



© "Reflection of Rum Pond" by daveynin, Flickr, CC BY 2.0

PRE-TRIP ITINERARY

Maine

A SPECIAL NATURE
CONSERVANCY DEPARTURE
SEPTEMBER 22 - 27, 2019

- Estimated Price: \$3,950 per person based on double occupancy, \$4,590 single occupancy
- Trip cost is based on a minimum of 8 participants in shared accommodations. Final trip costs will be based on actual number of participants.



Protecting nature. Preserving life.

The Nature Conservancy invites you to join in celebrating one of their largest successes ever—a 363,000-acre conservation easement connecting more than 2 million acres in Maine, stretching from the St. John Valley to Moosehead Lake, and on to Mount Katahdin. The historic easement is the second largest in the U.S. and the largest contiguous conservation easement ever. This trip celebrates the accomplishment and will let you experience first-hand these remarkable lands!



Morning mist along the Penobscot River. © Bridget Besaw

Trip Overview

The Nature Conservancy, the Forest Society of Maine, Appalachian Mountain Club, and Plum Creek have achieved an historic conservation easement on 363,000 acres near Greenville. The easement is one of the largest in the history of conservation in the United States, and it serves as the missing piece that connects existing protected lands to create one of the nation’s most extensive conserved working forests.

Nestled in the shadow of Mount Katahdin, just south of Baxter State Park, The Nature Conservancy’s Debsconeag Lakes Wilderness Area (DLWA) is a vital link in nearly 500,000 acres of contiguous conservation land.

Debsconeag means “carrying place,” named by native people for the portage sites where they carried their birch bark canoes around rapids and waterfalls. The DLWA contains the highest concentration of pristine, remote ponds in New England, as well as thousands of acres of mature forests.

These lands are a vital piece of the movement to conserve the forests, waterways and natural habitats of the North Woods. They bring the big picture into focus.

It is a picture of pristine waters and forested mountains with remote opportunities for paddling, hiking, camping, skiing, fishing and hunting. It is a picture of protection for priceless ecological treasures: the headwaters of some of Maine’s major rivers, untouched ponds and peatlands and habitat for rare plants and animals. And it is a picture of vast, unfragmented forests managed in a way that supports the local economy while providing a home to wide-ranging mammals such as moose, marten, fisher and Canada lynx.

Day 1: SEPTEMBER 22

Welcome to Maine! Highly esteemed Legacy Club Trip leaders will meet you upon arrival in Bangor and take you through Millinocket to the trip's start in Twin Pines. Here you will be welcomed with lunch in Millinocket and an opportunity to explore the area. After getting settled in to our accommodations at Twin Pines, you can take a leisurely hike or paddle on Millinocket Lake. We may have an opportunity for an afternoon moose tour on a luxury pontoon boat.

This evening we will gather for a welcome cocktail reception where we will get to meet each other and discuss the week ahead. Dinner will be on the Twin Pines property at the award winning restaurant River Driver's Restaurant on Millinocket Lake overlooking Katahdin, Maine's highest mountain.

Overnight: Twin Pines

Day 2: SEPTEMBER 23

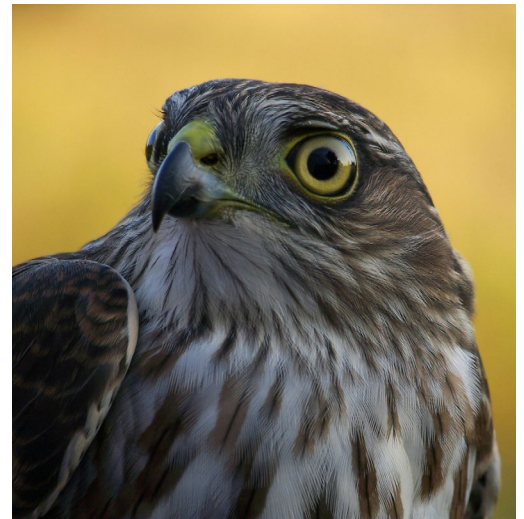
After breakfast in the comfort of your cabin or at River Drivers Restaurant, we will head out to Debsconeag Lakes Wilderness where we will hike the Ice Caves Trail. This classic Maine Trail has beautiful views of Katahdin, old forest, lakes and mountains. While some like to observe from above, others venture to the bottom of the spacious ice caves through an optional decent on a ladder of steel rungs.

