



Maine Woods Area Special Report







Prepared by



June 2018

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Three distinct online surveys are used to achieve the five primary goals of Maine's visitor tracking research.

	Survey Instruments		
Research Objectives	National Travel Survey	Overnight Visitor	Day Visitor
Identify Maine's share of the U.S. travel market	✓		
Estimate the number of visitors who come to Maine	✓	✓	✓
Provide a profile of Maine visitors		✓	✓
Estimate the amount of spending generated by tourism in Maine		✓	✓
Determine Maine travelers' level of satisfaction and view of Maine		✓	~

Description of Survey Instruments

National Travel Survey

- Nationally representative sample of the U.S. population
- Surveyed bi-weekly

Overnight Visitor Survey

- Sampled from core advertising markets: New England, NJ, NY, PA, MD, DE, DC, and Canada
- Have taken an overnight trip to Maine in the last four weeks
- Surveyed monthly

Day Visitor Survey

- Sampled from Maine and a 100mile radius of Maine's borders
- Have taken a day trip to/in Maine greater than 50 miles from home in the last four weeks
- Surveyed monthly



• Survey results were collected during calendar year 2017, for travel to Maine occurring from December 2016 through November 2017. The number of respondents participating in each survey <u>statewide</u> is:

Research Component	2017 Completed Surveys
Overnight Visitor Survey	2,922
Day Visitor Survey	1,782
National Travel Survey	22,070



- The following report summarizes results among visitors to the **Maine Woods Area** during 2017, an area made up of five of Maine's tourism regions:
 - Maine Lakes & Mountains,
 - Kennebec Valley,
 - The Maine Highlands,
 - Aroostook County, and
 - Washington County (a portion of the Downeast & Acadia region).
- In total, 1228 overnight visitors and 589 day visitors to the Maine Woods Area were surveyed.
- Throughout this report, data for the **Maine Woods Area** will be presented alongside data for the State of Maine as a whole. Statistically significant differences between the Maine Woods Area and the State were calculated at the 95% confidence level and are noted throughout by < >. (A statistically significant difference means the observed difference is more than would be expected by chance 95 out of 100 times.)
- Statistically significant differences between 2016 and 2017 are also highlighted for both the Maine Woods Area and the State of Maine. A statistically significant **increase** from the previous year is indicated by **green** numerical values, and a significant **decrease** from the previous year is indicated by **red** numerical values. In most instances, the underlying 2016 data is not actually presented in this report; but this convention allows the reader to see where changes have occurred from one year to the next.



Overnight Visitors: Traveler Description



Overnight Visitor Demographics

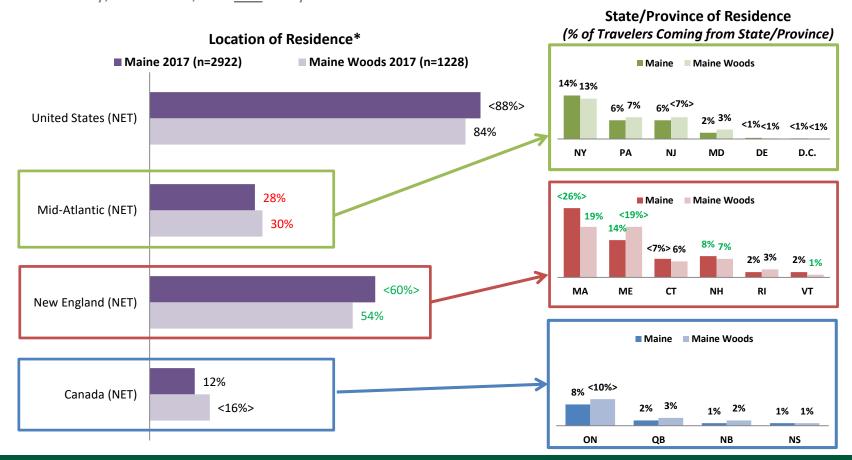
- Overnight visitors to the Maine Woods area are 39 years old, on average, and have annual household incomes of around \$89,000. About two-thirds have a college degree, and are employed full-time.
- Overnight visitors to the Maine Woods area are younger and have lower household incomes than overnight visitors to the State as a whole.

Overnight Visitors	Maine 2017 (n=2922)	Maine Woods 2017 (n=1228)
Age:		
< 35	39%	<45%>
35 - 44	23%	23%
45 - 54	16%	16%
55 +	<22%>	16%
Mean Age (Years)	<40.7>	38.7
Income:		
< \$50,000	23%	<26%>
\$50,000 - \$99,999	43%	42%
\$100,000 +	34%	32%
Mean Income	<\$92,650>	\$89,730
Female	<70%>	67%
College Degree or Higher	65%	64%
Married	50%	49%
Employed Full-Time	62%	63%



Half of overnight visitors to the Maine Woods Area are from New England.

- A <u>lesser</u> proportion of overnight visitors to the Maine Woods Area originate from New England, as compared to overnight visitors to the State of Maine overall, while a <u>greater</u> proportion are from Canada.
- Overnight visitors to this region are <u>more</u> likely than visitors to the State as a whole to arrive from Maine,
 New Jersey, or Ontario, and less likely to be from Massachusetts or Connecticut.

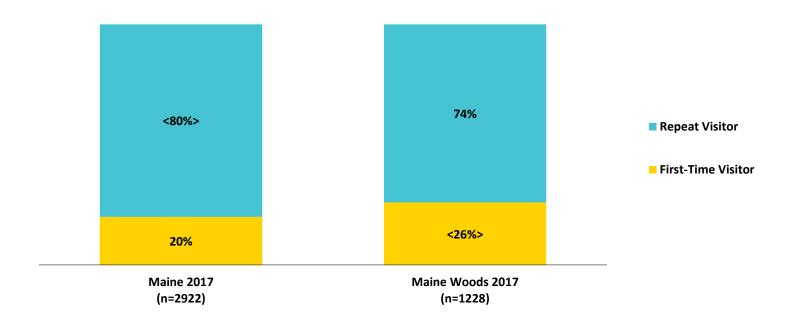




One-fourth of overnight visitors to the Maine Woods are visiting for the first time.

 The Maine Woods Area attracts a greater proportion of first-time visitors as compared to the State as a whole.

