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Please note: While every effort has been made to ensure the information in this guide is correct as of the date of publication, no guarantee is made as to the guide’s accuracy or completeness.

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Centrally located along the sparkling Kennebec River, Skowhegan offers both urban and rural delights.

Interested in hiking, swimming, tubing, or snowshoeing? You can find all of this and more in Skowhegan. Passionate about plays, art, or history? Skowhegan boasts those things too. Looking for bowling, movies, or other fun activities to do with the kids? How about local food experiences like apple-picking at one of the best orchards in New England or touring a craft brewery? You guessed it—we offer all of that as well.

Whether you’re a local or a visitor, Skowhegan has something for everyone and more than a few hidden gems.
Skowhegan holds the Guinness World Record for the Most People Moose Calling Simultaneously.

You may have heard that Maine is famous for its moose, but did you know that we hold a record? It was set on June 9, 2018, when 1,054 people participated in the world record attempt during the Skowhegan Moose Festival, an event celebrating our outdoor heritage.

Our town was an important filming location for the Golden Globe-winning miniseries Empire Falls.

Starring Ed Harris and Paul Newman, the miniseries was based on Richard Russo’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. The Empire Grill restaurant seen in the movie closed in 2010 and is now M. Thai, an authentic Thai restaurant in the heart of downtown.

Skowhegan is the seat of Somerset County, the largest maple producer in the United States, with an astounding 1.73 million maple taps.

Join us for Maple Fest, held every year on the fourth weekend in March, to celebrate!

The Strand Cinema was featured on an episode of the Travel Channel’s Most Terrifying Places in America in 2018.

First opened in 1929, the downtown cinema has long been thought to be haunted. Visit to take in a movie, the theater’s historic charms … and perhaps an encounter with a ghost.
John Travolta’s signature is on a dressing room wall at Lakewood Theater.

In its heyday, Lakewood featured a who's who of performers, including Travolta, Mama Cass Elliot, and the legendary Humphrey Bogart.

Skowhegan is home to the world’s tallest Native American, a 62-foot wood sculpture.

Crafted by renowned Maine artist Bernard Langlais, the sculpture was erected in 1969. The name Skowhegan (“a place to watch”) was bestowed by the area’s original inhabitants, the Abenaki.

Dating to 1818, the Skowhegan State Fair is the nation’s oldest consecutively running agricultural fair.

It reaches so far back into history that Skowhegan was part of Massachusetts when the fair first took place! (Maine didn’t become a state until 1820.)

Skijor Skowhegan is the only equestrian skijoring race in the Northeast.

The first annual Skijor Skowhegan took place in 2019. The event is a thrilling team-trial race with a horse and rider pulling a snowboarder or alpine skier down a 1,000-foot track of gates and jumps.

Smithsonian Magazine named Skowhegan one of the 20 Best Small Towns to Visit in 2018.

Smithsonian noted that “there’s something about small towns that ignites our imaginations.” We’re glad you’re visiting and hope our small town does that for you!
Nested in the scenic Kennebec River Valley, Skowhegan is an up-and-coming town with a vibrant history—from the Native Americans who were the original inhabitants, to the 19th- and 20th-century river drivers who annually drove logs down the Kennebec, to the evolving community of makers, doers, and innovators who, like those before them, genuinely love life in Central Maine.

Settled in 1773 and famously traversed by Benedict Arnold in 1775, Skowhegan continues to be a crossroads as well as the gateway to the Maine woods. It is nationally known as the home of Margaret Chase Smith, the first woman to serve in both houses of the U.S. Congress. It is also the home of the Skowhegan State Fair, the nation’s oldest consecutively running agricultural fair.

Downtown Skowhegan is watched over by the world’s tallest Native American, a 62-foot wooden sculpture crafted by renowned Maine artist Bernard Langlais and “dedicated to the Maine Indians, the first people to use these lands in peaceful ways.” A destination on the Langlais Art Trail, Skowhegan hosts 21 smaller Langlais artworks as well.
Skowhegan has become an agricultural food hub, featuring a year-round farmers’ market, organic grain purveyor Maine Grains, the Kneading Conference and Maine Artisan Bread Fair, two craft breweries, one of New England’s best orchards, numerous farms, a CSA, and restaurants that serve local harvest. It’s also the seat of Somerset County—the nation’s leading maple syrup producer.

Throughout the town’s history, the Kennebec River has been Skowhegan’s lifeblood. After the final log drive, in 1976, some river drivers turned to whitewater rafting to continue their way of life on the river. Now Skowhegan annually hosts River Fest to celebrate recreation and life on the Kennebec—and the town’s future plans include the creation of the Run of River Whitewater Recreation Area, with features including a whitewater park, four-season trail system, and riverfront promenade.

Add in new events—like Somerset SnowFest, AgriCulture, and the Skowhegan Craft Brew Fest—to complement old traditions, and it’s easy to see that Skowhegan is a place to watch.
Family Fun

5 for $5 or less!

