

TRIP 1

RICHARDSON LAKES TO RANGELEY



TRIP AT A GLANCE

- ☐ NFCT Map 8:
Rangeley Lakes
Region
- ☐ 4 lakes
- ☐ 26 – 32 miles
- ☐ 1 – 2 portages

Trip Description

A trip to the Rangeley Lakes region allows paddlers to travel through one of Maine's top recreation destinations. This section of the NFCT provides access to a variety of lake paddling. Your group will travel through some of Maine's largest lakes with views of the Western Maine mountains throughout. This area is known for its fishing and campsites with beautiful, sometimes sandy, beaches that are great for swimming. If your group has time, there are plenty of opportunities to hike and explore museums in the area. There is at least one short portage (250 yds.), and depending on the itinerary your group chooses, there is an opportunity to add on an additional portage as well as a series of rapids.

Suggested Itineraries

Since campsites in this area require reservations, it might not be possible to follow these itineraries exactly. (See Camping Information.) Work with the dates you intend to travel and see what campsites are available to plan your trip.

These large lakes have the potential for strong winds, high waves and large chop. Crossing the lake at the shortest point possible is recommended, as is trying to cross in the morning before the winds pick up. Due to the direction that the winds tend to blow, traveling on the west shore is also recommended.

Option 1	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4
START Day At	South Arm Boat Launch	Birches	Ramble	Stony Batter
END Day At	Birches	Ramble	Stony Batter	Haines Landing
MILEAGE	5	12.5	6	2.5
NOTES	Reserve site with South Arm Campground.	Portage around Upper Dam (250 yards). Reserve with Stephen Phillips Preserve.	Reserve with Stephen Phillips Preserve.	Make the shortest crossing possible across the lake. Visit the Outdoor Heritage Museum on your way out of town.

Option 2	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5
START Day At	Rangeley Town Park Boat Launch	Rangeley Lake State Park	Shelter Island	Whitney Point	Birches OR Sandbanks
END Day At	Rangeley Lake State Park	Shelter Island	Whitney Point	Birches OR Sandbanks	South Arm Boat Launch
MILEAGE	5.5	7 (+ portage)	7	7.5/6.5	5/4
NOTES	Stay close to shore as much as possible and make the shortest crossing across the lake. You can also put in at the state park boat launch.	Portage around Rangeley Dam (0.5 mi) or to Haines Landing (1.5 mi). If choosing to portage the dam and run Rangeley River, be aware that the river can be a series of continuous Class II rapids or require pulling boats at low water. Reserve site with Stephen Phillips Preserve.	Portage around Upper Dam (250 yards). Reserve site with Stephen Phillips Preserve.	Reserve site with South Arm Campground. Recommended to travel on the west shore. Make the shortest crossing possible if crossing the lake.	You can head back on this day or stay at South Arm Campground. Visit the Maine Forestry Museum in Rangeley.

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Camping Information

Campsites in this area **require reservations**. There are two campsites on Mooselookmeguntic Lake's southwest shore that do not require reservations.

Upper and Lower Richardson Lake South Arm Campground

(207) 364-5155

- Email camp@southarm.com for reservation inquiries

Mooselookmeguntic Lake Stephen Phillips Preserve

(207) 864-2003

Cupusptic Lake Cupusptic Lake Park and Campground Wilderness Camping

(207) 864-5249

- Sites are charged for 2 people. Additional charges for additional people.
- [Reservation](#) Inquiries

Rangeley Lake

State Park Campground: [Maine State Park Campground Reservations](#)

- Ask about group sites

Shuttle Information

Rangeley Adventure Company
[Contact for pricing](#)

(207) 864-2771

Other Resources

[Outdoor Heritage Museum](#)

[Maine Forestry Museum](#)