

# NPCATRAVEL



The Travel Program of the National Parks Conservation Association

SEPT 23-29, 2023

## ACADIA TO KATAHDIN

*Exploring Maine's Waterways, Woodlands  
and Wabanaki Cultural Heritage*



**SEE**

MAINE'S BREATHTAKING  
COASTLINE

**LEARN**

ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE  
WABANAKI PEOPLE

**EXPERIENCE**

THE PRISTINE WILDERNESS  
OF ACADIA AND KATAHDIN

SANDY STREAM POND AND NORTH BASIN  
Baxter State Park, ME



**PARK HIGHLIGHTS**

- View Acadia's famous sunrise from **Cadillac Mountain**, the highest point on the eastern seaboard of the U.S.
- Embark on a **guided kayak tour in Frenchman Bay** among the beautiful Porcupine Islands, keeping an eye out for harbor seals, porpoises and other marine and bird life as you enjoy views of the dramatic Maine coastline
- See **Mt. Katahdin by air** as you fly over the vast boreal forests and free-flowing rivers below

**NPCA EXCLUSIVES**

- Take part in a **one-of-a-kind trip**, custom designed with NPCA's mission, work and partners at its heart
- **Engage with NPCA experts** as you navigate through some of Maine's most stunning wilderness and discover the contrast between Acadia's well-visited parkland and the remote and rugged wilderness of Katahdin
- Spend time on the water with **NPCA partner Frenchman Bay United**, for a firsthand account of their critical work to combat threats and protect the waters surrounding Mount Desert Island
- Immerse yourself in the beauty of Acadia National Park as you hike and explore with a **naturalist guide**
- Take a **behind-the-scenes tour** of the **Abbe Museum** to learn about Wabanaki culture and the area's indigenous history, then participate in a private program with **Wabanaki REACH**, a local educational non-profit, to gain a deeper understanding of Wabanaki history and their long-standing ties to the land now called the state of Maine

**FEATURED BIO: LAUREN COSGROVE**

**Lauren Cosgrove** serves as NPCA's Northeast Senior Program Manager. Lauren's environmental work includes efforts to bolster nationwide park funding, restore natural, historical and cultural resources, and build a movement for community-led stewardship and advocacy for Northeast national parks.

## Acadia to Katahdin

### *Exploring Maine's Waterways, Woodlands and Wabanaki Cultural Heritage*

**ACTIVITY LEVEL**

Moderate

**AVAILABLE DATES:** September 23-29, 2023 | **Min/Max:** 12/14**Length of Tour:** 7 days/6 nights**NPCA Member Price:** \$7,515 per person double occupancy; \$1,360 single supplement**Deposit:** \$980 per person due at registration**Arrive/Depart:** Bangor, ME**Reservations:** Please contact Jared Dial, NPCA's Associate Director of the Educational Travel Program, at **1.800.628.7275** or email the Travel Program at **travel@npca.org**.**Activity Level:** Travelers should be prepared for full-day adventures of walking, standing, and sitting. This tour includes hiking, long walks and kayaking. Hikes during our journey are rated easy to moderate with minimal elevation gain, and are typically 1.5-3 miles in length, with our longest being up to 4.5 miles. We recommend travelers bring hiking poles. All hikes are optional and, wherever possible, your guides will provide alternative options for either a shorter or less demanding route. Hikes, walks, and vehicle transportation may be on rough terrain and take multiple hours.**Inclusions:** All outlined accommodations, meals as noted in the itinerary (B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner), non-alcoholic beverages (alcoholic beverages *will* be included for the welcome dinner and farewell dinner), standard gratuities, entry fees for activities listed in the itinerary and carbon offsets for each trip day.**Exclusions:** Airfare to arrival location and from departure location, luggage charges, alcoholic drinks (alcoholic beverages *will* be included for the welcome dinner and farewell dinner), travel insurance, items of a purely personal nature and any items not listed in Inclusions.

Welcome to picturesque Maine, home to a rocky coastline, stunning mountain views, lush forests, flowing waterways, and a fascinating natural and cultural history.

Here, the charming town of Bar Harbor on Mount Desert Island serves as a gateway to the beauty and adventure of Acadia National Park and Frenchman Bay. To the north, the remote wilderness of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and the adjacent Baxter State Park encompass some of the most rugged terrain in the Northeast. Journey alongside NPCA experts and key partners on land and on water to experience these unique places firsthand and get a behind-the-scenes look at how the organization is fighting to protect them. We'll discover the ways in which Acadia and

Katahdin are inextricably linked as a migration pathway for tribes, while learning about the challenges of managing and preserving these two very different park sites.

