



BAXTER STATE PARK ONLINE RESERVATION SYSTEM UPDATES

DECEMBER 2025

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Preface

This document outlines the updates to the online reservation portal, which will take effect on January 15, 2026. These updates will primarily impact the summer reservation process across all channels, including online, in-person, mail-in, and call-in reservations.

Additionally, this guide includes an updated key to interpret the various colored symbols displayed when users are viewing dates for potential reservations.

What Changes are Being Made, and Why?

The changes to the online reservation portal aim to improve visitors' experience in making reservations and to make access to camping at Baxter State Park more equitable. The addition of the capability to make a multi-night reservation online eliminates the need for campers to call our reservations office to extend their stay beyond one night, which could entail long waits on our phone lines. Shortening the extension window (from 14 nights to 4 nights at a time) will also minimize the extent to which campsites are already reserved at each daily opening of the 4-month rolling window.

Reservation Policy Change

Summer camping in Baxter State Park becomes available on a rolling 4-month basis, meaning that on January 15th, reservations become available for May 15th; on January 16th, they become available for May 16th; and so forth.

Previously, the online reservation system limited bookings to a single night when the 4-month window opened, necessitating visitors to call our reservation office for any extension beyond this initial night. Commencing with our Summer 2026 season, the online reservation portal will accommodate booking the initial night plus three (3) consecutive nights at the same campsite beyond the 4-month rolling reservation window.

This adjustment does not alter the existing limitations of seven (7) consecutive nights at a single site or campground and fourteen (14) consecutive nights within the Park. Should a visitor wish to prolong their stay within the same campground beyond four (4) consecutive nights or relocate to a different campsite on any night, they must wait for the four-month rolling window to reserve that location. This policy will also apply to in-person, mail-in, and call-in reservation requests, which will still be required for backcountry campgrounds/sites, bunkhouses, group areas, and accessible sites. An exception will allow for reserving multi-night backcountry trips that utilize multiple backcountry sites for up to the 14-night maximum, in order to facilitate the logistics of such trips.

All reservations for the month of May require calling in to the reservation office, mailing in a request, or reserving in-person, and cannot be made online. This is to allow our staff to discuss potential impediments in availability such as delayed campground openings, or road or trail closures, as a result of the impact of the winter weather and spring thaw.

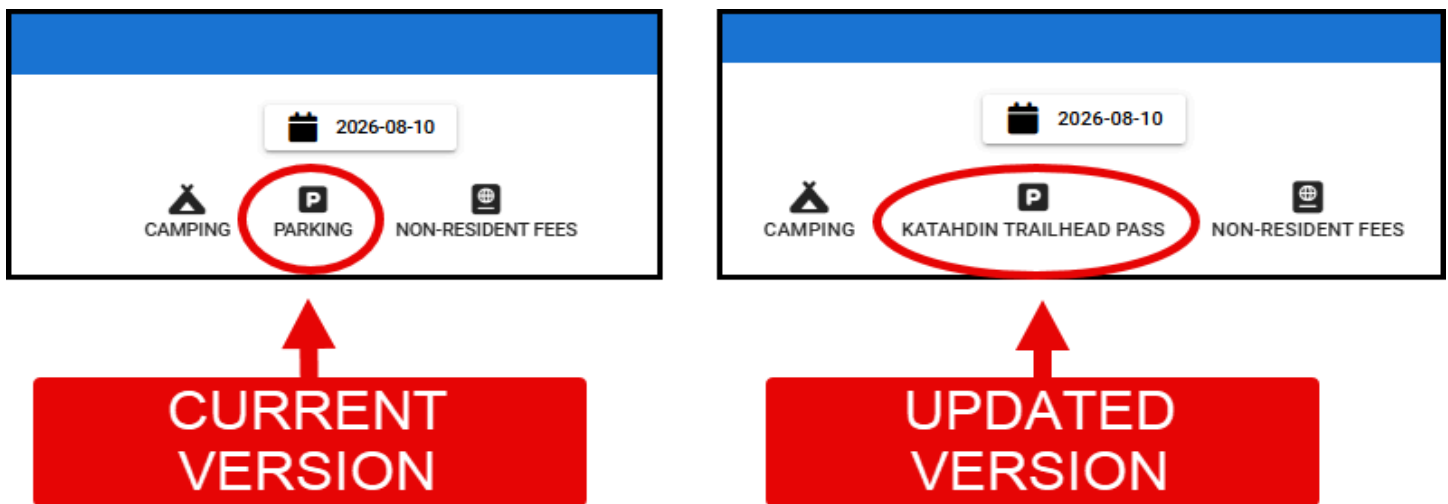
This policy does not apply to trips longer than 4 nights in which all dates are already within the 4-month rolling window; for example, if it is June 1 and you wish to book an open campsite for June 13 – June 20, you may do so without having to make multiple reservations.

