

Errol NH Moose & Wildlife Viewing Guide

Local moose-viewing tips, published wildlife-viewing areas, short nature walks and scenic drives around Errol and the Umbagog region

MOOSE COUNTRY	WILDLIFE & WATER	SCENIC STOPS
Marshes, wallows, and wetland corridors begin within a few miles of Errol.	Loons, eagles, osprey, beaver, otter, and other wildlife around Umbagog waterways.	Short walks, river scenery, waterfalls and overlooks make the trip worthwhile even when wildlife stays hidden.

Presented by Errol Motel

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How to Use This Guide

This is a flexible wildlife-viewing guide rather than a fixed itinerary. Choose one nearby corridor for a short outing, combine several stops for a half day, or use the longer excursions to spend more time exploring the Great North Woods and Umbagog region.

NO MOOSE? THE TRIP IS STILL WORTH IT

Moose and other wildlife are wild, and sightings are never guaranteed. These routes were chosen for wildlife habitat as well as wetlands, rivers, waterfalls, short nature walks and scenic views, so the outing can still be rewarding when wildlife stays out of sight.

Two Kinds of Viewing Locations

ERROL MOTEL LOCAL TIP	Locations based on firsthand local knowledge and repeated local observations. Distances are approximate.
PUBLISHED VIEWING LOCATION	Locations identified by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service or another public wildlife/recreation source.

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When to Look for Moose

[U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#) guidance for the Umbagog area says moose are most active and easiest to observe around dawn and dusk. Spring can be productive because moose may visit roadsides for residual road salt, and the fall mating period can also increase visibility. On hot summer days, moose often spend more time in shaded forest and may be easier to encounter near roads on cloudy days.

DRIVE FOR THE CONDITIONS, NOT THE SIGHTING

Dawn and dusk can be productive viewing times, but low light also makes moose much harder to see on the road. Slow down, scan well ahead, and never stop in a travel lane to watch wildlife.

Excursion 1 – Route 16 North & Umbagog

This is a strong choice for a short wildlife outing from Errol because local marshes begin only a few miles from the motel and the same corridor leads to published moose-viewing areas and [Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge](#).

ERROL MOTEL LOCAL TIP

Route 16 North – Marshy Areas Beginning About 4 Miles from Errol Motel

Travel north on Route 16 toward the Maine/Rangeley direction. Beginning at roughly 4 miles after turning on Route 16, watch the marshy areas and wet openings along the corridor. Moose have been spotted in these habitats. Pull completely off the roadway only where it is safe and legal to do so.

ERROL MOTEL LOCAL TIP

New Greenough Pond Road – About 2.8 Miles from Errol Motel

New Greenough Pond Road, off Route 16, has wet and marshy habitat where moose have been seen locally. [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#) separately identifies Greenough Pond Road as suitable northern wildlife habitat, especially around pond and wetland areas.

PUBLISHED VIEWING LOCATION

Just North of Errol Dam

[U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#) identifies a small pond just north of Errol Dam where moose are sometimes seen feeding on aquatic vegetation, followed by additional wallow areas farther north along Route 16.

PUBLISHED VIEWING LOCATION

Route 16 North of Refuge Headquarters

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service identifies a long muddy stretch about 1.5 miles north of [Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge](#) headquarters as a place where moose are commonly seen. Use only safe pull-offs and never stop in the travel lane.

Wildlife Stop: Magalloway River Trail

The Magalloway River Trail is a particularly good addition because it remains a wildlife-focused stop. [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#) describes the trail network as a place to view moose, boreal birds, and waterfowl. The route passes through spruce-fir forest to an observation platform overlooking Magalloway River backwaters.

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OPTIONAL SCENIC ADD-ON – ROOST TRAIL

Across Route 16 near the refuge canoe launch, the Roost Trail is a moderately steep forest walk that ends at an overlook above the refuge, Umbagog area and mountains of western Maine. [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#) lists the trail at about 0.6 mile each way.

Optional Maine Extension – Route 16 toward Wilson's Mills & Oquossoc

If you want to continue farther on Route 16, Rangeley Lakes regional tourism information identifies the Route 16 corridor between the New Hampshire border, Wilson's Mills and Oquossoc as a moose-sighting area. Treat this as an extension of the Route 16 excursion rather than a guaranteed destination sighting.