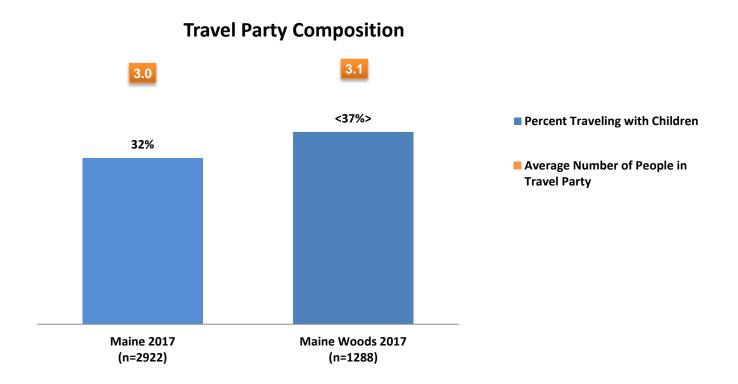
Repeat vs. First-Time Visitors





More than one-third of overnight visitors to the Maine Woods Area are traveling with children.

 Maine Woods visitors are more likely than overnight visitors to the State as a whole to be traveling with children.



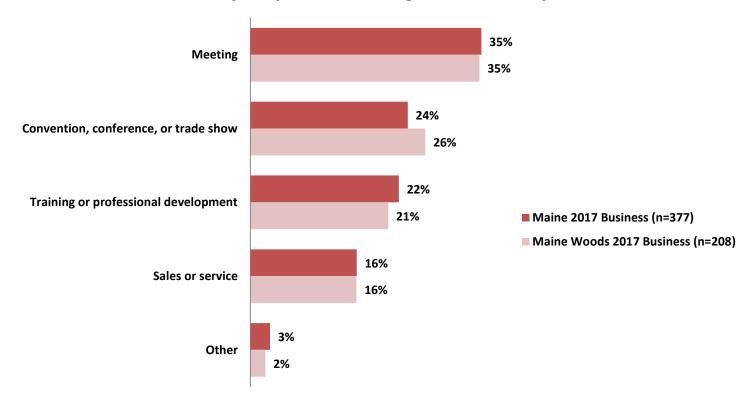


Overnight Visitors: Trip Experience



One-third of overnight business travelers to the Maine Woods are attending a *meeting*.

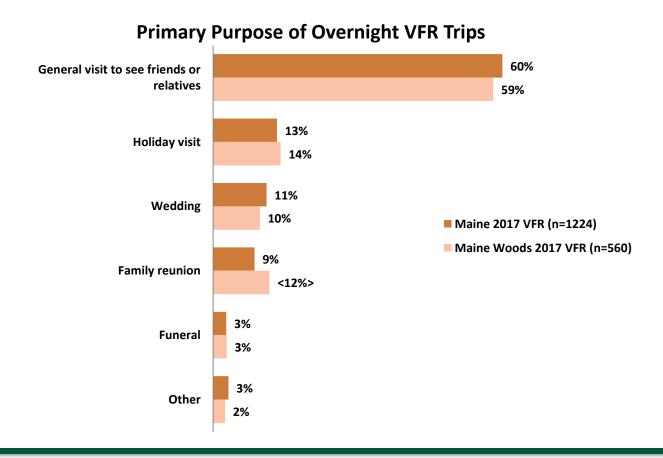
Primary Purpose of Overnight Business Trips





The majority of overnight VFR visitors cite a *general visit to see* friends/relatives as their reason for visiting the Maine Woods.

• Maine Woods overnight visitors who are in the state primarily to visit friends or relatives are <u>more</u> likely to be visiting for a *family reunion* than are visitors to the State as a whole.

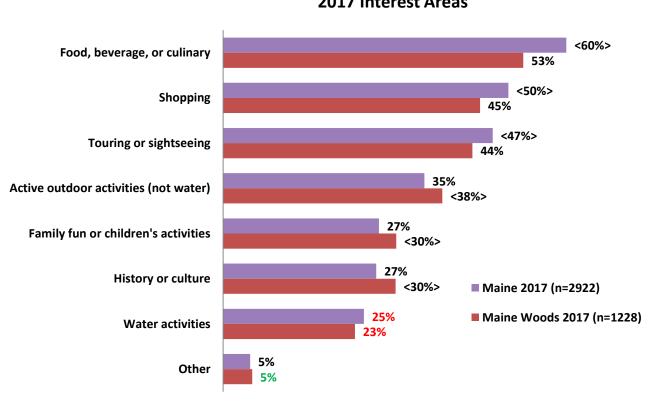




The top interest area among overnight visitors to the Maine Woods includes food/beverage/culinary activities, followed by shopping and touring/sightseeing.

- These three top interest areas, however, are less popular among Maine Woods visitors than among visitors to Maine as a whole.
- Overnight visitors to the Maine Woods region are more likely than visitors to the State of Maine as a whole to be interested in active outdoor activities, family fun/children's activities, and history/culture activities. **2017 Interest Areas**

Among Maine Woods visitors who selected touring/sightseeing and family fun/children's activities as interest areas, half indicated that these interests were the most important in their decision to visit Maine.

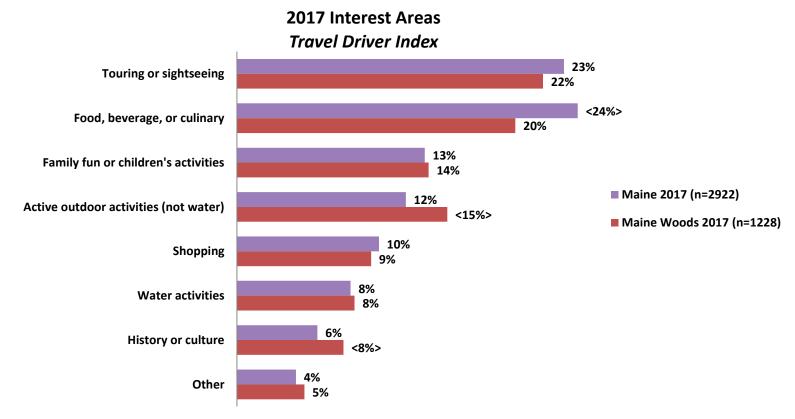




Q36. Of these interest areas you selected, please rank them in order of their importance in your decision to come to Maine, with 1 being the most important. 15 <> indicates a significant difference between subgroups at the 95% confidence level.