Opening of the Daily 4-month Rolling Window

Beginning with the Summer 2026 season, the online reservation portal will be accessible at 6:00 AM Eastern Standard Time (instead of 12:01 AM).

Make a Reservation

The **Make a Reservation** options (Camping, Parking, Non-Resident Fees) remain the same, except in the updated version, the parking reservation button has been relabeled to ***Katahdin Trailhead Pass*** (to be purchased only by those not camping in the Park the preceding night).











Camping reservations

Campers will now have the ability to book their own reservations **online** beyond the 4-month rolling window. The new reservation policy will allow campers to reserve up to three (3) additional consecutive nights at the same site, beyond the 4-month rolling window, through the online reservation portal without having to contact the reservation office for an extension.

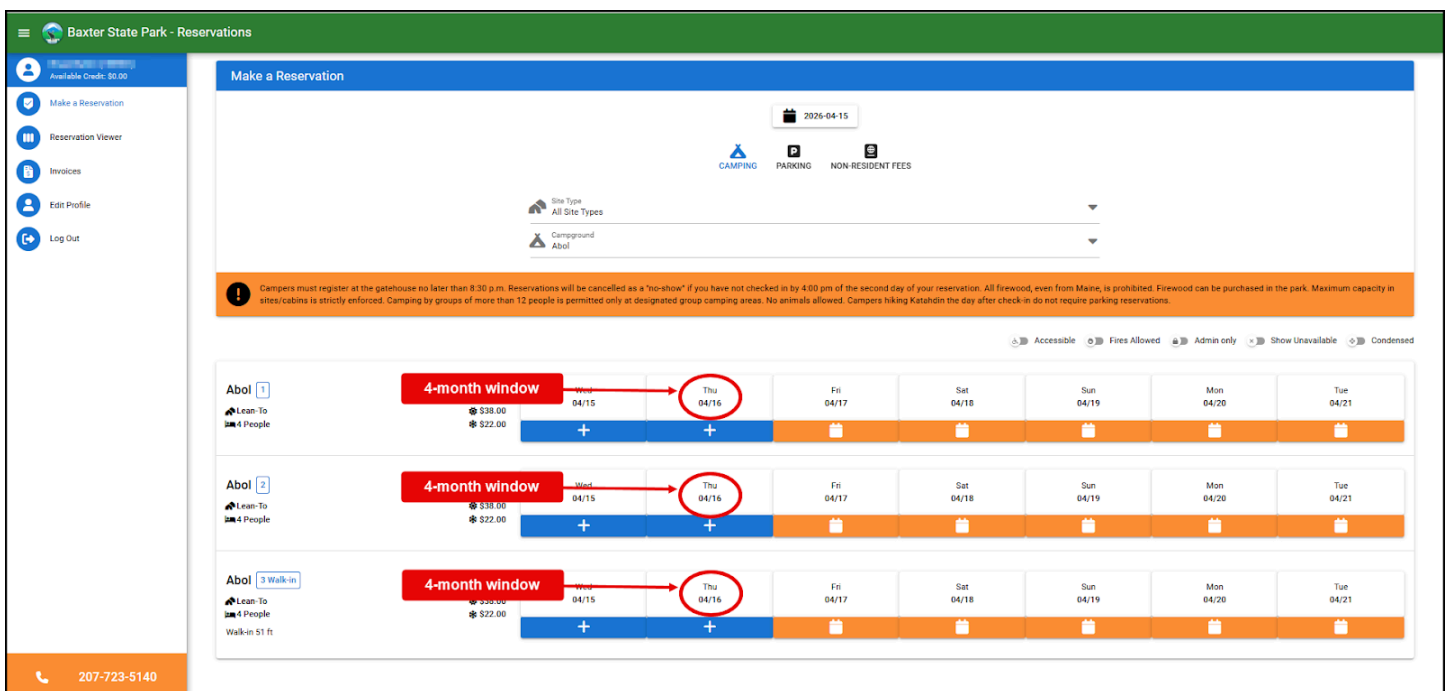
Reservations for individual backcountry sites will not be subject to this new reservation policy; such reservations will continue to be made by telephone, mail, or in person. Reservations for backcountry campgrounds (Chimney Pond and Russell Pond) will be restricted to a four-night maximum stay, consistent with roadside (front country) campgrounds. Campers undertaking multi-night trips at backcountry sites within the Park may reserve one (1) night at a roadside (front country) campground upon conclusion of their trip, even if the duration exceeds four (4) nights, provided the total trip length does not surpass the established fourteen (14) consecutive nights in the Park limitation.

