of Togue Pond, and Chimney Pond (reached by foot path 5½ miles from Depot Camp.)

Top: Camping and Picnic Ground at Hunt Trail, Katahdin Park, on Millinocket Road.
Bottom: One of the five log leantos, accommodating 6 to 8 persons, at Hunt Trail.
Mount Katahdin

is rich in legend and romantic interest. For a century this rugged mountain has been the Mecca of tourists of both this country and the world.

Three trails are outstanding in popularity:

Abol Trail on the West, reached 21.5 miles by auto from Millinocket and 4 mile trail to summit.

The Hunt Trail, also on the West, reached by auto road, 25 miles from Millinocket and 4 miles by trail to summit.

The Appalachian Trail, via Chimney Pond, on the East, 26 miles by auto from Millinocket to Roaring Brook, and 4 miles by trail to Chimney Pond.

1. Katahdin from Abol Falls, showing Abol Slide
2. Knife Edge from Chimney Pond
3. Katahdin from Daicey Pond
4. The Owl and Brothers Mts., Hunt Trail
5. South View from Monument Peak
6. Camping at Katahdin Brook
7. Little Niagara Falls, Sournahunk Stream
8. Falls from Chimney Trail
9. Pamola Peak, Knife Edge and Chimney Trail
10. Dudley's Den, Chimney Pond
New Auto Roads to Mt. Katahdin

Until the last few years, Katahdin's inaccessibility limited its popularity to a handful of rugged adventurers willing to bargain the fatigue of a dozen or more wearisome miles of foot travel for the superb scenic favors dispensed by this giant monolith of the East — and considered them cheaply bought at that. But a treasure trove of such unspoiled natural wonders as Katahdin Park and hinterland could not long withstand the public's demand for auto roads to connect with the well marked trails leading to Katahdin's lofty summit. Now a finely ballast road extends from Millinocket 24 miles straight toward Katahdin meeting the blazed trail at Roaring Brook east of Depot Camp, 2 1/2 miles from Basin Pond and 4 miles from Dudley's Cabin at Chimney Pond. Sixteen miles from Millinocket the road forks westward; 6 miles to Abol Trail, and 10 miles to the Camping and Picnic Ground at the Hunt Trail. Huts at the Hunt Trail and Chimney Pond enable the climber to reach his destination in one day from all Maine points, allowing the second day for the climb, as few as three days are all that need be allowed, weather permitting. But so vast is this primitive wilderness surrounding Maine's greatest mountain, (second highest in New England) and so fascinating and numerous are the trails that a week spent at Chimney Pond or the Hunt Trail would still leave peaks to conquer and new territory to be explored. And if you can take the word of one who has spent a quarter century around Katahdin and still has a number of trails to climb (after thirty or more ascents of the mountain) you will eagerly return the following year with pleasing anticipation.

Sports for All

Mountain climbing isn't necessarily the chief sport in this glorious back woods country, because nature has lavishly provided such an intriguing diversification of out-of-door enjoyment that every member of the family will find an outlet for his particular brand of vacation fun, be it trout or salmon fishing, bird or big game hunting, camping, canoeing, motor-boating, golf, tennis, water sports, motoring, picnicking, berrying or hiking. One experiences at Katahdinland the charm of a well balanced big woods program which any number of days' vacation still leaves a hunger for further enjoyment. Nature has been kind to this region; all wild life will be found in this sanctuary and the woods adjoining, deer, moose, bear (very timid indeed they are and you will be lucky to glimpse bruin a'berrying) lynx, colonies of beaver, fox and smaller fur bearing animals. Partridges are plentiful and in many of the low lying ponds duck shooting may be enjoyed in season. The weather is ideal, the high altitudes tempering the clear, sunny days and imparting a zestful tang to the spiced woodsy air, conducive to hearty appetites.

Municipal Air Port

Millinocket now has one of Maine's best airports. Clarence Chamberlain's big 25 passenger plane has used this port both for demonstration flying and passenger service. The port is conveniently located one mile from town, is well drained and graded, with runway 2400 feet north and south and 2400 feet east and west. There are no hazards or obstructions and the field is 500 feet above sea level.

Municipal Golf Course

One-half mile from town, the new Hillcrest Golf Course, 500 feet above sea level on an eminence overlooking picturesque Millinocket and its winding stream, commands an inspiring view of Mt. Katahdin on the north. Clear, bracing air adds zest to the game provided by this sporty, nine-hole course in the State. Laid out by a high ranking professional, this course when finally completed will cost close to $20,000. No town the size of Millinocket can boast better facilities for the enjoyment of this popular sport. Water hazards, including a brook, sand traps and ample rough make this course a challenge to the most enthusiastic golfer. The nine holes have a total yardage of 2751. The green fee is 75c a day except on Sundays and holidays when the charge is $1.00.