Overall, the primary drivers of travel to the region are touring/sightseeing and food/beverage/culinary interests.

- Although food/beverage/culinary activities are among the top travel drivers for Maine Woods overnight visitors, these activities are less important drivers than among overnight visitors to the State as a whole.
- Active outdoor activities and history/culture activities are more important travel drivers among overnight visitors to the Maine Woods area as compared to overnight visitors to the State as a whole.



Travel Driver Index = percentage selecting category as interest area X percentage ranking same interest area as most important

Seven in ten visitors interested in touring/sightseeing do some general sightseeing while visiting the Maine Woods area.

Visitors to the Maine Woods are <u>more</u> likely than overnight visitors to Maine overall to *enjoy the* mountain views, view wildlife or birds, view fall colors, and take tours of communities. They are <u>less</u> likely to be enjoying the ocean views or rocky coast.

Touring or Sightseeing Activities Base: Those who report touring or sightseeing as an interest area for their Maine

trip 73% **General sightseeing** 70% 48% **Enjoying the mountain views** <63%> 57% **Driving for pleasure** 57% Enjoying the ocean views or <65%> rocky coast 51% Wildlife viewing or bird 27% watching <37%> ■ Maine 2017 (n=1383) 24% Viewing fall colors ■ Maine Woods 2017 (n=537) <31%> Taking tours of communities 19% or local architecture <24%> 16%



Nature cruises or tours

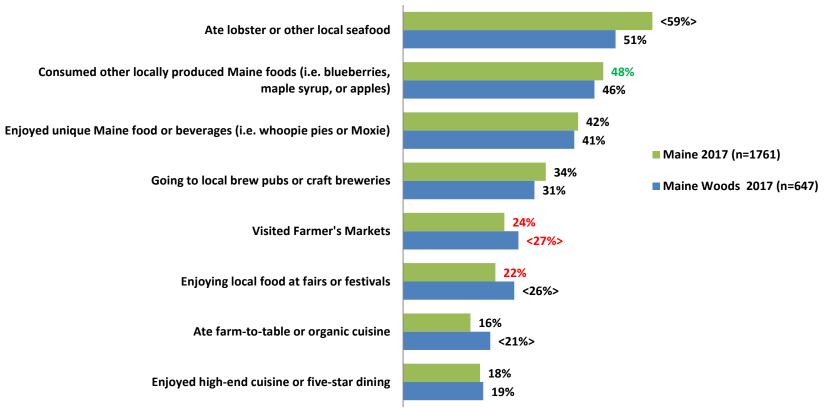
18%

Eating lobster/other local seafood is the most common activity among overnight visitors interested in food/beverage/culinary activities.

- However, Maine Woods visitors are <u>less</u> likely than visitors to the State of Maine as a whole to enjoy Maine's *lobster or seafood*.
- Overnight visitors to the Maine Woods region are more likely to visit Farmer's Markets, enjoy local food at fairs/festivals, or eat farm-to-table/organic cuisine than are overnight visitors to Maine as a whole.

Food, Beverage, or Culinary Activities

Base: Those who report food, beverage, or culinary as an interest area for their Maine trip

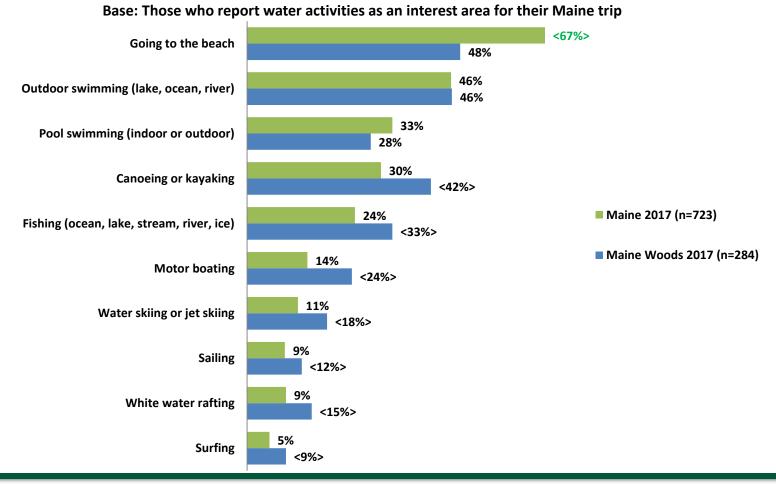




Going to the beach and outdoor swimming are the most common water activities pursued by overnight visitors to the Maine Woods Area.

Seven of the ten listed water activities are more popular among overnight visitors to the Maine Woods Area than among visitors to the State as a whole. Going to the beach, however, is much less popular among Maine Woods visitors.

Water Activities



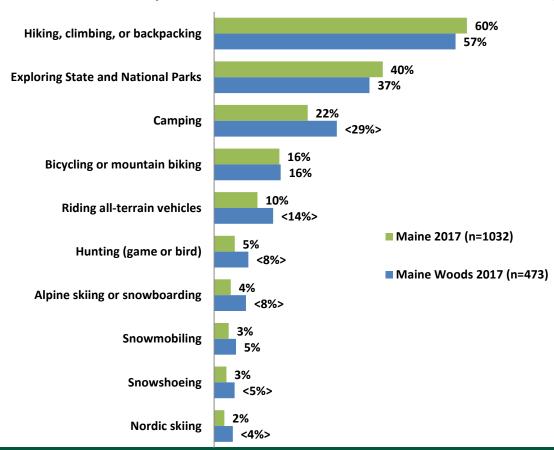


The most common active outdoor activity among overnight visitors to the Maine Woods is *hiking/climbing/backpacking*.

• Camping, riding all-terrain vehicles, hunting, skiing, and snowshoeing are all more popular among overnight visitors to the Maine Woods Area than among visitors to the State as a whole.