1) Central Maine Family Fun
414 Madison Ave., Skowhegan, 207-474-1223
Enjoy bowling, billiards, and an arcade, plus grab a bite at the attached T&B’s Out-Back Tavern. $1 bowling per game per person on Wednesdays, summer only.

2) L.C. Bates Museum
14 Easler Rd., Hinckley, 207-238-4250
This museum features natural and local history, Native American collections, rocks, minerals, and fossils, plus extensive nature trails. $3 for adults, $1 for youth under 18.

3) Hight Pond
Accessible from Prospect St., Skowhegan
Stocked with brook trout, kids will learn to love fishing at this small reservoir. Free.

4) Skowhegan River Fest
Celebrate recreation and life on the river at this multi-day event in August. Activities include a glow-stick river run, raft rides, kids’ activities, fireworks, and more. See more events on page 34. Free.

5) Yogi Bear’s Jellystone Park
221 Lakewood Rd., Madison, 207-474-7353
Enjoy ponds stocked with trout, a 60’x100’ pool, bouncy houses, horseshoe pits, gem mining, and more! $5 for a half-day.
**Eaton Mountain**
89 Lambert Rd.,
Skowhegan, 207-474-2666
Eaton Mountain is a small, family-oriented winter resort offering skiing and tubing. Grab the kids and get ready for a fun and invigorating winter adventure!

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**Gifford’s Mini Golf**
307 Madison Ave.,
Skowhegan, 207-474-6238
Kids and grown-ups alike will have fun practicing their short game—and indulging in a scoop (or more!) of Gifford’s award-winning ice cream.

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**Lake George Regional Park**
Route 2, Skowhegan/Canaan
207-474-1292
This four-season park offers a serene lake for swimming, fishing, and boating; two beaches; and trails for hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.

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**Skowhegan Drive-In**
201 Waterville Rd.,
Skowhegan, 207-474-9277
Originally opened in 1954—and named the coolest drive-in in the state in 2017—the Skowhegan Drive-In is a nostalgic landmark in the region.

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**Hidden Valley**
8 Hidden Valley Ln.,
Cornville, 207-474-3014
Located in neighboring Cornville, this equestrian center offers boarding, lessons, overnight girls’ camps, and coed day camps.

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**The Strand Cinema**
19 Court St., Skowhegan,
207-474-3451
The Strand opened in 1929 and was fully restored in 2004. With delicious popcorn, stadium seating, a nostalgic feel, and a legend of a haunting, there’s lots to love about this downtown cinema.

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**River Run Batting Cage, LaCasse Bats**
4 Madison Ave.,
Skowhegan, 207-431-1507
This 70-foot batting cage has two hitting stations, the Iron Mike pitching machine, a mound for live pitching, and an L-screen. Sample wood bats are available.

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**Roy’s Water Park**
469 Main St., Madison,
207-399-4392
Look no further for a fun spot to cool down on a hot summer day. With seven inflatable water slides, a snack bar, and picnic tables, there’s plenty of fun and relaxation for all.
Get in on the Act

The Skowhegan area offers theater opportunities specifically for kids. If you have a budding thespian, don't miss the Lakewood Young Performers Camp. Located in neighboring Madison at historic Lakewood Theater—the nation’s oldest summer theater—this day camp is open to youth ages 5-18 who want to learn from professionals. Every camper performs in costume and makeup with a set before an audience. Campers receive instruction in acting, improvisation, movement, stage makeup, costuming, set construction, voice, dance, and auditioning—as well as learning the importance of working together as a team. LakewoodTheater.org

Focusing on students in grades K-8, Midge's Theatre Arts Studio in downtown Skowhegan offers experience in all aspects of the theater, including acting, dancing, singing, properties, sets, and costuming. Sessions culminate in high-quality stage performances. Whether your child already has experience or would like to try something new, Midge's studio offers a great opportunity for kids to get creative, have fun, and experience the arts. Facebook.com/MidgesTheatreArtsStudio

All the World’s a Playground

- Amanda Berry Playground (66 Hathaway St., Skowhegan)
- Bloomfield School Playground (140 Academy Cir., Skowhegan)
- Margaret Chase Smith School Playground (40 Heselton St., Skowhegan)
- North Elementary School Playground (33 Jewett St., Skowhegan)
- Skowhegan Community Center Playground (39 Poulin Dr., Skowhegan)
- Canaan Elementary School Playground (178 Main St., Canaan)
- Main Street Park and Playground (Main St., Madison)
- Oosoola Park (Route 2, Norridgewock)
Trails

Whether you want a vigorous hike, leisurely walk, or picturesque snowshoeing expedition, Skowhegan has you covered.

The Debe Park River Walk runs along the Kennebec from Mt. Pleasant Street to the end of Joyce Street, where it connects with River's Edge Bike Park, a canoe portage site, and the Philbrick Trails, a nature refuge in the heart of town perfect for walking or snowshoeing.

The Heselton Street Trail is a short trail through a white pine forest. Access it from just after the Margaret Chase Smith School or from Memorial Field at the end of East Maple Street.

