

Seven Ponds Nature Center presents:
Acadia Natural History Field Tour
The Crown Jewel of the North Atlantic Coast
June 9 – 14, 2019



Come along with us as we explore the weathered, pink granite coastline of Maine in Acadia National Park on Mount Desert Island. The second largest island on the eastern seaboard, Mount Desert got its name from the French explorer Samuel Champlain who called it “Island of Bare Mountains”. The Wabanaki people knew the island as Pemetic, “the sloping land”. Both names describe the rugged beauty that was fashioned by magma, glaciers and ocean, thus creating beautiful mountain vistas, forested valleys, streams, and fjord-like lakes. Though the magma and glaciers are done with their work, the ocean is busy shaping and reshaping the rocky coast of Acadia. During our adventure we will discover what makes Acadia a coastal wonderland as we hike trails with spectacular views, travel by horse and carriage on some of the park’s historic carriage roads, and venture out into the ocean to learn about, and hopefully see, the giant mammals that make the sea their home. Acadia, the oldest national park east of the Mississippi River, is a botanist, geologist, birder, and photographer’s dream.

Sunday, June 9 - Arrival and Mixer

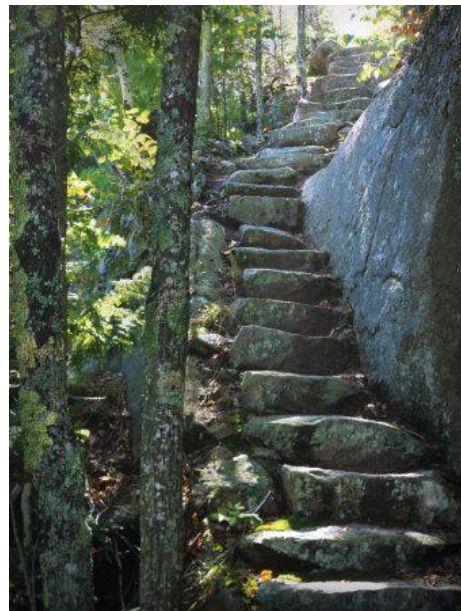
Participants should arrive at Bangor International Airport sometime in the afternoon where tour guides, Katie and Carrie, can pick you up and transport you to our lodgings, Bar Harbor Motel in Bar Harbor. After arriving and settling into our rooms, we will have a 6:00 pm meeting to get-to-know each other as well as learn about Acadia and our week ahead. Dinner will follow the meeting at a nearby restaurant.

Monday, June 10 - Acadia Overview



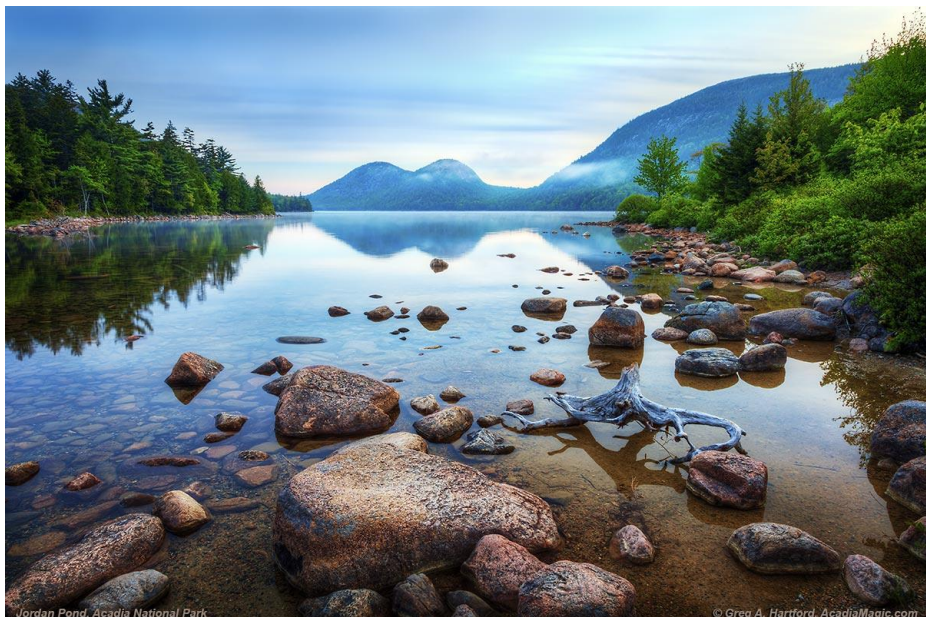
We will get a taste of what Acadia has to offer on this day! Our day starts with a continental breakfast and then hitting the road by 8:30 am. Hulls Cove Visitor Center will be our first stop to load up on park information through a program in the auditorium. We will continue on the Park Loop Road which will give us outstanding

