

# NOBO Hiker Summiting Katahdin?

Below are options for ways to complete your A.T. hike.

Baxter State Park is a special place and the park's regulations protect its wild character. It is sacred land to the Penobscot people of the northeast. Be respectful of park rules, park staff, and other visitors, and always practice Leave No Trace. Stop by the Monson A.T. Visitor Center for detailed planning information and assistance.

## Option 1: The Birches

**What:** The Birches is Baxter's long-distance hiker campsite where A.T. hikers coming out of the 100 Mile Wilderness can stay. 12 spots are available and are first come, first serve. There is a 1-night limit, and it is \$10 cash per person, per night. A.T. hikers must pick up their A.T. Hiker permit at the Katahdin Stream Campground ranger station before summiting the mountain.

**Who:** Any NOBO A.T. hiker who has hiked continuously northward from Monson (both thru-hikers and section hikers). Hikers who have left the Trail corridor since Monson are not eligible to stay at the Birches.

- How:**
1. Sign up for the Birches at the kiosk at the entrance of BSP near Abol Bridge. If spots are available, sign up, take a photo of the sheet to show the ranger at Katahdin Stream, and hike to Katahdin Stream Campground to check-in and pick up your A.T. Hiker permit before heading to the Birches (about a quarter mile past the ranger station).
  2. If spots are not available and the A.T. Steward is on duty at the kiosk, talk to them about alternatives. They may be able to secure you another campsite in the park. Note that other campsites in the park cost \$34 cash.
  3. If the Birches is full and there is no other camping available in the park or the A.T. Steward is not on duty, you can stay the night at either Abol Bridge Campground (private) or Abol Pines Campground (state-run) on the Golden Road. Abol Bridge Campground sites are ~\$30 and include a shower and breakfast; inquire at the Abol Bridge Store. Abol Pines Campground is ~\$7 for Maine residents and ~\$13 for non-residents; walk down the entrance road and self-register at the kiosk. Wake up early the next morning and head back to the kiosk to sign up for the Birches. Bring your full pack with you and be ready to hike into the park.

## Option 2: Summit in a Day

**What:** Wake up early, hike into the park, and summit all in one day. Total distance: 19.6 miles.

**Who:** This option is best for thru-hikers who have their Trail legs and feel capable of covering this distance and elevation. Keep in mind that Katahdin is the longest sustained ascent on the A.T.

- How:**
1. Camp at the Abol Bridge or Abol Pines Campground the night before.
  2. Hike to the Katahdin Stream Campground ranger station and pick up your A.T. Hiker permit before beginning up the Hunt Trail. Baxter recommends hikers arrive at Katahdin Stream Campground by 7 am to guarantee trailhead access. Note that you'll need to start up the Hunt Trail before the cut-off time: 12 pm May-July, 11 am in August, 10 am in September, and 9 am in October.
  3. When you get back down the mountain, get a ride into Millinocket. Keep in mind that you'll need to make shuttle arrangements prior to heading into the park

## For More Information

**The ATC's Monson A.T. Visitor Center**  
6 Tenney Hill Rd.  
Monson, ME 04464

413-200-0313  
monsonvisitorcenter@appalachiantrail.org

Open June - October

**Baxter State Park HQ**  
64 Balsam Dr.  
Millinocket, ME 04462

Reservation Office: 207-723-5140  
Daily Park Conditions: 207-723-9500  
www.baxterstatepark.org

Open 7 days a week during summer

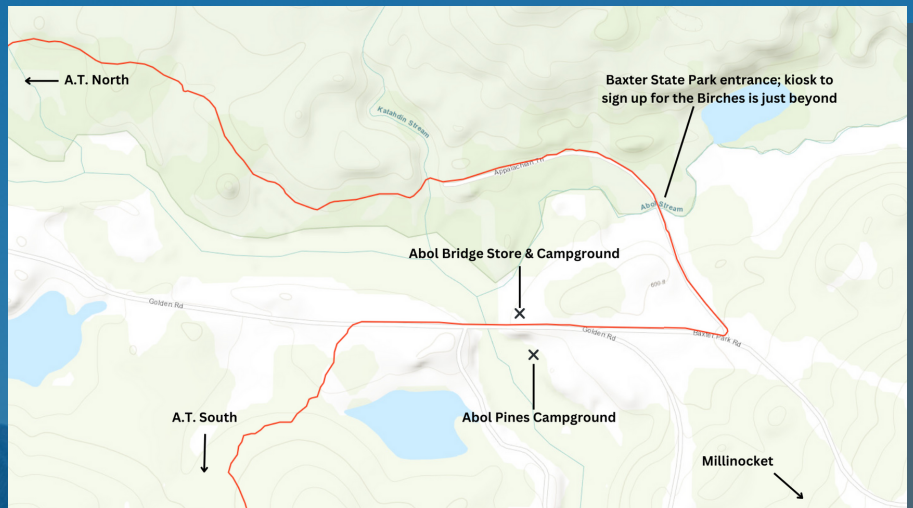
**Contact the ATC anytime:**  
info@appalachiantrail.org



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## Abol Bridge Area

After exiting the 100 Mile Wilderness, walk along the Golden Road for 0.5 mi, crossing Abol Bridge. The A.T. turns left into the woods and enters Baxter State Park.



