





# ALLAGASH WILDERNESS WATERWAY

## WATERCRAFT

The Waterway is managed as a traditional canoe route.

- Motor size, outboard motor use, and type of watercraft is restricted.
- Complete watercraft rules at: [www.maine.gov/allagash](http://www.maine.gov/allagash)
- All watercraft:

- With motors must be registered with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, [www.maine.gov/ifw](http://www.maine.gov/ifw)
- Must have one wearable personal flotation device for each passenger on board. Children 10 years of age or younger must wear an approved life jacket at all times while on the water.

- Waterway rangers advise boaters to wear a good fitting personal flotation device at all times
- Canoes and kayaks are defined by rules for the Waterway, see chart below. To measure the width:
  - 1) Measure to the outside of the widest part of the hull.
  - 2) Do not include gunwales, rub rails, or spray rails.

LENGTH	10ft	11ft	12ft	13ft	14ft	15ft	16ft	17ft	18ft	19ft	20ft	21ft
Canoe	24"	26"	29"	31"	34"	36"	38"	41"	43"	46"	48"	50"
Kayak	30"	33"	36"	39"	42"	45"	48"	51"	54"	57"	60"	63"

## THE TRIP

Ability, desire, and time are among the most important factors to consider when planning the type of trip you wish to undertake. Some visitors will want to engage a guide, outfitter, or experienced canoeist. Others may wish to arrange for float plane transportation into or out of the Waterway. Information on outfitters, guides, and float plane services is available from North Maine Woods, Inc. at [www.northmainewoods.org](http://www.northmainewoods.org)

## WATER LEVELS

- Vary throughout the season, but there is usually good recreational water flow for all types of canoeing from May to October.
- In the side streams, including Allagash Stream, are highly variable.
- LATE IN THE SEASON - There may be a lack of adequate flow of water for canoeing, especially late in the season. Very early in the season, flows may be too heavy to canoe.
- River Conditions & Alerts available at: [www.maine.gov/allagash](http://www.maine.gov/allagash)

## ALLOW EXTRA TIME

- Strong winds can make canoeing on the large headwater lakes difficult.
- With extra time built into your schedule, you will not be tempted to paddle during dangerous conditions.

## LONGEST PADDLE

Telos Lake to Town of Allagash 98 miles, 7 to 10 days. Lake and river paddling.

A 15-mile paddle up Telos and Chamberlain Lakes to Lock Dam and a short portage around the dam, then you'll follow the traditional Allagash canoe route with a 12-mile paddle across Eagle Lake, a 2-mile run through the Thoroughfare, and 5 more miles of lake to Churchill Dam.

Below the Churchill Dam is an exciting 9-mile trip down Chase Rapids to Umsaskis Lake. Chase Rapids, famed for its "whitewater" canoeing, takes an experienced person in the stern to guide a canoe through the rocks and standing waves.

The upper end of Umsaskis Lake is a wildlife haven. It is worth exploring the back channels and bays of this marshy area; a short 5-mile paddle to where American Realty Road crosses the Waterway.

A 6-mile paddle down Long Lake and through Harvey Pond will bring you to the remnants of Long Lake Dam. It is another 10 miles of easy moving river to Round Pond.

After a 3-mile paddle across Round Pond you'll encounter Round Pond Rips, a section of river with riffles and quick water, then Musquacook Deadwater, and more gently moving water all the way to Allagash Falls - an 18-mile paddle.

The 40 foot drop at Allagash Falls is a highlight of this spectacular wilderness canoe trip. After the 1/3-mile portage around the falls, it is a run of 8 miles to Twin Brook Rapids - a short but challenging class II rapid - also the official end of the Waterway. Most paddlers continue another 5 miles to the Town of Allagash at the confluence of the St. John and Allagash Rivers.

## SHORTER TRIPS

Chamberlain Bridge to Churchill Dam 30 miles, 3-4 days. Mostly lake paddling.

Umsaskis Lake to Town of Allagash 53 miles, 3-4 days. Mostly river paddling.

## SIDE TRIP

Chamberlain Lake to Allagash Lake Allagash Stream enters Chamberlain Lake in the northwest corner of the lake. As you pass under the remnants of the railroad trestle you enter the quiet waters of Allagash Stream. An experienced canoeist can make the 6-mile trip with pole and paddle up this stream to the unforgettable solitude of Allagash Lake. This lake and stream are closed to aircraft, motors, and mechanized equipment of any type; only canoes and kayaks are permitted here.