Calendar Reservation Calendar Key:

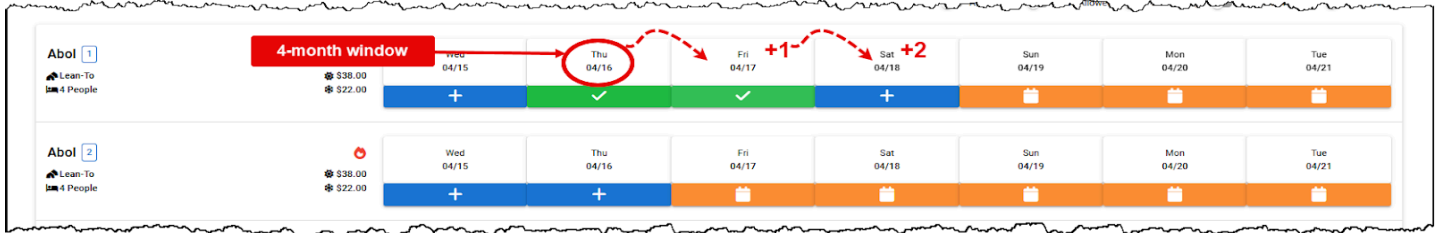
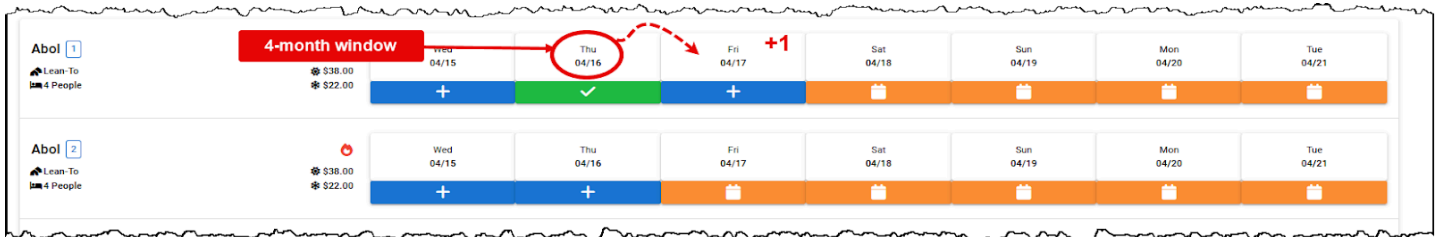
	Date is available for online reservation [within the 4-month rolling window or an allowable consecutive night beyond the rolling window.]		Date selected, but not purchased by account holder. In the shopping cart, awaiting payment. Will be removed from cart if unpaid and no activity on account after ten (10) minutes.
	Date is not yet available for reservation. (Date is not within the 4-month rolling window yet.)		Reservation amount paid, date confirmed in account.
	Reservation cannot be made online, requires in-person, mail-in, or call-in reservation.		Site is on hold for this date in another person's account, awaiting payment.
	Date not available, already reserved by another person.		Site closed - not available for reservation.

In the examples below, the calendar reflects that the available dates up to the 4-month rolling window are blue, and the dates not yet open to reserve are orange.