We will be rewarded for our morning's effort with a lunch on the trail provided by our host restaurant for the week, River Drivers Restaurant. There are scenic vista points and a landing at First Debsconeag Lakes that make for excellent picnic spots.

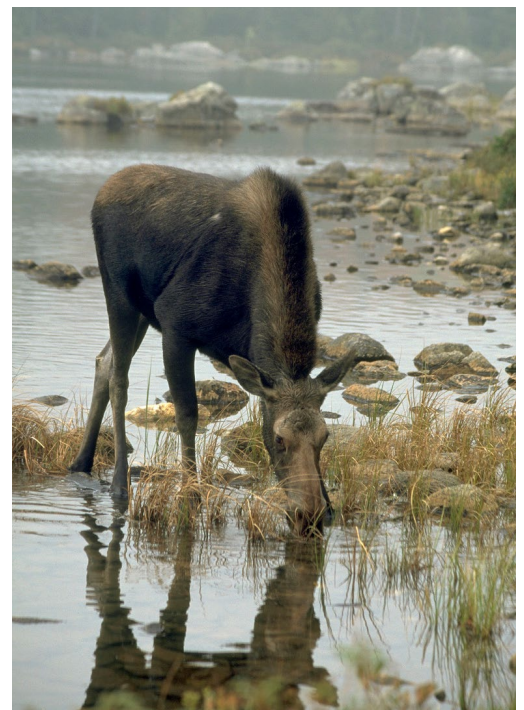
The afternoon is spent at your leisure. Give yourself over to relaxing in whichever way you would like, with an optional canoe paddle, fishing on the lake, a gentle stroll or reading a book in the beautiful scenery at the camp.

In the evening we will gather over dinner at River Drivers Restaurant and the option is available for moose watching with a local guide in the twilight hours.

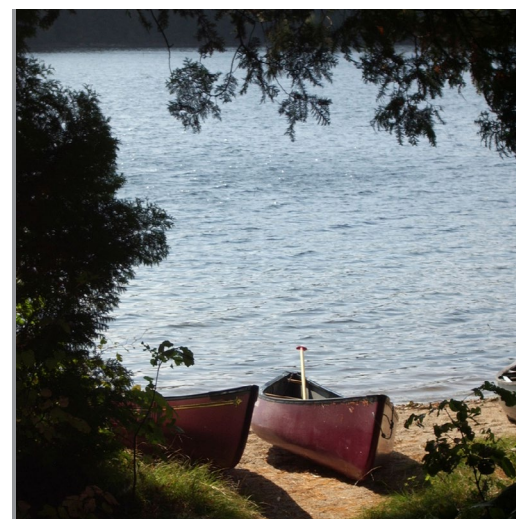
Overnight: Twin Pines



Sharp-shinned hawk © Michael Wickens



Moose © Ross Geredien



Canoes bank on lake shore © Cori Kahn/TNC

Day 3: SEPTEMBER 24

For those interested, this day will get off to an early start with bird watching walk before breakfast. You will be joined by Nancy Sferra, TNC Maine's Director of Stewardship and Ecological Management. Nancy is an excellent birder and great naturalist.

After breakfast—in your cabin or at River Drivers—you depart for a paddle trip on the east branch of the Penobscot River. Beginning at Maine River Trail's visitor center, this gentle but steady-flowing river tour will feature TNC's Penobscot River restoration work—a nationally prominent dam removal project. The river corridor you will see is an area that TNC assisted in protecting and on which TNC currently holds a conservation easement.

You will enjoy a packed lunch on the river. There will also be opportunities for fishing and the option for a short tour of the new youth-oriented outdoor activities center and adjacent trails.

Afterwards we will enjoy a hearty dinner at the River Drivers Restaurant.

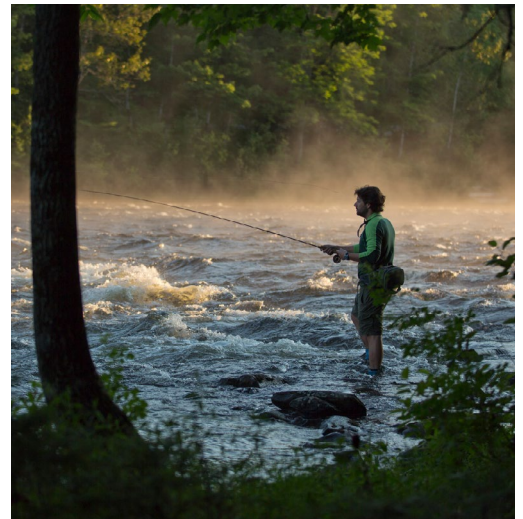
Overnight: Twin Pines

Day 4: SEPTEMBER 25

This morning we will board vintage float planes for an aerial tour of the Maine Highlands. Your flight views will include close views of Katahdin, opportunity to spot a moose from the air, and flying over the many lakes and ponds of the Debsconeag Lakes Wilderness Area.

