1930

Mount Katahdin in Maine

Bangor and Aroostook Railroad

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Mount Katahdin in MAINE

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Mount Katahdin

Mount Katahdin is 5,273 feet above sea level.

Mount Katahdin is one of the three highest mountains east of the Rockies.

Mount Katahdin is reached by the Bangor and Aroostook railroad from Norcross, Millinocket and Stacyville stations.

Mount Katahdin also can be reached by the Bangor and Aroostook railroad to Greenville, thence overland to the Penobscot’s West Branch and down the West Branch to Abol stream 12 miles below Ripogenus. Still another route is from Ripogenus dam by road to Harrington Lake; across the lake to Kidney Pond and thence by the Hunt Trail to Mt. Katahdin.

Mount Katahdin has attractions that provide a program for a prolonged stay by the enthusiast. The minimum trip is two days, a day in the ascent, overnight on the mountain and return the second day. The Mt. Katahdin country, the vast expanse over which Katahdin dominates, is one of the outstanding sections of the Maine woods for fishing and hunting and canoeing and for general vacation pleasures.

Mount Katahdin offers opportunities for exceptional sport for the devotee of mountain climbing. Its variety of approaches and routes offers relatively easy traveling or some sporty scrambling, depending upon choice of the mountaineer planning to make the ascent.
The Chimney on Mt. Katahdin . . . one of the many famous Landmarks of Maine's Great Peak.
Crossing Mt. Katahdin's Knife Edge... A stunt that won't appeal to the Mountaineers for whom the Knife Edge is none too easy afoot.
The Trails to Katahdin . . .

The principal trails to Katahdin now used by the tourist, or mountain climber, whose objective is Monument Peak, the highest point in Maine, are the Millinocket trail, Hunt trail and Abol trail. Two new trails, branching from the Millinocket trail, have been opened recently for those who care for the more sporty and sometimes hazardous proposition of reaching Monument Peak by way of Pamola Peak and the Knife Edge. One of these leaves Millinocket trail near Togue Pond Camps. The other is the Dudley trail leading up over Pamola and the Knife Edge from Chimney Pond. There is also the North Basin Trail leading up over Hamlin Ridge between the North and South Basins.

The old trail from Stacyville leading by Katahdin Lake can still be used and the old Wassataquoik trail which leads up the valley and onto the north end of the mountain is being cleared of fallen trees and obstructions at the present time. Still another trail leads from Patten west to Happy Corner and then to Lunkasoo on the East Branch, across this river and Wassataquoik Stream where it hits the old Appalachian trail to Katahdin Lake. Also the Gilpatrick trail which crosses the East Branch some three miles below Lunkasoo then passes along a dry ridge to Katahdin Lake; all of which it is good to be on, but the first three trails are the ones principally used at the present time.

Millinocket Trail . . .

The Millinocket trail starts from the interesting paper town of the Great Northern Paper Co., Millinocket, 81 miles north of Bangor via the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad. The large paper mills and fine hotel of the Company are of interest to the tourist, and the latter provides excellent accommodations for those planning a morning start for Katahdin Mountain, now looming in the north 31 miles away. The stores here also furnish opportunity to procure any needed supplies for the trip. This trail is well marked by guide boards and, by using care, passable for autos 22 miles, that is, 17 miles to Togue Pond Camps, where you can tarry for fishing or dinner, and five miles beyond to Windy Pitch. Here cars should be
parked as per sign posted until return from the mountain. This road is being continually improved by Millinocket’s wide awake Chamber of Commerce and others interested.

At Windy Pitch, if you have telephoned to the State Camp at Chimney Pond, you are met by a trusty guide, and, if you desire, with pack horse to accompany you to Chimney Pond, a hike of eight miles, where you camp for the night. In rainy weather you will find nearby shelter camps, with stone fireplaces for warmth and cooking. The foot of Basin Slide is but a mile away, or if you camp at Basin Pond it is but a little over two miles distant. Here the real climb begins, and although this entire trail is so well marked by painted guide boards that a stranger can go from Millinocket to Katahdin alone, the ascent should not be made without a guide on account of the clouds that sometimes settle on the mountain obliterating all cairns or trails to the eye of one not familiar with its peaks and table lands.