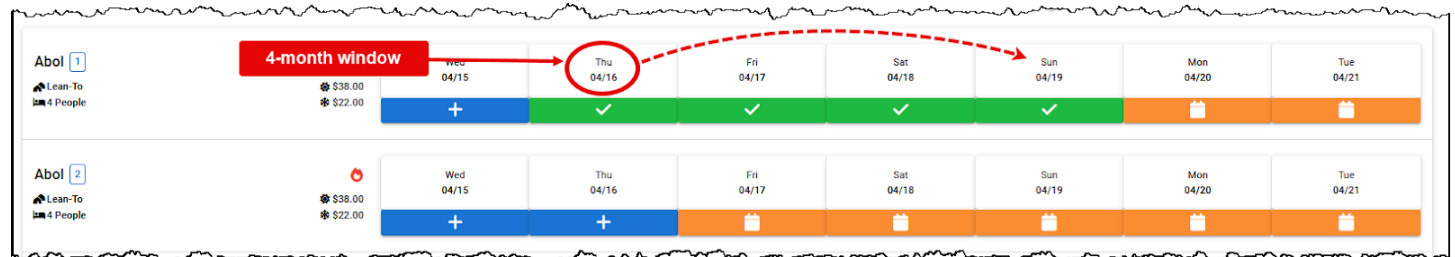
[Dates in the examples are for demonstration purposes only; the campgrounds are not open to the public during the dates displayed.]



As the prospective camper selects the desired dates, the corresponding calendar icons will be updated. When an available date (indicated in blue) is selected, its color changes to green (and the + symbol changes to a check mark). If the exact 4-month opening date is selected, the subsequent consecutive date will become blue, indicating its availability for this reservation. This process will continue until the camper has reached the maximum limit of 4 nights (three consecutive nights beyond the 4-month window), as shown in the following examples.



In the example below, you can see that the camper was able to reserve online up to three (3) nights beyond the 4-month rolling window.



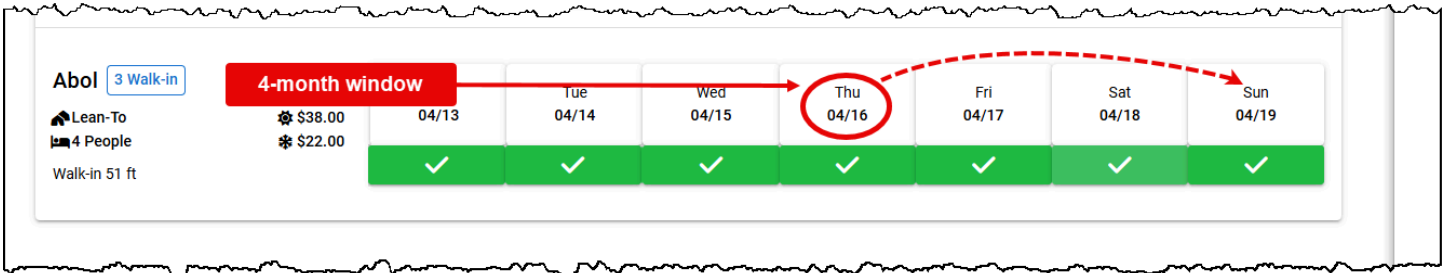
Multiple sites can be reserved within the same reservation as long as their dates are open in the 4-month rolling period, plus three (3) consecutive nights at the same site.



Campground limitations remain at twelve (12) campers in a group within a campground; groups of thirteen or more campers will require reservations at a designated group area site.

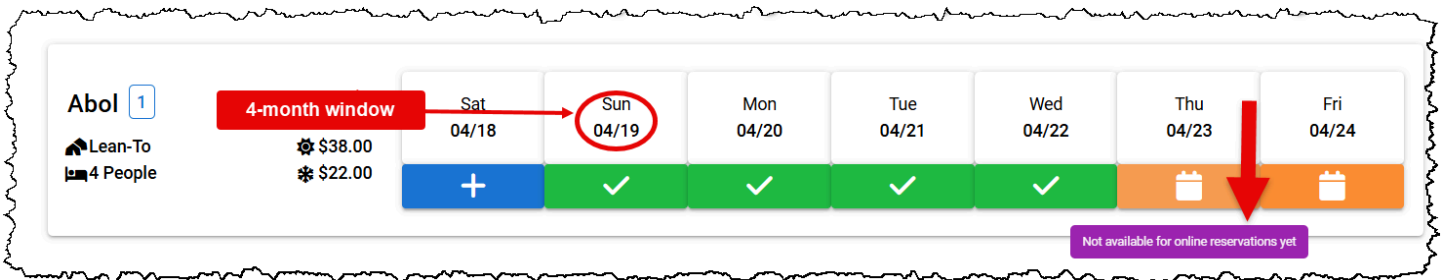


The four (4) consecutive night limitation does not apply to dates already open in the 4-month rolling window. If the dates are already open (because they are less than four months ahead of the current date), a reservation can be made for up to seven (7) consecutive nights in a single campground, and fourteen (14) consecutive nights in the Park.