views of the park's ocean coastline, forests, and mountains, making stops along the way for lots of photo opportunities. One of our stops will be at the Wild Gardens of Acadia which is a microcosm of Mount Desert Island's natural habitats, with over 300 labeled plants. We will also explore the nature center and the Sieur de Monts Spring. After our picnic lunch here, we will hike our first trails: Emery Path, Kurt Diederichs Climb, and Jesup Path. This 1.8 mile loop will take us up Dorr Mountain for spectacular views of the Great Meadow which will look pink from the rhodora blooms. Although short, this hike will be moderate to strenuous at times as we travel up and down stone-cut stairs. This enchanting trail will be full of wonderment. Once finished with this adventure, we will continue along the Park Loop Road for wonderful oceanic views from the south end of the island. The day will end with dinner in Bar Harbor.



Tuesday, June 11 - Jordan Pond and Rockefeller's Carriage Roads

The day will start, after an early breakfast, at 8:00 am. We hit the road and head to the other side of the park for a nice leisurely stroll around Jordan Pond. The Jordan Pond Loop is an easy hike that follows a path around the shores of Jordan Pond. The trail will lead us through forests and wetlands, on boardwalks and bridges, and allow us views of the Bubbles (prominent mountains in the north).



The trail will be teeming with wildflowers and birds. After this walk, there will be time to visit the Jordan Pond House for tea and popovers. At this time we will also eat our sack lunch and look around the Jordan Pond Shop. Our next stop of the day will take us back in time as we travel on the park's carriage roads by horse-drawn carriage. Acadia's forty-five miles of rustic carriage roads, which were gifted to the park by John D. Rockefeller

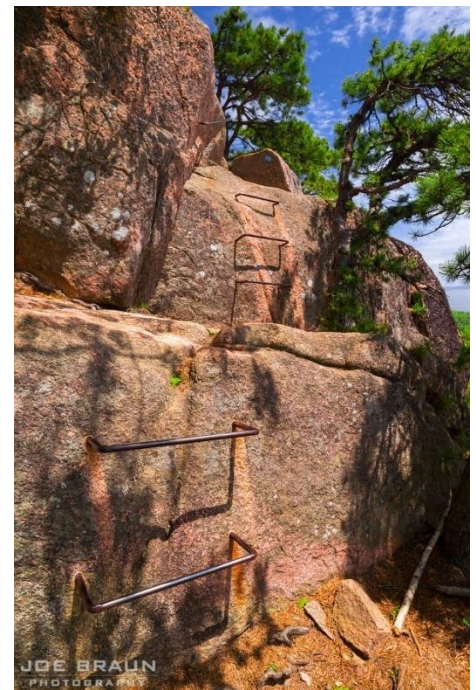
Jr., were designed to blend harmoniously with the landscape. This tour will take us along Triad Carriage Road on Pemetic Mountain providing wonderful views of the ocean, and chances to explore and photograph some of Mr. Rockefeller's bridges. The day will end with dinner in Bar Harbor.

Wednesday, June 12 - A Day of Trails



Today the tide will dictate our start time so we will have a leisurely morning at our lodgings, and plan to start our hikes around noon. The first hike is Bar Island Trail which is only accessible 1.5 hours before and after low tide. During low tide the sandbar between Downtown Bar Harbor and Bar Harbor Island becomes dry and exposes the trail that allows us this unique experience. This very easy hike will have tide pools and a meadow