The Hunt Trail . . .

The Hunt Trail leads from the Kidney Pond Camps and Daisy Pond Camps over the southwest spur of the mountain to Abol table land where it unites with the Abol trail to Monument Peak. These camps are reached from Greenville (Moosehead Lake), 91 miles from Bangor (via Bangor and Aroostook railroad) where all kinds of camping supplies can be procured, and Ripogenus dam to Sourdnahunk Stream, the western border of Katahdin Park Game Preserve. Autos should be parked here just inside the limits of the Preserve. It is then a hike of about eight miles to either the camps at Kidney Pond, or to the Daisy Pond Camps, the latter being the only sporting camps within the Park. Good accommodations can be had at either place and it is then about six miles to “Governor’s Spring” on the Abol table land and one mile further to Monument Peak. There is also a camping place at the cave on this trail near the timber line, with excellent spring nearby.

This trail should never be undertaken without a guide, or someone in the party who is familiar with it. While the hike on this trail is somewhat longer, from the autos to the top, it is considered by many as equal to any on account of Moosehead Lake, Ripogenus and other wonderful scenery along the way.
The State of Maine Camp at Chimney Pond.
The Abol Trail...

This trail, made famous by Henry D. Thoreau, may be reached from Norcross by steamer up through North Twin Lake, Pama-dumcook and Ambajejus to the West Branch, thence by canoe to Pitman’s Camps directly south of the Mountain and Abol trail which can be seen from the camps. Pitman’s Camps may also be reached from Ripogenus by going down the West Branch. Good fishing waters are found here as on the other trails to be enjoyed if not in too much haste. These Camps can be reached in one day’s journey from Bangor over the Bangor and Aroostook railroad to Norcross and thence by steamer and canoe as indicated.

It is then about 8 miles from the Camps to the top of Katahdin, but a small camp with camping grounds at the timber line where one can stay over night gives an opportunity to finish the climb the next morning before the sun strikes the South side of the mountain.

A guide or someone familiar with the trail should make one of the party.

A Photograph from Katahdin’s Summit, showing some of the many Lakes visible on all sides.

(Photo by Col. Frederick F. Black, U.S.A.)
On the Summit of Mt. Katahdin.
The Chimney; South Basin.
(Photograph by Wm. F. Dawson)
One of the Mountain Brooks that add to the Attractions of Mt. Katahdin.
From Pamola, showing the "Saddle" on Katahdin.

(Photograph by G. Herbert Whitney)
Along the Knife Edge, Katahdin (from Pamola to Monument Peak). Note the hiker in the middle distance.

(Photograph by G. Herbert Whitney)
Mount Katahdin, Maine's Greatest Natural Wonder, Cloud Enshrouded and surrounded by the Forest Primeval.
Two familiar Mt. Katahdin Landmarks. Chimney Pond and Pamola Peak.
At the Timber Line on the Hunt Trail up Mt. Katahdin.
Mt. Katahdin's Tableland from Monument Peak.
On the Knife Edge, Katahdin

(Photograph by G. Herbert Whitney)
Part of the Trail from Pemola to the Summit
of Mt. Katahdin via the Knife Edge.
(Photograph by G. Herbert Whitney)
Some Sporty Climbing via the Knife Edge from Pamola to the Monument.

(Photograph by G. Herbert Whitney)
The Knife Edge, Mt. Katahdin, which provides some sporty work by Mountaineers.
Around the Luncheon Fire at the "Cave" on the Hunt Trail up Mt. Katahdin.
On Katahdin looking back towards Pamola. The "Chimney" Trail comes out between two Humps at Left.

(Photograph by G. Herbert Whitney)
Trail along the Knife Edge (from Pamol to Monument Peak.) (Photograph by G. Herbert Whitney)
Wall of Katahdin from side of Pamola.
(Photograph by G. Herbert Whitney)
Looking over the World from Mt. Katadhin.
Pamola after the Storm. From Chimney Pond, Great Basin.

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