



COASTAL MAINE - BY LAND AND SEA

21 JUNE - 27 JUNE 2020



We hope to find **Atlantic Puffins** on Machias Seal Island

The trip will begin by exploring the boreal forests of Acadia National Park, Cadillac Mountain. Here we might expect to see **Western Osprey** and **Bald Eagle** as well as smaller boreal species such as **Grey Jay** and **Black-backed Woodpecker**. Then we will travel down at the coast to Bar Harbor, where we will depart on an exciting whale watching boat trip to Petit Manan Island. On our second boat ride, this one out of Cutler Harbor, we'll visit Machias Seal Island to search for nesting **Atlantic Puffins**, **Razorbills**, **Common Murres**, **Arctic Terns**, other pelagic species, and more whales! Our pelagic trips may produce **Ocean Sunfish**, **Grey Seal**, and **Humpback, Fin**, and **Common Minke Whales**. On land we will look for **American Beaver** and **North American Porcupine**, and perhaps find an **American Black Bear** and a **Moose** or two. After our pelagics we will head to Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge, Machias, and Quoddy Head State Park for their rugged coastlines, boreal forests, and abundance of breeding species.

Some of our additional targets on this boreal and pelagic tour include **Northern Fulmar**, **Great Shearwater**, **Manx Shearwater**, **Leach's Storm Petrel**, **Wilson's Storm Petrel**, **Northern Gannet**, **American Bittern**, **Common Eider**, **Spruce Grouse**, **Sora**, **Upland Sandpiper**, **Red-necked Phalarope**, **Arctic Tern**, **Black Guillemot**, **Pileated Woodpecker**, **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, **Alder Flycatcher**, **Blue-headed Vireo**, **Vesper Sparrow**, **Pine Siskin**, **Red Crossbill**, and **Evening Grosbeak**.

Itinerary (7 days/6 nights)

Day 1. Bangor to Bar Harbor

The tour begins in Bangor, Maine. From here we'll drive toward the coast for our first taste of down-east birding, in Acadia National Park. This is a good time to search for cliff-nesting **Peregrine Falcon** and scan for **Common Loon**, **Western Osprey**, and **Bald Eagle**. We will overnight in a motel near Bar Harbor, here we may encounter singing warblers and the occasional flock of **Red Crossbills**.

Overnight: Bar Harbor

Day 2. Bar Harbor area

Today we'll have the whole day to explore Mount Desert Island. The spruce/fir forests should hopefully yield **Black-backed Woodpecker**, **Grey Jay**, **Boreal Chickadee**, **Magnolia** and **Blackpoll Warblers**, and with a bit of luck **Spruce Grouse**. We will bird the coastline, looking for **Common Eider**, **Black Guillemot**, **Great Cormorant**, and lots of gulls, terns, and ducks. **King Eider** is a possibility, albeit a rarity. A great day of birding deserves a great Maine seafood dinner, and we'll have a second night at the same motel.

Overnight: Bar Harbor

Day 3. Acadia National Park and Petit Manan Island trip

We'll have another morning to bird Acadia National Park, where we can explore some new areas and return to a few from yesterday. Around lunchtime we'll head for the dock at Bar Harbor and prepare for a half-day whale watching trip to Petit Manan Island. **Humpback Whale** is likely. One year we had two breaching for nearly an hour, very close to the boat! Several other species of whales and porpoises are possible. There will also be pelagic birds to observe, including

various shearwaters, storm petrels, and alcid species. Perhaps an ocean-going **Eastern Kingbird** will come and visit us again, 15 miles at sea!

Overnight: Bar Harbor

Day 4. Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge

We'll begin working our way north and arrive at Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge on the New Brunswick border. Here we will look for **American Bittern**, **Sora**, **Northern Goshawk**, **Spruce** and **Ruffed Grouse**, **Bay-breasted** and **Cape May Warblers**, and **Winter Wren**. There are nesting **Bald Eagles** and **Western Ospreys** and families of **Ring-necked Ducks**, as well as another good chance for **Black-backed Woodpecker**. Overnight in Machias. Just as in Bar Harbor, there may be nesting warblers behind the motel, plus **Bobolinks** across the road.

Overnight: Bluebird Motel, Machias

Day 5. Machias Seal Island trip

We depart Cutler Harbor at 7:00 a.m. for Machias Seal Island, where we should see nesting **Atlantic Puffins**, **Razorbills**, **Common Murres**, and **Arctic Terns**, all at point-blank range, making for great photographic opportunities. **Grey Seals** are likely at North Rock, while **Harbor Seals** are common. During the morning boat ride we will look for pelagic species such as **Northern Fulmar**, **Great Shearwater**, and **Wilson's Storm Petrel**. After lunch we'll drive to Quoddy Head State Park that juts out in the Grand Manan Channel, which offers great opportunities for seabirds and shorebirds. Boreal species may include **Lincoln's Sparrow** and **Palm Warbler**.

Overnight: Bluebird Motel, Machias

Day 6. Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge

Today we will probably return to the scenic Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge to explore more of its extensive trails and roads. We will also visit the Meddybemps blueberry barrens to look for breeding **Upland Sandpiper** and **Vesper Sparrow**.

Overnight: Bluebird Motel, Machias

Day 7. Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge to Bangor

Our final morning will be spent exploring some new areas, attempting to fill in our list of boreal birds and breeding warblers. One year we found our only **Two-barred Crossbill**, **Evening Grosbeak**, and **Pine Siskin** on the very last day! The tour will end at Bangor airport for our afternoon flights home.

Please note that the itinerary above cannot be guaranteed as it is only a rough guide and can be changed (usually slightly) due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides and other factors.

Duration: 7 days
Limit: 3 – 7
Date: 21 June – 27 June 2020
Start: Bangor, Maine

End: Bangor, Maine

Price: US\$3178 per person

Single Supplement: US\$333

Price includes:

Meals

Accommodation

Guiding fees

Entrance fees

Boat rides

All transport while on tour

Tolls

Price excludes:

All domestic and international flights

Items of a personal nature, e.g. gifts

Alcoholic drinks

Personal insurance

Gratuities