

Hub & Spoke – Lewiston/Auburn, Maine

This hub and spoke tour is based out of Lewiston – Auburn. The gateway twin city area has several group-friendly hotels and offers great group dinner options and nighttime activities. Group-friendly hotel choices include the Hilton Garden Inn Auburn Riverwatch, Fireside Inn & Suites Auburn and the Hampton Inn, Lewiston.

*For lunch, visit one of the restaurants housed in the former mill spaces in downtown. **DaVinci's Eatery** has a daily lunch buffet including pizza, soups and salads, or **Fish Bones American Grill** can customize a menu for your group.*

Day 1

By the mid-1850s, the Lewiston-Auburn area had become an industrial center with many textile, shoe and brick mills. Along with the industry came waves of immigrant workers, tenements and labor issues, and impressive civic structures and cultural amenities (including Bates College.) To get a feel for the city and its heritage, make arrangements with **Museum L/A** for a guided tour of the museum, as well as a walking tour of downtown Lewiston to better understand the impact of the industrialization.



Visit the **Bates College Museum of Art** at the Olin Arts Center. The museum's permanent collection features 5,000 works of art including the Marsden Hartley Memorial Collection, modern and contemporary works on paper, photographs, and much more.

Stop by the **Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul**, founded in 1870. It is the oldest parish for the French speaking Catholics in the region. The history of Saints Peter and Paul parish isn't just the chronicle of an old church, but of the amazing faith of the French-Canadian immigrants whose struggles, patience, and great generosity built it.

Consider checking the calendar for evening activities including Bates Dance Festival performances, Maine Music Society, The Public Theatre, and others.

Day 2

Travel to the mountains of Western Maine and the village of **Bethel**. Located about four miles off Route 2 on the Sunday River Road, the **Artists' Covered Bridge**, built in 1872, is named so because of its reputation as being the most photographed and painted of the venerable covered bridges in Maine.



During the summer and fall, **Sunday River Resort** offers scenic rides on its *Chondola* lift to the top of North Peak, giving visitors spectacular views of the Mahoosuc Mountains and across the Sunday River Valley. While at North Peak, visitors can walk around and take in the views, and hunt for hidden treasures with the geocaching program.

Inaugurated in 2019, the **Maine Gem and Mineral Museum** is a state-of-the-art attraction where groups will enjoy exploring the largest collection of meteorites in the US as well as interactive out-of-this-world experiences.

When heading back to Lewiston-Auburn, travel via Route 5/35 and pass through Lynchville to view the famous **international town name signpost**. A great photo op!

Return to the hotel to change for an evening out at the **Oxford Casino**. The casino offers table games and slots, as well as dining options.

Day 3

Start your day off with **new activities** at **Pineland Farms**' New Gloucester campus for a tour of their Maple Sugar House, gardens or try your hand at archery or fly casting with the on-campus **L.L. Bean Outdoor Discovery School**.



Head to **Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village**, New Gloucester, the only active and functioning Shaker Village in the world. The museum buildings encompass more than 200 years of Shaker history. Guided tours offer insight into this unique religion and way of life.

Visit the **Maine Wildlife Park** in Gray. The park serves as a home for animals that can no longer survive on their own. Residents include a bald eagle, moose, fox, bobcat, black bear and mountain lion.

Head back to Lewiston for dinner. Check out a concert at the **Franco-American Heritage Center**. Concert attendees can also enjoy touring the displays in the center's **Musee D'Heritage**. The staff is always on hand to offer a tour of the facility (a historic church).

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