



Backroads of Maine: Lighthouses & Lobsters

Portland - Kennebunkport - Bath - Bar Harbor



June 5 - 20, 2017 (16 days)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Many Lighthouse Scenes**
- Lots of Lobster**
- Ogunquit - Beautiful Beach by the Sea**
- Kennebunkport - Seaside Home of the Bush Family**
- City of Portland**
- Portland Head Lighthouse**
- Portland Harbor and Lighthouse Cruise**
- Freeport - Home of L.L. Bean**
- City of Bath, Famous Bath Iron Works & Ship Builders**
- Boothbay Harbor - Classic Harbor Setting**
- Pemaquid Point Lighthouse**
- Rockland - Lobster Capital of the World**
- Maine Lighthouse Museum**
- Penobscot Narrows Bridge and Observatory**
- Bar Harbor & the Beautiful Bar Harbor Inn**
- Acadia National Park with Cadillac Mountain**
- Classic Lobster Bake**

- Schooner Island Cruise**
- Bangor**
- Cole Transportation Museum**
- Augusta - State Capitol**
- New Gloucester - Shaker Village**
- Classic Victorian Bethel Inn Resort**
- Moose Hunt Tour - Grafton Notch**

Fly option available! 

Nubble Lighthouse





Kennebunkport



Cruising Portland Harbor



LOBSTER!



Grafton Notch Park

Day 1 - Home to Lansing, IL

A travel day through Wisconsin to Illinois will begin our adventure to the wonderful state of Maine and our Lobsters and Lighthouses tour. Lunch will be included today as we sit around the tables and get to know our fellow travelers. Dinner will be on your own.

Included Meals: Lunch

Hotel: Holiday Inn Express

Day 2 - Lansing to Erie, PA

We will travel across Indiana and Ohio today, enjoying our drive as we watch the farmers put the finishing touches on their spring planting and then the landscape changes as we travel later in the day along Lake Erie. Lunch will be included and other stops will be made at convenient Turnpike Travel Plazas. A comfortable night awaits us in Erie.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Hotel: Holiday Inn Express

Day 3 - Erie to West Springfield, MA

We'll motor across New York State today into Massachusetts. As we travel through the Finger Lakes Region of New York, you will be pleasantly surprised at the beauty of the area....many people only think of New York City when they think of New York! Enjoy the beauty of the drive and the friendship of newly met traveling companions as we edge closer to our "Lighthouses and Lobster" destination: Maine!

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Hampton Inn

Day 4 - West Springfield to Wells, ME

After traveling across the country the last few days, this morning we meet our flyaway companions at the Boston Airport. Our first taste of Maine is only a little over an hour away. We actually travel about 15 miles thru coastal New Hampshire before crossing the Piscataqua River. And there it is: "Welcome to Maine" – "The Way Life Should Be." We spend the next eleven days discovering



that! The "Maine Event" starts at Kittery Point, the southernmost point of Maine and the home to Frisbee's 1828 Market. From the ruins of Fort McClary we are able to spot our first two lighthouses: Whaleback Light and Fort Constitution Light (which is actually in New Hampshire). True to the nature of this tour, the backroads will be our preferred routes of travel, often through genuine coastal villages. Our pace of travel will be leisurely, so we can truly enjoy this unique experience. Cape Neddick is a favorite destination, even for frequent coastal Maine visitors. The reason: Nubble Lighthouse, a classic coastal site. The original tower built in 1879 still stands - Awesome! What better way is there to enjoy our first Maine meal together than in view of this historic and picturesque sight at Fox's Lobster House. Following our midafternoon meal we journey to Ogunquit Beach, recently rated as one of America's Top 10. No time for swimming or surfing but the sight is amazing! Our comfortable home for the evening is the highly rated Hampton Inn in Wells.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Hampton Inn