The online reservation portal will not allow the selection of dates for more than three (3) consecutive nights beyond the 4-month rolling window, which is indicated by a message stating the date is not available yet. Reservations for extended stays exceeding the standard four (4) nights can be secured by waiting until the window opens for the later dates.

Itineraries including a site change require the visitor to wait until the 4-month rolling window opens for the date of the desired new site before it can be reserved.



Nonconsecutive nights beyond the 4-month window are not allowed. If a camper adds the extra nights beyond the 4-month window and then chooses to remove one of those nights (for example, night #2), the online portal will delete the non-consecutive nights that are also beyond the window and display the following message:



Camping Reservation Examples

Example 1 – Moving Between Two Front Country Sites

I want to stay at a Daicey Pond cabin for 5 nights, then move to a Katahdin Stream lean-to for two more nights, for the dates August 3-10.

Daicey Pond and Katahdin Stream are roadside campgrounds; therefore, reservations can be made using the online reservation portal.

The **online*** reservation process would be:

- On April 3rd, you may log in to your online portal account to reserve the Daicey Pond Cabin for the nights of August 3-6 by selecting those dates on the calendar. You have reached the limit for reserving beyond the 4-month rolling window, so you must wait before continuing to reserve your remaining dates.
- On April 7th, you may log in to your online portal account to continue your reservation by selecting the same or another Daicey Pond Cabin for August 7. Because you want to move to a new site for the following dates, you must wait for the 4-month rolling window to open for those dates.
- On April 8th, you may log in to your online portal account to reserve the Katahdin Stream lean-to for August 8 and 9.

**These reservations could also be made in person, by phone, or by mail, and will follow the same process as above.*

Each of the three transactions will create a separate reservation that will together represent your August 3-10 visit.

Example 2 – Moving Between Three Front Country Sites & Staying in the Park for 14 Nights

I want to stay at South Branch campground in a lean-to for 2 nights, then move to Nesowadnehunk Field lean-to for 4 nights, and finish my stay at Abol campground in a lean-to for 7 days. Trip dates are July 1-14.

South Branch, Nesowadnehunk Field, and Abol are all roadside campgrounds; therefore, reservations can be made using the online reservation portal.

The **online*** reservation process will be:

- On March 1st, you may log in to your online portal account to reserve a lean-to at South Branch campground for July 1-2. Because you want to move to a new site for the following dates, you must wait for the 4-month rolling window to open for those dates.
- On March 3rd, you may log in to your online portal account to reserve a lean-to at Nesowadnehunk Field for July 3-6. Again, because you want to move to a new site for the following dates, you must wait for the 4-month rolling window to open for those dates.
- On March 7th, you may log in to your online portal account to reserve a lean-to at Abol campground for July 7-10. You have reached the limit for reserving beyond the 4-month rolling window, so you must wait before continuing to reserve your remaining dates.
- On March 11th, you may log in to your online portal account to reserve the same or another lean-to at Abol campground for the nights of July 11-13.

**These reservations could also be made in person, by phone, or by mail, and will follow the same process as above.*

Each of the 4 transactions will create a separate reservation that will together represent your July 1-14 visit.

Example 3 – Moving Between Backcountry Sites & Into the Front Country

I want to do a 9-night backpacking trip starting at Upper South Branch for two (2) nights, hike to Pogy Pond for one (1) night, then hike to Wassataquoik Lake for two (2) nights, moving to Center Pond for three (3) nights, and then ending my trip at Nesowadnehunk Field for my last night. Trip dates are September 21-30.

Backcountry sites cannot be reserved online; therefore, reservations must be made in person, by phone, or by mail.





The reservation process will be:

- On May 21st, you may call the reservation office to reserve all nine (9) nights. *Nesowadnehunk Field is a roadside campground, but visitors staying multiple nights at backcountry sites in the Park will be able to reserve one (1) night at a roadside campground at the end of their trip.*

Katahdin Trailhead Pass Reservations

To enhance clarity regarding the process for viewing Katahdin Trailhead Pass (KTP) availability, the displayed calendar icons have been updated. To access the calendar view of availability, users are required to possess a Baxter State Park Online Reservation Portal account and have one or more vehicles associated with that account.