During this exclusive NPCA small group tour, you'll be immersed in the serenity of Maine's diverse and vibrant landscape, coming away with a greater appreciation for, and understanding of, not just the natural importance of this area, but also the cultural significance of these places to the Wabanaki people. Learn about NPCA's crucial role in conservation here, as well as efforts to expand cultural resource protections and increase tribal representation to ensure the preservation of this significant location for generations to come.



## DAILY ITINERARY

### DAY SEPT 23: Arrivals into Bangor, ME and

#### 1 Transfer to Bar Harbor

Arrive by 2:00 PM into **Bangor International Airport (BGR)** and meet your Iconic Trip Leader at baggage claim. Once the entire group arrives, transfer 1 hour and 30 minutes via private shuttle to Bar Harbor. Settle into the charming **Inn on Mount Desert**, our home for the next three nights. This evening, we'll gather for brief introductions and an orientation to the days ahead and enjoy a welcome reception and dinner at a local restaurant. [\*The Inn on Mount Desert \(D\)\*](#)

### DAY SEPT 24: Frenchman Bay and Bar Harbor

2 After breakfast at the Inn this morning, head to the **Abbe Museum** for a behind-the-scenes tour. Here we will be introduced to the history and culture of the Native people of Maine, the **Wabanaki – the People of the Dawn**. The Abbe Museum is home to dynamic exhibits and activities interspersed with spaces for quiet reflection, collabora-



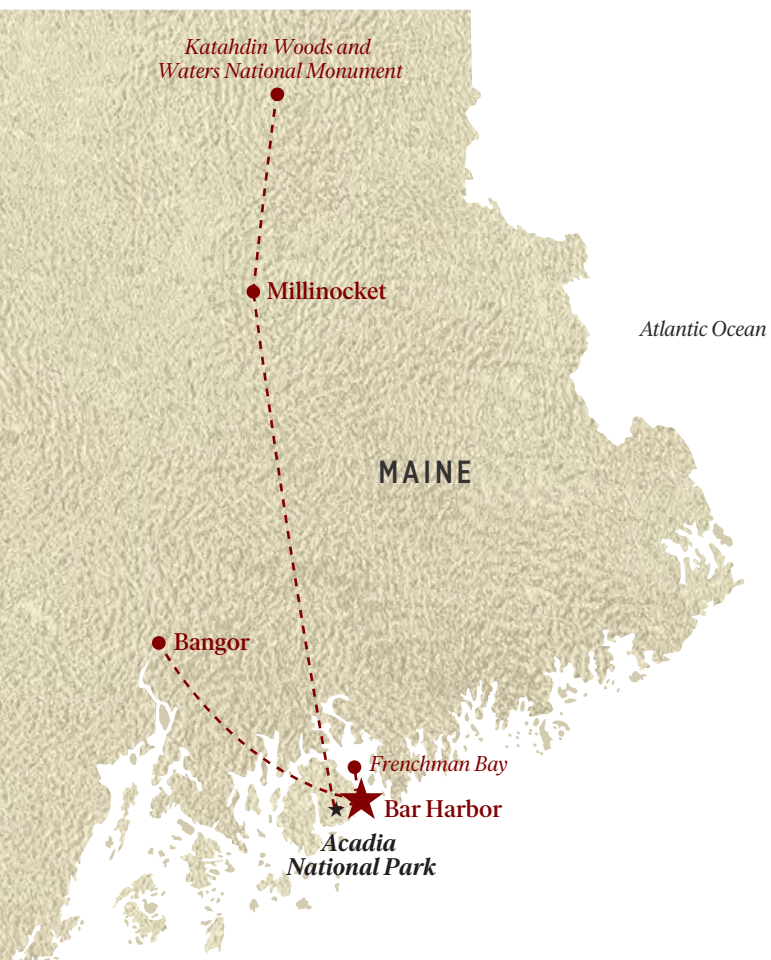
rating with, honoring and sharing the stories of the many Indigenous people whose communities have lived in this area for thousands of generations. Learn how Acadia and Katahdin are connected through past and present migrations and celebrations of the Wabanaki people and discover what NPCA is doing to help facilitate the continuation of Wabanaki cultural practices and representation in this region. After our museum visit, we'll embark on a **guided kayak tour of Frenchman Bay**, stopping on one of the spectacular **Porcupine Islands** for lunch and beach exploration mid-way through our paddle. Take in the scenic views and keep an eye out for wildlife as you learn about a massive, proposed salmon farm in Frenchman Bay. NPCA, among other organizations, helped to bring lease applications for this project to a halt in 2022, though the work to completely terminate the project continues. If approved, it would significantly impact the way people see, experience, smell, and hear Acadia and the surrounding landscape. A member of **Frenchman Bay United**, a key NPCA partner, will join us to provide a firsthand account of how different groups have come together in the fight to defend the natural resources of this remarkable place. Back on shore, return to our hotel to freshen up before having leisure time on your own to explore **Bar Harbor**, the gateway to Acadia National Park. Relax along the waterfront or walk the idyllic downtown with its array of locally-owned shops and galleries. This evening, we'll sit down for a memorable dinner at a local harbor-side **Lobster Pound**. [\*The Inn on Mount Desert \(B, L, D\)\*](#)

