[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Pp-pc1](/wiki/Template:Pp-pc1) [Template:Use mdy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_mdy_dates) [Template:US state](/wiki/Template:US_state) [Template:Infobox U.S. state symbols](/wiki/Template:Infobox_U.S._state_symbols)

**Maine** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en); [Template:Lang-fr](/wiki/Template:Lang-fr)) is a [state](/wiki/U.S._state) in [New England](/wiki/New_England), in the [United States](/wiki/United_States). Maine is the [39th most extensive](/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_and_territories_by_area) and the [42nd most populous](/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_and_territories_by_population) of the [50 U.S. states](/wiki/List_of_U.S._states). It is bordered by [New Hampshire](/wiki/New_Hampshire) to the west, the [Atlantic Ocean](/wiki/Atlantic_Ocean) to the east, and the [Canadian](/wiki/Canada) provinces of [New Brunswick](/wiki/New_Brunswick) and [Quebec](/wiki/Quebec) to the east and north, respectively. Maine is the easternmost state in the [contiguous United States](/wiki/Contiguous_United_States), and the northernmost east of the [Great Lakes](/wiki/Great_Lakes). It is known for its jagged, rocky coastline; low, rolling mountains; heavily forested interior, and picturesque waterways; and also its seafood cuisine, especially [clams](/wiki/Clams) and [lobster](/wiki/American_lobster). There is a [continental](/wiki/Humid_continental_climate) [climate](/wiki/Climate_of_Maine) throughout the state, even in coastal areas such as its most populous city of [Portland](/wiki/Portland,_Maine).[[1]](#cite_note-1) The capital is [Augusta](/wiki/Augusta,_Maine).

For thousands of years, [indigenous peoples](/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States) were the only inhabitants of the territory that is now Maine. At the time of European arrival in what is now Maine, several [Algonquian](/wiki/Algonquian_languages)-speaking peoples inhabited the area. The first European settlement in the area was by the French in 1604 on [Saint Croix Island](/wiki/Saint_Croix_Island,_Maine), by [Pierre Dugua, Sieur de Mons](/wiki/Pierre_Dugua,_Sieur_de_Mons). The first English settlement was the short-lived [Popham Colony](/wiki/Popham_Colony), established by the [Plymouth Company](/wiki/Plymouth_Company) in 1607. A number of English settlements were established along the coast of Maine in the 1620s, although the rugged climate, deprivations, and conflict with the local peoples caused many to fail over the years.

As Maine entered the 18th century, only a half dozen European settlements had survived. [Loyalist](/wiki/United_Empire_Loyalist) and [Patriot](/wiki/Patriot_(American_Revolution)) forces contended for Maine's territory during the [American Revolution](/wiki/American_Revolution) and the [War of 1812](/wiki/War_of_1812). Maine was part of the [Commonwealth of Massachusetts](/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Massachusetts) until 1820 when it voted to secede from Massachusetts. On March 15, 1820, it was admitted to the Union as the 23rd state under the [Missouri Compromise](/wiki/Missouri_Compromise).

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## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|450px|A map of Maine and surrounding region](/wiki/File:National-atlas-maine.png) To the south and east is the [Atlantic Ocean](/wiki/Atlantic_Ocean) and to the north and northeast is [New Brunswick](/wiki/New_Brunswick), a province of Canada. The Canadian province of [Quebec](/wiki/Quebec) is to the northwest. Maine is both the northernmost state in [New England](/wiki/New_England) and the largest, accounting for almost half the region's entire land area. Maine is the only state to border only one other state ([New Hampshire](/wiki/New_Hampshire) to the west).

Maine is the easternmost state in the United States in both its extreme points and its geographic center. The municipalities of [Eastport](/wiki/Eastport,_Maine) and [Lubec](/wiki/Lubec,_Maine) are, respectively, the easternmost city and town in the United States. [Estcourt Station](/wiki/Estcourt_Station,_Maine) is Maine's northernmost point, as well as the northernmost point in New England. (For more information see [extreme points of the United States](/wiki/Extreme_points_of_the_United_States).)