Behind the Marti Stevens Learning Center (195 West Front St.), the serene Marti Stevens Trail veers down to the Kennebec and follows it upstream, providing beautiful river views.

In addition to a peaceful lake perfect for boating, swimming, and fishing, Lake George Regional Park (Route 2, Skowhegan/Canaan line) offers a robust network of four-season trails. For a vigorous hike, try the steeper trails on the West Side. The East Side offers flatter trails perfect for a woodsy walk.

The Yankee Woodlot Trail (7 County Dr.) contains a bounty of plant species and the Trail of Thoughts, featuring quotes by famous poets and philosophers. Nearby, new mountain bike trails were recently added to the trail system at Coburn Woods, with parking available a mile north of the Skowhegan Fairgrounds on Russell Road.

Just beyond Skowhegan, Madison’s Historic Pines Trail is an easy riverside walk featuring the 1833 Father Rasle Monument. The trail has access for canoeing and kayaking, plus a fly-fishing spot offering the best wade-in trout fishing in the area. Take Route 201A to Father Rasle Road; the trailhead is 3 miles on the left.

Lakewood Golf Course Ski and Snowshoe Trails (803 Lakewood Rd., Madison) provide well-groomed winter-wonderland fun. The trailhead is located at the corner of Route 201 and Golf Course Road.
**Lakewood Golf Course** (803 Lakewood Rd., Madison) is an 18-hole course nestled among white pines and mountain views. Built in the early 1920s, the original nine has a classic links feel. The back nine, designed by Phil Wogan, is a parkland course cut out of the Maine woods. Relish the amazing scenery and what *Golf Digest* has called “great holes that are challenging and lots of fun to play.”

**Loon’s Cove** (942 Waterville Rd., Skowhegan) is a nine-hole course with the Kennebec River on one side, large and small hills throughout, and a pond to cross. Enjoy the relaxed ambiance and picturesque beauty.

Carved through the Maine woods, the nine-hole **Diadema Golf Club** (419 New Portland Rd., North Anson) requires course management and careful approach on every hole. Diadema also features a driving range, a putting green, a pro shop, and a restaurant.

**Old Canada Road Scenic Byway**

Drive any or all of the 78 miles of gorgeous water, mountain, and forest views along Route 201 from nearby Solon to the Canadian border. Stop at quaint villages along the way for a meal, overnight stay, or guiding services for all sorts of outdoor recreation.

Behind the L.C. Bates Museum at **Good Will-Hinckley** (14 Easler Rd., Hinckley), discover four-season nature trails and historic stone monuments.

Venture to nearby Canaan to experience **Chase Hill** (Chase Hill Rd.), a 755-foot peak with a fire tower overlooking the area. The half-mile hike to the tower provides pretty views.
Community Transformation through outdoor recreation

Run of River is on target to be the first recreation area of its kind in New England. Whitewater park construction will begin in 2021 pending funding. Once the park is complete, spectators will be able to watch all the action on the water from terraced seating on the riverbank.

Local students on the Kennebec in Skowhegan
Photo courtesy Somerset Career & Technical Center

Local youth will have opportunities to volunteer at paddling events, help with trail maintenance, and learn outdoor recreation skills and swiftwater rescue techniques.
Not every town boasts a major river in its downtown, a 100-plus-year-old park with 100-plus species of trees and shrubs, a small ski mountain with big potential, a regional park featuring sand beaches on a pristine lake, and vast acres of woods, fields, and trails.

To capitalize on all those natural assets and ensure Skowhegan’s brightest future, community leaders are digging in on two major projects related to outdoor recreation: the Skowhegan AmeriCorps Outdoor Recreation Program—which will provide free outdoor recreation activities, trainings, and gear to borrow for community members—and the Run of River Whitewater Recreation Area in and around the Kennebec River Gorge downtown. Run of River will include a whitewater park for paddling, surfing, tubing, bodyboarding, stand-up paddle boarding, and more, as well as a riverfront promenade and an estimated 50 miles of four-season trails on 300 acres, all accessible via downtown.

Learn more at SkowheganTransformation.org.

Calling all adventurers! Once Run of River is built, spend an afternoon paddling on three quality whitewater features, then pull out on shore, change out of your wetsuit downtown, and walk to the nearby pub for a bite to eat and a local craft brew.
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Left: As of summer 2019, Dead River Expeditions in The Forks (an hour north of Skowhegan) has a Skowhegan location. Down River Expeditions is on North Avenue and features kayak, stand-up paddle board, and mountain bike rentals.

Above: If you stay inside all winter, you’re missing out! Experience the joy of snow with an afternoon of tubing at Eaton Mountain, Skowhegan’s little hill with big potential.
Cayford Orchards
99 Hilton Hill Rd., Skowhegan, 207-474-5200
Named one of the best orchards in New England three years running, Cayford Orchards is a sixth-generation family farm with 1,200 trees on 18 acres. Featuring 57 different fruit varieties, Cayford specializes in heirloom apples but also grows other fruit including berries, peaches, and pears.

