

Old Canada Road Scenic Byway

The Old Canada Road Scenic Byway is a snapshot in time. Tracing the route of generations of travelers between Maine and Quebec, this segment of U.S. Rt. 201 winds right alongside the Kennebec River, Wyman Lake, and the Dead River. Encounter old-time villages and abundant wildlife in mountain ridges, forests, and rivers.



Length: 78.16 miles / 125.1 km

Time to Allow: 2.5 hours to drive or a day to enjoy this byway.

Local Information

Maine Office of Tourism
207-624-7483
888-624-6345

Visitor Services

Fees



There are no fees.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



The Kennebec River Valley Bicycle Tour is a hilly, scenic, 68-mile gem that winds through the Kennebec River Valley over a mix of agricultural land and rugged, mountainous terrain. This route is featured in *The Maine Bicycle Tours*, published by the Maine DOT. All of the routes shown on these tours are on regular state and local roads that are used by automobiles, trucks, buses, and other motorized vehicles. The MDOT in no way warrants the safety or suitability of the routes indicated on these tours for shared bicycle/motor vehicle use or for use by young and/or inexperienced riders.

Camping



Camping is available at a number of private campgrounds and remote locations. Sites are available in Solon on the Kennebec River, Caratunk near Pleasant Pond, on Parlin Pond, and on the Big Wood Pond in Jackman. Travel trailers and motor homes are not recommended for use on logging roads as the roads are narrow and log trucks are frequent.

Food



There are places to dine and buy food in Solon, Bingham, Caratunk, The Forks, West Forks, Parlin Pond, Jackman, and Moore River.



Gasoline

Fuel is available at Solon, Bingham, West Forks, and Jackman. Several outfitters also provide fuel for snowmobiles at their establishments.



Information

Travel information is available in Bingham at the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center and at the Jackman Visitor Center.



Lodging

Overnight lodging is available in Solon, Bingham, Caratunk, The Forks, West Forks, Parlin Pond, Jackman, and Moose River. During the summer, fall, and winter weekends, reservations are suggested. The choice of facilities includes cabins, traditional motels, and bed and breakfasts.



Phone

Public phones are available along the byway. Cell phone service is intermittent between Parlin Pond and Solon, but it is good in Jackman.



Restrooms

Public restrooms are located at the five rest areas and at some convenience stores along the byway. The rest areas are closed during the winter.

Special Considerations

As of June 1, 2009, all travelers entering the United States (including US citizens) are required to present a passport or other accepted form of documentation. For more information, visit the US Customs and Border Patrol.

Try to avoid driving the byway during the 4th of July and Labor Day weekends when it is the most crowded.

Also, when driving the byway, be careful of moose in the road. Many collisions happen every year involving moose in the roadways.

Be aware of narrow passages of roads and logging trucks that are frequent on the byway.

Restrictions

Roads on the byway are only closed during extreme weather conditions.

Seasons

Best Time to Drive

Weekends are generally the busiest times on the byway, including Fridays. The road is well-maintained throughout the year. Winter can be a great time for a scenic drive, but check the forecast first.

Fall

September is the favorite camping month for many since campsites are open, the air crisp, and the water still warm.

High Season

October is the peak fall foliage season and traffic is fairly light, as schools are open. March is a favorite for outdoor activities, as the sun is warm and most of the snow arrives during this month.

Off Season

Mud season is usually in late April and early May.

Spring

In March, sap starts flowing, and many people who live near the byway take to the woods to make maple syrup.

Summer

August can be hot, so it's the perfect time to be near water.













Winter

January marks the beginning of ice fishing season. Some years, however, the ice does not cooperate. Please call ahead for ice conditions.

Map and Directions



Legend:

 Point of Interest	 City	 Water
 Campground	 Capital	 Roads
 Mountain	 U.S. Highway	 Scenic Byway
 Pass	 Interstate	 All-American Road or National Scenic Byway
	 State Highway	 Unpaved Road

Driving Directions

U.S. 201 follows the old river trading paths of the Abenaki tribe, leading visitors back in time through towns where turn-of-the-century homes line the main thoroughfare. This

byway passes through The Forks, where the Dead and Kennebec Rivers meet. This area is well-known for rafting expeditions down these swift-flowing rivers.

- The byway starts at the intersection of US 201 and ME-43 northwest of Skowhegan, ME.
- Travel north on US 201 through Solon, Bingham, Moscow, Caratunk, West Forks, Jackman and Moose River.
- The route ends at the US international border crossing at Sandy Bay.

Getting to the Byway

From Augusta, ME

- Take I-95 northeast to Fairfield.
- Merge onto US-201 and go north through Skowhegan.
- Just past Lakewood, ME-43 meets US-201 where the byway begins.

Road Trip: Old Canada Road Summer Rafting and Hiking Tour

Departure: Caratunk

Destination: Moose River, Maine

Time to allow: 2 days

The Old Canada Road Scenic Byway is filled with outdoor recreation. From the world-famous Appalachian Trail to the magnificent Moxie Falls, adventure and beauty coexist in this stunning place. This tour highlights the most exciting, beautiful paths to take, whether on bike or on foot.

Day 1

- **Start: Caratunk**

Caratunk is a town along the Old Canada Road Scenic Byway in western Maine. Begin the tour here, and head for the Appalachian Trail.

- **Stop 1: Appalachian Trail**

From previous stop: same location

Directions: Your trip along the Appalachian Trail begins in Caratunk.

Suggested time at this stop: 6 hours

Your journey begins on a portion of the Appalachian Trail. Although this trail extends across most of the state, you can (and should) experience at least a few miles of this famous hike. Be sure to pack a picnic lunch and plenty of water as you explore this lush area of Maine.

- **End: Caratunk**

From previous stop: same location

After hiking or biking back from the Appalachian Trail, head to Caratunk and stay overnight to prepare for the second day of your journey.

Totals for Day 1

Total Distance Traveled: 0 miles / 0.0 km

Total Travel Time: 0 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 6 hours

Day 2

- **Stop 1: Moxie Falls**

From previous stop: 20 minutes / 12 mi (19.2 km)

Directions: Leaving Caratunk, drive about 10 miles north on the Byway to Moxie Falls. The falls sit about 2 miles east of the Byway.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

Moxie Falls, with a vertical drop of 30 yards, is considered to be the tallest waterfall in the state. Go on a brisk hike through this area; a network of hiking trails surrounds Moxie Falls. It is a peaceful wooded area lined by the Kennebec River.

- **Stop 2: Jackman**

From previous stop: 45 minutes / 27 mi (43.2 km)

Directions: Leaving Moxie Falls, drive westward back to the Byway. Jackman is about 25 miles northward.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

Wildlife and beautiful views flourish in the city of Jackman. Opportunities for outdoor recreation are abundant. Have an early dinner here and rent boating supplies to spend a few hours on the Moose River.

- **End: Moose River**

From previous stop: 3 minutes / 2.5 mi (4.0 km)

Directions: Leaving Jackman, go northwest on US-201 (SR-6) for 2.5 miles. Turn left and arrive at Moose River.

The Moose River has some of the most popular river trips in Maine. The watercourse is easily negotiated with a kayak or canoe. Watching the sunset on the river is a perfect end to such a peaceful and scenically fulfilling day.

Totals for Day 2

Total Distance Traveled: 41.5 miles / 66.4 km

Total Travel Time: 1 hour 8 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 4 hours