Maine's [Moosehead Lake](/wiki/Moosehead_Lake) is the largest lake wholly in New England, as [Lake Champlain](/wiki/Lake_Champlain) is located between [Vermont](/wiki/Vermont), New York and Quebec. A number of other Maine lakes, such as [South Twin Lake](/wiki/South_Twin_Lake_(Maine)), are described by [Thoreau](/wiki/Thoreau) in *The Maine Woods* (1864). [Mount Katahdin](/wiki/Mount_Katahdin) is both the northern terminus of the [Appalachian Trail](/wiki/Appalachian_Trail), which extends southerly to [Springer Mountain](/wiki/Springer_Mountain), [Georgia](/wiki/Georgia_(U.S._state)), and the southern terminus of the new [International Appalachian Trail](/wiki/International_Appalachian_Trail) which, when complete, will run to [Belle Isle](/wiki/Belle_Isle_(Newfoundland_and_Labrador)), [Newfoundland and Labrador](/wiki/Newfoundland_and_Labrador).

Maine has several unique geographical features. [Machias Seal Island](/wiki/Machias_Seal_Island) and [North Rock](/wiki/North_Rock), off its easternmost point, are claimed by both the U.S. and Canada and are within one of [four areas between the two countries whose sovereignty is still in dispute](/wiki/List_of_areas_disputed_by_Canada_and_the_United_States), but it is the only one of the disputed areas containing land. Also in this easternmost area in the [Bay of Fundy](/wiki/Bay_of_Fundy) is the [Old Sow](/wiki/Old_Sow), the largest [tidal](/wiki/Tidal) [whirlpool](/wiki/Whirlpool) in the [Western Hemisphere](/wiki/Western_Hemisphere).

Maine is the least densely populated [U.S. state](/wiki/U.S._state) east of the [Mississippi River](/wiki/Mississippi_River). It is called the [Pine Tree State](/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_nicknames); about 83% of its land is forested.[[2]](#cite_note-2) In the forested areas of the interior lies much uninhabited land, some of which does not have formal political organization into local units (a rarity in New England). The [Northwest Aroostook, Maine](/wiki/Northwest_Aroostook,_Maine) [unorganized territory](/wiki/Unorganized_territory) in the northern part of the state, for example, has an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and a population of 10, or one person for every [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).

Maine is in the [temperate broadleaf and mixed forests](/wiki/Temperate_broadleaf_and_mixed_forests) [biome](/wiki/Biome). The land near the southern and central Atlantic coast is covered by the mixed [oaks](/wiki/Quercus) of the [Northeastern coastal forests](/wiki/Northeastern_coastal_forests). The remainder of the state, including the [North Woods](/wiki/Maine_North_Woods), is covered by the [New England-Acadian forests](/wiki/New_England-Acadian_forests).[[3]](#cite_note-3) Maine has almost [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of coastline (and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of tidal coastline).[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[5]](#cite_note-5) [West Quoddy Head](/wiki/West_Quoddy_Head), in [Lubec, Maine](/wiki/Lubec,_Maine), is the [easternmost point](/wiki/Extreme_points_of_the_United_States) 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, including the [Isles of Shoals](/wiki/Isles_of_Shoals) which straddle the New Hampshire border. There are jagged rocks and cliffs and many bays and inlets. Inland are lakes, rivers, forests, and mountains. This visual contrast of forested slopes sweeping down to the sea has been summed up by American poet [Edna St. Vincent Millay](/wiki/Edna_St._Vincent_Millay) of [Rockland](/wiki/Rockland,_Maine) and [Camden](/wiki/Camden,_Maine), Maine, in "Renascence": [thumb|250px|The coast of Maine near](/wiki/File:A_beach_in_maine_on_a_clear_day.jpg) [Acadia National Park](/wiki/Acadia_National_Park) [thumb|250px|](/wiki/File:Boothbay_Harbor,_summer_morning_at_low_tide.jpg)[Boothbay Harbor](/wiki/Boothbay_Harbor,_Maine)

"All I could see from where I stood

Was three long mountains and a wood;

I turned and looked the other way,

And saw three islands in a bay."

Geologists describe this type of landscape as a "drowned coast", where a rising sea level has invaded former land features, creating bays out of valleys and islands out of mountain tops.[[6]](#cite_note-6) A rise in the elevation of the land due to the melting of heavy glacier ice caused a slight rebounding effect of underlying rock; this land rise, however, was not enough to eliminate all the effect of the rising sea level and its invasion of former land features.

