

The Wilds of Maine, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick July 14-22, 2015

Maine, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia with their lakes, forests, blueberry barrens, and incomparable seacoasts are fantastic places for nature lovers. We will explore all these natural features and more as we travel along the coastlines of these maritime areas.

The Maine seacoast is a very popular summer destination for tourists. Most however, never travel farther north than Mount Desert Island's famous Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park. We'll head northward after landing in Bangor, Maine, making our way through the mixed forests of hardwoods, spruce, fir and pine to the New Brunswick city of St. John. A ferry ride will take us to Nova Scotia, coastal walks, whale watching, bird watching, botanizing and tide pooling. Nova Scotia has preserved much of its natural habitat making it a wonderful place for our nature explorations. We will continue our discoveries as we drive through Nova Scotia back into New Brunswick where Hopewell Rocks, Bay of Fundy Provincial Park, and Fundy Trail Parkway await us. Then crossing back into Maine, we'll travel the coast as we make our way back to Bar Harbor, Acadia National Park and finally to Bangor for our flight home. Get your walking shoes warmed up, your binoculars and cameras ready for a nine-day adventure you won't want to miss.

July 14, Tuesday: Meet at Sarett at 5:45 am for a transfer to South Bend Airport.

United 3958 South Bend to O'Hare 800 am 746am

United 3632 OHare to Bangor, Maine 900 am 1232pm

We'll pick up our rental vans, find lunch and start northward to our first nature stop at Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge. Moosehorn's varied habitats of rolling hills, large ledge outcrops, streams, lakes, bogs and marshes make this a great place for wildlife. We'll check out a couple trails, the wetlands and observation platforms while watching for eagles, osprey, songbirds, waterfowl, and (dare we say it) moose and

beaver. We'll continue north, cross the Canadian border, enter New Brunswick and make our way to our lodging in St John. After finding dinner, we'll stretch our legs with an evening walk at Boar's Head Nature Preserve or Irving Nature Park.

Night at Travel Lodge Suite, St John, New Brunswick

July 15, Wednesday: Start your day off with an early morning continental breakfast at the hotel. We'll be leaving early to catch the 9:00 am ferry from St John, New Brunswick to Digby, Nova Scotia. This three hour Princess of Acadia Ferry can provide spectacular views of the coastlines of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Have your camera and binoculars handy – you won't want to miss the common sightings of sea birds, whales and other mammals. Take advantage of the Café and Grill on board so we are ready to start exploring Nova Scotia when we land. We'll travel from the landing at the quaint town of Digby along the coast to Brier Island. Two more short ferry rides will get us to this most western point of Nova Scotia. The local economy is driven by the year around commercial fishing industry and seasonal tourism, which largely focused on whale watching. Be ready for an afternoon of beach combing, searching for birds and watching for seals as we travel along the Bay of Fundy. Our lodging for the night is the Brier Island Lodge, which conveniently has walking trails to explore. Seaford is a specialty in the attractive restaurant. Our dinner (\$20), breakfast and lunch is included in our stay at Brier Island.

Brier Island Lodge, Westport, Nova Scotia Breakfast and Dinner is included.

July 16, Thursday: Get ready for a morning of whale watching! Brier Island is a world-renowned destination for its successful and extraordinary whale watching. We'll take to the Bay of Fundy aboard the Island Link in search of whales and pelagic bird life. The Bay of Fundy attracts a multitude of whales, dolphins, birds and other marine life. The boat is designed to provide a stable ride and allows us to get close to the whales without forcing ourselves upon them. Traditionally upon approaching whales the engines are shut off and the whales determine what distance they want to be viewed from. It is not uncommon for whales to dive under the boats and surface close to the boat to get a look at us. On a previous visit whales surfaced amazing close to the boat. The Island Link has a heated cabin, upper observation deck and washroom. After our whale experience, our box lunch, we

make our way back to Digby exploring as we go. We'll get our land legs back with a walk on the Balancing Rock Trail (2.5 km/1 hour/easy) or Acacia Trail an easy trail along Pine Brook.

