

NPCATRAVEL



The Travel Program of the National Parks Conservation Association

SEPTEMBER 22-28, 2024

Acadia to Katahdin

EXPLORING MAINE'S WATERWAYS, WOODLANDS
AND WABANAKI CULTURAL HERITAGE

WITNESS

MAINE'S BREATHTAKING
COASTLINE

LEARN

ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE
WABANAKI PEOPLE

EXPERIENCE

THE PRISTINE WILDERNESS
OF ACADIA AND KATAHDIN

JORDAN POND
Acadia National Park, ME

PARK HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience 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 Maine's dramatic 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 contemplate the contrast between Acadia's well-visited parkland and the remote and rugged wilderness of Katahdin
- Spend time 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 with a **naturalist guide**
- Take a **guided tour** of the **Abbe Museum** to learn about the Wabanaki People and gain a deeper understanding of their unwavering commitment to protect and preserve their culture, people and land



FEATURED BIO: KRISTEN SYKES

Kristen Sykes serves as NPCA's Northeast regional director. Kristen oversees NPCA's work in NJ, NY, ME, MA, CT, RI, NH and VT and leads advocacy campaigns to benefit the forty-nine national park sites in the region. She volunteers her time as a board member for the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition, The Venture Out Project and the Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition.



FEATURED BIO: TODD MARTIN

Todd Martin serves as NPCA's Northeast senior program manager. Todd works to defend and enhance national park sites from Maine to Delaware. He is a lifelong Mainer with more than a decade of grassroots environmental advocacy experience in the Pine Tree state.

BOOK ONLINE AT [NPCA.ORG/TRAVEL](https://www.npca.org/travel) OR CALL 1.800.628.7275



Acadia to Katahdin: *Exploring Maine's Waterways, Woodlands and Wabanaki Cultural Heritage*

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Moderate



AVAILABLE DATES: September 22-28, 2024 | Min/Max: 12/14

Length of Tour: 7 days/6 nights

NPCA Member Price: : \$6,995 per person double occupancy; \$8,435 single occupancy

Deposit: \$980 per person due at registration

Arrive/Depart: Bangor, Maine

Reservations: Please contact NPCA's National Parks Experiences Program at **1.800.628.7275** or email 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. Any physical conditions requiring special attention, diet or treatment should be reported when booking to determine what accommodations can be made.

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), all transportation as noted, 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.

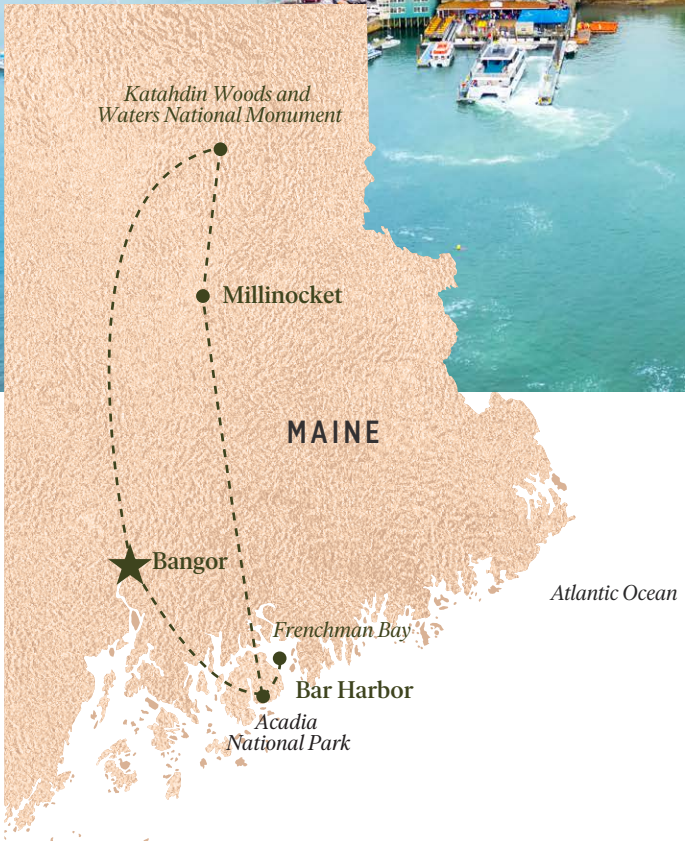
Welcome to picturesque Maine, home to a rocky coastline, stunning mountain views, lush forests, pristine waterways, and a fascinating natural and cultural history. Here, the charming town of Bar Harbor on Mount Desert Island serves as a gateway to the beauty and adventure of Acadia National Park and 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 learn about the ways in which Acadia and

