

Rangeley Lakes Scenic Byway

Wind through the mountains and lakes of western Maine on the Rangeley Lakes Scenic Byway. Step back in time and treat yourself to spectacular scenery, outstanding recreational opportunities, abundant wildlife, local museums, and quaint New England villages. Slow down, relax, and enjoy nature's abundance at every turn.

Length: 35.6 miles / 57.0 km

Time Two to three hours to drive
to and eight or more hours to
Allow: visit this byway



Local Information

Maine Office of Tourism

207-624-7483

888-624-6345

Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust

207-864-7311

Visitor Services

Fees



There are no fees.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



Pavement widths range from six to 11.5 feet per travel lane, with shoulders ranging between 1.5 to eight feet in width. Bicyclists need to take the necessary precautions for traveling alongside cars.

Camping



Camping sites can be found on Mooselookmeguntic, Cupsuptic, and Rangeley Lakes.



Food

Food services can be found in Rangley and Oquossoc.



Gasoline

Gasoline and other fuel can be found in Rangley and Oquossoc.



Information

Information can be found at the Rangley Chamber of Commerce next to the Town Park.



Lodging

Overnight lodging can be found in Rangley and Oquossoc.



Phone

Public phones can be found in Rangley and Oquossoc.



Restrooms

Restrooms can be found in the Rangley Town Park and in Oquossoc.

Special Considerations

Located off the beaten path, traffic congestion is never an issue. However, during Rangley's Snodeo event and its 4th of July celebration, traffic is heavier than normal; please allow for slight delays so that you will not miss these terrific events.

Restrictions

The roads are open year-round; however, visitors should take necessary precautions when traveling roads that are icy or snow-covered.

Seasons

Best Time to Drive

The byway is beautiful year-round. Spectacular foliage can be seen from mid-September to mid-October, with snow-capped mountains in view from November to April. During spring months, flowers blossom.

High Season

July and August are the busiest months but outdoor recreation, wildlife viewing, and cultural events are available all year-round.

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

This drive follows Routes 17 and 4, wrapping around Rangeley Lake. It follows the ridgeline of the Appalachian Mountains before dropping into rolling hills and valleys.

The Height of Land on Route 17 is the centerpiece of this scenic drive, offering breathtaking views of Mooselookmeguntic and Upper Richardson Lakes.

- Start at the intersection of ME-17 and Main Rd, southwest of West Central Franklin, ME.
- Continue northwest on ME-17 to ME-4 in Oquossoc.
- Take ME-4 east past Rangeley Lake to the town of Rangeley.
- Continue generally southeast on ME-4 to the Madrid Rest Area, where the byway ends.

Getting to the Byway

From Auburn (approximately 65 miles)

- Head north on Route 4 through Jay Wilton, Farmington, Phillips, and Madrid.
- The byway starts on Route 4 immediately north of Madrid at Smalls Falls.

From Augusta (approximately 68 miles)

- Take Route 27 north to Route 2 in New Sharon and turn left.
- Proceed on Route 2 into Farmington.
- In Farmington, turn right on Route 4.
- Stay on Route 4 through Phillips and Madrid. The byway starts just north of Madrid at Smalls Falls.

Road Trip: Rangley Lakes Must-See Tour

Departure: Height Of Land, Maine

Destination: Madrid, Maine

Time to allow: 1 day

This tour follows the Rangley Lakes Scenic Byway, stopping at the route's most exciting and relevant places.

Day 1

- **Start: Height Of Land**

Start your tour by watching the sunrise at Height of Land, where you can see for hundreds of miles: lakes, mountains and forests. You can also see the White Mountain chain in neighboring New Hampshire. Height of Land is often considered to be the most spectacular overlook in northern New England. Have a picnic breakfast here.

- **Stop 1: Mooselookmeguntic Lake**



From previous stop: 30 minutes / 12 mi (19.2 km)

Directions: Leaving Height Of Land, take Route 17 north for approximately 12 miles until you come to the city of Oquossoc, where you can access Mooselookmeguntic Lake.

Suggested time at this stop: 3 hours

Oquossoc is charmingly surrounded by Mooselookmeguntic Lake. You can access the lake from the city and rent boating and fishing supplies there. Take a couple of hours to enjoy the lake by either boating, fishing, or hiking around it.

- **Stop 2: Rangely Lakes Region Logging Museum**

From previous stop: 20 minutes / 10 mi (16.0 km)

Directions:

Leaving Oquossoc, take Route 16 east for approximately 10 miles to the Rangely Lakes Region Logging Museum.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour

The Rangely Lakes Region Logging Museum displays equipment, artifacts, photos, and historic tape recordings of people in the logging profession.

- **Stop 3: Smalls Falls**

From previous stop: 30 minutes / 18 mi (28.8 km)

Directions:

Leaving the museum, take Route 16 southwest for 3 miles, then turn south onto Route 4 and follow for about 15 miles to Smalls Falls at the end of the Byway.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

When you come to Smalls Falls, have a picnic. Afterward, play in the pools created by the 54-foot waterfall. You can also hike the short path to the top of the falls in 5 minutes. The colorful gorge walls, colored green, gold, and orange, are perfect places to perch and admire the scenery.

- **End: Madrid**

From previous stop: 5 minutes / 2 mi (3.2 km)

Directions:

From Smalls Falls, take Route 4 east for about 2 miles to Madrid.

End your tour in Madrid. Stop to eat dinner in one of the local eateries, and unwind in this quaint Maine township.

Totals for Day 1

Total Distance Traveled: 42 miles / 67.2 km

Total Travel Time: 1 hour 25 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 6 hours