brimming with lupine. Our next hike will take us up mountains, through beautiful forests, past giant rocks, and along the ocean coast. We will start on the Bowl Trail, which will take us through a lush forest to a trail junction where participants can decide to continue on the Bowl Trail or try the exciting, but strenuous, Beehive Trail. The Bowl Trail will take you to a beautiful mountain lake called the Bowl where lots of flowers can be seen and possible wildlife encounters could happen. For those that choose the Beehive Trail be prepared for a nearly vertical climb up the 520-foot Beehive, granite dome, using iron rungs. This section of our hike is not for anyone with a fear of heights! The whole group will meet up at the Bowl and Beehive Junction to continue on Gorham Mountain Trail. This section of our hike is moderate, and though Gorham Mountain is not the tallest mountain in Acadia it will offer fabulous views. We will take an off shoot of this trail to give anyone who didn't take the Beehive Trail a chance to try out iron rung ladders at a much smaller scale. From Gorham Mountain Trail we will continue to the Ocean Path, an easy, well-groomed trail along the coastline. We will get a chance to visit some of the key landmarks: Thunder Hole and Sand Beach. This hike is about 6 miles and will be strenuous at times so please take that into consideration. We will have a late dinner in Bar Harbor.



Thursday, June 13 - Tide pools, Whale Watching, and Sunsets

We will plan to be on the road by 9:00 am for a short drive to the George B. Dorr Museum of Natural History at the College of the Atlantic. Here we will investigate the natural world of Maine through dioramas and a tide pool tank which houses live sea stars, hermit crabs, snails, and other marine creatures. Our next stop will be Bar Harbor Whale Watch Co. in Downtown Bar Harbor where our next adventure awaits! We will spend the next 3 ½ to 4 hours on the Puffin and Whale Watch Tour on the Gulf of Maine. We hope to find a variety of whale species (Humpback, Finback, and Minke) along with seals, eagles, porpoises, dolphins, offshore birds, lighthouses and North Atlantic Puffins.

This fantastic trip will be fully interpreted by a Whale Watch naturalist. Tonight, we will have an early dinner before heading back to our rooms to freshen up, and prepare for the extraordinary



sunset from Acadia's largest and tallest mountain. Cadillac Mountain is over 1500 feet above sea level and will give us an excellent spot to see the sun disappear below the horizon. There is a short and easy trail on a paved path that is sure offer amazing views.

Friday, June 14 - Good Byes

Today will be a day of goodbyes. After breakfast, we will make our way to the airport to catch our flights home. Thanks for the memories!

Trip Leaders

Carrie Spencer is an experienced naturalist who enjoys sharing her knowledge and love of the natural world with others. She has led trips for the last 12 years, and is excited to explore Acadia, a truly magical place, with each and every one of you.

Katie McKiernan spent a whole summer exploring the wilds of Maine and is looking forward to sharing her knowledge of its natural history. She is thrilled to be leading this adventure for all of you.

Accommodations

During our time in Maine we will stay at the Bar Harbor Motel which is nestled close to Acadia National Park. Our rooms will be in small individual buildings spread about a park-like 15 acres which will provide a sense of privacy while still being close to the park and downtown Bar Harbor. Check out barharbormotel.com for more information.

Meals

All meals will be included from Sunday dinner to breakfast on Friday. Breakfast will be continental provided by the motel, and dinner will be at local restaurants in Bar Harbor. Lunch fixings will be provided for participants to make their own lunches each day. Additional snacks, drinks, and alcoholic beverages are not included in the trip fee.

Transportation

Participants planning to travel by air please fly into Bangor International Airport by mid-afternoon. This will allow time for Katie and Carrie to pick up each participant before our meeting and dinner. During our time on Mount Desert Island, we will travel in two 12 passenger vans.

Trip Fee

\$1,490.00 (\$1,460.00 for Seven Ponds members). This includes room (double occupancy), meals as described above, transportation while in Maine, park fees, carriage tour, whale watching tour, all gratuities, and naturalist services. Participants who would like a single room may pay a single supplement of \$245.00 (subject to availability). To sign up for the trip, please send your name, address, phone number, email, and a \$300.00 deposit to Seven Ponds Nature Center, 3854 Crawford Road, Dryden, Michigan 48428. Full payment is due May 9th, 2019.

Cancellation Policy

In the event of cancellation, refunds will be made according to the following schedule. If a cancellation occurs before May 9th, a full refund including deposit will be made. If cancellation occurs after May 9th, we will only be able to provide a refund for the portion of the trip fee that is recoverable by Seven Ponds.

Additional Information

If you have questions or need more information, contact Carrie Spencer at cspencer@sevenponds.org or Katie McKiernan at kmckiernan@sevenponds.org and you can always call the nature center (810) 796-3200.