Day 5 - Wells to Portland, ME

Just up the road is one of the most well known spots in all of Maine. The world may have first heard of Kennebunkport when George H. W. Bush was president, but the family has owned their summer estate for 3 generations. We'll drive by the amazing Wedding Cake House on our way into town. We'll have ample time in this classic harbor village to explore and enjoy. Meander through Dock Square where one-time fishing shacks have been restored into shops, galleries and dining spots. Take a Trolley tour of this quaint village which includes a drive along Ocean Ave that will give us a glimpse of the Bush family home across Sandy Cove. Our final stop before arriving at our beautiful hotel is Len Libby Chocolatiers of Maine. We'll meet Lenny, the world's only life size chocolate moose! Dinner is included this evening.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Embassy Suites, Portland (2 Nights)

Picturesque Portland Head Lighthouse



Day 6 - Portland

Portland is often described as one of the 10 best places to live, eat and play as it is a beautiful harbor city with a small town feel. We'll spend the next couple days exploring the highlights. Enjoy a guided tour of the city, plus a cruise of Portland Harbor, Casco Bay with lighthouse viewing. We will have time to leisurely discover tiny shops, cobblestone sidewalks, replica streetlights and scores of eateries along the waterfront. Dining will be on your own to select from countless lobster shacks, chowder houses, oyster bars, grills and basic fish and chips at their best. The wharf district has over 100 restaurants to choose from as you breathe the fresh sea air. Stop in at the Harbor Fish Market on the pier, it's the real deal, and provides the opportunity to ship some of the freshest seafood possible back to family & friends.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Day 7 - Portland to Bath, ME

Fort Williams on Cape Elizabeth is home to Portland Head Light, commissioned by President George Washington and first lighted in 1791. One of the most recognized and photographed lighthouses, Portland Head certainly lives up to your expectations. Plus the surf here is awesome. You will have ample time to photograph the lighthouse from many angles as well as visit the restored keeper's house. This is truly an inspirational experience! From there, several other lighthouses on Cape Elizabeth capture our attention: Bug Light, Spring Point Light, & Ram Island Light, are all part of this morning's beautiful scene. We depart the "big" city and begin our sojourn north into what is popularly known as the Mid-Coast region. Shortly we enter Freeport, and although it is not so well known, it is the historic origin of the State of Maine in 1820. However, it is much better known as the home of the sporting giant L.L. Bean. You'll have time to browse, enjoy a tasty treat in the inviting coffee shop, and certainly have your picture taken by the giant boot that greets all guests. Bath is our destination for the next two evenings. On our way we motor through the quaint village of Brunswick, home of the historic Bowdoin College. Noted graduates are Nathaniel Hawthorn, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, President Franklin Pierce, explorer Robert Peary and senators George Mitchell and William Cohen. Bath may be small in size but it's big in impact, as we'll discover tomorrow! Our beautiful hotel overlooks the broad Kennebec River. This evening we'll enjoy a delightful dinner together at the Kennebec Tavern, just across the street from our comfortable accommodations.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Hampton Inn of Bath (2 Nights)

Day 8 - Bath

Just when it doesn't seem like it could get any better - it does! (By the way, this happens every day!) Bath's centuries of historic and architectural tradition and well preserved Victorian downtown have earned it the prized designation as a "Distinctive Destination." Giant cranes dominate the waterfront at the huge Bath Iron Works, source of state-of-the-art warships. Known locally as "The Yard," BIW has been building ships on this 50 acre riverfront property since 1890. Currently its 5,700 employees build destroyers for the US Navy. A step on guide will join us to share information about the facility! Nearby is the state's premier Maine Maritime Museum, which is sure to become part of our Bath time memories. Lunch is on R&J today at one of the area's quaint little spots. Then on our way to Boothbay Peninsula, we travel through Wiscasset, billed as "The Prettiest Village in Maine." Passing through Boothbay we arrive at Boothbay Harbor. This scenic bayside village is a boat lover's dream, loaded with fishing craft and pleasure yachts nestled by shops, galleries, and restaurants. You'll have time to stroll across the 1,000 foot long footbridge stretching across the harbor since 1901. Our visit to this area is not complete without a stop at the coolest country store you've ever seen, the East Boothbay General Store.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 9 - Bath to Rockport/Camden

