

Maine: Acadia National Park

Bike Vacation Only

Explore cozy beaches, craggy shoreline, fishing wharves, and so much more during this phenomenal journey biking Acadia National Park. Ride along Rockefeller's historic car-free carriage roads and take a lobster boat to Little Cranberry Island, where you'll pause to explore the authentic Down East. In idyllic Bar Harbor, practice your lobster-cracking skills and browse galleries, boutiques, and seafood bars. Reel along refreshing and unspoiled landscapes of rugged coastline, forested coves, and fishing harbors. Enjoy lunch under the pines and expect deluxe comforts at a charming seaside inns where surf and seagulls lull you to sleep.

Cultural Highlights

- Ride along Rockefeller's historic and car-free carriage roads through Acadia National Park
- Take a lobster boat to Little Cranberry Island and discover the authentic Down East
- Practice your lobster-cracking skills at a traditional bake at the Bar Harbor Inn
- Pause at Jordan Pond's pristine waters reflecting the beautiful curves of the Bubbles
- Ride through a refreshing and unspoiled landscape of rugged coastline, forested coves and idyllic fishing harbors

What to Expect

This tour offers a full range of easy terrain mixed with moderate hills and is ideal for both beginner and experienced cyclists. Van support will be limited in Acadia National Park because of the biking trails. The support vehicle will be available at specific locations. On days with limited vehicle support the leader will provide you with extra snacks and supplies.

Average Daily Mileage: 13 - 26 miles

Average Cycling Time: 01:00 - 03:00

Climate Information

Average High/Low Temperature (°F)

May 65°/45°, Jun 74°/54°, Jul 79°/59°, Aug 78°/59°, Sep 70°/52°, Oct 59°/42°

Average Rainfall (in.)

May 4.6, Jun 4.1, Jul 3.5, Aug 3.3, Sep 4.5, Oct 5.3

DAY 1: Arrive in Bar Harbor / VBT Bicycle Vacation begins

Make your own arrangements for travel to Bar Harbor. If you're flying to Maine, VBT will offer a shuttle from Bangor International Airport. The shuttle works on a "show and go" basis and will make its only departure from the airport to the inn at 1:00 p.m. Shuttle reservations are not required or available. Upon arrival at the airport, please exit the doors in front of the escalators and cross the street to the Bangor Aviator Hotel to await the shuttle. Your shuttle bus will carry "West Bus Service" titles, and the driver will be holding a VBT sign. If you are arriving after this shuttle departs or your flight is delayed, you must make your own arrangements to reach the Bar Harbor Inn.

Guests driving to the tour may leave their car in the Bar Harbor Inn's parking lot for the duration of the tour at no charge.

Your group meets at the Bar Harbor Inn. Before you begin biking Acadia National Park, settle in and explore this lovely seaport town until mid-afternoon. From 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., join your VBT trip leaders for a safety and bike-fitting session, followed by a short warm-up ride. At 5:00 p.m., meet again for a tour orientation and welcome reception before your 7:00 p.m. lobster bake dinner at the inn.

Today's Ride Choices

Afternoon: Warm-up Bar Harbor — 8.3 miles

What to Expect:

Ride to Schooner Head Scenic Overlook and enjoy the lovely ocean views before returning the way you came.

Cumulative Distance Range: 8.3 miles

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY 2: Explore Schoodic Peninsula

After breakfast, we catch a morning bike ferry (45 minutes) across Frenchman Bay to Schoodic

Peninsula, the only section of the park on mainland Maine. A local's favorite, you will ride along the shoreline through classic Down East fishing villages. View sea birds, crashing surf, and working lobster boats as you ride to our lunch spot. Enjoy the peace and serenity of Schoodic Point before riding back to Winter Harbor for our return ferry (45 minutes) to Bar Harbor. You'll enjoy dinner on your own this evening.

Today's Ride Choices

Morning: Schoodic Loop Road — 24 miles

What to Expect:

Begin your day with a 40-minute ferry from Bar Harbor across Frenchmen Bay to Winter Harbor, on the Schoodic Peninsula. Here you will experience rural riding on mainland and remain in Acadia National Park. Explore Maine's rugged coast in this uncrowded and unspoiled magical setting, past fishing villages, secluded bays and pounding surf.

After an included lunch near the water, continue your ride on this quiet peninsula back to Winter Harbor for your return ferry to Bar Harbor.

Cumulative Distance Range: 24 miles

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3: Acadia's Park Loop

Today, cycle Acadia's famous Park Loop Road to visit sites such as Sand Beach and Thunder Hole. After lunch at the Fabbri Memorial Picnic Area, stop at Jordan Pond to take in the beautiful views. For additional miles, continue on the Park Loop Road past Cadillac Mountain Summit Road. This afternoon, you may choose to go on a sunset cruise on the schooner Margaret Todd (at your own expense) or spend time browsing Bar Harbor's charming gift shops and boutiques. For dinner on your own, enjoy one of the fine restaurants in town.