North Star Orchards
97 Orchard Rd., Madison, 207-696-5109
Surrounded by woodland, North Star Orchards includes 35 acres of apple trees, a cider mill, and a farm store. Go on a crisp fall day and pick your own bounty of apples or purchase a bag from the store.

Sites Farm
98 Joaquin Rd., Athens, 207-654-2063
Situated on 250 acres of beautiful rolling hills, open berry fields, and pastures, Sites Farm offers pick-your-own strawberries and highbush blueberries during the summer. They also have pre-picked berries for purchase.

Smith’s U-Pick Blueberries
162 Ward Hill Rd., Norridgewock, 207-431-2056
Make some memories picking—and eating!—juicy blueberries at this nearby farm.

Tessiers Farm
337 Malbons Mill Rd., Skowhegan, 207-474-6380 or tessiers@tessiersfarm.com
Tessiers is a family farm specializing in poultry and rabbit, and farm animals are kid-friendly and raised naturally. Their farm store features meats, dairy products, jams, fresh roasted coffees, tea, honey, and maple syrup.
**Bigelow Brewing Company**
473 Bigelow Hill Rd., Skowhegan, 207-399-6262
Housed in a remodeled horse barn, Bigelow is a small family-owned startup offering brews with flavors as unique as their names, which include Lying Bastard and Dementia Dog. Fridays and Saturdays feature live music and wood-fired pizza.

**Oak Pond Brewing Company**
101 Oak Pond Rd., Skowhegan, 207-474-3233
Opened in 1996 as the first brewery in Skowhegan in 115 years, Oak Pond produces old-world-style aged lagers and ales. Visit the brewery (housed in a converted chicken barn) to sample current offerings, take a tour, or pick up some fresh beer or brewery swag.

**The Bankery**
87 Water St., Skowhegan, 207-474-BAKE
This circa-1864 former bank is a charming artisan bakery and custom cake shop where everything is made from scratch. Check out the antique bank memorabilia and attached Skowhegan Fleuriste, a flower and gift shop.

**Crooked Face Creamery**
42 Court St., Skowhegan, 207-858-5096
Find handmade artisan cheeses including herbed ricotta, smoked ricotta, and Gouda-style. Located in the Somerset Grist Mill along with Maine Grains (see below).

**Maine Grains**
42 Court St., Skowhegan, 207-474-8001
Located in a former county jail, Maine Grains manufactures locally grown, organic grains using a traditional stone-milling process. They also have a dry goods shop selling flours, oats, kitchen tools, and more. Want a tour of the facility? Look for the schedule on MaineGrains.com.

**Skowhegan Farmers’ Market**
42 Court St. (May-Oct.) or 144 Madison Ave. (Nov.-April), 207-474-6380
This year-round market is renowned as one of the best in the state. Spend a relaxing Saturday perusing seasonal fruits and veggies, naturally raised meats, milk, eggs, cheese, baked goods, coffee, maple syrup, honey, soap, flowers, and more.

**Smith Brothers Maple**
52 Rowe Rd., Skowhegan, 207-474-3491
**Maine Maple Products**
449 Lakewood Rd., Madison, 800-310-3803
If you love maple, stop by one of these spots for a jug of syrup, maple candy, maple sugar, and more!
History buffs won’t want to miss these eight historic spots in Skowhegan:

**1. Coburn Park**

Water St. (approximately 0.5 miles east of downtown)

Donated to the town in 1885 by former Governor Abner Coburn, Coburn Park features more than 100 species of trees and shrubs, a waterlily pond with a fountain, walking paths, a gazebo, and a number of markers illustrating the town’s heritage. Enjoy the serenity of this in-town oasis, or check out one of the many concerts held in the park on Sunday afternoons in the summer.

**2. Skowhegan Veterans’ Park**

248 Water St.

This downtown park pays tribute to local veterans dating back to the Revolutionary War. Visit this little park to remember our fallen heroes—and all veterans who have served our country.

**3. Skowhegan Municipal Building**

225 Water St.

This building, which includes an opera house on the third floor, was designed by John Calvin Stevens (1855-1940), a prolific and innovative architect who designed more than 1,000 buildings in Maine.

**4. Flat Iron District**

Water St.

Architecture enthusiasts won’t want to miss the downtown Flat Iron District encompassing 38 architecturally and/or historically significant buildings, most dating from 1880 to 1910. While you’re there, you might stop for lunch at the Old Mill Pub, housed in a (you guessed it) former mill.

**5. Arnold Trail Park**

Weston Ave., Skowhegan Island

In 1775 Col. Benedict Arnold led more than 1,100 men across Skowhegan Falls and Skowhegan Island on their way to Quebec in an ultimately ill-fated attempt to capture the British fortress there. In 1912 a marker commemorating this journey was placed on the island by the Daughters of the American Revolution.
6. Swinging Bridge

Connecting Arnold Trail Park to Alder St. 

Previous bridges at this location date to the late 1800s, and the current Swinging Bridge has been delighting locals and visitors since 1936.