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

During this exclusive NPCA small group tour, we'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. We'll 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.



Aerial view of Bar Harbor, ME



ITINERARY

DAY 1 SEPTEMBER 22: Arrivals into Bangor, ME and Transfer to Bar Harbor

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

DAY 2 SEPTEMBER 23: Frenchman Bay and Bar Harbor

After breakfast at the inn this morning, we'll embark on a guided kayak tour of **Frenchman Bay**, paddling the harbor and among the spectacular Porcupine Islands. We'll take in the scenic views and keep an eye out for wildlife as we 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. Returning to shore, we will partake in a picnic lunch where a member of **Frenchman Bay United**, a key NPCA partner, will join us. They will provide a firsthand account of how organizations have come together in the fight to defend the natural resources of this remarkable place.

This afternoon, we'll return to the inn to freshen up before visiting the **Abbe Museum** for a guided tour and introduction to the history and culture of the Native people of Maine, the Wabanaki — the People of the Dawn. While many visit Acadia and nearby areas for the physical beauty, there are layers of cultural history and stories that make this area that much more special. The Abbe Museum offers dynamic exhibits, activities and opportunities for

quiet reflection that honor and share the stories of the many Indigenous people who've called this region home for thousands of years. We'll learn how Acadia and Katahdin are connected through past and present migrations and celebrations of the Wabanaki people, and hear about NPCA's efforts to help facilitate the continuation of Wabanaki cultural practices and representation in this region.

Tonight, we'll enjoy time at our leisure to explore **Bar Harbor**, the gateway to Acadia National Park. We'll relax along the waterfront or walk the idyllic downtown with its array of locally-owned shops and galleries. We'll have the opportunity to dine on our own this evening, choosing among seemingly endless restaurant options. ***The Inn on Mount Desert (B, L)***

DAY 3 SEPTEMBER 24: Acadia National Park

Our day will begin bright and early with an optional trip to the top of stunning **Cadillac Mountain**, where, with warm beverages in hand, we'll watch as the sunrise casts 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, our NPCA staff host will share how NPCA is working together with a coalition of environmental

organizations to save these spectacular views from becoming tarnished due to regional haze pollution. We'll return to the inn for breakfast, and then we're off for a 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, our route is along **Acadia's** scenic **Park Loop Road**, with our first stop at **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. From there, we will continue to **Sand Beach**, a small inlet between the mountains and rocky shores. We'll see powerful waters at **Thunder Hole** and start our afternoon hike nearby. Our knowledgeable guide will help us navigate the terrain as we see what makes this area unique and why it is one of the most popular parks in the country. After our hike we'll proceed along Park Loop Road, stopping en route as we make our way to picturesque **Jordan Pond**. Here, we will have the opportunity to embark on another hike, or simply relax along the water and take in the surrounding landscape. This evening, we'll dine at a local harborside lobster pound. ***The Inn on Mount Desert (B, L, D)***



Cadillac Mountain sunrise, Acadia National Park

DAY SEPTEMBER 25: Bar Harbor to Millinocket

4 The day starts with a leisurely breakfast at the inn before checking out, loading up and departing on an approximately 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, we'll have lunch overlooking **Millinocket Lake**. We'll have time to investigate our surroundings this afternoon via kayak or canoe, or relax lakeside with direct views of Mount Katahdin, Maine's highest mountain. After settling into our cabins, we'll meet for dinner at NEOC's on-site restaurant, where our 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 SEPTEMBER 26: 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, we'll get an aerial view of the greater Katahdin area.