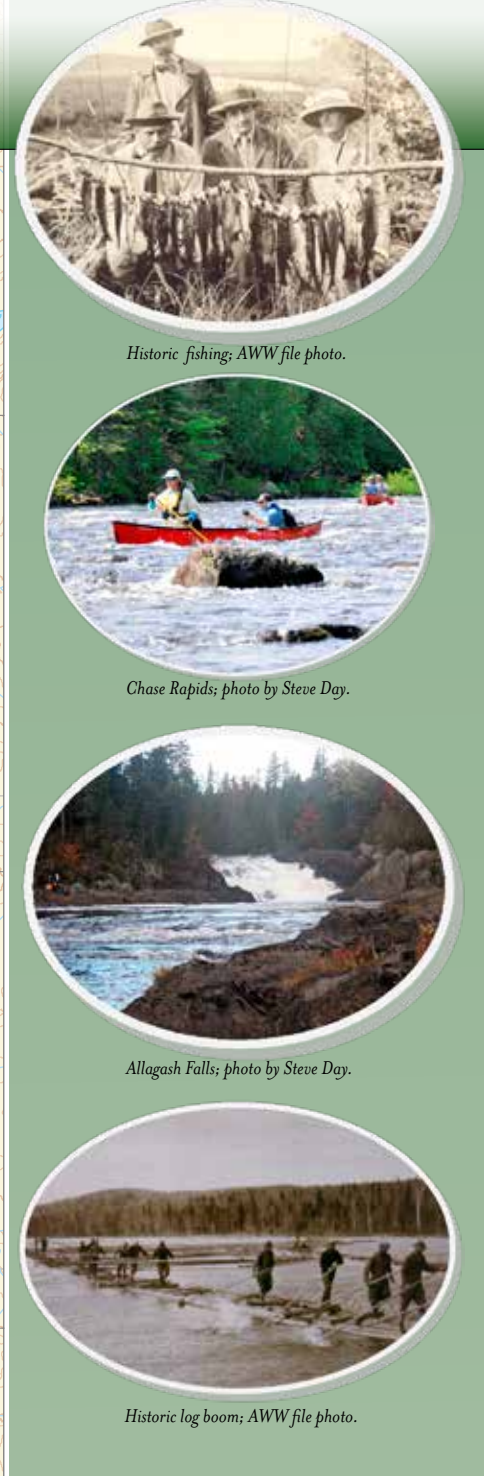


**Legend**

- Allagash Wilderness Waterway
- Other Public Lands
- Waterway Ranger Camp
- Canoe Access
- Trailerable Boat Launch
- Portage
- Waterway Campsites (number of cells)
- Other Campsite
- Sporting Camp (private)
- Fire Tower
- Danger
- Falls
- Rapids
- Town Line
- Parking

**Scale (miles)**

**NORTH**  
Magnetic Declination 17.5° W



## ALONG THE WAY

**Lock Dam:** Formally known as Chamberlain Lake Dam was built in 1841 to divert the flow of water in Chamberlain and Telos Lakes into the East Branch of the Penobscot River.

**The Tramway:** The original cable tramway was built in 1902-1903 to transport logs from Eagle Lake to Chamberlain Lake, a distance of three-quarters of a mile. At peak production, a half-million board feet of logs were handled in a single day.

**Abandoned Railroad:** The Eagle Lake and Umbazooksus Railroad was built in 1925-26 and hauled 125,000 cords of pulpwood each year from Eagle to Umbazooksus Lake. The two giant oil-burning steam locomotives, which made the round trip between the lakes every three hours, are a startling sight as they stand near the shore of Eagle Lake.

**Chase Rapids:** The most taxing stretch of water on the Allagash extends between Churchill Dam and Umsaskis Lake. The 9-miles through the rips is a high point for whitewater canoe enthusiasts. Portage service is available for this stretch of whitewater.

**Allagash Falls:** For many, forty-foot Allagash Falls is the scenic climax of the trip. The falls is 13 miles from the point where the Allagash joins the St. John River in the Town of Allagash.



## CAUTION

The Allagash Wilderness Waterway is not the place for an inexperienced person to learn canoeing or canoe camping alone.

Lack of experience and errors in judgment in this remote region can cause considerable personal discomfort and endanger oneself and others. Immersion in cold water, for example, can be fatal in a matter of minutes.

**CLASS II WHITE WATER**  
If you're going down the river, you should be competent and comfortable in Class II white water and suitably equipped. If your trip will be limited to the lakes, you should have practiced on a large lake with loads similar to what you plan to carry on the Allagash.

## ASSISTANCE

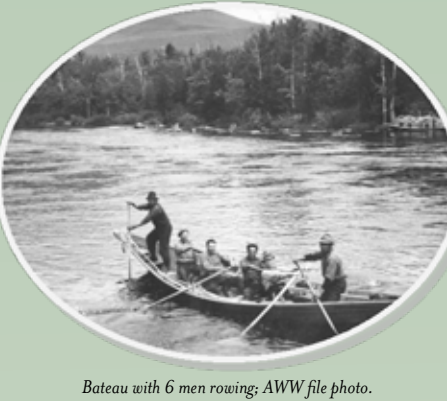
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION may be available:

- At Waterway Ranger Stations
- From Rangers & Wardens who patrol the Waterway.

No telephone communication is available.

EMERGENCY MESSAGES may be transmitted by radio into the Waterway through the:

- Radio Dispatch Center Transmits emergency messages throughout the Waterway by radio. (207) 435-7963 Open Monday - Friday; 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.
- State Police Dispatch Center in Houlton Weekend and after hours emergency assistance. (207) 532-2460 or 1-800-924-2261 (in state only)



**MILEAGE CHART**

From	To	Mileage
Telos Landing	Chamberlain Bridge	5
Chamberlain Bridge	Lock Dam	10
Lock Dam	Tramway	6
Lock Dam	Allagash Lake	9
Tramway	Churchill Dam	13
Churchill Dam	Umsaskis Lake	9
Umsaskis Lake Inlet	Long Lake Dam	11
Long Lake Dam	Round Pond	10
Round Pond (T13 R12)	Michaud Farm	15
Michaud Farm	Allagash Falls	3
Allagash Falls	Twin Brook	8
Twin Brook	Allagash Village	6
Telos Landing	Allagash Village	98