Active Outdoor Activities – Non-Water

Base: Those who report outdoor activities as an interest area for their Maine trip



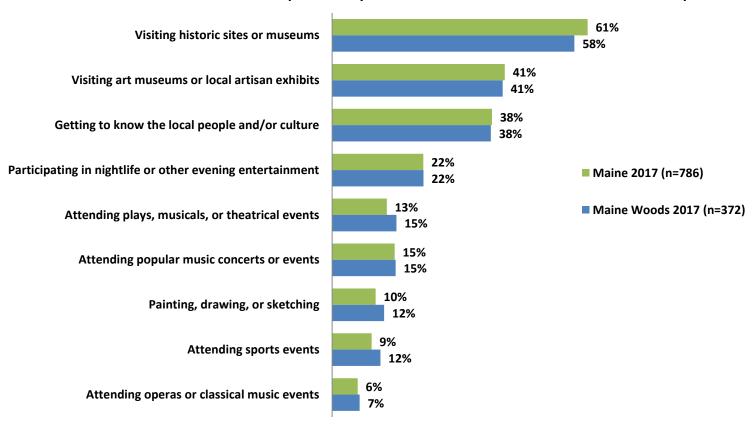


Visiting historic sites/museums is the most popular activity among overnight visitors who are interested in history/culture.

 With respect to history/culture activities, Maine Woods visitors are not significantly different than all Maine visitors.

History or Culture Activities

Base: Those who report history or culture as an interest area for their Maine trip



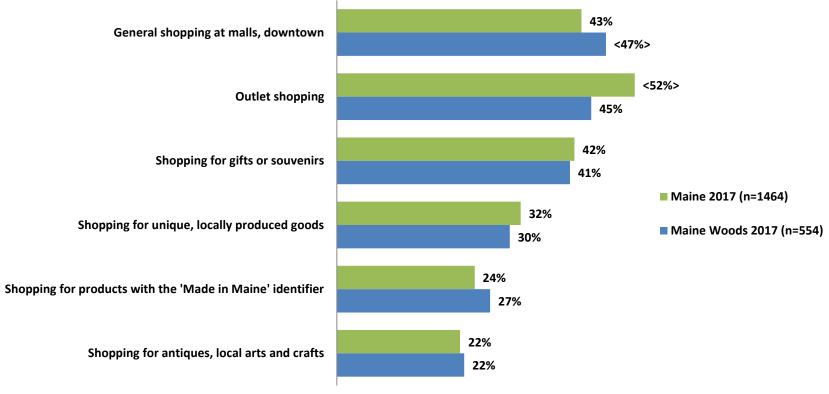


Overnight visitors to the Maine Woods who are interested in shopping engage in various shopping activities while visiting.

• General shopping at malls or downtown is <u>more</u> popular in the Maine Woods area compared to the State as a whole, while *outlet shopping* is <u>less</u> popular.



Base: Those who report shopping as an interest area for their Maine trip



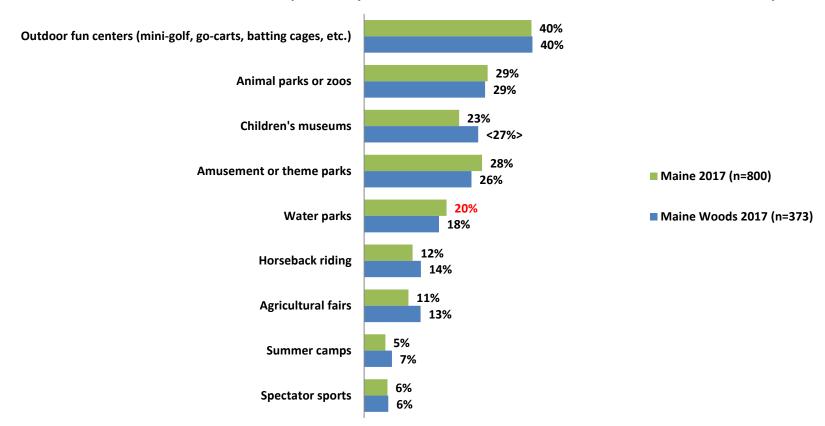


Outdoor fun centers are the most popular family fun/children's activity among overnight visitors interested in these types of activities.

Among visitors interested in family fun/children's activities, visiting children's museums is more popular in the Maine Woods area as compared to the State as a whole.

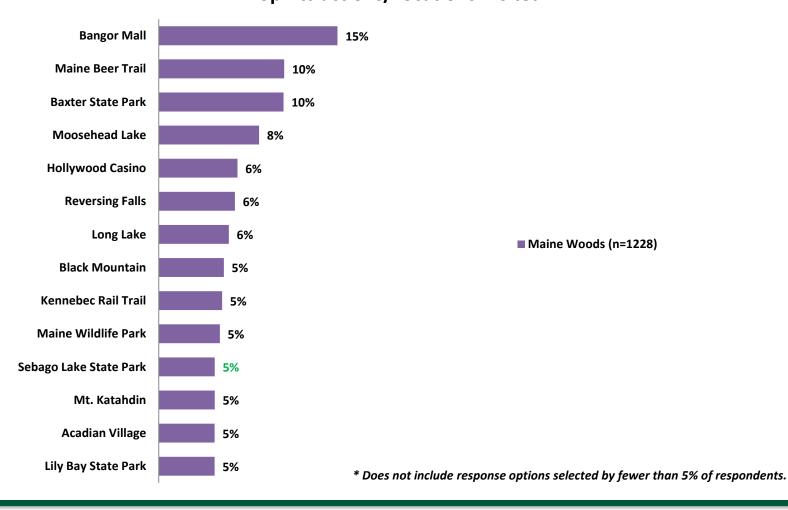
Family Fun/Children's Activities

Base: Those who report family fun/children's activities as an interest area for their Maine trip





Top Attractions/Locations Visited*



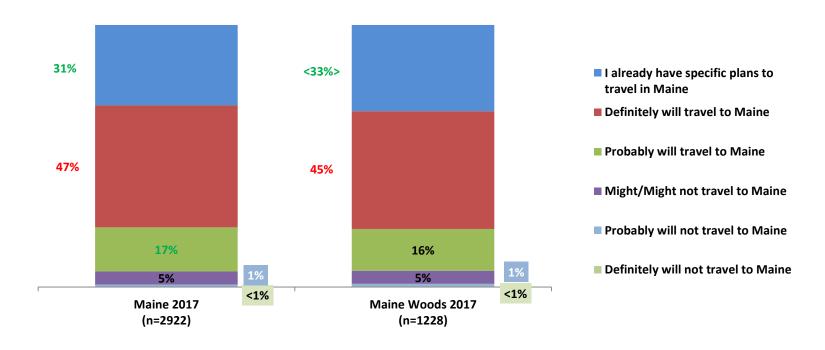


<u>Park.</u>

Three in four overnight visitors to the Maine Woods area intend to return to Maine within the next two years.