Back on the ground, we'll drive 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. During a picnic lunch, we'll delve into the story of how Katahdin became a national park site. We'll hear from our 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 natural and cultural history while also honoring the Tribes of the region.

In the afternoon, we'll 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 bit of a bumpy ride! We'll stop to enjoy scenic viewpoints and hit the trail to get a better understanding of 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 SEPTEMBER 27: Baxter State Park

6 After having breakfast this morning at NEOC, we'll drive 1 hour northwest to enter **Baxter State Park**. Upon arrival, we'll head out on an easy 2.3 mile hike — **Little and Big Niagara Falls via the Appalachian Trail** — and listen as our NPCA staff host discusses the current work on the Appalachian Trail, which ends in Baxter State Park. Upon completion of our hike, we'll share a picnic lunch at **Dacey Pond**, with the option to canoe or relax on the shore.

Tonight, we'll reflect on the week and conclude the evening with a joyous farewell dinner. *New England Outdoor Center (B, L, D)*

DAY SEPTEMBER 28: Departures

7 On our final morning, we'll enjoy breakfast before driving 1 hour and 30 minutes to the Bangor International Airport (BGR) for your mid-afternoon flights home. **(B)**

Accommodations and activities are subject to change at any time due to unforeseen circumstances or circumstances beyond NPCA's control.



Mt Katahdin, Baxter State Park



Mt Katahdin and Dacey Pond, Baxter State Park

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:

151+ days prior to departure	150-126 days prior	May 20, 2024	125-91 days prior	90-0 days prior
<i>Deposit is 100% refundable</i>	<i>Deposit is 50% refundable</i>	<i>Final payment is due</i>	<i>50% of trip cost is refundable</i>	<i>No refund</i>

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. Please contact us for details.

PHOTO CREDITS

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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. Our curated itineraries offer more than just sightseeing. With NPCA, you'll delve into the cultural and natural history of each destination, guided by passionate experts who bring these stories to life. We believe that true appreciation for our parks goes hand in hand with awareness of the conservation efforts being made to protect them. Engage with park rangers, NPCA partners and local communities as they share their invaluable insights and discuss the challenges and triumphs of safeguarding these natural treasures. Leave with a deeper understanding of the critical role we all play in the future of our parks.

ACCESS NPCA STAFF EXPERTISE

Embark on extraordinary adventures led by our team of knowledgeable staff who represent a wide range of backgrounds. With expertise spanning environmental conservation, cultural heritage, wildlife biology and more, our staff brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to each journey. Delve into engaging discussions and gain unique insights into the issues that shape our parks, including land preservation, climate change and Indigenous perspectives. Together, we'll explore the multifaceted aspects of these remarkable landscapes.

TRAVEL WITH PURPOSE

When you choose to travel with NPCA, you're not just embarking on an incredible journey – you're making a meaningful impact. Our commitment to conservation runs deep, and we are proud to share that a portion of every trip's fees directly supports NPCA's vital work. Your choice to travel with us helps protect and strengthen the National Park System for generations to come.

ENJOY PERSONALIZED AND INTIMATE EXPERIENCES

Escape the crowds and embrace the beauty of small-group travel, where personal connections and tailored experiences take center stage. Our trips offer a more intimate setting, allowing you to forge meaningful connections with fellow travelers who share your passion for adventure and conservation.

CONNECT WITH NPCA PARTNERS AND LOCAL EXPERTS

Collaborate with key NPCA partners and local experts who are deeply connected to the destinations we visit. Engage in dialogue with scientists, community leaders and Tribal members who are at the forefront of conservation and preservation efforts. Their firsthand accounts and valuable perspectives will deepen your understanding of the challenges and successes in protecting our national parks.

TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY

Embrace the spirit of responsible travel as you embark on a journey that leaves a positive footprint on the planet. At NPCA, we prioritize partnering with responsible tour operators who share our commitment to sustainability and conservation. With their expertise and dedication, we ensure that every step of your trip aligns with our shared values.

Jordan Pond just after sunset, 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.