

# NICATOUS LODGE

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR OUR GUESTS

### **Mission Statement:**

Our goal is to provide our guests with an authentic Maine Sporting Camp experience. This experience is dominated by Lake Niatous and the Niatous Stream which are pristine wilderness waterways. The surrounding woods are much like they have been for thousands of years; the Niatous Lodge has been a jumping off point to the Maine Wilderness since it was erected in 1928. Prior to that, this waterway was used for logging and before that by the Penobscot Indians who canoed the long lake on their way to trade furs with the earliest settlers in Bar Harbor.

Visitors to the Niatous Lodge camp and stay where adventurers, hunters, fisherman, loggers, and canoeists of several generations have come before them. Many of our customers today are the direct descendants of guests that came to the Lodge 70 years ago! We honor and respect the importance of that tradition here at the Niatous Lodge where all who enjoy the deep Maine woods and the natural beauty of this wilderness area are welcomed. Our camping experience is hardly primitive; it is designed for those that truly appreciate the simple, meaningful things in life: the pleasure of a warm fire, the healing ability of cool, crystal clear water, and the joy of early morning light when the fish are biting!

Our guests are guaranteed a landscape that is astonishingly beautiful. Our off the grid experience will allow you to safely enjoy a remoteness that you cannot easily find south of Canada and Alaska. One of the largest lakes in Maine, Lake Niatous has less than 100 camps on its shoreline and very few are visible from the water. This vast protected wilderness area will not see any development in its future. So come to the Niatous Lodge, only a short one-hour drive from Bangor Maine, and experience your own true north.

### **Environmental Policy:**

We are off the grid at the Niatous Lodge and we make our own electricity by burning diesel fuel. We are very much aware of our carbon footprint and the sound of our own diesel generator that runs for a few hours each day.

Because we store electricity in a bank of batteries we are able to offer our guests round the clock use of electricity. However, we ask all of our guests to turn out lights after use and conserve electricity whenever possible. Hairdryers, flatirons, irons, and portable electric heaters and electric blankets are prohibited. Please do not waste energy; all of our systems are designed to have a low impact on the environment.

The Niatous Lake and the Niatous Stream are both pristine waterways. Though the Lodge and our cabins are all connected to septic tanks and leeching fields, our property is nearly surrounded by water. Therefore, we ask that you use only the approved soaps and shampoos that we distribute to our guests and keep in the cabins. Please flush responsibly! Nothing but 1 and 2 ply toilet paper in the toilets.

In an effort to reduce our energy production and because we try to limit the amount of graywater that we produce, we have instituted a new linen policy for 2016:

- Guests are to pack in and out, their own sheets, pillow cases, and towels. Sleeping bags are fine too! The Lodge will provide an ample selection of blankets and covers.
- A \$20 linen fee will be charged for each person or bed requiring sheets and linens; this fee will cover our cost of transporting Laundry to Lincoln Maine for washing and drying.
- Prior to your visit, the Lodge staff will inform you of the bed sizes for your cabin stay.

We strive to provide our guests with a quality outdoor experience that has the least impact on the surrounding environment. We appreciate everyone's cooperation and we will work to accommodate any reasonable requests or exceptions—as long as they conform to our overall goal of maintaining the pristine quality of the air and water.

### **Safety Policy**

The safety of our guests is our number one priority. If you need some advice regarding lake conditions, trails, stream flows, etc. we can provide you with some basic information. However, we ask that all guests do their own planning with regard to daily activities. We will also refer our guests a list of authorized Maine Guides who will be able to organize and supervise any kind of activity that you might have in mind.

At check in you will be asked to sign a general release form for our waterfront sports and activities. The lodge has many canoes and kayaks that are available for daily use on a first come, first served basis. We also rent small boats and motors to our guests. Though the lodge provides basic safety gear, our guests, particularly those bringing along small children, are encouraged to bring their own PFD and other safety equipment. It is the responsibility of all of our guests to conduct themselves safely while on the property.

The lodge and all of the camps rely heavily on the use of wood burning fireplaces and stoves for heat. Our staff can help with the building of fires; however our guests will be responsible for maintaining the safe use and handling of the fires once they are started. Outdoor Fires will be started and maintained by the Lodge staff. Absolutely no cutting of wood on the grounds of the Nicaous Lodge, and the use of open fires is prohibited unless authorized by the Lodge.

Guns, fishing equipment, ATVs and Snow sleds are all part of the Nicaous Lodge experience. Our guests always bring this equipment along on their own and we make plenty of space available for parking and storage. All of our guests are responsible for handling their own equipment safely and without endangering any other guests of the lodge. Fireworks are prohibited except on the fourth of July.

The Nicaous Lodge has an outstanding reputation for safety and in fact the Lodge is known as a launching off point for rescue operations during all four seasons. We have found that the first step toward a safe adventure is to communicate your plan! Please let us know what you are doing each day that you are staying with us.

Finally, we are very upfront about the Nicaous Lodge experience. You are a long way from civilization here! Outdoor activities such as kayaking and canoeing are inherently dangerous. The deep Maine woods will challenge even the fittest among us. Please come to the Lodge prepared for a physically demanding experience and be aware that we take safety very seriously here at the Nicaous Lodge.

**Off the Grid, Telecom and Communications Policy:**

The last seven miles of your journey to the Nicaous Lodge will take you off the grid and into a remote wilderness area that is largely uninhabited. Therefore, you cannot totally rely on cell phone service, the internet, and other means of modern communication due to the limitations of coverage. However, we are well aware of the requirements of modern life and so we do our best to make your stay accessible to the outside world by maintaining satellite and cell phone links to the outside world.

**Main Phone Line:** The lodge phone, which is an enhanced cell phone, is always available to our guests for making or receiving calls. We have several hand held units which you can use to make private calls.

**Cell Phone Booster:** The lodge has installed a cell phone booster to enhance cell phone coverage and the use of text messaging. While we make no guarantees; these services generally work on the lodge premises or sometime out on the lake.

**Satellite Internet:** We have a very slow speed satellite internet service that allows our guests to pick up emails. We deliver the internet service via wi-fi which is generally available in the lodge and on the lodge grounds.

**Satellite TV:** There is a small flat screen in the common area dining room. The flat screen is used for really important programming such as news, weather, and really big sporting events. The TV is turned on at the discretion of the Lodgeowner.

The Nicaous Lodge is very remote and on the edge of a substantial wilderness area. Our guests typically come to the lodge to get away from modern technology and to spend quality time with family or friends or sometimes on their own. Therefore, our policy is to provide only a minimal but workable link back to the civilized world. We ask that all of our guests respect the privacy of other guests and the peaceful enjoyment of our common areas by all.