7. Skowhegan History House

66 Elm St. (open seasonally late May to mid-October)

Built in 1839, this Greek revival cottage is replete with antiques, furnishings, and other items of everyday life in Skowhegan during the mid-1800s. A 1936 addition showcases several collections including early newspapers and the Alexander Crawford Jr. Civil War Collection. Don’t miss the ornamental heirloom gardens featuring old-fashioned plants that would have been available to New England gardeners in the mid-1800s.

8. Margaret Chase Smith Library & Museum

56 Norridgewock Ave.

This library and museum is devoted to preserving the legacy of Skowhegan native Margaret Chase Smith, the first woman to serve in both houses of the U.S. Congress and the first woman to be placed in nomination for President of the United States at a major party’s convention.

It houses political papers, documents, honors, photographs, and memorabilia from Smith’s 32-year congressional career.
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Above: Theater-goers at Lakewood, nestled on Wesserunsett Lake. Top left: Barry Norling metal sculpture celebrating the local shoe industry: mural by Milton Christianson. Middle left: One of the South Solon Meeting House’s many frescoes. Bottom left: Langlais mermaid sculpture by the river.
Skowhegan features more than 20 artworks by renowned Maine artist Bernard Langlais (see next page for Langlais Art Trail map), several additional pieces of public art, and the Central Maine Artists Gallery. Ten minutes away in neighboring Madison you’ll find Lakewood Theater, one of America’s oldest and most famous summer theaters, and Somerset Abbey, an 1892 church turned event venue. Less than 20 minutes away is the South Solon Meeting House, a Gothic Revival church featuring magnificent floor-to-ceiling frescoes.

For theater opportunities for kids, see page 12.
All but Girl with Tail, Animal Crackers, and Blue Bird were untitled by the artist. All other titles are descriptive names.

1. Skowhegan Free Public Library, 9 Elm St.
   - Panther, 1967, reworked 1976-77, wood
   - Horse, ca. 1972, lathe wood and paint
   - Blue Bird, 1976, wood and paint on wood
   - Cow and Barn, ca. 1974, wood and paint
   - Animal Crackers, 1969, wood and paint on wood
   - Skating Rink, wood on aluminum

2. Langlais Park, between High and Leavitt streets
   - Skowhegan Indian, 1969, wood
   - Playground Group, ca. 1972, wood

3. Main Street Skowhegan Office, 48 Court St.
   - Bull and Bear, ca. 1973, wood and paint on wood
   - Four Wolves, wood and paint on wood

4. Somerset Grist Mill (outside), 42 Court St.
   - Sitting Woman, ca. 1973, wood

5. Skowhegan Area Chamber of Commerce, 23 Commercial St.
   - Bear (unfinished), 1975-76, wood on wood
   - Indian (model), 1967, wood on concrete

6. Municipal Parking Lot, Commercial St.
   - Woman on Pole, ca. 1975, wood on metal

7. Renaissance Building Passageway, 60 Water St.
   - Jungle Relief, ca. 1972, wood and paint

8. Riverfront Parking Lot
   - Girl with Tail (Mermaid) ca. 1974, wood, paint, and rope

   - Indian, 1967-68, wood (working model for Skowhegan Indian)
   - Balancing Dogs (unfinished), 1977, wood on concrete
   - Playground Animal Group, 1970s, wood

10. Skowhegan Community Center, 39 Poulin Dr.
    - Basketball Player, ca. 1970, wood and paint
    - Football/Scrimmage, 1969-70, wood and paint on concrete

11. Skowhegan History House, 66 Elm St.
    - Indian (on Shelf), 1967, wood, paint, metal, fabric on wood (seasonal June to mid-October; on view at Main Street Skowhegan (#3 on map) mid-October to May)
After the Georges River Land Trust and Colby College, Skowhegan has the most Bernard Langlais sculptures in Maine.

Both a student and a teacher at the Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture in his lifetime, Bernard “Blackie” Langlais (1921-1977) was a prolific Maine artist known for his impressionistic folk-art style and oversized sculptures made from scrap wood and found objects.

In addition to Langlais’s iconic 62-foot Skowhegan Indian sculpture—erected in 1969 and dedicated to “the Maine Indians, the first people to use these lands in peaceful ways”—Skowhegan has on view 21 other pieces, offering a rare opportunity to experience a critical mass of Langlais artworks in one area.

Most of the artworks are within walking distance of each other, but those at the Skowhegan Community Center and Skowhegan History House are best reached by car.

Another sculpture, Mule, is on loan to Sugarloaf’s Bill & Joan Alfond Competition Center in Carrabassett Valley, just over an hour away.

*Basketball Player, on view outside the Skowhegan Community Center, 39 Poulin Drive. Photo by Maria Landry.*
Retail Therapy

For a comprehensive list of Skowhegan shopping opportunities, see VisitSkowhegan.com.

