

# Maine 2004

While we will not be following a 3-3-3 travel plan, the plan is to limit the daily travel to 4 to 5 hours per day, meaning we must check out by 10 or 11 AM and return to our campsite in 3 hours. Keeping the speed while hauling the camper to 5 mph below

the limit, we found it a more relaxing trip, but this speed added at least an hour to our drive. We left Union City around 1 PM on Thursday, the 12th of September, with our first stop at Love's Gas & Travel Plaza (Madison, Ohio), a drive of 4 hours and around 257 miles from Union City, MI. Love's Travel Stop #863 is just off



Interstate 90 and an exciting stop. Many Love's Travel

Gas Plazes have water & electric hook-ups with bathrooms and pay showers in the plaza. We stayed one night and paid 40\$-- much cheaper than the hotel and found a great little place to eat in Madison, OH.

For the second leg, we wanted to be somewhere near Binghamton, NY, making it a long day of driving, some 400 miles, and driving over 5 hours. Kathy attempted to find a Hilton but could not find anything cheaper than 200+ dollars, so we camped at KOA, Coopertown (Richfield Springs, NY), which was in "no-man's" land. Our GPS took us the "long way" to the campground as we arrived to set up – it became the very first time to set up in the dark. After leveling and attaching sewer, water, and electric power, we didn't disconnect the truck; instead, we fixed dinner and piled it into bed. The following day, we were off to Concord, NH.

The third stop to Concord, NH (the KOA was in Strafford / Lake Winnepesaukee South) was a needed day off the road. Leaving Coopertown, NY, we followed Hwy 20 to Albany and connected with NH 9 to Concord. The very hilly drive through Vermont was full of beautiful reds, oranges, and yellows, and the leaves were changing. The highway was mostly two lanes going through all sorts of little towns at 55 and 35 MPH. The trip was about 338 miles ( 6 hours), leaving Maine's Bar Harbor, only some winding miles away.

After a day off in Rochester (great restaurant)/ Strafford, we shot down to Portsmouth and picked up I-95 to I-295 around Portland. At Augusta, we took ME highway 3 right to KOA Bar Harbor Oceanside, which was only 268 miles, another 6 hours.

South on I-69 to I-80/90 East toward Toledo/Cleveland and Erie, Pa. Exit to I-86 toward Elmira/ Binghamton, NY. At Binghamton, NY, pick up I-88 and take it to Albany, NY. The drive became interesting as we headed off Hwy 7/9 to Brattleboro, NH/ Keene, and Concord, NH. KOA in Stafford, NH, is about 20 miles NE from Concord. Through Portsmouth/Kittery and I-95 and Augusta, we traveled East on Hwy 3/ Hwy 1 to Bar Harbor and the KOA Bar Harbor/ Oceanside (136 County Rd., Bar Harbor, ME 04609).

The campground on the west side of Mount Desert Island, with outstanding views and easy access (if needed to Western Bay, had an excellent proximity to Acadia National Park and local restaurants and shops. We had asked for full



service; however, we did not receive sewer as the back-in was too close to the bay, and regulations did not allow sewer. We had to dump our waste before leaving and take our showers at the nearby restrooms/showers, which turned out fine, but it was not convenient. The showers were nice but not nearly as nice as one's camper– after all, one did not have to grab all shower “stuff” and leave the warmth of one’s camper. If we go back, we will remember to make sure we book full service farther away from the bay.

September 16, 2024, was our first day camping in Maine, and like all first days, we decided to do some reconnaissance around the area, primarily looking for great places to eat.

One of the things we liked the most were riding the carriage roads with our e-bike and pulling Chaplin in his bugger. Acadia provides different opportunities for bicycling on carriage roads, bike paths, gravel roads, and paved roads with various options based on experience, elevation change, type of bicycle, and destination. Winding through the park's heart are carriage roads with crushed rock surfaces perfect for wide cycling tires. Before venturing out, use a carriage road map for orientation and distances between intersections. The website advises that cyclists share the carriage roads with horses and pedestrians and yield to horses and everyone else. Only Class 1 e-bikes are permitted on



carriage roads, and no bicycles exceeding 20 mph are allowed.

Additionally, carriage roads are often closed to all traffic during the March and April spring mud season. The Park Loop Road offers scenic views but is winding and narrow and may be congested with vehicles. There is no shoulder on the road. Biking the Park Loop Road is not advised during the busy part of the day (generally 10 am to 4 pm). Bikes must follow the traffic flow on the one-way section of Park Loop Road. The road up Cadillac Mountain is very steep and can be dangerous.

One of the side trips was to visit the Goodrich farm, where my mother had grown up and where I had spent many summers with my grandparents learning to farm and playing with the animals.



We left Maine and reversed our route after visiting my Aunt Elizabeth's Colby College and spreading her



ashes. Colby College, located in Waterville, Maine, was founded in 1813 and is the 12th-oldest private liberal arts college in the country. The college campus of 714 acres of Mayflower Hill overlooks downtown Waterville and the

Kennebec River Valley. Just off I-75, Colby College is a beautiful, picture-postcard campus offering students and guests a safe, retreat-type setting that fosters learning and growth. Leaving Waterville, we headed to Concord, NH (the KOA was in Strafford / Lake Winnepesaukee South) and another overnight stay at a great campground. Then, up with the sun, heading through the rain toward home. That was our first long trip with the camper.