

# State of Maine

Maine is the northeasternmost state in the United States. Maine is the 12th smallest by area and the 9th least populous of the 50 U.S. states. It is bordered by New Hampshire to the west, the Atlantic Ocean to the southeast, and the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick and Quebec to the northeast and northwest, respectively. Maine is the only state to border only one other state.

Maine is known for its jagged, rocky coastline; low, rolling mountains; heavily forested interior; and picturesque waterways; and its seafood cuisine, especially lobster and clams. Maine has almost 400 km of coastline. West Quoddy Head, in Lubec, Maine, is the easternmost point of land in the 48 contiguous states. Along the famous rock-bound coast of Maine are lighthouses, beaches, fishing villages, and thousands of offshore islands. There are rocks and cliffs and many bays and inlets. Inland are lakes, rivers, forests, and mountains. Geologists describe this type of landscape as a "drowned coast", where a rising sea level has inundated former land features, creating bays out of valleys and islands out of mountain tops.

There is a humid continental climate throughout most of the state, including coastal areas. The state has warm and sometimes humid summers, and long, cold and very snowy winters. Winters are especially severe in the Northern and Western parts of Maine, while coastal areas are moderated slightly by the Atlantic Ocean, resulting in marginally milder winters and cooler summers than inland regions.

Maine's most populous city is Portland. Portland's population was 66,215 people as of 2019. The Greater Portland metropolitan area is home to over half a million people. Portland's economy relies mostly on the service sector and tourism. The Old Port district is known for its 19th-century architecture and nightlife. Marine industry still plays an important role in the city's economy, with an active waterfront that supports fishing and commercial shipping. The Port of Portland is the largest tonnage seaport in New England. Portland was named after the English Isle of Portland. In turn, the city of Portland, Oregon was named after Portland, Maine.

Maine was part of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts until 1820 when it voted to secede from Massachusetts to become a separate state. On March 15, 1820, it was admitted to the Union as the 23rd state.