Home Décor and Gifts
No matter your style, Skowhegan has you covered. Stroll downtown for cards and gifts at Lynette’s, handmade home goods at Crafty Creations, and Stonewall Kitchen products plus locally produced cards, candles, and more at the Skowhegan Fleuriste. From May to December, River Roads Artisans Gallery offers handmade pottery, jewelry, paintings, blown glass, and more. Hit the Maine Grains Dry Goods Store in the Somerset Grist Mill for organic flours and oats plus other kitchen essentials. Head out of downtown to find cute prim décor at 1890 Primitives (North Ave.), Maine-made flags and other textiles at Maine Stitching Specialties (Dane Ave.), and plants, flowers, and gifts at Boynton’s Greenhouse (Madison Ave.).

Apparel and Accessories
Looking to score a deal? Try Madlyn’s or Skills Thrift Store downtown. Want something eclectic? Also downtown, Maja’s offers clothing plus body jewelry and more. If you need athletic garb to hit Skowhegan’s many trails, don’t miss the New Balance Factory Store on Walnut Street. Griffin’s on Madison Avenue also offers sportswear, plus other attire, kids’ clothes, and footwear. You can find shoes—or get a favorite pair repaired—at LaCasse’s on Water Street. If you’re looking for that perfect piece of jewelry for a night out, try Russakoff Jewelers, a downtown staple for more than 100 years.
Kids and Pets

Stop by Shelley's Toy Box on Water Street for new and like-new brand-name children's clothes, toys, baby gear, and furnishings. You can also find kids' clothes at Madlyn's and Griffin's (see Apparel and Accessories, opposite page). If your children have four paws, swing up Madison Avenue to Campbell's True Value, where pets are welcome inside to choose treats or pick out a new collar. The Dog Not Gone Factory Store on Dane Avenue offers insect-repelling apparel for pets and people.

Antiques

Interested in vintage and unique wares? You won't want to miss the variety of rarities, collectibles, and other antiques at Hilltop Antiques and Red Roof Relics, both on Water Street. For even more options, venture just outside of town to Soll's Antiques on Route 2 in Canaan or 15 minutes south on Route 201 to the expansive Fairfield Antiques Mall.

Crafts, Games, and Sporting Goods

If you’re feeling crafty, check out Happyknits in the Somerset Grist Mill downtown or the Fabric Garden just outside of town on Route 201 in Madison. Going quintessential Maine? Try Labonville on Madison Avenue for fishing, hunting, and other outdoor apparel and accoutrements. Also on Madison Avenue, you can grab a custom bat for your favorite slugger at LaCasse Bats or a board, card, or video game at 3D Games.
Somerset Sports & Fitness
6 Commerce Dr. (Route 201), Skowhegan | 207-474-2224
rfgh.net/Community/SomersetSportsFitness
A Redington-Fairview General Hospital affiliate, this fitness facility promotes wellness by providing a non-intimidating atmosphere for all fitness levels.

Rehab & Fitness Services
57 Fairview Ave., Skowhegan
207-474-7000
rfgh.net/Services/RehabFitnessServices
A Redington-Fairview General Hospital department, Rehab & Fitness offers in- and out-patient rehabilitative services and aquatics-based fitness programs in therapy pools.
The Bankery is housed in a converted bank in Skowhegan’s historic Flat Iron District and features organic coffee, fine pastries, and artistically designed cakes.

87 Water Street, Skowhegan • 207-474-BAKE (2253) • thebankery.com

Adjacent to the Bankery, Skowhegan Fleuriste and Formalwear offers fresh-cut flowers, unique Maine-made gifts and gourmet foods, and locally crafted cards.

93 Water Street, Skowhegan • 207-474-6256 • skowheganfleuriste.com
Annual Events

See VisitSkowhegan.com for a comprehensive list and more details.

Maple Festival March

Ice-Fishing Derby at Somerset SnowFest February

Skijor Skowhegan at Somerset SnowFest February

Kneading Conference and Artisan Bread Fair July

AgriCulture June

Dinner in the Park August
River Fest  August

Skowhegan State Fair  August

Open Studio Tour  August

New Balance Tent Sale  August

Skowhegan Craft Brew Festival  Labor Day Weekend
Maine-crafted libations, farm-to-table fare, and live music in the streets of Skowhegan

Annually on the Saturday of Labor Day Weekend

SKOWHEGANCRAFTBREWFEST.COM
Bigelow Brewing strives to make beer from our community, using local ingredients to feel a sense of ownership of where we live. It is important that every beer Bigelow Brewing produces is made with malts that are grown in Maine.

Join us every Friday and Saturday for a delicious cold brew and wood fired pizza. Come take a brewery tour or sit back and relax while listening to live music with your friends.