Katahdin Trailhead Pass (KTP) Reservation Calendar Key:

	Unknown availability because a vehicle has not been selected for the reservation. Once a vehicle is selected, the Katahdin Trailhead Pass (KTP) availability for the parking lots will display.
	Katahdin Trailhead Passes (KTPs) are available for the parking area selected for that date.
	Katahdin Trailhead Passes (KTPs) are sold out for the parking area selected for that date.
	Parking area is closed for that date. If the Katahdin trailhead is still open for hiking, a Katahdin Trailhead Pass (KTP) is not required. Parking access is on a first-come, first-served basis.

The visitor must be logged in to their account before accessing the KTP reservation window. This ensures they either select a previously registered vehicle or register a new vehicle to their account. Selection of a vehicle is **mandatory** to view KTP availability at the three (3) Katahdin trailhead parking areas: Roaring Brook, Katahdin Stream, and Abol.

Make a Reservation

2026-07-14

CAMPINGPARKINGNON-RESIDENT FEESOTHER

Select a Vehicle

YOU MUST SELECT A VEHICLE FIRST TO SEE THE AVAILABILITY OF TRAILHEAD PASSES. A Katahdin Trailhead Pass (KTP) is necessary for all visitors who want to ensure they are able to hike from a Katahdin trailhead. There is a \$10 fee to reserve a parking spot at our three Katahdin trailhead parking lots. There is a limit of 2 KTP reservations per account, per calendar month for the months of June-October. You need to have an account at baxterstatepark.org in order to complete a parking reservation. **Parking reservations are non-refundable and non-transferable.** This is different from the non-resident entrance fee, which is a fee for those from states other than Maine for entrance to the Park (Mainers enter free).

Katahdin Stream

20 Spots

Opens 06-01

Closes 10-15

\$ 10.00/Day

07/14	07/15	07/16	07/17	07/18	07/19	07/20
Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
?	?	?	?	?	?	?

Roaring Brook

30 Spots

Opens 06-01

Closes 10-15

\$ 10.00/Day

07/14	07/15	07/16	07/17	07/18	07/19	07/20
Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
?	?	?	?	?	?	?

Abol

12 Spots

Opens 06-01

Closes 10-15

\$ 10.00/Day

07/14	07/15	07/16	07/17	07/18	07/19	07/20
Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
?	?	?	?	?	?	?

If a vehicle is not selected the calendar shows dates as orange with a question mark, and a corresponding message prompts the user to select a vehicle in order to view KTP availability.

Once the vehicle is selected, the calendar will display all parking areas and the availability for KTPs at each. Visitors can then select the desired date and parking area, if available, and it will be placed in the shopping cart for purchase.

Make a Reservation

2026-07-14

CAMPINGPARKINGNON-RESIDENT FEESOTHER

Select a Vehicle

2019 Toyota Highlander | ME - 992 BHN

YOU MUST SELECT A VEHICLE FIRST TO SEE THE AVAILABILITY OF TRAILHEAD PASSES. A Katahdin Trailhead Pass (KTP) is necessary for all visitors who want to ensure they are able to hike from a Katahdin trailhead. There is a \$10 fee to reserve a parking spot at our three Katahdin trailhead parking lots. There is a limit of 2 KTP reservations per account, per calendar month for the months of June-October. You need to have an account at baxterstatepark.org in order to complete a parking reservation. **Parking reservations are non-refundable and non-transferable.** This is different from the non-resident entrance fee, which is a fee for those from states other than Maine for entrance to the Park (Mainers enter free).

Katahdin Stream

20 Spots

Opens 06-01

Closes 10-15

\$ 10.00/Day

07/14	07/15	07/16	07/17	07/18	07/19	07/20
Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
+	✓	+	+	+	+	+

Roaring Brook

30 Spots

Opens 06-01

Closes 10-15

\$ 10.00/Day

07/14	07/15	07/16	07/17	07/18	07/19	07/20
Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
+	+	+	+	+	+	+

Abol

12 Spots

Opens 06-01

Closes 10-15

\$ 10.00/Day

07/14	07/15	07/16	07/17	07/18	07/19	07/20
Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
+	+	+	+	+	+	+

CHECKOUT >

Parking

Katahdin Stream

07-15

\$ 10.00

ADD A NON-RESIDENT GATE PASS

KTP reservations are limited to two (2) per month, at any Katahdin trailhead parking area.

