



RILL'S BUS SERVICE
218 Dutrow Road
Westminster, MD 21157
(410) 848-4649 876-7530
(800) 801-7530
staff@rillsbusservice.com

MOUNTAINS TO COAST IN MAGNIFICENT MAINE

SEPTEMBER 8-15, 2019

Maine, the northeasternmost U.S. state, is known for its rocky coastline, maritime history, and nature areas like Acadia National Park. Explore the natural beauty and wealth of history in Maine on this exciting excursion showcasing the best in the Pine Tree State!

Departure/return times and pickup location are as follows:

	<u>DEPART</u>	<u>RETURN</u>
Kohl's, Westminster Rt. 140 & Market St. (Rear of parking lot)	6:00 A.M.	6:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8: We begin our travels north to New England today making regular meal and rest stops en route. This afternoon, we will visit **Mystic Seaport**, the nation's leading maritime museum founded in 1929, to gather and preserve the rapidly disappearing artifacts of America's seafaring past. The living history museum covers 19 acres of ground on the Mystic River and includes a recreated New England coastal village, a working shipyard, and formal exhibit halls. The Museum is home to more than 500 historic watercraft, including four National Historic Landmark vessels, most notably the 1841 whaleship *Charles W. Morgan*, America's oldest commercial ship still in existence. We will then check into our overnight accommodations at:

HAMPTON INN (860) 536-2536
6 Hendel Drive
Mystic, Connecticut 06355

Dinner is included this evening at a local restaurant.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9: Following breakfast at the hotel, we will continue our travels to **Ogunquit**, Maine, which means: "Beautiful Place by the Sea." En route, we will make a stop at Maine's southernmost lighthouse at **Nubble Lighthouse** in **Cape Neddick** for a photo opportunity and to take in the picturesque view. Enjoy lunch on your own in **Perkins Cove** before boarding a special **lobster tour boat** to learn how the Maine lobstermen make their living. On this one-hour cruise, we will see the scenic beauty of Ogunquit's shoreline with a first-hand viewing of how the lobstermen set and haul their traps. Next, meet our local guide for a **narrated tour of Kennebunkport**. Drive past the sandy beaches and rocky coastline, past the George Bush estate at Walker's Point, hear the history of these shipbuilding towns, and the legend of the Wedding Cake House. We will also visit the seaside **Franciscan Monastery** with

its beautiful landscaping, outdoor shrines and chapel. Then, we will travel north to **Portland**, Maine's largest city-by-the-sea. Upon arrival, we will check into our lodging, located just one mile from the Portland waterfront:

CLARION HOTEL (207) 774-5611
1230 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04102



A buffet dinner is included tonight at the hotel. Afterwards, have the option for leisure time in Portland's historic waterfront district, the **Old Port Exchange**, which has been restored to 19th century splendor, with cobblestone streets and beautiful Victorian brick buildings housing an eclectic mix of restaurants, art galleries, and specialty shops.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10: After breakfast, we will meet our local guide for a **narrated tour of Portland** - Maine's largest city-by-the-sea. See views of Longfellow's boyhood home, sea captain houses, and the elegant Victoria Mansion as we drive through historic neighborhoods overlooking the islands of Casco Bay in Portland Harbor. Our tour includes a stop at **Portland Head Light**. This historic landmark is the most photographed lighthouse in America, set in Fort Williams Park with crashing surf, a beach, and an old fort. Then, we will have the opportunity to take a private tour of **Spring Point Ledge lighthouse** that is not normally open to the public and is accessible via a granite jetty. See how the lighthouse keepers lived as you walk through the rooms to the top of the two story lighthouse for a beautiful view of the Portland waterfront. We will then make our way to **Freeport** village, home of sporting goods king, **L.L. Bean**. Have leisure time to experience world-class outlet and boutique shopping in this unique coastal Maine village with lunch on your own. Next, we will visit the **Maine Wildlife Park** in Gray, for a guided tour. See several Maine moose here as well as Maine black bears, bald eagles and a variety of rescued animals. We will then arrive at our home for the next two nights in the mountains of western Maine at:

JORDAN GRAND HOTEL AT SUNDAY RIVER (800) 543-2754
27 Grand Circle
Newry, Maine 04261

Settle into the comforts of this lovely mountainside resort on the outskirts of Bethel. A welcome reception will be served around the giant lobby fireplace. A buffet dinner followed by a crackling campfire is included this evening at the hotel.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11: Following a hearty breakfast at the hotel, we will discover the history of this unique area, known for its mountaineering, skiing and gemstone mining. First, try your hand at a **mineral and gemstone sluicing program**. Learn about the gemstones, including the exquisite Maine Tourmaline, commonly found in this area. Don an apron and a bucket for this hands-on program, where you can keep any treasures you find! Next, we will tour the **Bethel Historical Society Museum** in the village along with one of the beautiful old homes next door and a historic presentation. Enjoy lunch on your own at one of the village restaurants or Sunday River Brewing restaurant, followed by optional free time to explore the village shops on your own in Maine's most beautiful mountain village. Regroup in the late afternoon for a special **guided moose-watching tour**, the perfect time of day to spot Maine's gentle giants. Enjoy the beautiful scenery and spectacular peaks and gorges as we tour through