Excursion 2 – Route 26 East, Umbagog & Local Back Roads

This excursion combines one of the federal refuge's documented Route 26 moose-viewing areas with several Errol Motel local tips in marshy habitat east of town.

ERROL MOTEL LOCAL TIP

Route 26 East – Marshy Areas Beginning About 4 Miles from the Motel

Travel east on Route 26 toward Umbagog Lake and Maine. Beginning at roughly 4 miles from the motel, watch the wet and marshy areas along the corridor. Moose have been spotted in these habitats.

PUBLISHED VIEWING LOCATION

Route 26 East – About 5 Miles from Errol

[U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#) identifies a moose wallow approximately 5 miles east of Errol on Route 26 and warns that moose may cross the road in this area.

ERROL MOTEL LOCAL TIP

Mountain Pond Road near Potter Farm Road

Mountain Pond Road, off Route 26 approximately 5 miles from the motel, has marshy habitat near the Potter Farm Road fork where moose have been seen locally. Drive slowly and respect private property, gates, and posted restrictions.

ERROL MOTEL LOCAL TIP

Lakeside Road

Lakeside Road is approximately 6.5 miles from the motel off Route 26. Around 1.5 miles down Lakeside Road, marshy habitat provides another local area where moose have been spotted. Use only safe places to pull off and do not block access.

Wildlife by Water

[Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge](#) says the lake and surrounding rivers are especially well suited to wildlife observation from the water. Canoe and kayak outings may offer opportunities to see moose, common loons, bald eagles, osprey, waterfowl and other wildlife around marshes and backwaters.

PROTECT NESTING WILDLIFE

Paddlers can disturb nesting loons, waterfowl, eagles, and osprey by getting too close to shorelines, coves, and backwaters. During the nesting and breeding season, follow refuge guidance, stay well away from nests, and retreat if birds show signs of disturbance.

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Excursion 3 – Choose a Longer Wildlife & Scenic Drive

If you have more time, choose either the southern Androscoggin/Thirteen Mile Woods corridor or the western Route 26/Dixville Notch corridor. Both combine published moose-viewing guidance with scenery that makes the drive worthwhile even without a sighting.

Option A – Thirteen Mile Woods & Pontook

PUBLISHED VIEWING LOCATION

Route 16 South – Errol to Pontook Reservoir

[U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#) describes the stretch between Errol and Pontook Reservoir, including Thirteen Mile Woods, as an excellent place to see moose. Moose may be seen in swampy and backwater areas along the Androscoggin River.

Scenic Stop: Androscoggin Wayside Park

[Androscoggin Wayside Park](#), part of [Mollidgewock State Park](#), lies along the Androscoggin River within Thirteen Mile Woods. [New Hampshire State Parks](#) describes it as a scenic place for picnicking, fishing, and canoeing. It works well as a quiet river stop during a wildlife drive.

Optional Extension: Success Road

For a longer outing, [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#) identifies Success Road near Milan as another area with several moose wallows where moose are frequently seen. Use the refuge's current directions and local road signs rather than relying on an old route description.

Option B – Route 26 West & Dixville Notch

PUBLISHED VIEWING LOCATION

Route 26 West toward Dixville Notch

[U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#) says moose may be seen along Route 26 west of Errol and advises watching the tree line carefully. Just before the climb into Dixville Notch, the agency identifies a New Hampshire Fish and Game wildlife-viewing area on the left.

Scenic Stop: Dixville Notch State Park & Baby Flume

Dixville Notch State Park adds a worthwhile scenic stop without turning the day into a major hike. [New Hampshire State Parks](#) describes the park's scenic gorge and waterfalls and says Baby Flume is less than 0.1 mile from a roadside parking area.

KEEP THE PURPOSE WILDLIFE-FIRST

The scenic stops are optional. They are here to make the drive more rewarding. Spend the most time where habitat and current wildlife activity make sense.

What You Might See

[Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge](#) supports a wide range of wildlife. The animals below are documented in the refuge area, but presence in the region does not mean you should expect to see every species on a visit.