Visitors may reserve a KTP for multiple vehicles within a single reservation, provided the monthly limit of two (2) KTPs is not exceeded. To do so, the visitor must first select a vehicle from the dropdown list and specify the desired parking area and date. Subsequently, the visitor can select (or add) a different vehicle and designate the parking area and date for that vehicle. Both vehicles' KTP selections may be for the same parking area and date.

KTPs are non-refundable and non-transferrable (i.e., they cannot be moved to an alternate date or parking area). Should a change occur to the visitor's name or vehicle after the KTP has been acquired, the visitor must inform the gate staff of the modification, and the printed KTP will be updated during the check-in process.

All KTPs become VOID at 7:05 AM EST on the reserved date.



These forfeited KTPs will then be available to other arriving park visitors on a first-come, first served basis.



KTPs MUST be printed prior to arrival at the park and presented to the gate staff for check in.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why are these changes being made?

Both changes aim to improve visitors' experience in making reservations and to make access to camping at Baxter State Park more equitable.

- Allowing multi-night reservations online eliminates the need for campers to call our reservations office in order to extend their stay past one night. This means less time on hold with our reservations office when reserving for the busy summer months! Campers will still have the option to call the reservation office for assistance when booking camping trips if they wish.
- Limiting reservation extensions to 4 nights (down from 14 nights) will minimize the extent to which campsites get reserved in advance, ensuring more equal availability of campsites when the 4-month rolling window opens.
- Changing the time of the daily opening of the reservation window from 12:01 AM (EST) to 6 AM (EST) is expected to better accommodate most people's schedules and is similar to reservation processes used by other agencies.

Why am I now limited to 4 nights when making a reservation?

An analysis of our campsite reservations and cancellations shows that the great majority of campers (97%) stayed in the park four (4) nights or less. Thus, most visitors will still need to make only one reservation. The advantage of having a limit on the length of extensions is providing greater availability for dates beyond each daily 4-month reservation window.

What is Baxter Park's 4-month rolling window for reservations?

The 4-month rolling window means that campsites become available for reserving 4 months to the day before the date of camping.

For example:

- On January 15th, sites become available for reserving with a check-in date of May 15th.
- On January 16th, sites become available for reserving with a check-in date of May 16th.
- On February 1st, sites become available for reserving with a check-in date of June 1st.

Can I book my reservations online for more than one day, or do I have to log in every day?

The online reservation portal will become available for each new 4-month rolling window at 6:00 AM EST daily. You may then secure reservations for a maximum of four (4) consecutive nights at the same site, including your check-in night plus 3 consecutive nights beyond the 4-month rolling window. Should you desire to reserve beyond four nights or wish to move to a different site, you may log back in to the online portal to book the additional nights at your current site or change sites when the 4-month rolling window opens for those dates.

Will I still be able to book up to 14 consecutive nights in the park this summer?

Yes. The maximum limit of camping nights in the Park remains up to seven (7) nights within a single campsite/campground, and up to fourteen (14) nights across the entire park. However, it will take multiple reservations to reach these limits, unless the dates have already opened previously (see next Q&A).

Now, visitors can reserve their first camping night at the opening of the 4-month window, plus a maximum of three (3) additional consecutive nights beyond the rolling window, in the same campsite during the initial booking.

If you wish to continue your stay in a single campsite beyond four nights, you will need to wait for the opening of the 4-month rolling window for the fifth night, at which point you will be able to reserve for an additional 3 nights in the same site or campground (reaching the maximum limit of 7 nights within a single campsite/campground). To extend your stay to fourteen nights in the Park, you will need to move to a different campground for the eighth night and wait for the 4-month rolling window to open. See our examples (above) to get a better feel for what this might look like.

When reserving outside the 4-month rolling window, each change in site or campground constitutes a new reservation (within your overall visit). Please bring printed copies of **all** of your reservations (even for consecutive nights at the same site or campground).

Do I have to follow this process for every reservation I make?

No. If all of your dates are already open in the 4-month rolling window, you can book up to the campground/site limitation or consecutive night limitation in the park.

Example:

You log in to the reservation portal on April 15th to make reservations for July 20th - July 26th at South Branch Pond campground and July 27th - July 31st at Trout Brook Farm campground. All of your camping dates are already open in the 4-month rolling window (they opened on March 20th through March 31); therefore, you can book all twelve (12) consecutive nights in one reservation, provided that the sites are available.