Night at Admiral Inn, Digby, Nova Scotia. Breakfast & Lunch included.

July 17, Friday: Today's agenda includes hiking/walking some of the many trails available on Nova Scotia and enjoying the unparalleled coastal beauty. Some of our hiking options include: Delaps Cove Wilderness Trails (2.2 km/45 minutes), Blomidon Provincial Park Trail (a large wooded area along sea cliff), Partridge Island Trail (coastline views, spruce/birch forest) We will continue our journey discovering Nova Scotia with stops at Five Islands and the Estuary Trail and Cape Chignecto Park (if time allows) as we make our way to Amherst.

Night at Wandlyn Inn, Amherst, Nova Scotia picnic Lunch

July 18, Saturday: We'll have an early start today so we will be at Hopewell Rocks for the low tide. Nowhere else in the world are the tides as high as in the Bay of Fundy. At the Hopewell Rocks the tides range from 32 to 46 feet. Tides upon their return rise so fast that at times it can appear as a wave approaching the shore. We will plan to be there when the tide is low and we can walk out on the ocean floor. We'll visit the Shorebird Deck to see which shorebirds have begun their migration to South America. After visiting the Hopewell Rocks, the Shorebird Deck and the visitor center we will travel south and visit the Bay of Fundy National Park. We will explore a boreal forest, check out a beaver pond and observe the wonders of a spectacular northern forest. Then it is on to the Fundy Trail Parkway. This 10-mile parkway hugs cliff tops as it winds its way along one of the last remaining coastal wilderness areas still intact between Florida and Labrador. We will take advantage of the numerous scenic lookouts, footpaths to beach and even try out the suspension bridge. We might even be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of the Right Whale. This area is one of the best places in the world for viewing marine and wildlife.

Night at Granite Town Inn. Breakfast and Picnic Lunch included.

July 19, Sunday: We have another great day planned. We'll cross the border back into Maine and head to West Quoddy Head Lighthouse. We'll spend a while on the rugged, beautiful Bold Coast of Lubec, Maine. West Quoddy has the distinction of being the most easterly point of the United States. (There is an East Quoddy Lighthouse and it is more easterly but is in Canada.) We'll visit the lighthouse visitor center, climb the candy-striped tower and watch for

frolicking seals, soaring eagles and maybe surfacing humpback, finback and minke whales. Stops at Cobscook Bay State Park and Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge will also be included in the day. Both of these areas include hiking trails, scenic views and shoreline access. There will be time for exploring the tide pools.

Night at Machias Motor Inn, Breakfast, picnic lunch

July 20, Monday: Today's destination is Acadia National Park. We have the entire day to explore the visitor center and the Park Loop Road. This 20 miles loop offers outstanding views of Frenchman's Bay and the Cranberry Islands. There are many scenic stops. At Sieur de Monts Spring we will find the Wild Gardens of Acadia where 300 species of native plants are on display in 10 habitats that stimulate their natural environments. Other stops could include Precipice and Otter Point. We'll be taking short walks and examining tide pools looking for sea stars, sea urchins, mussels and other forms of sea life. Your evening will be free to explore the wharfs and highlights of Bar Harbor. Night at Best Western (The Best Western is located 4 miles from downtown Bar Harbor. There is a free and easy shuttle to get us to the shops and restaurants.) Picnic Lunch is provided today.