Much of Maine's geomorphology was created by heavy glacial activity at the end of the [last ice age](/wiki/Quaternary_glaciation). Prominent glacial features include [Somes Sound](/wiki/Somes_Sound) and Bubble Rock, both part of Acadia National Park on Mount Desert Island. Carved by glaciers, Somes Sound is considered to be the only [fjord](/wiki/Fjord) on the eastern seaboard and reaches depths of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). The extreme depth and steep drop-off allow large ships to navigate almost the entire length of the sound. These features also have made it attractive for boat builders, such as the prestigious [Hinckley Yachts](/wiki/Hinckley_Yachts). Bubble Rock, a [glacial erratic](/wiki/Glacial_erratic), is a large boulder perched on the edge of Bubble Mountain in [Acadia National Park](/wiki/Acadia_National_Park). By analyzing the type of granite, geologists were able to discover that glaciers carried Bubble Rock to its present location from the town of Lucerne, Maine — [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) away. The [Iapetus Suture](/wiki/Iapetus_Suture) runs through the north and west of the state being underlain by the ancient [Laurentian terrane](/wiki/Laurentia) and the south and east underlain by the [Avalonian terrane](/wiki/Avalonia).

Acadia National Park is the only national park in New England. Areas under the protection and management of the [National Park Service](/wiki/National_Park_Service) include:[[7]](#cite_note-7)

* Acadia National Park near [Bar Harbor](/wiki/Bar_Harbor,_Maine)
* [Appalachian National Scenic Trail](/wiki/Appalachian_Trail)
* Maine Acadian Culture in St. John Valley
* [Roosevelt Campobello International Park](/wiki/Roosevelt_Campobello_International_Park) near [Lubec](/wiki/Lubec,_Maine)
* [Saint Croix Island International Historic Site](/wiki/Saint_Croix_Island_International_Historic_Site) at [Calais](/wiki/Calais,_Maine)

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[thumb|300px|Maine map of Köppen climate classification.](/wiki/File:Maine_map_of_Köppen_climate_classification.svg) [thumb|left|Autumn in Stratton](/wiki/File:Stratton_Flagstaff_Lake_Maine_262258633.jpg) [thumb|left|Winter in](/wiki/File:Bangor_Maine.JPG) [Bangor](/wiki/Bangor,_Maine) Maine experiences a [humid continental climate](/wiki/Humid_continental_climate) ([Köppen climate classification](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification) *Dfb*), with warm (although generally not hot), humid summers. Winters are cold and snowy throughout the state, and are especially severe in the northern parts of Maine. Coastal areas are moderated somewhat by the Atlantic Ocean, resulting in milder winters and cooler summers in immediate coastal areas. Daytime highs are generally in the [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) range throughout the state in July, with overnight lows in the high 50s °F (around 15 °C). January temperatures range from highs near [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) on the southern coast to overnight lows averaging below [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the far north.[[8]](#cite_note-8) The state's record high temperature is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), set in July 1911, at North Bridgton.[[9]](#cite_note-9)Precipitation in Maine is evenly distributed year-round, but with a slight summer maximum in northern/northwestern Maine and a slight late-fall or early-winter maximum along the coast due to "nor'easters" or intense cold-season storms. In coastal Maine, the late spring and summer months are usually driest – a rarity across the Eastern United States. Maine has fewer days of thunderstorms than any other state east of the [Rockies](/wiki/Rocky_Mountains), with most of the state averaging less than 20 days of [thunderstorms](/wiki/Thunderstorm) a year. [Tornadoes](/wiki/Tornado) are rare in Maine, with the state averaging fewer than two per year, mostly occurring in the southern part of the state.[[10]](#cite_note-10) In January 2009, a new record low temperature for the state was set at [Big Black River](/wiki/Big_Black_River_(Saint_John_River)) of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), tying the New England record.[[8]](#cite_note-8) Annual precipitation varies from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in [Presque Isle](/wiki/Presque_Isle,_Maine), to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in Acadia National Park.[[11]](#cite_note-11)