• Overnight visitors to the Maine Woods are <u>more</u> likely to have specific plans to return to Maine than are all Maine overnight visitors.

Likelihood to Travel to Maine in the Next Two Years





Day Visitors: Traveler Description



Day Visitor Demographics

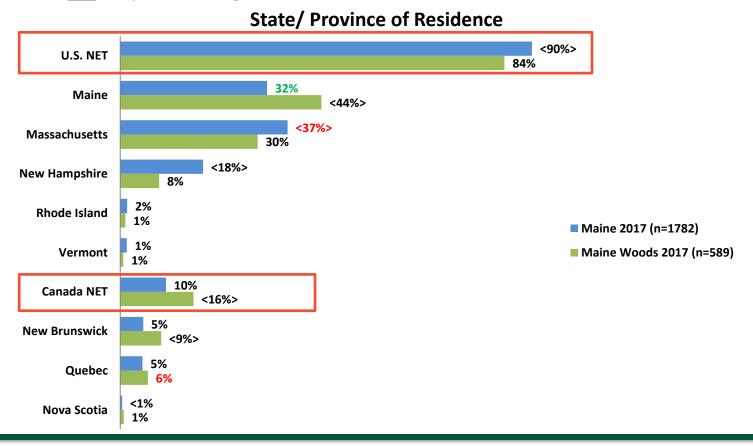
- Day visitors to the Maine Woods Area are 43 years old, on average, and have annual household incomes of \$71,000. Half have at least a college degree, and half are employed full-time.
- Day visitors to this region have average household incomes that are lower than day visitors to the State overall.

Day Visitors	Maine 2017 (n=1782)	Maine Woods 2017 (n=589)
Age:		
< 35	33%	36%
35 - 44	19%	19%
45 - 54	19%	20%
55 +	<29%>	25%
Mean Age (Years)	44.1	42.8
Income:		
< \$50,000	32%	<42%>
\$50,000 - \$99,999	41%	37%
\$100,000 +	<27%>	20%
Mean Income	<\$80,750>	\$71,360
Female	76%	73%
College Degree or Higher	54%	52%
Married	48%	48%
Employed Full-Time	52%	51%



Four in five day visitors to the Maine Woods Area are U.S. residents, with the highest proportion originating from Maine.

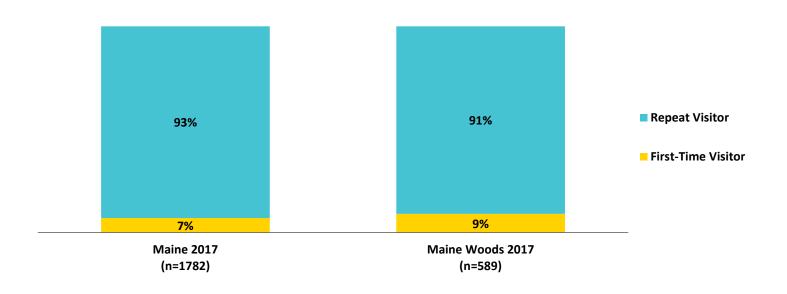
- Overall, the Maine Woods Area attracts a <u>greater</u> proportion of day visitors from Canada, as compared to the State as a whole, and a <u>lesser</u> proportion from the United States.
- Specifically, the Maine Woods is a more popular destination for in-state day visitors and those from New Brunswick, as compared to the State overall. Day visitors from Massachusetts and New Hampshire, however, are <u>less</u> likely to be visiting this area than the rest of the State.





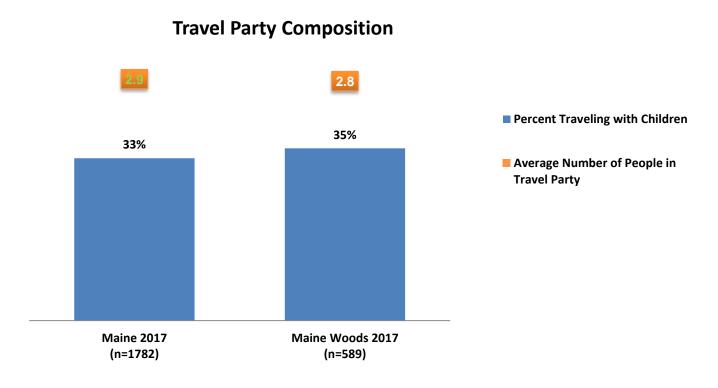
Nine in ten day visitors to the Maine Woods area are repeat visitors, similar to the State of Maine as a whole.

Repeat vs. First-Time Visitors





One-third of day visitors to the Maine Woods are traveling with children.



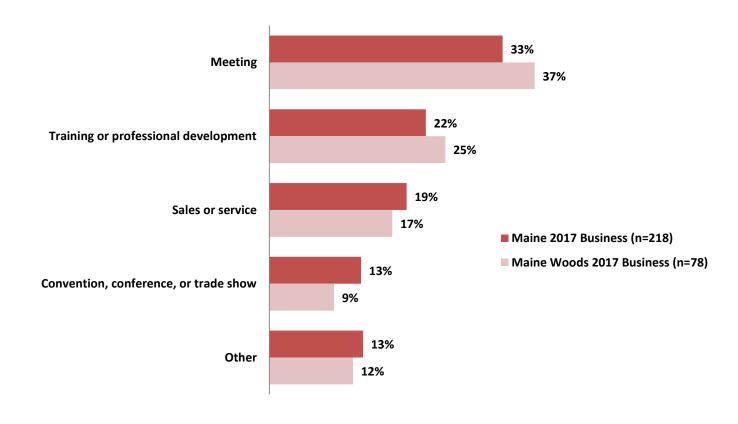


Day Visitors: Trip Experience



More than one-third of business day visitors are in the Maine Woods area for a *meeting*.