DeSoto County Lakes Wilderness Area (The Nature Conservancy)

Legend:

- trails
- road
- campground
- lean-to
- tent site
- picnic area
- mountain peaks

Scale: 1:52,000

Inset map showing the location within Georgia.

Map courtesy of Baxter State Park

# Katahdin

At Katahdin Stream Campground, the A.T. follows the Hunt Trail 5.2 miles to the summit of Katahdin. The Abol Campground, 2.2 miles from Katahdin Stream on the Park Tote Road, is an potential alternative camping area for A.T. hikers. The Abol Trail leaves from the Abol Campground and connects with the A.T./Hunt Trail 1 mile below the summit.



Map courtesy of Baxter State Park

## Kidney - Daicey Ponds Area

From the entrance of Baxter State Park, the A.T. continues 9.2 miles to Katahdin Stream Campground. On the way, it winds around Daicey Pond. Blueberry Ledges is a side trail that takes a more direct route from the park's entrance to Katahdin Stream Campground.

Baxter State Park (BSP) Distances		
Trail	From/To	Distance
A.T./Hunt Trail	BSP boundary to the summit of Katahdin	14.4 miles
A.T.	BSP boundary to Katahdin Stream Campground	9.2 miles
A.T.	BSP boundary to Daicey Pond Campground	6.9 miles
A.T./Hunt Trail	Katahdin Stream Campground to the summit of Katahdin	5.2 miles
Blueberry Ledges Trail	BSP boundary to Katahdin Stream Campground	~5 miles
Park Tote Road	Katahdin Stream Campground to Abol Campground	2.2 miles
Abol Trail	Abol Campground to A.T./Hunt Trail (it connects to the Hunt Trail 1 mile below the summit)	3.0 miles



# NOBO Hiker Summiting Katahdin?

Answers to your most frequently asked questions. Stop by the ATC Monson Visitor Center for detailed planning information and assistance.

## **How do I get an A.T. Hiker permit to climb Katahdin?**

A.T. Hiker permits are free and can be picked up in person at the Katahdin Stream Campground ranger station. Permits are valid for 7 days from the date they are issued. Rangers are at the ranger station from 7 to 8:30 am and 4 to 5 pm. Rangers can often be found in the campground outside of these hours.

## **How do I get a ride into Millinocket from inside the park?**

Shuttles come into the park to pick up hikers only if hikers have made reservations. Hikers should make shuttle arrangements before entering the park. If you decide to hitchhike out of the park, exercise caution and use your best judgment when accepting rides from strangers. If family or friends plan to pick you up in the park, call them ahead of time to make plans. If family or friends want to summit with you, they should get a day-use parking or campground reservation in the park.

## **Is there cell service or an ATM at Abol Bridge or in Baxter State Park?**

No. The closest place with cell service along the A.T. is about 6 miles south of Abol Bridge at Rainbow Ledges. Some hikers are able to get cell service on the road to Millinocket about 2 miles from Abol Bridge, and you may get service in other places depending on your carrier. However, cell service should not be relied on (and if you make a call on Trail, be respectful – keep it short, step off the Trail on a durable surface, and do not use speakerphone). The Abol Bridge Store has WiFi but it may not be strong enough to make voice calls. There is no WiFi in the park.

There are no ATMs at Abol Bridge or in the park, and Baxter campsites must be paid for in cash.

## **Can I just make a day-use parking or a campground reservation in Baxter for my anticipated summit date(s)?**

Yes, but keep in mind that reservations often fill up months in advance. It may not be possible to get a reservation by the time you reach Monson or Abol Bridge. The Baxter reservation lines are open 7 days a week during the summer: 207-723-5140. The Monson A.T. Visitor Center can also assist you with reservations before you head into the 100 Mile Wilderness.

## **Can I summit with my Tramily (Trail family)?**

If you have a large Tramily (5 people or more), break into smaller groups if you plan to stay at the Birches. This way, one group isn't taking up most of the available spaces. If you do not want to break into smaller groups, plan to chat with the Monson Visitor Center about making reservations or plan to stay at Abol Bridge or Abol Pines Campground and summit in one day. Note that the group size limit in Baxter is 12 people.

## **I got picked up partway through the 100 Mile Wilderness to spend the night in town/at a hostel. Am I still eligible to stay at the Birches?**

No. The Birches campsite was created for long-distance hikers who have hiked continuously northward since Monson and have not been able to make a reservation ahead of time. If you leave the Trail corridor in the 100 Mile Wilderness, you should make park reservations while in town.

## **What if there are no more A.T. Hiker permits by the time I get to Baxter?**

Since implementing the permit system in 2017, the park has never run out of A.T. Hiker permits. Visit [www.baxterstatepark.org](http://www.baxterstatepark.org) for more information.

## **What date will the park close the Trail up Katahdin this year? What date does the park open the Trail up the mountain for the summer hiking season each year?**

The date that the park closes the mountain each year depends on weather. We recommend summiting prior to October 15. The opening date for the summer hiking season also depends on weather and we do not recommend planning to summit before June 1.