Mt. Katahdin to Georgia

Mt. Katahdin's summit is the start of the new Appalachian Trail to Mt. Oglethorpe in Georgia — a continuous skyline footpath blazed through the mountain wilderness of the Eastern Atlantic States. The trail traverses 14 states. From Mt. Katahdin the trail leads for 250 miles through a great forest fastness, past lakes and streams over disconnected mountain peaks into New Hampshire. In Maine one may tramp 173 miles for 17 days and find each night satisfactory shelter and food at sporting camps. The Boston Appalachian Club has been making annual pilgrimages to Katahdin for more than a quarter century. This club has heralded Katahdin the "most wildly picturesque mountain East of the Rockies." The Potomac Appalachian Club makes an annual visit to Katahdin. A number of mountain clubs of the South have visited this massive granite monolith in the wilderness of northern Maine. Katahdin's grandeur is only exceeded by the magnificence of what can be viewed from its summit. Katahdin's popularity is increasing annually. From a dozen or two who visited this majestic mountain in a single year, more than a thousand now make the ascent annually and many other thousands view the summit from the far flung vistas along the new Millinocket-Sourdnahunk auto road.
MOUNT KATAHDIN and the thrills it offers are very well expressed in these words of Thoreau:

The forest looked like a firm grass sward, and the effect of these lakes in its midst has been well compared, by one who has since visited the same spot, to that of a “mirror broken into a thousand fragments, and wildly scattered over the grass, reflecting the full blaze of the sun.”
A Country of Inland Lakes and Rivers

Eight and one-half miles from Millinocket, at the carry separating Ambajejus from Millinocket Lake one can arrange numerous canoe trips into as wild and primitive a fish and game country as exists in Maine today. Ambajejus Lake is one of a series of five lakes connected by thoroughfares or waterways navigable by canoe or motor boat, the other lakes being Pemadumcook, North and South Twin and Elbow. Pemadumcook in turn is connected by thoroughfare with the three Joe Merry Lakes. A short carry from the same lake leads to the five Debsconeag Lakes. The famous West Branch of the Penobscot river drains the great Katahdin country from Ripogenus Dam to Ambajejus Lake, famous as the West Branch canoe trip; distance from Big Eddy, 3 miles below the Dam to Spencer’s landing, Ambajejus Lake, on the Millinocket-Sourndahunk auto road, 32 miles. Other waters in this territory where trout or salmon are plentiful, include Millinocket, Nahmakanta, Rainbow, Katahdin, and Sourndahunk Lakes and Daicey, Kidney and Togue Ponds. (See "Famous Hunting, Fishing and Recreation Camps in Katahdinland" in this folder for accommodations and details. These camps are dependable and are recommended by the Millinocket Chamber of Commerce.)

Millinocket Invites You!

The Chamber of Commerce and the people of Millinocket extend a cordial invitation to all out of State tourists and vacationists, and to the citizens of Maine, to visit this "magic city of the East"; see its mammoth pulp and paper mills; visit its theatres, its stores, its churches, schools, and parks; drive their cars into the big Maine woods, bucking at the outskirts, to this land of enchantment — of mountains, lakes, and racing streams — of fighting fish and blazed woods’ trails — of deer and moose and all wild life — of flaming dawns and golden eve’s — where vacation dreams crystallize into glorious realities and unforgettable adventures.

For further information, reservations, or help in planning a vacation trip to Millinocket and Katahdinland, address Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Millinocket, Maine. All inquiries promptly and cheerfully answered. Millinocket is a friendly town of helpful people. Your visit will be one of delightful memory. The latchstring is out! Come!  

Come by Train: You can leave Boston, via M. C. R. R. and B. & A., in the early evening by sleeper and arrive in Millinocket in time for breakfast.

Come by Auto: Fine macadam and tar surfaced roads lead to Millinocket from all points in Maine. From Portland take Route 1 to Bangor or 100 to Augusta, 201 to Waterville and 100 to Pittsfield; then 2 to Bangor. From Bangor follow 2 to Mattawamkeag, 68 miles, then 157 to Millinocket, only 24 miles, over excellent macadam highway. Auto road to Katahdin, 21.5 miles, begins here.

THE ROY FLYT SERVICE, AUGUSTA, MAINE
To Quebec via Millinocket

The new auto road from Millinocket, 36 miles to Little Sourdnahunk Stream, connecting with the Ripogenus Road to Greenville, is now part of a continuous wilderness highway to Jackman, on the direct route to Quebec; for spectacular scenic interest this 143 mile trip cannot be duplicated in the East. At Greenville a new highway extends for 20 miles along the western shore of Moosehead Lake to Rockwood; from Rockwood it is 30 miles to Jackman. The distance from Millinocket to Greenville is 93 miles, 57 over the "Ripogenus" road of the Great Northern Paper Company, via the famous Ripogenus Dam that in itself is well worth the price of the trip. Good accommodations can be found at camps along the entire route.

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