In the evening we will venture from the camp to gather over a meal at a local Millinocket favorite, The Sawmill.

Overnight: Twin Pines



Fly fisherman on the Kennebec River © Bridget Besaw



Antlers in Moosehead © David McClain



Pilot flies his plane over the Northwoods of Maine © Bridget Besaw

Day 5: SEPTEMBER 26

For those interested, this day will get off to an early start with bird watching walk before breakfast.

This morning we will visit an active logging job to learn about sustainable forestry on the Katahdin Forest Easement before spending the afternoon in the town of Millinocket. You will have the opportunity to visit the local shops on Millinocket's Maine Street and to hear how the region is being reshaped in the loss of the world's largest paper mills as well as thousands of jobs over the last two decades.

Dinner tonight will be a final celebration at River Driver's Restaurant. We will recap the week with TNC staff and reflect on the week's adventures.

Overnight: Twin Pines

Day 6: SEPTEMBER 27

Enjoy one last breakfast in the comfort of your cabin or at River Drivers Restaurant before packing up. On the last day of the trip, a morning shuttle will be provided to Bangor International Airport. The morning shuttle will drop off at the airport at about 11 a.m.

For those not departing on the 27th an afternoon shuttle back to Bangor is also available. The later shuttle arrives at approximately 2 p.m.

*This itinerary is representative of your trip, and like all natural history excursions, activities are subject to modification based on weather and unforeseen events. We will do our best to keep you informed on any necessary changes.

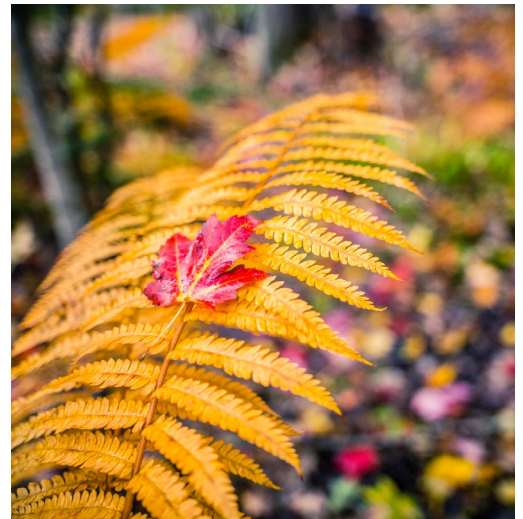
Thank you for traveling with The Nature Conservancy!

CONTACT INFORMATION

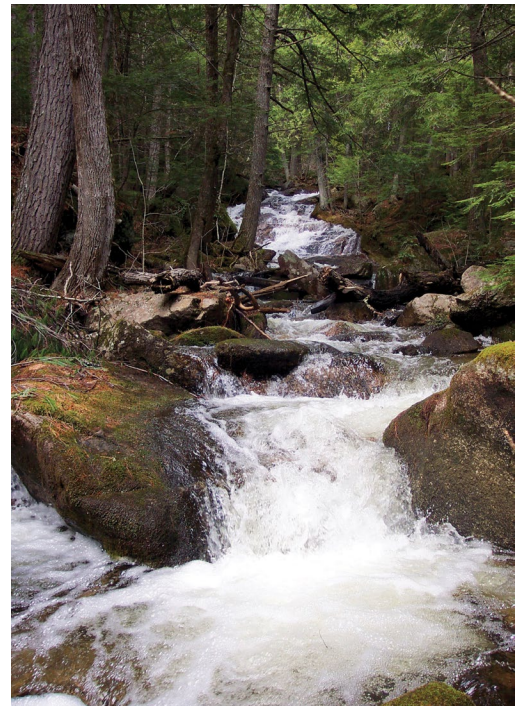
Please do not hesitate to contact Joe Solomon at Iconic Adventures if you have any questions or needs regarding trip logistics.

Email: tnc@iconicadventures.com

Phone: (800) 329-4930



Fall foliage © Nick Hall



Forest stream in the Debsconeg Lakes Wilderness Area © Josh Royte/TNC



Canoeists on the Penobscot River © Bridget Besaw