473 Bigelow Hill Rd, Skowhegan, Maine
bigelowbrewing.com
bigelowbrewing@gmail.com
207-431-7265
A Place of Plenty

Pizza & Sandwiches

Al's Pizza
A local staple for nearly 50 years, serving pizza, salads, sandwiches, and more
20 Waterville Rd., Skowhegan, 207-474-3100

Angelo’s Pizzeria
Homemade pizza, pasta, subs, and more
60 Waterville Rd., Skowhegan, 207-474-7900

Damon's Quick Stop
Pizza, sandwiches, snacks, and more
191 Madison Ave., Skowhegan, 207-474-2512

Kel-Mat Café
Sandwiches, wraps, salads, and soups
147 Madison Ave., Skowhegan, 207-474-0200

Skow Town Slice Bar
Pizza, burgers, sandwiches, salads, and more
213 North Ave., Skowhegan, 207-474-6500

Snack Shack
Fried foods, sandwiches, salads, and soups
100 Waterville Rd., Skowhegan, 207-474-0550

West Front Market
General store serving pizza, sandwiches, baked goods, gluten-free fare, and more
68 West Front St., Skowhegan, 207-474-5013

Chinese Cuisine

Mei Lee Garden
381 Madison Ave., Skowhegan, 207-474-8307

New Garden
6 Main St., Skowhegan, 207-474-8831

Pak Lee
252 Madison Ave., Skowhegan, 207-474-3775

Nightlife

Bloomfield’s Tavern
Delicious drinks and music
40 Water St., Skowhegan, 207-474-8844

SouthSide Tavern
Sports bar, lounge, and soul food
1 Waterville Rd., Skowhegan, 207-474-6073
Restaurants

122 Corson
Farm-to-table restaurant with views of the foothills
122 Corson Rd., Mercer, 207-587-2019

Alice’s Restaurant
Homemade breakfast and brunch
101 North Ave., Skowhegan, 207-858-4448

Good & Plenty 2
Family-style diner
59 Lakewood Rd., Madison, 207-858-0875

Heritage House Restaurant
Fine dining in a 19th-century house
182 Madison Ave., Skowhegan, 207-474-5100

Ken’s Family Restaurant
Family fare
411 Madison Ave., Skowhegan, 207-474-3120

Lakewood Inn Restaurant
Seasonal venue, local ingredients
76 Theater Road, Madison, 207-858-4403

M. Thai
Authentic Thai cuisine
105 Water St., Skowhegan, 207-474-5064

The Miller’s Table at Maine Grains
Farm-to-table restaurant
42 Court St., Skowhegan

Old Mill Pub
Pub fare overlooking the Kennebec
39 Water St., Skowhegan, 207-474-6627

T&B’s Out-Back Tavern
Restaurant and sports bar
414 Madison Ave., Skowhegan, 207-474-1223

Whit’s End Grill & Bar
Grill with varied menu and full bar
123 Madison Ave., Skowhegan, 207-474-9448

Sweet Spots

The Bankery
From-scratch bakery in converted bank featuring pastries, breads, custom cakes, and more
87 Water St., Skowhegan, 207-474-2253

Gifford’s Ice Cream
Award-winning ice cream (and a mini golf course!) crafted at a local family-owned creamery
307 Madison Ave., Skowhegan, 207-474-2257

The Ice Cream Shoppe
Old-fashioned ice cream parlor serving both hard and soft serve
209 North Ave., Skowhegan, 207-474-3300

Island Dairy Treat
Hard and soft serve, frozen yogurt, and gluten-free ice cream on the river island
23 Island Ave., Skowhegan, 207-431-2624

Chains

Looking for something familiar?

Try Burger King, KFC/Taco Bell, McDonald’s, Pizza Hut, or the locally owned Subway franchise, all on Madison Avenue.

Don’t forget to satisfy your coffee craving at locally owned Dunkin’ Donuts, with locations on Madison Avenue, downtown on Water Street, and in nearby Canaan, Madison, and Norridgewock.
Coburn Park is a beloved downtown spot for walking, picnicking, listening to live music on Sunday afternoons, and just relaxing. Here it is amid the lush colors of August. Photo by Maria Landry.
Ultra-local foods are the norm in Skowhegan. Pick berries or apples, select handcrafted ricotta at the local cheesery, try what might be the most delicious scone you’ve ever tasted at our from-scratch artisan bakery, tour the grist mill, browse the farmers’ market, or indulge in a local craft beer at one of our breweries. Learn more on pages 20-21. Photo by Jonathan Wheaton.
Whether you’re looking for a rustic campground stay, a peaceful lakeside sojourn, or a home-like night’s rest in a comfortable motel, the Skowhegan area has it covered.

The Belmont Hotel
Clean, quiet, affordable accommodations
273 Madison Ave., Skowhegan
1-800-235-6669

Breezy Acres Motel
12-unit motel combining small-resort activities with down-home comfort
315 Waterville Rd., Skowhegan
207-474-2703

Canaan Motel
Clean, comfortable motel featuring a pool, hot tub, and picnic area
205 Main St., Rte. 2, Canaan
207-474-3600

Colony House Inn
Serene lakeside accommodations at historic Lakewood
68 Beach Rd., Madison
207-474-6599

Country Cottage Lodging
Spacious furnished cottage-apartments in the country
169 Hilton Hill Rd., Canaan
207-474-6599

Kyes Motel
Quiet country motel on 14 acres on the Kennebec
137 W. Front St., Skowhegan
800-981-1355

The Pinewood Motel
Comfortable, clean motel featuring a pool and hot tub as well as proximity to two connecting rivers
395 Canaan Rd., Skowhegan
207-474-7155

