

# NOBO HIKER FAQ ABOUT BAXTER STATE PARK

Take a photo of me  
to refer to later!



**We're here to answer your most frequently asked questions about the end of your hike!**

## **Why does Baxter have different rules than other places on the A.T.?**

The park was a gift to the people of Maine from Governor Percival P. Baxter, with the condition that it remain forever wild. Unlike other state parks, Baxter is mostly funded through a private endowment left by the governor and visitor fees. The park staff have a duty to preserve the park's wilderness character, resulting in different rules here than along the rest of the Trail.

## **How do I get a Long Distance Hiker permit to climb Katahdin?**

Long Distance Hiker permits are free and must 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 7:00 to 8:30 am and 4:00 to 5:00 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?**

Hikers should make shuttle arrangements before entering the park, including if family/friends plan to pick you up (make sure they know which trailhead you'll be at). 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 want to summit with you, they must get a day-use or campground reservation in the park. Or, if friends/family are only picking you up, they can enter the park without a reservation after 1:00 pm.

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

No. The closest place with cell service on 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. Cell service should not be relied on. 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 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 Tramily of 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 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 therefore would not have been able to make a reservation ahead of time. If you leave the Trail corridor in the 100 Mile Wilderness, you should try to make park reservations while in town.

## **What if there are no more Long Distance Hiker permits by the time I get to Baxter?**

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

## **What date will the park close the Trail up Katahdin this 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.



**Appalachian Trail  
Conservancy**