Today's Ride Choices

Morning: Bar Harbor to Jordan Pond Loop — 24 miles

Afternoon: Park Loop Road to Cadillac Mountain — 15 miles

What to Expect:

A nice ride on Park Loop Road includes visits to Thunder Hole, Fabbri Memorial, and Jordan Pond.

Towards the end of the ride, for additional miles, you have the option to return to Bar Harbor or ride to the summit of Cadillac Mountain.

Cumulative Distance Range: 24 – 39 miles

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4: Cycle carriage trails around Eagle Lake to Northeast Harbor

Today, the tranquility of biking Acadia National Park is in full force as you cycle on Acadia's famed car-free carriage roads, which were established by John D. Rockefeller. Your route takes you around Eagle Lake to the town of Northeast Harbor. In this island enclave with its beautiful protected harbor full of sailboats and luxury yachts, you'll find attractive boutiques, galleries, gardens, and eateries. The Azalea and Thuya gardens of Northeast Harbor can be visited before or after lunch. You can choose to return by bike along the carriage roads to the east of Eagle Lake past Bubble Pond. Later this afternoon, take advantage of your inn's amenities, which include a spa and an outdoor swimming pool. For dinner, continue your independent exploration of Bar Harbor's many dining options, both simple and refined.

Today's Ride Choices

Morning: Carriage Roads to Northeast Harbor — 13 miles

Afternoon: Northeast Harbor to Bar Harbor — 15 miles

What to Expect:

Carriage Roads to Northeast Harbor:

Depart the Bar Harbor Inn, skirting the edge of town, and at just under 4 miles, you'll merge with the carriage roads of Acadia National Park and continue on them to the west side of Eagle Lake to the town of Northeast Harbor. Be sure to visit the Azalea and Thuya Gardens in Northeast Harbor.

Northeast Harbor to Bar Harbor:

To return to Bar Harbor, you enter the carriage roads at the Brown Mountain gatehouse and skirt the southern tip of Jordan Pond, continuing past Bubble Pond and the east side of Eagle Lake. You wind your way back to the center of Bar Harbor along carriage roads and town streets.

Cumulative Distance Range: 13 – 28 miles

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5: Non-riding Day / Explore Little Cranberry Island and Southwest Harbor

Today is your last full day adventure in Acadia National Park. Leave your bikes behind as you explore by boat and on foot. After breakfast at the inn, you join a short drive to the town of Southwest Harbor. Here you'll board a lobster boat to Little Cranberry Island. This pristine sea-faring hamlet hosts a year-round community of lobstermen, boat builders, craftsmen, and "rusticators" (those happy few who opt for country living). You'll visit the Islesford Historical Museum before boarding the boat back to Southwest Harbor (a 30-minute ride).

Enjoy your final farewell celebration dinner at the inn.

What to Expect:

Non-riding day: Visit of Southwest Harbor with an included lobster boat ride. Today we cross from Southwest Harbor to Little Cranberry Island and Islesford. Explore a quaint community that lives on this dollop of an island.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6: Enjoy the Witch Hole Pond loop before departing / Optional sea kayaking / VBT Bicycle Vacation ends

This morning, you have the option of enjoying one last ride along Acadia's carriage roads or an optional sea-kayak excursion in Bar Harbor. As you and your fellow travelers bid adieu, you'll agree with the state's motto that this is truly "the way life should be."

VBT has arranged facilities for you to use between noon and 1:00 p.m. to shower and change before leaving. The innkeepers of the Bar Harbor Inn ask that you depart by 1:00 p.m. A return shuttle to Bangor International Airport will depart the Bar Harbor Inn at 1:00 p.m. (travel time approximately one hour, 15 minutes). For this reason, we suggest a flight departing no earlier than 4:15 p.m.

**VBT transportation times and departure points are finalized in advance and cannot be modified for individual guests.

Today's Ride Choices

Morning: Witch Hole Pond loop — 8.7 miles

What to Expect:

Depart the Bar Harbor Inn skirting the edge of town and joining the Carriage Roads at the Duck Brook Carriage Road trailhead. A counterclockwise loop provides views of Witch Hole Pond and surrounding wetlands with an option to stop at the Hulls Cove Visitor Center before returning to Bar Harbor.

Cumulative Distance Range: 8.7 miles

Included Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations

May vary depending on departure date.

Bar Harbor Inn (Days: 1,2,3,4,5)

Built in 1887, the Bar Harbor Inn offers luxurious, air-conditioned suites that overlook sprawling, beautifully landscaped grounds. The Reading Room boasts picture windows with views of the harbor and Porcupine Islands. On your downtime, recharge at the world-class luxury spa, enjoy a leisurely walk along the gracious green lawn, or try the renowned lobster bisques and bakes.