Get Away From it all in the Greater Bridgton Lakes Region

Getting away from the crowds is easy in the Greater Bridgton Lakes Region. Venture beyond our towns and villages and into the countryside to explore these and other lesser-known spots.

Holt Pond Nature Preserve  Tucked away on a dirt road in Naples is Holt Pond Nature Preserve, "a magical place to explore . . ." The bog pond, Muddy River, beaver dams, a quaking bog, cattails, pitcher plants, a heron rookery and more await in this 500-acre preserve. A canoe is available for public use; bring your own paddles and PFD. Boardwalks make wet areas accessible. Trails are well-marked. Guided walks are offered throughout the year by Lakes Environmental Association or enjoy this place by your self for quiet reflection.

Kezar Falls Gorge  This gorge, located off a dirt road in Lovell, is easy to miss because it's not marked--truly a chance to get away from it all. Open your windows and listen for the rushing water, while looking for three unmarked driveways. They all lead to the same small parking area. Water flows from Five Kezars Pond in Waterford, through Kezar River and down to Kezar Falls Gorge. A chain link fence guards the open ledge at the top of the gorge, which is ten-yards deep and forty-yards long. Paths to the left and right of the fence provide a better view of the glacial stone carved by centuries of ceaseless water flow. The pool at the bottom of the gorge is emerald green and refreshing cold.

Deer Hill Bog  A wildlife viewing blind including benches, cut-outs for viewing and informational posters offers a quiet place to watch the natural habitat in Stow. The bog is a result of man and nature working together. And old wood dam and a beaver lodge created this 25-acre bog. From moose and Great Blue Herons to aquatic plants and tiny organisms, over 90 species make their home here.

Hemlock Bridge  Built in 1857, of Paddleford truss construction with supporting laminated wooden arches, Hemlock Bridge in Fryeburg is a quaint and charming reminder of days gone by. The 109-foot long covered bridge spans the old course of the Saco River. Though reinforced in 1988 so you can drive across the bridge, it's more fun to walk across. Take time to admire the work of our forefathers, peer at the river and read the graffiti on Maine's oldest remaining covered bridge.

Brownfield Bog  The Brownfield Bog Wildlife Management Area provides over 5,700 acres of wetland habitat. Use a canoe or kayak to explore the bog; a limited trail system exists. Bring a picnic and enjoy the nesting waterfowl, deer, beaver, muskrats or turtles. If you are lucky, you might even site a moose. In the winter, explore the bog by snowshoes or cross-country skis.

Crooked River  To canoe a stretch of whitewater with medium difficulty, try the section of Crooked River from East Waterford to Scribner's Mills. Enjoy the sites and sounds of the Maine woods as Crooked River also meanders through Jugtown Plains in Casco. This is 3,280 acres of managed forest, which is home to a rare pitch pine-heath.

Needles Eye  For a cool, refreshing spot in the middle of the summer climb .4 mile up the Bald Peak Trail of Pleasant Mountain and look for the spur trail on the left, which leads to Needles Eye. Though the water flows down the 30-40 high granite walls in the spring, when the water is low it is possible to walk into this narrow gorge and feel a
drastic change in temperature. The rock formations and cool water make this a fun destination on a hot day.