Trip Summary

Maps and Guidebooks
- Section 9: Flagstaff Lake Region
- NFCT Guidebook
- AMC River Guide
- Maine Gazetteer and Atlas

Activities
- Paddle Flagstaff Lake
- Hike the Bigelow Range
- Take a pontoon boat tour over the submerged village
- Visit the historical society
- Mountain bike
- Watch for moose, eagles, and loons
- Visit the Birds in Flight Gallery

Places to Stay
- Tranquility Lodge B&B
- Stratton Motel
- White Wolf Inn
- Spillover Motel
- Mountain View Motel

Where to Eat
- Looney Moose
- Stratton Diner
- White Wolf Cafe
- Fotters Market
- Pines Market

Guides and Rentals
- Flagstaff Scenic Boat Tours
- Pines Market
- Contact Flagstaff Area Business Association for local guides

NFCT Package Specials
(Coming Soon)
- Float and Paddle the Valley Below
- Paddle Out, Hike Back
- Escape to the Valley

Welcome to the recreational paradise and historic treasures of the Flagstaff Lake Region of Maine.

Just beyond the peak of Sugarloaf Mountain lies a magnificent valley to be discovered. Historic Flagstaff Lake, at nearly 30 miles long, wraps neatly around the base of the striking Bigelow Mountain Range. Paddling includes shallow seasonal water, marshes and flat water, and amazing views of the mountains. All seven of the Bigelow summits are part of a 36,000-acre public reserve, and two of them are on the list of 4,000-footers in Maine, making them sought after by “peak-baggers”.

The town of Eustis and village of Stratton offer a variety of lodging options and some great dining choices - hearty home-cooked meals, fresh sandwiches, and café lunches. Local stores stock essential provisions from fine wine to peanut butter.

Day 1 Activities: Explore the shoreline and islands of Flagstaff Lake with a kayak or canoe rental from the Pines Market in Eustis. Boat delivery and/or shuttle service can be arranged. While you’re at the market, pick up sandwiches, deli items, beverages and snacks. A few yards from the market is a magnificent stand of old growth pines and historic markers detailing Benedict Arnold’s trek. Alternatively, a local guide can take you to quiet spots for fishing, wildlife viewing, or a “moose safari”. Contact the Flagstaff Area Business Association for recommendations of local guides.
Hike up to 3200-ft. Cranberry Peak (approximately 2 miles one-way) and take in the view of the lake and surrounding mountains. The Range Trail begins near the village of Stratton. Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands offers online maps and trail information for the Bigelow Preserve. For longer hikes along the Bigelow ridgeline, The Stratton Motel will help you create a loop trip and provide you with pick-up and shuttle service.

**Day 2 Activities:** One of the most unique stories in Maine history, the town of Flagstaff was established in 1775 by Benedict Arnold's forces on their way to Quebec...and 175 years later it was flooded to make way for hydroelectricity production. Check out the Valley Below map showing locations of underwater village landmarks. Learn this fascinating history on a unique pontoon boat tour with Flagstaff Scenic Boat Tours. Stock up ahead of time with sandwiches, produce, beverage and snacks at Potter's Market in Stratton. Or choose a boat tour option with a lunch stop at the lovely, remote Flagstaff Hut. In the afternoon, visit the Dead River Area Historical Society and see displays including memorabilia of the very towns you floated over this morning.

If you are a mountain biker, check out the riding options trails at Maine Huts and Trails and the nearby Narrow Gauge Pathway, a rail-trail winding along the Carrabasset River. And for a truly one-of-a-kind experience, visit the Birds in Flight Gallery in Eustis to see exquisite dimensional watercolors of birds...and the opportunity for a customized artistic rendition of the fish you caught on your trip.

“...Some of the most glorious natural beauty New England has to offer.” – Harvard Magazine, July-August 2009

“If you think Maine is all about the coast, you need to venture inland and discover the lakes, rivers, woods, and peaks that define the region between Bethel and Millinocket. Not only does this region rival the coast for natural beauty, it’s also wildlife rich. You won’t see a puffin, but your chances of spotting a moose are high” – Boston Globe, July 2009