

Maine Maritime Heritage Itinerary

This tour takes you along Maine's coastline, where for hundreds of years, people's livelihoods depended on the seas — from boatbuilding to lobstering.

Day 1

Join **Portland Discovery Land & Sea Tours** for a City and Lighthouse Tour. You'll stop at Fort Williams and Portland Head Light, Maine's oldest lighthouse, commissioned by George Washington and completed in 1791. Another tour destination is the Portland Observatory, America's last-standing 19th-century maritime signal station. The 86-foot tall observatory was built in 1807 overlooking Portland Harbor and Casco Bay.



Next, board one of the **Portland Schooner Company's** vessels for a two-hour sail on Casco Bay, the perfect way to experience the beauty of the Maine coast, complete with lighthouses, seals, seabirds and the rugged coastline.

Day 2



The next morning, head to the city of Bath (*approx. 40 mins from Portland*). Bath has more than 400 years of shipbuilding history, making it the perfect place to learn about Maine's maritime heritage. The **Maine Maritime Museum** provides a scenic campus to learn about the state's seafaring history. The museum offers an add-on trolley tour that explains the history and work of one of the world's largest shipbuilders, Bath Iron Works, as well as a nature and history cruise on the Kennebec River.

At the museum, pick up self-guided **walking tour** maps of Bath and explore this small city that features interesting architecture and a rich seafaring history. Spend time in the bustling and quintessential New England downtown of **Bath**. There are several interesting shops to check out.

Day 3

From Bath, head to Rockland (*approx. 1 hour from Bath*) to the picturesque harbor town to visit the **Maine Lighthouse Museum**. This is the proud home of the largest collection of Fresnel lighthouse lenses and the most important landmark collection of lighthouse artifacts and Coast Guard memorabilia in the United States.



To experience another on-the-water adventure, you may want to join the **Schooner Heron** in Rockport for a 2 ½-hour eco/history tour.

Next, continue along the coast to Searsport's **Penobscot Marine Museum** (*approx. 1 hour from Rockland*). The museum is housed in a village comprised of eight buildings, all of which are on the National Register of Historic Places. It is a delight to walk through the utterly charming three acres of museum buildings and discover all the various collections, artifacts and exhibits.

Finally, it's time to head to Bar Harbor (*approx. 1.5 hours from Searsport*) for the night.

Day 4

This morning, head to the **Mount Desert Oceanarium** for hands-on experiences including touch tanks, salt marsh tours and more that provide insight into life in the tidal zone. This is also home to a lobster hatchery where you can learn about the life cycle of what may be Maine's most famous species.



Now it's time to learn about lobstering. During your cruise on **Lulu Lobster Boat** you'll experience a sample of the life and work of the Maine lobsterman. The captain will demonstrate how lobster traps are hauled the traditional way. While learning about lobstering you'll also be able to get a glimpse of seals on the rocks and other beautiful wildlife.

Dine tonight at the **Looking Glass**, built on the site of Mary Roberts Rinehart's Fairview estate destroyed in the 1947 fire, with exquisite views of Frenchman's Bay and the town of Bar Harbor.

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