Silverton Sporting Ranch
Private one- and two-bedroom cabins nestled in 400 wooded acres
51 Webb Rd., Canaan
207-399-3647

Skowhegan/Kennebec Valley KOA
Family vacation setting on 83 acres with RV and tent camping sites, cabins, many amenities, and activities
18 Cabin Rd., Canaan
207-474-2858
800-562-7571

Towne Motel
Convenient fine lodging, personal service, and extra-large pool
172 Madison Ave., Skowhegan
207-474-5151
800-843-4405

Two Rivers Campground
Campground on the banks of the Kennebec River and Wesserunsett Stream, offering myriad amenities
327 Canaan Rd., Skowhegan
207-474-6482

Whispering Pines Motel
Clean, comfortable rooms, reasonable rates, and a relaxing atmosphere
821 Waterville Rd., Skowhegan
207-474-2287

Yogi Bear’s Jellystone Park
Yogi-themed campground/RV park with many amenities on 35 wooded acres—you can even sleep in a treehouse!
221 Lakewood Rd., Madison
207-474-7353

Want to be as relaxed as this cat? (Who doesn’t?)
Read on to find your perfect place to rest.
Mapping downtown Skowhegan and beyond

Can we help you find something? Here are some notable landmarks, venues, trails, and more.

For more info, be sure to check out VisitSkowhegan.com.
Nearby small towns offer additional experiences to make your visit to the Skowhegan area even richer.

**Anson**

North Anson’s Temples Historic District—a collection of Greek Revival houses built between 1844 and 1858 on Madison Street—is on the National Register of Historic Places. So too is the 1905 Bailey Farm Windmill. The quaint Stewart Public Library dates to 1913, and Diadema Golf Club is not to be missed (see page 15).

**Athens**

The tiny town of Athens is replete with history, including the Grange Hall, the circa-1846 Somerset Academy, and the spired Baptist church, constructed in the 1830s and featuring a stained-glass window donated by the Grand Army of the Republic and a bell that was installed in 1865. Agriculture is also abundant—Blessed Maine Herb Farm gives free tours by appointment, and Sites Farm offers strawberries and highbush blueberries (see page 20).

**Canaan**

The town of Canaan has antiquing, camping, guided hunting, sport-shooting, and a trail system that connects to many other regional and statewide trails. Lake George (see page 11) is nestled on Canaan’s border with Skowhegan, and Sibley Pond is an idyllic spot for fishing and boating. Built in 1898, the Canaan Farmers Hall hosts events including contra dances and musical performances.
Cornville
Formed in 1798 as a farming community, Cornville is still dotted with farms, including some that raise organic meat and grow organic vegetables. Barker Pond off Route 43 is a great spot to catch largemouth and smallmouth bass, white and yellow perch, hornpout, and chain pickerel.

Embden
Located amid the Kennebec and Carrabassett rivers, Embden is rich in natural beauty. The town has seven bodies of water highlighted by the pristine Embden Pond, rated among the best in the state. Indian and Fowl Meadow Islands have distinctive flora, and migrant waterfowl rest there near evidence of old logging drives.

Madison
Madison is a classic small town featuring beautiful Somerset Abbey, a former church that’s now a performance venue; Lakewood Theater, the nation’s longest-running summer theater (see page 27); historic Lakewood Golf Course (see page 15); and recreational activities including whitewater thrills at the Madison Wave and hiking and fishing along the Historic Pines Trail (see page 14).

Mercer
Mercer is a rural town with agricultural destinations Sandy River Apples and Blue Ribbon Farm, which features farm-to-table restaurant 122 Corson (see page 39). A 371-acre bog with a diversity of wetland types, the Mercer Bog Wildlife Management Area is open for public uses such as canoeing, kayaking, hunting, and fishing.

Norridgewock
With a name that means “people of the still water between the rapids,” Norridgewock was originally inhabited by the Abenaki, Native Americans who cultivated the land and fished the Kennebec. Today a rainbow-arched bridge spans the river, the Norridgewock Historical Society & Museum provides retrospectives of local heritage, and the town continues a long, proud manufacturing history with its New Balance Shoe Factory.

Smithfield
A small community nestled between two ponds, Smithfield is a serene place to relax and play. The ponds provide opportunities for year-round activities including fishing, boating, swimming, skating, snowmobiling, ice-fishing, and cross-country skiing. Incorporated on Feb. 29, 1840, Smithfield is Maine’s only leap-year town.

Solon
As the origin of the Old Canada Road Scenic Byway (see page 15) and the home of the historic South Solon Meeting House with its vibrant and elaborate frescoes (see page 26), Solon showcases some compelling visual delights. Solon is also a recreational paradise with plentiful opportunities for fishing, canoeing, kayaking, whitewater rafting, swimming, hiking, hunting, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing.
Historic Skowhegan, Maine, is conveniently located at the junction of Routes 2 and 201 in the scenic Kennebec River Valley.

VisitSkowhegan.com