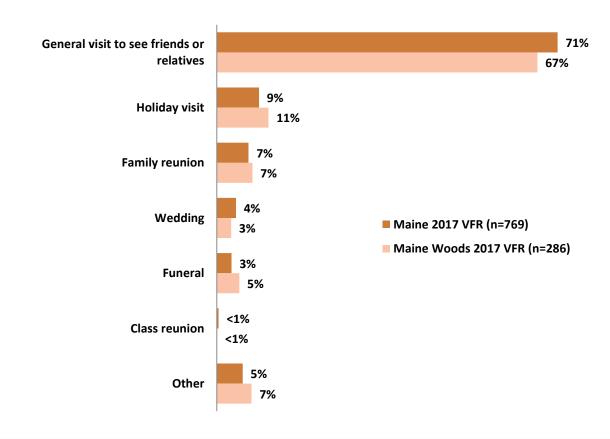
Primary Purpose of Day Business Trips





Most Maine Woods day visitors on a VFR trip are visiting primarily for a general visit to see friends/relatives.

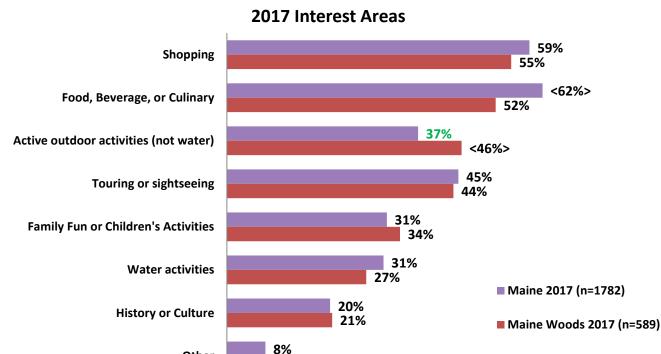
Primary Purpose of Day VFR Trips





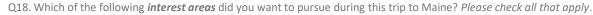
The top interest areas pursued by day visitors to this area are shopping and food/beverage/culinary activities.

- Though *food/beverage/culinary* activities are popular among day visitors to the Maine Woods, they are <u>less</u> popular than among day visitors to the State as a whole. Day visitors to the Maine Woods are <u>more</u> likely to be interested in pursuing *active outdoor activities*.
- Among day visitors to the Maine Woods who selected active outdoor activities or family fun/children's activities, half indicated that these were the most important interest areas in their decision to visit.



Among Maine Woods visitors who selected active outdoor activities and family fun/children's activities as interest areas, half indicated that these interests were the most important in their decision to visit Maine.





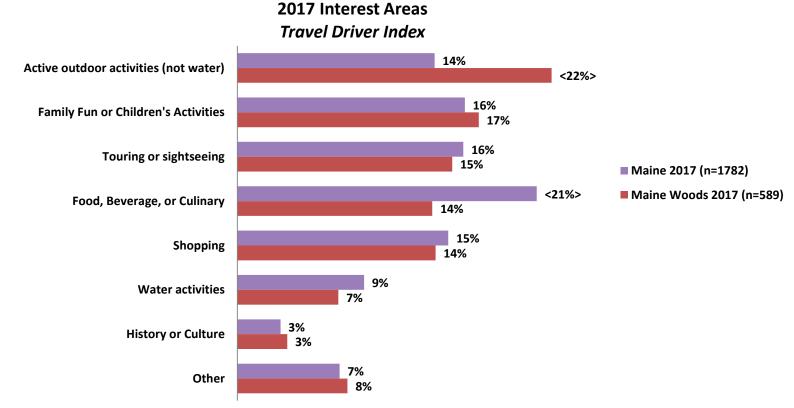
Q19. Of these interest areas you selected, please rank them in order of their importance in your decision to come to Maine, with 1 being the most important.

9%

Other

When looking at both interest and importance, active outdoor activities rise to the top as a travel driver among day visitors to the Maine Woods.

When examining visitors' interest in various activities along with the importance they place on these activities in selecting Maine as a destination, day visitors to the Maine Woods region are more likely than visitors to the State as a whole to place importance on non-aquatic active outdoor activities. They are less likely than visitors to the State as a whole to place importance on food/beverage/culinary activities.



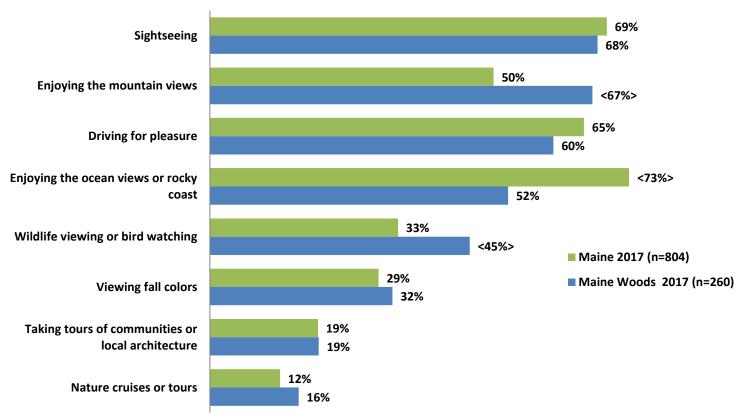
Travel Driver Index = percentage selecting category as interest area X percentage ranking same interest area as most important

Sightseeing and enjoying the mountain views are the most popular touring/sightseeing activities for day visitors to the Maine Woods.

• Enjoying the mountain views and wildlife/bird watching are more popular among Maine Woods day visitors than among day visitors to the State as a whole, while enjoying the ocean views is less popular among Maine Woods day visitors.

Touring or Sightseeing Activities

Base: Those who report touring or sightseeing as an interest area for their Maine trip





Among day visitors interested in food/beverage/culinary activities, half say they ate lobster/other local seafood or enjoyed unique Maine foods or beverages while visiting the Maine Woods Area.

• Though eating lobster/other local seafood is the top activity among those interested in food/beverage/culinary activities, it is a <u>less</u> popular activity among day visitors to the Maine Woods than it is among day visitors to the State as a whole. Day visitors to the Maine Woods region are <u>more</u> likely than visitors to the State as a whole to have *enjoyed unique Maine foods or beverages* and *visited farmer's markets* while in the area.

