Overview

Rangeley Lake State Park encompasses 869 acres in the heart of Maine’s Western Mountains. Visitors enjoy hiking, picnicking, camping, wildlife watching, photography, and winter sports, as well as the long-established traditions of fishing and hunting. The lake's cool, clear waters stretch nine miles and support world-famous populations of landlocked salmon and trout (sustained through a strong commitment to catch-and-release practices). Four wheeling and snowmobiling are popular pursuits in the Rangeley area (outside the park), with many trails available.

The campground at Rangeley Lake State Park has 50 well-spaced sites close to the lakeshore—where a beach offers commanding views of Saddleback Mountain. There's a picnic area, playground, and a trailerable boat launch with finger docks for both day visitors and campers.

When to Visit

The Park is open and staffed May 15-October 1. In season day use hours are 9 a.m. to sunset, unless otherwise signed at the gate.

Advance camping reservations are recommended. Contact the State Park Reservations Office:

- 800-332-1501 – in Maine
- 207-644-9950 from outside Maine or
- Online at www.campwithme.com

Property History

During the 1860s, word of the region’s famed brook trout spread and “sports” began coming to fish—giving rise to new camps and guide services, and ultimately luxurious hotels serving wealth vacationers. To take sports out on the lakes, guides developed a sleek and narrow rowing craft which came to be known as the Rangeley boat. The golden era of the “rusticators” lasted nearly a century, drawing to a close in the 1950s. Over half of the park property was donated to the State in 1960 by Oxford and international paper companies.

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Partners and Supporters

Over the past two decades, numerous organizations, agencies and individuals have worked collaboratively to ensure that large tracts of undeveloped natural lands in the area will remain accessible to the public and continue supporting the local economy through sustainable forest management. Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust was indispensable in the 2009 29-acre addition and the Land for Maine’s Future Program funded the purchase. The notable conservation successes around the Rangeley Lakes help preserve the region’s sporting traditions and provide visitors many beautiful natural settings to explore.

- AmeriCorps Maine Conservation Corps members have provided trail maintenance.
- This brochure was made possible in part by funding assistance through the Federal Highway Administration’s Recreational Trails Program (RTP), administered by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands.

Contact Information

Rangeley Lake State Park
HC 32 Box 5000
Rangeley, ME 04970-5000
In season: 207-864-3858, May 15 to Oct 1.
Off-season: 207-644-6680
www.parksandlands.com

Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands
State House Station 107
Augusta, Maine 04333
207-624-6080
www.parksandlands.com

Directions

From Route 4, turn onto South Shore Drive and proceed 5 miles to Park (on right).
From Route 17, turn onto South Shore Drive and continue 3 miles to Park (on left).

Fees & Hours

- Park Fees are payable at the entrance booth, or self-service container when the staff are not at the booth.
- Park hours are 9 a.m. to sunset for day use in season: May 15 – October 1.
- Day Use Fees & Annual Park Passes: www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/park_passes_fees_rules/
- Camping: www.campwithme.com
- Group Camping: www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/camping/group_camping.shtml
- Boat Launch Listing: www.maine.gov/dacf/boatlaunches

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SERVICES & FACILITIES

- 50 single-party campsites and two group campsites
- Bathing facilities with hot showers
- Trailerable boat launch and finger docks
- Canoe rentals
- Picnic area, playground, swim beach, and ball field
- Trailer dumping station

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**Visitor Rules**

- **Camping**: Camp only at established sites. Reservations available at www.campwithme.com
- **Leave No Trace**: Stay on trails to protect the land, and please do not pick or remove anything.
- **Fires**: Kindles fires only in campites and picnic sites with fire pits or grills. Do not cut live vegetation.
- **Pets**: Pets must be leashed, attended and under control at all times. Clean up their waste.
- **Recycling**: Recepticles are provided; use or carry out.
- **Trash**: Fire pits are only for cooking use; do not burn trash.
- **Beverages**: Intoxicating beverages are not permitted.
- **Swimming**: Swim only in designated areas.
- **Fishing**: Anglers & hunters must follow all State hunting laws; visit www.maine.gov/ifw/
- **Firearms**: Between June 1st and Labor Day. Do not discharge weapons within 300 feet of any picnic area, camping area, parking area, marked hiking trail or other developed area. Loaded firearms are not permitted at campites or on hiking trails.
- **Power Equipment**: Use no chainsaws, generators or other power equipment around campsites.
- **Quiet Hours**: Quiet in camping areas is required between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Use of generators is permitted between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. if the sound does not bother other visitors.
- **Wildlife**: Observe from a distance; do not follow or feed.

**Regional Destinations**

Rangeley Lake State Park lies in the Maine’s Lakes and Mountains Region that encompasses Franklin and Oxford Counties and represents the westernmost portion of Maine. Nearby points of interest include:

- **Mt. Blue State Park/Tumbledown Public Lands** draws visitors to camp, swim in Webb Lake, hike, mountain bike, and ride ATVs and horses. www.maine.gov/mountblue
- **Grafton Notch State Park/Mahoosuc Public Lands** offers hiking, picnicking and sightseeing (with numerous waterfalls and gorges) within 35,000 mountainous acres. www.maine.gov/graftonnotch
- **Height of Land**, a famous overlook on Route 17, provides a spectacular view of the region.
- **Bald Mountain** is close by and offers a scenic, 2-mile (roundtrip) hike through varied terrain to an open summit. An observation deck on a converted Forest Service fire tower provides a 360-degree view.
- **Coos Canyon**, a scenic gorge along the Swift River in Byron, provides an opportunity to pan for gold and swim.

**Trails**

The Moose Corridor Trail is a 0.7-mile forested hiking trail that runs from the park entrance to the ranger station.

A 0.9-mile forested trail meanders near the lake. From the beach path, the trail runs southward to the boat launch at South Cove. To the north, the trail ends at the campground loop road.

For more information about hiking trails in the vicinity, contact Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust (www.rlht.org) at 207-864-7311.

**Special Considerations**

- Lake water is cold and winds can arise suddenly and create dangerous conditions. Boaters should wear a PFD at all times, notify someone of your intended route and time of return, and monitor conditions carefully.
- All motorized boats using Maine’s inland waters must purchase and display a Lake and River Protection Sticker, which helps fund prevention and monitoring efforts for aquatic invasives.
- All those fishing (age 16 and above for Maine residents and age 12 and above for non-residents) must have a valid license and review the State’s open water fishing regulations (www.maine.gov/ifw/aboutus/laws_rules/index.html).
- Be prepared for black flies and mosquitoes, particularly in May and June. Check yourself for deer ticks daily to prevent Lyme disease.
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