

Maine: Acadia National Park

Bike Vacation Only

This lively Nor'easter is packed with fresh lobster, creamy chowdah and berry scones as you explore the cozy beaches, craggy shoreline and fishing wharves of Mount Desert Island. Preppy Bar Harbor is a yachtsman's delight and a bastion of Down East style. You'll ride through Acadia National Park on Rockefeller's historic carriage roads and meet memorable characters on boats, taverns and strolling through the village greens and parks. Enjoy a picnic under the pines and expect deluxe comforts at 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
Browse Bar Harbor's fun shops, art galleries and seafood bars
Take a lobster boat to Little Cranberry Island and discover the authentic Down East
Enjoy a picnic lunch in a pine-scented forest filled with chickadees and birdsong
Walk through the Azalea and Thuya Gardens, two world-class parklands in Northeast Harbor
Practice your lobster-cracking skills at a traditional bake at the Bar Harbor Inn
Ride through a refreshing and unspoiled landscape of rugged coastline, forested coves and idyllic fishing harbors
Savor some of New England's fresh Atlantic seafood: mussels, clams and Oysters Rockefeller
Pause at Jordan Pond's pristine waters reflecting the beautiful curves of the Bubbles
Sample the Pine State's famous mouth-watering scones, pies, cobblers and martinis infused with forest berries
Photograph historic lighthouses perched atop craggy granite bluffs

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. Approximately half of the rides are on packed gravel paths within the national park. Our VBT van support shuttle is available for those who would like assistance with hills.

Tour Duration: 6 Days

Average Daily Mileage: 13 - 26

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 Four Points Sheraton to await the transfer. 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. After settling in, 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.

Hotel: Bar Harbor Inn

Meals: D

Daily Options: 8.3 miles

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.

Hotel: Bar Harbor Inn

Meals: B, L

Daily Options: 24 miles

DAY 3: Cycle to Compass Harbor / Optional sea kayaking or a sunset cruise

Begin your morning with a short ride to Compass Harbor, site of George Dorr's Old Farm ruins. A short hike (1 mile round trip) takes you to Dorr Point with views of Compass Harbor and the Porcupine Islands. Continue to Sand Beach, where you can relax on the shore. After lunch at the Fabbri Memorial Picnic Area, cycle back to Bar Harbor or, for additional miles, continue on the Park Loop Road past Cadillac Mountain Summit Road. This afternoon, you may choose among optional activities (at your own expense): guided sea kayaking in Frenchman Bay or a sunset cruise on the schooner *Margaret Todd*. You may also choose to browse Bar Harbor's charming gift shops and boutiques. For dinner on your own, enjoy one of the fine restaurants in town.

Hotel: Bar Harbor Inn

Meals: B, L

Daily Options: 14.4 or 28.4 miles

DAY 4: Cycle carriage trails to Jordan Pond

Today, you'll cycle on Acadia's famed car-free carriage roads, which were established by John D. Rockefeller. Your loop takes you around Eagle Lake to Jordan Pond before enjoying lunch on your own. Consider stopping at Jordan Pond House for elegant fare, including their famous lobster stew and golden, lighter-than-air popovers. This afternoon you may bike or hike on the Carriage Trails to your inn. In Northeast Harbor, you'll find attractive boutiques, galleries, gardens, and eateries. Your accommodation here, Asticou Inn, overlooks a beautiful protected harbor full of sailboats and luxury yachts. Take advantage of the inn's amenities, which include a clay tennis court and an outdoor swimming pool. Dinner will be at a local restaurant tonight.

Hotel: Asticou Inn

Meals: B, D

Daily Options: 15 or 24 miles; or 3-mile hike

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

Your exploration today is done both by boat and on foot. After a leisurely breakfast at the inn, you may enjoy an optional visit to the Azalea and Thuya Gardens. Afterwards, you'll board a lobster boat to Little Cranberry Island. This pristine 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 Northeast Harbor (a 30-minute ride). Enjoy your final farewell celebration dinner at the inn.

Hotel: Asticou Inn

Meals: B, L, D

Daily Options: Non-cycling day (opportunity for an 11-mile independent ride in the afternoon)

DAY 6: Enjoy the Carriage Trails before departing / VBT Bicycle Vacation ends

This morning, you will cycle to Acadia National Park and cruise along the carriage trails one last time, enjoying the views of Eagle Lake and Bubble Pond on your way back to 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 1 hour and 15 minutes). For this reason, we suggest a flight departing no earlier than 4:15 p.m.

Meals: B

Daily Options: 19.5 or 32.5 miles

Accommodations

May vary depending on departure date.

Asticou Inn (Days: 4,5)

Established in 1883, this historic inn overlooks the placid waters of Northeast Harbor and is adjacent to Acadia National Park. It has 48 rooms—31 in the four-story main inn and 17 in four smaller buildings known collectively as the "Asticou Cottages." The inn features modern amenities, including a heated

swimming pool and a clay tennis court and is home to Peabody's, an elegant harborside restaurant serving local and regional favorites such as lobster bisque, New England clam chowder, and Napoleons made with fresh Maine blueberries. The beautifully landscaped Azalea Garden and Thuya Garden are within easy walking distance. Both are wonderful destinations.

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

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.