Food, Beverage, or Culinary Activities Base: Those who report food, beverage, or culinary as an interest area for their Maine trip

<60%> Ate lobster or other local seafood 47% 38% Enjoyed unique Maine food or beverages (i.e. whoopie pies or Moxie) <46%> Consumed other locally produced Maine foods (i.e. blueberries, 48% maple syrup, or apples) 43% 33% Going to local brew pubs or craft breweries 34% 28% **Enjoying local food at fairs or festivals** 33% 25% Maine 2017 (n=1096) **Visited Farmer's Markets** <32%> ■ Maine Woods2017 (n=309) 16% Ate farm-to-table or organic cuisine 17%



Enjoyed high-end cuisine or five-star dining

14%

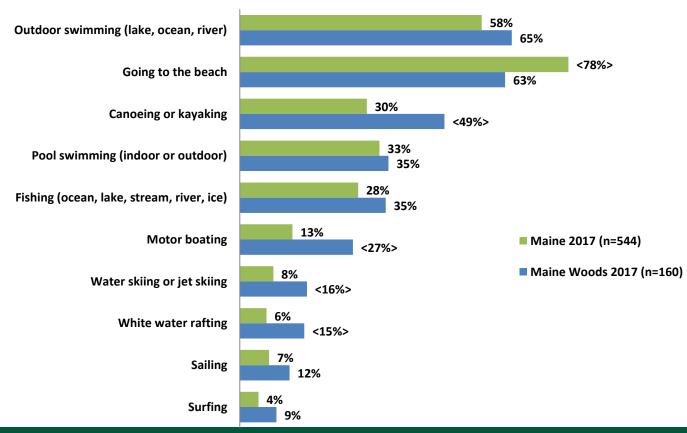
13%

Maine Woods day visitors who are interested in water activities are most likely to go swimming outdoors or go to the beach.

• Maine Woods day visitors are <u>more</u> likely than day visitors to the State as a whole to participate in various water activities while visiting: *canoeing/kayaking*, *motor boating*, *white water rafting*, *and water/jet skiing*.

Water Activities

Base: Those who report water activities as an interest area for their Maine trip



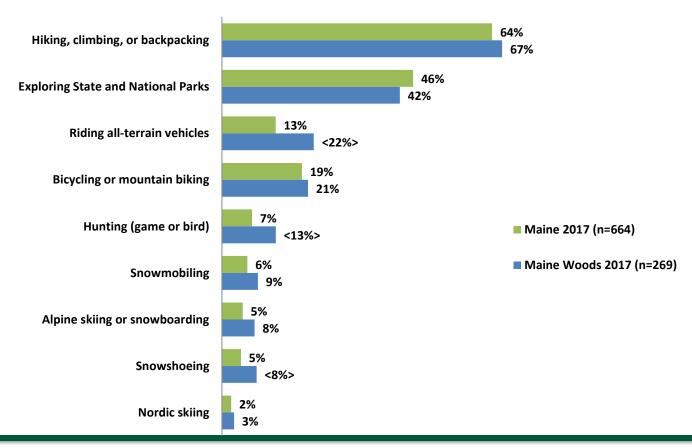


Two in three day visitors interested in non-aquatic outdoor activities say they went *hiking*, *climbing*, *or backpacking* while visiting the Maine Woods Area.

• Day visitors to the Maine Woods region are <u>more</u> likely than visitors to the State as a whole to have spent time *riding ATVs, hunting,* and *snowshoeing* while in the area.

Active Outdoor Activities – Non-Water

Base: Those who report outdoor activities as an interest area for their Maine trip



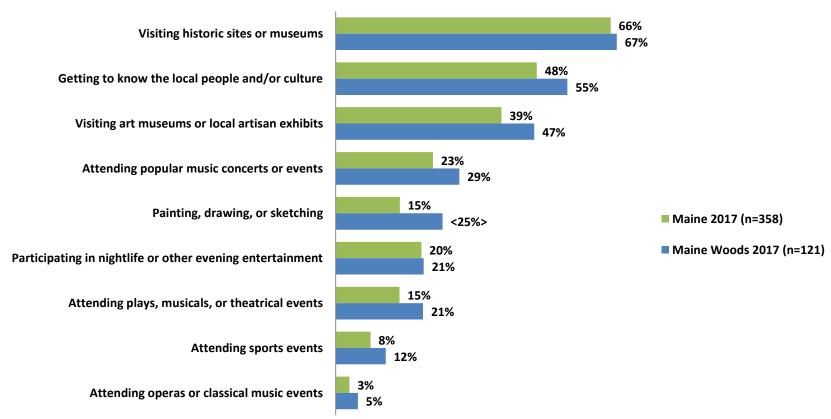


The most common history or culture activity that Maine Woods day visitors take part in is *visiting historic sites/museums*.

• Day visitors to the Maine Woods region are <u>more</u> likely than visitors to the State as a whole to have spent time *painting*, *drawing*, *or sketching* while in the area.

History or Culture Activities

Base: Those who report history or culture as an interest area for their Maine trip



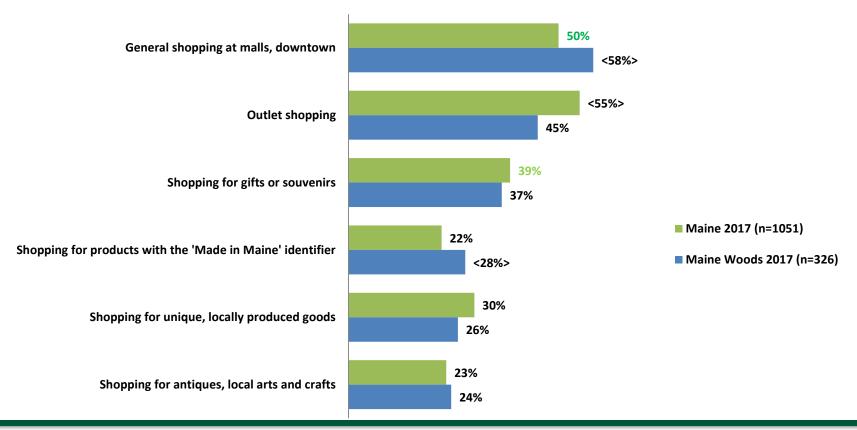


Maine Woods day visitors interested in shopping are most likely to do some *general shopping at malls/downtown*.