### DAY SEPT 25: Acadia National Park

3 Begin your day bright and early with an optional trip to the top of stunning **Cadillac Mountain**, where, with warm beverages in-hand, we'll watch the sunrise cast a morning glow over **Mount Desert Island**. At 1,530 feet, it is the highest point along the eastern seaboard and offers magnificent views of a glaciated coastal and island landscape. Be sure to bring a jacket! Here, your NPCA staff host will share how we are working together with a coalition of environmental organizations to save these spectacular views from becoming tarnished due to regional haze pollution. Return to the Inn for breakfast, and then we're off on our day of adventuring in **Acadia National Park** with our **naturalist guide**. Starting at the Hulls Cove Visitor Center, we'll hear from NPCA experts and National Park Service staff for an introduction to Acadia. Today drive along **Acadia's scenic Park Loop Road**, stopping to learn about the area's plant life and take in the serenity of the **Wild Gardens of Acadia** and the **Jesup Path and Hemlock Path Loop trail**, which winds its way through stands of white birch and hemlock trees.

### DAY SEPT 26: Bar Harbor to Millinocket

4 Have a leisurely breakfast at the Inn today before checking out, loading up, and departing on a 3-hour drive north, into the serene **Maine wilderness**. Our next stop is the **New England Outdoor Center (NEOC)**, our home for the next three days and base for exploring **Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument** and **Baxter State Park**. Upon arrival to this woodland refuge, enjoy a delicious lunch overlooking **Millinocket Lake**. You'll have time to investigate your surroundings this afternoon; go exploring via kayak or canoe, or relax lakeside with direct views of Mount Katahdin, Maine's highest mountain. Later, cruise the lake on a **guided pontoon boat tour** and keep an eye out for moose and other wildlife! After settling into your cabin, meet the group for dinner at NEOC's on-site restaurant, where your NPCA staff hosts will set the stage for our time in **Maine's North Woods**. The remoteness of this area lends itself well to great stargazing, so bring your binoculars and take a look at the night sky above us. [\*New England Outdoor Center \(B, L, D\)\*](#)





**DAY SEPT 27: Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument**

5 After breakfast at River Diver’s Restaurant on-site, we’ll begin our day with an overview of **Katahdin** – literally! On a 30-minute scenic flight, you’ll get an aerial view of the greater Katahdin area. Back on the ground, transfer 1 hour to **Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument**, an 87,500-acre landscape with rich biodiversity and awe-inspiring mountains, forests and free-flowing rivers. Gather as a group for a picnic lunch and delve into the story of how Katahdin became a National Park site. Hear from your NPCA staff expert about the work that went into the Katahdin park designation, and learn about NPCA’s mission to foster community and visitor connections with the region’s nature and cultural history, while also honoring the Tribes of the region. NPCA continues to advocate for the National Park Service to better interpret Tribal history at Katahdin. In the afternoon, drive **Katahdin’s Loop Road**, a 17-mile journey highlighting significant cultural, biological and geological features. Please note that this is a gravel road, so be prepared for a bumpy ride! We’ll stop to enjoy scenic viewpoints and hit the trail to better understand why this place has been a source of inspiration for hundreds of years. As the day comes to an end, we’ll head back to our cabins to refresh before coming together for dinner on-site at NEOC. [New England Outdoor Center \(B, L, D\)](#)

**DAY SEPT 28: Baxter State Park**

6 Enjoy breakfast this morning on-property. After, we will participate in an exclusive interactive program with **Wabanaki REACH**, a local educational non-profit, to gain a deeper understanding of Wabanaki history in Maine and the impacts of colonization on native communities. Following this memorable experience, we will drive 1-hour northwest, to **Baxter State Park**, arriving at **Dacey Pond**. We’ll share a picnic lunch here, with the option to canoe atop the pond and relax on the shore. Listen as your NPCA staff host discusses their work regarding the Appalachian Trail, which ends in Baxter State Park. After lunch we’ll head out on an easy 2.3 mile hike — **Little and Big Niagara Falls** via the **Appalachian Trail** — before returning to NEOC for the remainder of the afternoon. Tonight, meet with NPCA staff and partners to reflect on the week and conclude the evening with a joyous farewell dinner. [New England Outdoor Center \(B, L, D\)](#)

**DAY SEPT 29: Departures**

7 On our final morning, enjoy breakfast before transferring 1 hour and 30 minutes to the Bangor International Airport (BGR) for your mid-afternoon flight home.

