

### Canoe Camping and Fishing Trips in The Northern Maine Woods

Most trips in the North Woods are to be guided by myself, Blaine Miller. I try to offer you an experience that allows learning many camping and canoeing skills. I find a complete experience is achieved when you help in gathering wood, portaging, setting up camp and other normal trip duties. In short, I offer a trip with enjoyable experiences plus valuable camping skills. By using this approach, I am able to offer a reduced cost, and you go away with a greater sense of appreciation. Some Canadian trips are with Gerald LeBlanc, one of Canada's most experienced canoe trip guides. Trips in Maine may be guided by my daughter and son-in-law, Christal and Sören Siren, both are licensed guides. Christal is a physical therapist and Sören is a high school P.E. educator. We all have years of experience.



### Canadian Rivers, Quebec and New Brunswick 7 Days- 2 Weeks

Several select Canadian rivers in New Brunswick and Quebec will be explored. All trips are for experienced canoeists because of remoteness, difficulty and general need to be a cohesive unit. The rivers selected will vary from year to year. Several "regulars" will be the N.E. Branch of the Mistassibi and the Depas River in Northern Quebec and the Nepisiquit River in N. New Brunswick. Canadian rivers are very remote and campsites are primitive, if they exist at all. Fishing is excellent for brook trout

and usually pike in these rivers. On some Canadian trips you may be required to provide your own transportation to an agreed upon starting location. Maps and information about this will be provided according to the trip selected. "Car pooling" and caravans are the norm.



### What is Provided?

All equipment necessary to enjoy the trip will be provided including tents, canoes, lifejackets, paddles, tarps, cooking and eating equipment, food, first aid, saws, and equipment boxes. Canoes are ABS plastics, which are believed to be the most durable available. Tents are Eureka Timberlines, which are a top quality tent and provide ease in assembly and protection from the elements. All clients are asked to use as much care as possible with this expensive equipment.

### What To Bring?

Quality 2 piece rain gear, (Gortex or similar), Sweat suit or micro fleece, 2 or 3 changes of clothes, Swimsuit, Leather boots or hiking shoes, sneakers, Texas, flashlight, insect repellent, sleeping bag for appropriate temperature needed, toiletry kit, air mattress or Thermarest, waterproof bags, camera & film with waterproof container, 25' of thin line for clothes drying, Fleece or clothes for cold weather, cloth gloves if you have tender hands.

### Optional

life preserver (you may have one you prefer), knife, maps of river, fishing equipment, fly rod or spinning rod.

### Dates and Locations

Variations of these trips can be made upon request. Trips can be scheduled from May through early October. Most trips will begin on a Saturday or Sunday and "Maine" trips will begin at my house with transportation provided, for up to 6 people. It is usually possible for the remaining people to "truck pool" with a discount to those who provide the vehicle.



### West Branch of the Penobscot River 3 -5 Days

After transporting from Norridgewock, this trip begins at Lobster Stream on the West Branch of the Penobscot River. Upon arrival at Chesuncook Lake, we will tour historical Chesuncook Village. The trip ends at the forestry landing at the south end of Chesuncook Lake. This trip is an excellent family or 'beginner's' trip.

### Allagash River 7 Days

After transporting from Norridgewock to Indian Stream on Eagle Lake, our trip begins "down" the Allagash. This trip includes approximately 90 miles of lake and river travel to Allagash Village, and often 12 miles more down the St. John River to the town of St. Francis. The last day of the trip may include some canoeing and transportation back to Norridgewock. Highlights of this trip are the locomotives and tramway on Eagle Lake, Chase Rapids and Allagash Falls. We usually stop at the Lumberman's Museum in Patten on the way home.

### Allagash Lake to Churchill Dam 7 Days

After leaving Norridgewock, we will drive to Allagash Stream or Johnson Pond. From here we will proceed to Allagash Lake. Several days can be spent at Allagash Lake, particularly if the party is interested in quality fishing and enjoying one of Maine's most beautiful lakes. Next the group proceeds down 6 miles of Allagash Stream to Chamberlain Lake and through Lock Dam to Eagle Lake, and finally ending at Churchill Dam, after running the famous "Chase Rapids". A shorter Allagash Lake trip is offered in which the group ends back at Chamberlain thoroughfare after a five day trip. In low water, we return up Allagash and Johnson Stream to our vehicles, and drive to Churchill Dam.



### St. John River 7 Days

From Norridgewock we will transport to Baker Lake at the head waters of the St. John River. The river starts out slowly and climaxes with the "Big Rapids". We finish at the town of Allagash. A great river to become an accomplished canoeist.



### Advantages of the Guided Trip

Many people make these trips on their own. Some of them actually end up paying more, than the cost of a guided trip. The advantages of an experienced guide:

- \*He does the cooking.
- \*You see all the sights.
- \*You are shown where and how to fish
- \*All is provided but your personal gear.
- \*Transportation is all taken care of on Maine trips.
- \*All the headaches of planning and coordinating a trip are removed. A guided trip will show you how to: canoe properly, camp safely and efficiently, and teach you more than any books, maps, and other advice can do. In short, a guided trip allows you to enjoy the northern Maine Wilderness.



### Instruction

You will receive instructions in handling a canoe in all possible conditions. The proper way to load and unload a canoe, the most efficient ways to paddle and portage, and the way to read the current will all be explained and developed.

### About Myself

I am a member of the Maine Professional Guides Association, and a Master Maine Guide. I am also a member of IAABO#20, as an active basketball official. I am a graduate of the University of Southern Maine.

I have guided canoe trips in northern Maine since 1971 and have earned a reputation for having some of the best canoeists, satisfied fishermen, and best trips in the northern woods.

### Wildlife and Fish

Bear, deer, moose, loons, and ducks are likely to be seen and possibly studied. The “bird watcher” and naturalist will not be disappointed. To see ospreys and eagles fishing in the lakes makes the trip even better. The fishing can be excellent, but it’s not as fast later in the summer. On Canadian trips caribou, wolves, and bear are often seen.

### What are possible Menus?

Cooking is done mostly over an open fire in Maine. Extensive use of the baker oven is used to produce muffins, baked ham, pies, cakes, baked fish and anything that can be cooked at home in your oven. After a hard day of paddling, meals such as steak, barbecued chicken, fish chowder, meat loaf and stir fry usually hit the spot. Every effort is made to provide healthy, tasty and nutritious meals. It is doubtful that you will be hungry for long. A Coleman stove and freeze dried meals are often necessary on some Canadian trips.

### Insects

Black flies and mosquitoes can be bothersome early in the season. Occasionally “hatches” occur all summer long, so a good supply of repellent is necessary.



### Trivia

Many people inquire whether they should be in top physical condition. Sometimes a paddle into a headwind can be strenuous, as well as the several short portages (longest 1/8 mile at Allagash Falls). Being in reasonable shape is a help, but you don’t have to be an “Olympian”. Canadian trips are generally more challenging and may require prior canoeing experience. The Allagash and St. John region have much to offer people of all walks of life. The beauty and enjoyment are available for everyone.



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