• General mall or downtown shopping and shopping for products with the "Made in Maine" identifier are more popular among Maine Woods shopping enthusiasts than they are among shoppers visiting the State of Maine as a whole. Outlet shopping is less popular among Maine Woods visitors.

Shopping Activities

Base: Those who report shopping as an interest area for their Maine trip



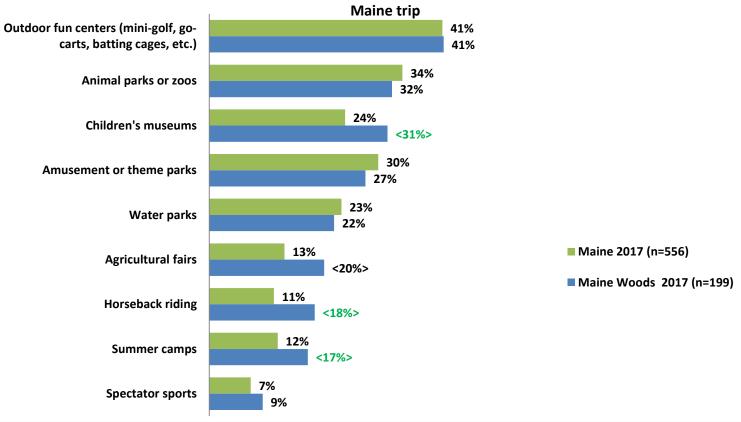


Outdoor fun centers are the most common family fun/children's activity among Maine Woods day visitors.

• Day visitors to the Maine Woods region who are interested in family fun/children's activities are more likely than day visitors to the State as a whole to visit children's museums, attend agricultural fairs, go horseback riding, and attend summer camps.

Family Fun or Children's Activities

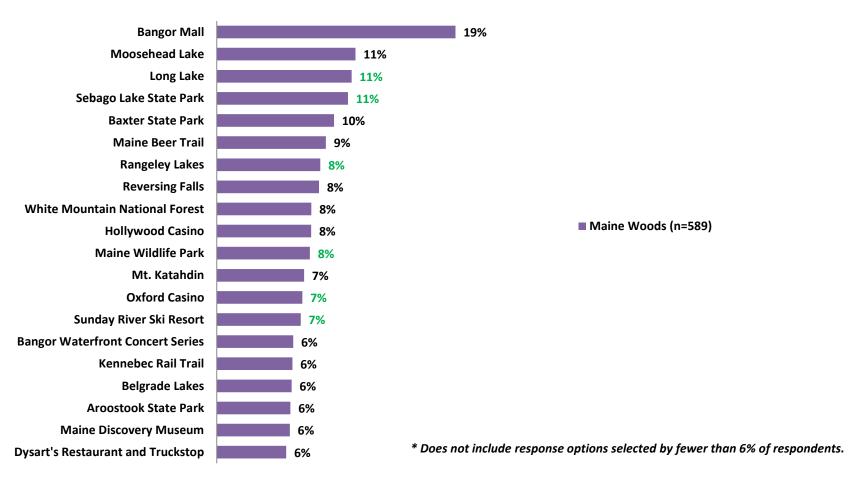
Base: Those who report Family Fun or Children's Activities as an interest area for their





As with overnight visitors to the Maine Woods, the *Bangor Mall* is also the most visited location among day visitors to this area.

Top Attractions/Locations Visited*





Highlights: Maine Woods Visitors Compared to Maine Visitors



Highlights: Region vs. State

- Visitors to the Maine Woods region and visitors to the State of Maine as a whole differ in a number of areas. These variations can be seen in:
 - Visitor demographics,
 - Visitor origin,
 - Areas of interest, and
 - The activities they participate in while visiting.
- Highlights of these differences are shown on the following pages.



Visitor Origin

Compared to visitors to the entire State, visitors to the Maine Woods region differ in the following ways:

OVERNIGHT VISITORS

Greater proportion from Maine and Ontario

Lesser proportion from New England
(Specifically,
MA and CT)

Overall, **greater** proportion from **Canada** and **lesser** proportion from the **U.S.**

DAY VISITORS

Greater proportion from Maine and New Brunswick

Lesser proportion from **MA** and **NH**

Overall, **greater** proportion from **Canada** and **lesser** proportion from the **U.S.**



Visitor Demographics

DAY VISITORS

OVERNIGHT VISITORS

Lower annual household income

Younger

Lower annual household income

More likely to travel with kids

More likely to be firsttime visitors



Trip Interest Areas

OVERNIGHT VISITORS

More likely to want to pursue:

Active outdoor activities

Family fun/children's activities

History or culture

Less likely to want to pursue:
Shopping
Touring or sightseeing
Food/beverage/culinary
activities



Trip Interest Areas

DAY VISITORS

More likely to want to pursue **active outdoor** activities

Less likely to want to pursue:
Food/beverage/culinary
activities



Trip Interests and Importance (Travel Driver Index)

OVERNIGHT VISITORS

More likely to place importance on:

Active outdoor activities

History/culture activities

Less likely to place importance on:

Food/beverage/culinary activities



Trip Interests and Importance (Travel Driver Index)

DAY VISITORS

More likely to place importance on:

Active outdoor activities

Less likely to place importance on:

Food/beverage/culinary activities



Trip Activities

OVERNIGHT AND DAY VISITORS

More likely to be:

Canoeing/kayaking
Visiting Farmer's Markets
Hunting
General shopping at malls/downtown
Motor boating
Water skiing/jet skiing
Riding all-terrain vehicles
White water rafting
Snowshoeing

Visiting children's museums

Less likely to be:

Eating lobster or other local seafood

Going to the beach

Outlet shopping



Trip Activities

OVERNIGHT VISITORS

More likely to be:

Skiing

Sailing

Camping

Fishing

Enjoying local food at fairs/festivals

Eating farm-to-table/organic cuisine



DAY VISITORS

More likely to be:

Shopping for products with the "Made in Maine" identifier
Enjoying the mountain views
Wildlife viewing/bird watching
Enjoying unique Maine food and beverages
Attending agricultural fairs
Horseback riding
Attending summer camps





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