Grafton Notch State Park on board our motorcoach, making stops for scenic photos at mountain overlooks and a local covered bridge known as “the artists bridge”. Grafton Notch State Park and the Mahoosuc Public Lands are a premier recreational destination lying amidst some of Maine's most spectacular mountains, the Mahoosuc Range. Travel along some “off the beaten path” roads where our local guide knows the most likely places to spot a moose. Freshen up back at the resort for dinner this evening scheduled at the lovely **Sudbury Inn**, a classic New England establishment since 1873 located in downtown Bethel.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12: After breakfast, we will visit **Maine Balsam Fir Products**, a small company that hand-makes balsam-filled pillows and products. Enjoy the natural and healthy fragrance of balsam as you see the start-to-finish process behind these handmade Maine specialty products on a special guided tour of the balsam pillow factory. Then we travel to Livermore, Maine where we will step back in time at the **Washburn Living History Museum**. Embark on a guided tour of this rural estate learning the story of the Washburns and their seven famous sons who rose to serve as state governors, congressmen, a U.S. senator, Secretary of State, foreign ministers, a Civil War general, and a Navy captain. A country-style luncheon is planned afterwards. Sit back and relax for a trip “downeast” to **Mt. Desert Island**. Bar Harbor has been celebrated for its breathtaking beauty ever since the island was discovered in 1604 by Samuel de Champlain, who named it "Isle de Monts Desert" (Mt. Desert Island) for its bare, desert-like mountaintops. See quiet little protected harbors filled with working lobster boats along the way. Ospreys and bald eagles nest high in the spruces along the rugged shores, deer browse the open fields, moose forage the wetlands, and harbor seals make their annual pilgrimage to quiet coves. We will check into our beautiful accommodations for a two-night stay which overlooks scenic Frenchman’s Bay:

ATLANTIC OCEANSIDE RESORT
(207)288-5801
119 Eden Street
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609

Dinner is included at the hotel this evening.



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13: Enjoy a full breakfast buffet included at the hotel this morning. Then embark on a **sightseeing/nature cruise of Frenchman’s Bay**, cruising along the calm waters of the harbor and seeing a variety of marine life on this narrated excursion. Head to a small island to look at harbor seals basking on the rocks and enjoy the majestic scenery of the Maine coast. Have some leisure time for lunch on your own in Bar Harbor with time to explore the shops, boutiques and galleries in downtown Bar Harbor, or even stroll along the shoreline walking trail here. This afternoon, we will meet our local guide for a **tour of Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park**. First, enjoy a one hour **horse-drawn carriage ride** along the park carriage roads built by John D. Rockefeller Jr., and travel through some of Acadia’s off-the-beaten-track scenic areas. Here in the first national park founded east of the Mississippi, see 9 mountains over 1,000 feet high, stone bridges, lakes, ponds, trails and carriage roads. Travel the entire Park Loop road with stops at **Cadillac Mountain, Thunder Hole on Ocean Drive, and Sieur De Mont Springs Wild Gardens of Acadia**, plus learn about the rich and famous visitors who built summer cottages in Bar Harbor. This evening, don your souvenir Maine Lobster Hat

and bring your appetite for a **traditional Maine lobsterbake dinner** with all the fixin's! Our meal will be steamed in a large cooker as we watch and ask questions about lobster fishing and lobster cooking.



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14: After breakfast we will say farewell to Maine and head south to the Boston, Massachusetts area to visit the **John F. Kennedy Library & Museum**, our nation's official memorial to the 35th president of the United States. Learn about the life and times of President Kennedy and First Lady with an introductory film and 21 exhibits. Enjoy lunch on own at the JFK Café with views of the Boston city skyline and it's Inner Harbor. We will then check into our overnight lodging located near Springfield at:

HAMPTON INN (413) 593-1500
600 Memorial Drive
Chicopee, Massachusetts 01020

Dinner will be included at a local restaurant this evening.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15: Enjoy breakfast this morning before departing for home with your Maine Mountain to Sea memories! We will make regular meal and rest stops en route home as we reflect on all that we experienced on this exciting Maine excursion!

PRICE PER PERSON:

SINGLE	\$2,555.00	(PRICE INCLUDES: motorcoach transportation,
DOUBLE	\$2,275.00	lodging, luggage handling, 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 7 dinners,
TRIPLE	\$2,190.00	admissions, boat cruises, carriage ride, guided tours &
QUAD	\$2,115.00	gratuities, and tax & gratuities on meals included)

A DEPOSIT OF \$500 PER PERSON IS REQUIRED WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF BOOKING. ALL RESERVATIONS AND FINAL PAYMENT MUST BE MADE BY JULY 26, 2019. Luggage tags and itineraries are mailed about 10 days prior to the trip. Bills are not mailed for balances due.

Our motorcoach is equipped with restroom, reclining seats, air-conditioning/heating as needed, luggage compartments, and electrical outlets.

In order to accommodate our tour members who are non-smokers or who cannot tolerate cigarette smoke, we must insist that no smoking be allowed on board our coach. The consumption of alcoholic beverages by any tour member while onboard our coach is strictly prohibited. Rill's Bus Service reserves the right to change itineraries and reservations, if in the best interest of the customer.

In the event of a cancellation, any non-refundable expenses for reserved seat tickets, admissions, meals, or lodging may be forfeited. Rills will guarantee full refund only if the cancelled reservations can be resold to another customer.

Trip cancellation insurance is available through Travel Guard Insurance. An application and coverage information will be mailed to you upon request to Rill's Bus Service. A completed application with payment should be mailed to: Travel Guard, 3300 Business Park Drive, Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54482. For specific questions regarding cancellation insurance, call Travel Guard at (800)826-1300. You will need to refer to Agency #50810 (Rill's Bus Service as agent).

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