Our destination this morning is the Pemaquid Peninsula and Pemaquid Point Lighthouse. We'll travel through the villages of Newcastle, Damariscotta and Bristol to the open water of the Atlantic - what a beautiful sight! This is one of Maine's most photographed lighthouses, so we are planning plenty of time here to soak it all in. Shortly after departing we pass through New Harbor, another one of Maine's "most photographed fishing villages." Our winding backroads route takes us to Waldoboro and Moody's Diner for an included lunch. This iconic diner is the real thing! Moving on to Thomaston, we discover one of the most unique shops you'll ever visit. The Maine State Prison Showroom offers all inmate-made crafts and merchandise, and will be some of the most ingenious, useful and quality made products you've ever seen. Afterwards, we gain our first glimpse of the Penobscot Bay as we enter Rockland. This bayside village is touted as "The Lobster Capital of the World." Here boat-filled harbors, sandy pocket beaches, soaring spruce trees, lighthouses and fishing villages pepper the shoreline. The Maine Lighthouse Museum in Rockland is the most comprehensive collection of artifacts related to lighthouses, the Coast Guard, and the sea in the nation. Our resting place this evening is the cozy and peaceful Country Inn Rockport/Camden. We will enjoy dinner together at a favorite spot the locals recommend.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Hotel: Country Inn