WETLANDS, LAKES & RIVERS	Moose • Beaver • River otter • Mink • Muskrat
BIRDS AROUND WATER	Common loon • Bald eagle • Osprey • Waterfowl
FOREST & UPLANDS	Black bear • Bobcat • Fisher • Marten

Seasonal Moose Behavior

Spring: [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#) calls spring an excellent time to see moose because they may visit roadsides to lick salt left from winter road treatment.

Summer: On hot days, moose often seek cooler, shaded forest. The refuge notes that cloudy summer days may improve the chances of seeing them near roads.

Fall: The fall mating period is another time when moose may be more readily seen. Give animals extra space and never approach a moose for a closer photograph.

Winter: Moose remain present, but winter weather changes their behavior. The refuge notes that on cold, windy, and cloudy days they often seek shelter in the woods.

Moose & Wildlife Viewing Safety

- Never stop in the travel lane. Pull completely off the road only where it is safe and legal.
- Moose are very large, unpredictable animals. Never approach one on foot.
- Give cows with calves especially generous space. A protective cow may charge if approached.
- Moose can be extremely difficult to see in low light because of their dark coloration. Slow down at dawn, dusk and after dark.
- Use binoculars, a spotting scope, or a telephoto lens instead of moving closer.
- If an animal changes its behavior because of your presence, you are too close.
- Never feed wildlife.
- Respect private property, posted land, gates, and access roads.

Photography Tips

- Keep binoculars and your camera accessible before you begin the drive, so you do not need to search for gear after a sighting.
- A longer lens lets you photograph wildlife without approaching it.
- Use the vehicle as a viewing point when stopping safely is possible; do not step into traffic or crowd an animal.
- Be patient around wetlands and backwaters. Wildlife may be partly hidden in vegetation rather than standing beside the road.

THE BEST PHOTO IS NOT WORTH DISTURBING THE ANIMAL

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Make Errol Your Wildlife-Viewing Base

Errol Motel sits close to several of the wildlife-viewing corridors in this guide. Local marshes along Routes 16 and 26 begin only a few miles from town, while [Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge](#), Thirteen Mile Woods and the Androscoggin River corridor provide additional wildlife habitat and scenic stops.

Because wildlife viewing is often best early or late in the day, staying in Errol makes it easy to head out for a short morning or evening drive without turning the outing into an all-day trip.

ERROL MOTEL	RESERVATIONS
132 Main Street Errol, New Hampshire 03579	603-482-3256 errolmotel@gmail.com errol-motel.com

Reservations are made directly by phone or email.

Wildlife is never guaranteed. The adventure is.

Wildlife Resources & Further Information

Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge – Wildlife Watching

Moose-viewing guidance, published viewing locations and wildlife-observation etiquette.

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/umbagog/visit-us/activities/wildlife-watching>

Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge – Hiking

Current information for the Magalloway River Trail and Roost Trail.

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/umbagog/visit-us/activities/hiking>

Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge – Species

Wildlife documented in the refuge's lakes, rivers, wetlands, and uplands.

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/umbagog/species>

Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge – Non-Motorized Boating

Wildlife viewing by canoe or kayak and guidance for protecting nesting birds.

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/umbagog/visit-us/activities/boating---non-motorized>

Dixville Notch State Park

Official information about the park, gorge, waterfalls, and Baby Flume.

<https://www.nhstateparks.org/find-parks-trails/dixville-notch-state-park>

Androscoggin Wayside Park

Official information about this scenic stop along the Androscoggin River in Thirteen Mile Woods.

<https://www.nhstateparks.org/find-parks-trails/androscoggin-wayside-park>

Rangeley Lakes Region - Wildlife Viewing

Regional wildlife-viewing information for the Route 16 corridor between the New Hampshire border, Wilson's Mills and Oquossoc.

<https://www.rangeleymaine.com/rangeley-wildlife-viewing/>

Errol Motel is not affiliated with or endorsed by the organizations listed above. Local-tip distances are approximate, wildlife sightings are never guaranteed, and access or road conditions can change. Check current signs and official information before your outing.

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