July 21, Tuesday: Today is going to be a good one. We'll be at the Bar Harbor Whale Watching Company at 7:45 am ready for a 3 ½ to 4-hour whale watching, puffin watching and marine life cruise. This is an incredible trip, fully narrated, on the gulf of Maine. We will look for and find a variety of whale species along with seals, eagles, porpoises, dolphins, offshore birds, lighthouses and North Atlantic Puffins. The vessel offers galley and bar service, indoor cabins, restrooms and plenty of outdoor viewing space. We will visit Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge. Within the wildlife refuge is the island of Petit Manan, one of several along the Maine coast which host a large breeding colony of Atlantic Puffins. These colorful birds spend most of their lives in the ocean, using land only to raise their young. The only way to view them is by boat. The island is also home to common eiders (sea duck), common arctic and roseate tern colonies. In addition, Maine's second tallest lighthouse is located on Petit Manan. After viewing the wildlife and lighthouse we will proceed to the whale grounds where we will have an opportunity to see humpback, finback and Minke whales. After the whale and puffin adventure, it will be on to explore more of Acadia National Park. Cadillac Mountain, Somes Sound (the only true fjord in the continental United States.), and Seawall Bog are all possibilities. If

the tides are right we can walk to Bar Island—we'll be sure to be heading back before the tide comes in. You will have one last evening to explore Bar Harbor.

Night at Best Western, Breakfast and picnic lunch



July 22, Wednesday: After breakfast, we will sadly have to make our way to Bangor and our flights back home.

United 3710 Bangor to O'Hare 107p 249p

United 6030 O'Hare to South Bend 330p 512p

We will arrive back at Sarett by 6:30 pm

Cost per person, double occupancy: \$2,450.00

Deposit: A non-refundable deposit of \$250.00 is now being accepted to hold your position on this limited tour. Deposit can be refunded, less \$50, if we are able to fill your spot. Many people have expressed interest in this trip. We have reservations for 18 participants and 2 naturalist/drivers. Please send in your deposit immediately so that you will not be disappointed.

Please make your check payable to: Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor MI 49022.

Final Payment: will be due May 1, 2015. If you cancel after May 1, only amounts recoverable (less deposit) can be refunded. Trip Insurance is recommended.

Trip Cancellation/Interruption Insurance is always advisable.

Included in this Cost:

- *Round trip transportation to and from South Bend from Sarett Nature Center
- *Flights on United Airlines from South Bend to Bangor, Maine and return
- *Transportation throughout the tour in 12 passengers vans or similar
- *Park Service Entrance Fees at all parks
- * 8 Nights accommodations as listed in the itinerary
- *Two Whale Watching/Nature Boat Adventures
- *6 Breakfast, 6 Lunches, 1 Dinner are included
- *All ferry rides listed in this itinerary
- *Services of Sarett naturalist/guides/drivers/lunch providers

Travel Requirements: The itinerary includes entering Canada. To enter Canada, you must present a valid passport book or passport card.

Baggage: Each tour member is allowed one small suitcase and one carry-on. *There is a \$25 charge for the first check bag. *You are allowed to carry-on one bag and one personal item free of charge. Carry-on baggage may not exceed 45 linear inches in combined length, width and height including any handles and wheels. Baggage must fit easily in the Carry-on Baggage Check. They also have to be able to fit in the overhead bin or under the seat in front of you. Please visit the United Airline website for more details. Once we are in Maine, we will have the luggage in the vans with us every day. Please pack light.



Pre-trip Information: Sarett will be sending out pre-trip information. If you have questions, please give Dianne or Mindy a call at 927-4832 or dianneb@sarett.com or mindyw@sarett.com

Responsibility: It is clearly understood that Sarett Nature Center will provide interpretive services on this trip and is in no way whatsoever responsible for the operations of the airlines, local agents, and other transportation companies. The Sarett Nature Center shall not be liable

for any injuries, damages, losses, accidents, expenses, delays or irregularities, which are beyond their control. Nor can they accept responsibility for unexpected transport delays and changes resulting from strikes, and other causes, nor liability for additional expenses or loss of time incurred by tour participants resulting therefrom. On advancement of deposit to Sarett Nature Center, the depositor agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions here mentioned. Sarett Nature Center naturalists reserve the right to adjust the itinerary due to weather conditions, wildlife sightings, road conditions, and etc. We want to make the best possible and safest adventure.