*Please note: This itinerary is subject to change based on weather conditions and park closures related to COVID-19.*



Bubble Rock, South Bubble Mountain



Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument

**Travel Insurance:** To protect yourself from the loss of deposit and cancellation fees, you are encouraged to purchase travel insurance. If you need assistance, NPCA recommends contacting Travel Insurance Services through USI Affinity at 1-800-937-1387 or at <http://my.travelinsure.com/npc>; email confirmation packets will include additional details.

**Traveler Responsibility:** Travelers are responsible for choosing an NPCA trip consistent with their ability, fitness and overall health. All travelers are required to complete and return their NPCA waiver of liability, personal information form, flight form, and accept Iconic Adventure’s Terms and Conditions before being allowed to participate in a trip. Travelers also are responsible for reading and understanding all pre-departure materials and bringing appropriate clothing and gear.

**Trip Cancellation Policy:** Written cancellations must be received in Iconic’s sales office for a cancellation to be valid. Iconic strongly recommends the purchase of travel insurance.

**Cancellation charges will be as follows:**

121+ days prior to departure	120-91 days prior	June 25, 2023	90-61 days prior	60-0 days prior
Deposit is 100% refundable	Deposit is 100% transferable to another Iconic-operated NPCA trip OR 50% refundable	Final payment is due	50% of trip cost is refundable	No refund

**COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

Each of our travel partners have developed robust safety protocols to protect the health of our guests, staff and the communities we visit. **In order to participate in this trip, you must be up to date on all COVID-19 vaccinations, as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.** Please contact us for details.





# Why Travel with NPCA?

Our goal is to offer premium itineraries in educational travel in the places we know best: America's national parks.

For over 100 years, NPCA has worked to protect places of unparalleled natural wonder, historical significance and cultural value. Now we want you to experience them firsthand with our knowledgeable staff and partners. Each of our mission-driven trips is custom-designed exclusively by NPCA for you, our closest supporters. Gain valuable insights into our advocacy and conservation efforts by taking a personal look at NPCA's important contributions to park protection. You'll come away with a deeper understanding of, and connection to, this crucial work, made possible only by your support.

## **GAIN ACCESS TO OUR EXPERTS**

Spend quality time with your knowledgeable NPCA trip experts as you experience the national parks alongside those who have fought to protect them. Our trips provide special behind-the-scenes access to National Park Service staff, NPCA partners and other fascinating specialists who bring these places and their stories to life, providing insights into the cultural, natural, and historical significance of the areas and topics explored.

## **SUPPORT NPCA'S MISSION**

By traveling on any of our trips as an NPCA member, a percentage of your trip goes back to support NPCA's work to protect and enhance America's National Park System for present and future generations.

## **ENJOY SMALL GROUPS**

Group size on each of our land trips is guaranteed to be no more than 18 people to maximize your interactions with the experts, boost educational opportunities and allow the group to access lesser-visited places that larger groups cannot. You'll be joined by other park enthusiasts from around the country to share in the experience.

## **TRAVEL WITH EASE**

With NPCA, you can explore the parks without the hassle of planning on your own. Everything is included in your tour, such as meals, accommodations, expert speakers, transportation at the destination, and all activities (unless otherwise stated). We have also worked with each of our travel partners to develop safety measures for our trips in response to the global pandemic.

## **TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY**

Each NPCA travel operator partner is selected based on criteria that includes a commitment to environmentally and socially responsible travel so that we can ensure our parks are preserved in perpetuity.

Otter Point, Acadia National Park

NPCA is the only independent, nonpartisan organization dedicated to advocacy on behalf of the National Park System. Over 70% of our funding comes from donations from individuals like you. NPCA trips are an exclusive NPCA member benefit. One traveler per group must be an NPCA member to participate in an NPCA trip. An annual membership starts at \$15 per person. Please make dues payable to NPCA by check or credit card at [npca.org](https://www.npca.org).