Am I able to reserve multiple sites in the same campground for a group that will not fit into one site?

Yes. As long as the group does not exceed the maximum occupancy in a single campground, which is up to twelve (12) campers. If your group will be thirteen (13) or more campers, you will need to contact the reservation office to reserve a group area site.

For example:

You have a group of nine (9) campers and would like to reserve three lean-tos at Abol Campground. You can reserve the three sites at the same campground with the same check-in date within the 4-month rolling window.

I like to backpack through the backcountry sites and move to a new site each day during my trip; does this mean I have to call each day to reserve the next site in my trip, because it will be considered a new reservation each time?

No. Reservations for backcountry *sites* will not be subject to this new online reservations extension process (and continue to be made by phone, by mail, and in person). Reservations for backcountry *campgrounds* (Chimney Pond and Russell Pond) will be limited to 4 nights (similar to roadside campgrounds). Visitors staying multiple nights at backcountry sites in the Park will be able to reserve one (1) night at a roadside (frontcountry) campground at the end of their trip, even if the trip is longer than 4 nights (as long as the total trip length does not exceed the 14 consecutive nights limit).

If the month I'm booking for has 31 days but there are only 28 days in the current month, when will the dates of the 29-31 be released?

If the month in which you can reserve a campsite is shorter than the month you're reserving for, the remaining days in the camping month will become available for reservation on the 1st of the next reserving month.

For example:

On February 28, reservations with a check-in date of June 28 become available for booking. On March 1, reservations with check-in dates of June 29, June 30, and July 1 will be available for booking.

If the month in which you can reserve a campsite is longer than the month you're reserving for, no additional days become available at the end of the month of reserving.

For example:

On May 31, there would be no additional days open for reserving, as there is no September 31.

Can I now reserve backcountry sites and bunkhouse spots online?

No. Reservations for backcountry campgrounds/sites, bunkhouses, group areas, and accessible sites will continue to require an in-person, mail-in, or call-in request.

Has the check-in process changed when arriving at the Park?

No. You will still need to arrive at the gate to check in by 8:30 PM EST for frontcountry sites. Backcountry campgrounds/sites have earlier check-in times; please contact our office for guidance. If you arrive after the allotted time, you will not be permitted to check in for your reservation. This does not cancel your reservation if it is for more than one (1) night. You will have the opportunity to return no later than 4:00 PM (EST) the following day. If you do not check in by 4:00 PM (EST) on the second night of your reservation, the remainder of your reservation will be cancelled.

When do these changes go into effect?

These changes will be made effective starting January 15, 2026, for making reservations for the 2026 summer season.

Do these changes pertain to winter reservations?

No. These new rules apply to summer camping only and go into effect on January 15th for summer reservations.

I have not been to Baxter State Park before. How do I know what the roadside campgrounds, backcountry campgrounds, and backcountry sites are, so I understand how the reservation system works?

Roadside (frontcountry) Campgrounds – These are campgrounds that can be driven to, that have an onsite ranger:

- Abol
- Daicey Pond
- Katahdin Stream
- Kidney Pond
- Nesowadnehunk Field
- Roaring Brook
- South Branch Pond
- Trout Brook Farm

Backcountry Campgrounds – These are campgrounds that require hiking to, that have an on-site ranger:

- Chimney Pond
- Russell Pond

Backcountry Sites – These are individual sites located outside of campgrounds that require hiking or paddling to access. There are no onsite rangers:

- Billfish Pond
- Boody Brook
- Center Pond
- Davis Pond
- First Lake
- Frost Pond
- Hudson Pond
- KP Dam
- Little Coffeelos
- Little East
- Little Wassataquoik Lake
- Long Pond Outlet
- Long Pond Pines
- Lower Fowler Outlet
- Lower Fowler Pond
- Martin Pond
- Middle Fowler North
- Middle Fowler South
- North Katahdin Lake
- North West Cove
- Pine Point
- Pogy Pond
- Second Lake
- South Katahdin Lake
- Telos Cut
- Togue Ledge
- Upper South Branch Pond
- Wassataquoik Lake
- Wassataquoik Lake Island
- Wassataquoik Stream
- Webster Outlet

Need Assistance?

Please contact our office at (207) 723-5140 during business hours with any questions or needed assistance.

The Reservations office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
and is open on weekends from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Memorial Day through Indigenous Peoples Day.