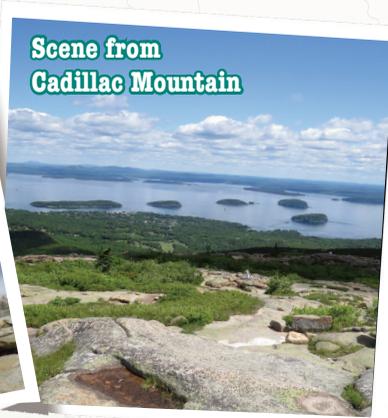
Sailing on Frenchman Bay



Capturing the view from Owls Head Lighthouse

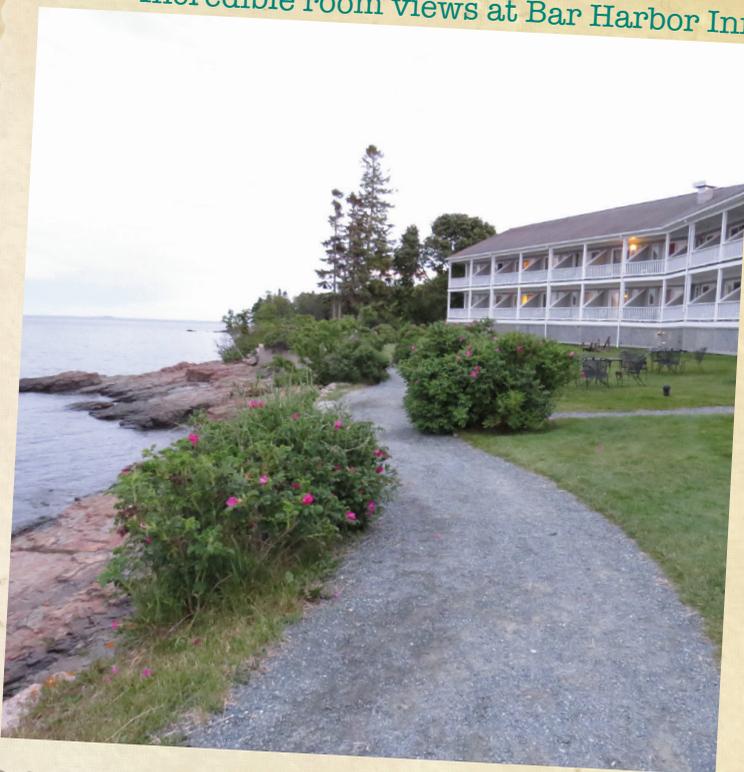


**Pemaquid Point
Light**



**Scene from
Cadillac Mountain**

Incredible room views at Bar Harbor Inn



Day 10 - Rockport/Camden to Bar Harbor

This morning we make our way out to Owls Head Ledge to view the heralded Owls Head Lighthouse. Nearby, nestled in remote Owls Head Harbor are fishing boats, lobster traps, colorful lobster buoys and working docks. This area is called "The Lobster Capital of the World". As we continue our journey, we follow the shoreline of Penobscot Bay, traveling through some of the most picturesque bay-side villages on the coast. There's Rockland with its peaceful harbor and Camden is recognized worldwide on calendars, post cards and photo books. Then there is Belfast, noted as one of the top 10 coolest towns in the US. You'll enjoy lunch on your own. Next we experience the Penobscot Narrows Suspension Bridge - an absolutely amazing sight! We will ride the elevator to the top of the tallest bridge observatory in the world. On a clear day, views from the 420 foot high tower extend all the way to Cadillac Mountain in Acadia. After crossing the bridge we leave our seaside views until we reach Mount Desert Island and enter the village of Bar Harbor. For the next two nights we will stay at one of Maine's premier oceanfront resorts, The Bar Harbor Inn, which is beyond adequate description!

This is all and more of what you envision this Maine experience to be. Every room faces the bay, allowing you to watch the sunrise over the sea from your own private porch! Life doesn't get much better than this: peaceful surfside privacy but with the convenient location of only a block from a quaint village loaded with seaside grills, bistros, coffee shops, bakeries, restaurants, galleries and shops. Our "welcome to Bar Harbor dinner" this evening is a fabulous Lobster Bake hosted right at the Inn! Enjoy the evening and soak it all in!

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lobster Bake
Hotel: Historic Bar Harbor Inn (2 Nights)

Day 11 - Bar Harbor

Prepare for an amazing day! It starts with a wonderful breakfast at the Inn overlooking Frenchman Bay and the Porcupine Islands. This morning we are privy to a guided tour of Acadia National Park by a local expert guide. Mountains tumbling to the sea, ocean waves surging to the rugged rocks, pristine blue lakes and soaring cliffs - Acadia is a wonder! We'll see the unique Thunder Hole, Sand Beach, Otter Cliffs, and soar to the summit of Cadillac Mountain. This is the highest point along the North Atlantic seaboard. The vistas are unprecedented as you can see for over 100 miles in every direction. The summit is the first US soil the sun touches each morning! This afternoon we are treated to a cruise of Frenchman Bay among the Porcupine Islands aboard Bar Harbor Inn's very own windjammer schooner, the Margaret Todd. Wow! Simply enjoy the rest of the day and evening browsing, relaxing, exploring and dining in this iconic Maine seacoast setting!

Included Meals: Breakfast

Day 12 - Bar Harbor to Bethel, ME

Following another relaxing breakfast in this magic place we continue our journey. We leave the seacoast and head for the wooded beauty of inland Maine. Arriving in Bangor, we discover a city rich in the history of... shipping! Lumber no less. It was the lumber capital of the world in the 19th century celebrated by a gigantic statue of Paul Bunyan! Here we are treated to a tour of the Cole Land Transportation Museum, a sprawling facility with more than 200 19th & 20th century vehicles representing almost everything that has rolled across the Maine landscape. Included is the largest collection of snow removal equipment ever assembled. They are treating us to a BBQ lunch in their very own park complete with a covered bridge. Leaving Bangor it's cross country to the western edge of the state. We notice the rolling hills beginning to rise with the White Mountains coming into view on the horizon. In the mountainside village of Bethel we are welcomed at the historic and iconic, New England-styled, Bethel Inn Resort. This beautiful place just manifests comfort and relaxation. We'll enjoy a delicious dinner before departing on our next adventure. We will be treated to a moose sighting expedition to Grafton Notch Park by a local guide. No guarantees but the chances are very high we may spot one or more of these majestic creatures in their natural environment.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel: Bethel Inn Resort

Day 13 - Bethel to Portsmouth, NH

A delightful breakfast is served in our casual surroundings before we depart and motor through the beautiful rolling hill country of western Maine to Sabbath Day Lake and Shaker Village. Here we



Stunning sunset on Penobscot Bay

*“The trip to **Maine** was absolutely **beautiful**. We went to several **lighthouses** on the rocky **coastline**. We would highly **recommend** this tour!”*
 Clark & Marna, Eagan



are hosted by the wonderful folks at the Shaker Museum. This is a fascinating look at an almost extinct lifestyle in the world's last inhabited Shaker colony. Lunch is served at a local establishment. It's only appropriate that we pay a visit to the State Capital of this splendid state and of course the backroads is the only way to get there. Augusta, population of 18,000, smaller than R&J's hometown of Willmar, is the modest but beautiful home of Maine's State Capital. Later in the afternoon we travel our last miles of Maine highways to Portsmouth, NH to spend the night.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
Hotel: Best Western Plus Wynwood



Day 14 - Portsmouth to Buffalo, NY

Breakfast is served before we depart the hotel for the airport to drop our flying companions off and then we turn our beautiful red motorcoach west towards home. Today we will travel back across New York, sharing stories of the fun and excitement we experienced in Maine!

Included Meals: Breakfast
Hotel: Hampton Inn

Day 15 - Buffalo to Aurora, IL

On the road again we go. We'll travel out of New York, through Pennsylvania, across Ohio and Indiana and rest for the night in Illinois. It will be a great day of traveling with plenty of sights and lots of fun on the motorcoach with our fellow travelers! We'll make stops for meals along the way.

Included Meals: Breakfast
Hotel: Hampton Inn

Day 16 - Aurora to Home

After breakfast, the final leg of our journey takes us across Wisconsin and into Minnesota. We'll enjoy activities on the coach and a great lunch at one of R&J's favorite restaurants! Tonight you'll be home with memories of a great "Lighthouses and Lobsters" tour of Maine!

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

2017 MOTORCOACH DATES & PRICES		
DATES:	June 5 - 20, 2017 (16 Days) - Motocoach	
PRICE PER PERSON:	\$3,799 Double \$3,599 Triple	\$4,999 Single \$3,399 Quad
PRICE INCLUDES:	29 Included Meals plus Treat, Activities & Hotels as stated, Luxury Motorcoach	
DEPOSIT DUE PER PERSON:	\$100 deposit per person at time of reservation. Full payment due 30 days prior to departure.	
OPTIONAL TRAVEL PROTECTION P/P:	\$240 Double p/p	\$324 Single
FLYAWAY TOUR DATES & PRICES		
DATES:	June 8 - 18, 2017 (11 Days) - Flyaway	
PRICE PER PERSON:	\$3,799 Double \$3,599 Triple	\$4,699 Single \$3,399 Quad
PRICE INCLUDES:	RoundTrip Airfare including taxes, fuel surcharges, & baggage fees! 20 Meals plus Treat, Hotels & Activities as stated in brochure, Luxury Motorcoach	
DEPOSIT DUE PER PERSON:	\$200 deposit per person at time of reservation. Full payment due 45 days prior to departure.	
OPT. FLY TRAVEL PROTECTION P/P:	\$270 Double per person	\$340 Single p/p
ADDITIONAL TOUR INFORMATION		
TRAVEL BUCKS:	\$50 per person on future travel with R&J	
NEEDED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:	A Valid Photo ID is required for flyaways.	
TOUR PACE:	Moderate to Extensive Walking	

