



# A Legacy Club Journey: Western Maine

## DATES

July 23 – July 28, 2023

## PRICE

Double Occupancy: \$5,000

Single Occupancy: \$5,675

Your trip begins in Portland, Maine where you will be met by your guide and transferred to your hotel downtown. During a welcome reception and dinner, meet your fellow travelers while watching the sunset over the bustling harbor. The next day, begin the journey to Western Maine; stop along the way to meet with TNC staff and local partners who will provide an introduction to the landscape, highlighting the primary threats to natural habitats and native species throughout the area. Learn more about water funds and the role they play in providing support to vital conservation work. Your home for the next two nights is the historic Bethel Inn.

Venture to the top of North Peak for sweeping views of the Sunday River Valley; 89 percent forest, Maine is the most forested state in the nation. In addition to providing clean water, hosting recreationists, and powering the economy with wood products, in recent years, Maine forests have captured 3 million metric tons of carbon per year. You'll have an opportunity to both hike and kayak through this landscape to see these vitally important corridors that are both climate resilient and act as a highway for species migration.

Following our time in Bethel, head towards Rangeley, Maine, where we'll stay for two nights at another historic hotel, The Rangeley Inn. Spend time at Quill Hill with local TNC staff and discuss the partnerships that are permanently connecting Quill Hill and Perham Stream—and what work like this means for the health of wildlife corridors. With 360-degrees views, it is the perfect place to dive into additional conversations on forest conservation and solar farms.

Spend your remaining time at a local theatre for a special Q&A and showing about fish migration and river restoration, and bird watch with an expert local guide through the lush landscape.

With exclusive insight from TNC experts, visits to local preserves, and local highlights, you'll experience unique places throughout Western Maine most visitors never see.



© Cassidy Girvin/TNC Photo Contest



© Appalachian Trail Conservancy

## KAYAKING ON THE ANDROSCOGGIN RIVER

Explore a river that has served many purposes over time – as a transportation route for Native Americans, a thoroughfare for moving logs, a power source for industry, and a place to recreate for locals and visitors alike.

## MEET WITH LOCAL PARTNERS

Many of The Nature Conservancy's most significant achievements are made through collaboration; see firsthand the relationships that TNC is building to conserve our lands and waters.

## GO BIRDING WITH A LOCAL GUIDE

Maine's unique landscape lends to a variety of bird species; spend time with a local guide exploring the lush boreal forest that they call home.

Your trip supports the local communities you're traveling in and The Nature Conservancy's efforts locally and globally. This trip has been planned specifically by The Nature Conservancy's team of scientific experts and travel liaisons to immerse you in the work the Conservancy is doing on the ground that has global consequences.

## TNC TRAVEL VALUES

### KEY ACCESS:

Travel with renowned Conservancy experts and local partners for an exclusive, behind-the-scenes experience. You won't just see amazing places, you'll witness how you are helping save them.

### IMPACT:

See how your commitment to our planet and your passion for conservation are making a difference. You will see the wild places and the communities you are impacting.

### KNOWLEDGE:

Learn how we are applying the latest cutting-edge science to affect global change and drive conservation.

### INSPIRATION:

Immerse yourself in local cultures and awe-inspiring landscapes to foster your own connection to our world.

### GLOBALLY MINDED:

Elevate your understanding of our work by seeing first-hand how TNC and our partners act locally and how we turn local results in to global impact by scaling solutions that work.

### TRAVELER EXPECTATIONS & CODE OF CONDUCT:

Please read [TNC's Traveler Expectations](#), our guide for ensuring that we treat each other with respect, fairness and integrity beyond reproach during travel in accordance with [TNC's Code of Conduct](#). Following the Code is an expectation and responsibility for everyone in the larger TNC community, including our staff, partners, vendors and supporters. To that end, when registering for a TNC trip, you are agreeing to uphold the Code.





# THE CONSERVATION LANDSCAPE

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Appalachians' resiliency to climate change dates back centuries; the forests have a remarkable ability to store extra carbon, which helps limit warming and provide havens of cooler temperatures. As temperatures rise, plants and animals continue to shift their ranges an average of 11 miles north and 36 feet in elevation each decade, making the protection of these landscapes even more crucial. Threats from urban development, unsustainable forestry and fragmentation present additional challenges as The Nature Conservancy works to conserve a network of climate-resilient lands.

## **PROTECTING OUR WATERS**

At 28,771 acres and 316 feet deep, Sebago Lake is enormous, providing safe drinking water to one in six Mainers. Thanks to the forests that cover the surrounding land, the lake is so pure that it needs no filtration before treatment; the forests filter the rainfall, removing sediment and pollutants before releasing water into streams and rivers that feed the lake. Currently, only 10% of these surrounding forests are permanently conserved, making it the most vulnerable watershed in the Northeast. The Nature Conservancy is working with partners to secure the health of these forests and the water so many communities rely on. Sebago Clean Water (SCW) is dedicated to conserving an additional 35,000 acres of forest and building a water fund to support this work.

## ITINERARY

**DAY 1 — Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>** | Your journey begins in Portland, Maine midday. Home to one-third of Maine's total population, the city has a rich history of fishing, agriculture, and Americana. If arriving early, be sure to visit one of the area's stunning lighthouses and fill your belly with lobster rolls and a drink from one of its many breweries. Upon arrival at the airport, you will be welcomed by your guides and TNC hosts. Check in to Cambria Hotel Downtown Old Port and settle into your comfortable room. There will be free time to explore downtown Portland prior to a scenic welcome reception and dinner.

### OVERNIGHT AT CAMBRIA HOTEL DOWNTOWN OLD PORT

**DAY 2 — Monday, July 24<sup>th</sup>** | After breakfast at the hotel, we'll set off for the day's adventure.

On arrival at a local preserve, meet TNC experts who will provide an overview of the landscape and set the context for the week to come. We will be joined by partners who are working with TNC to form Sebago Clean Waters (SCW); dedicated to conserving an additional 35,000 acres of priority forest land, the group is building a \$15 million water fund to support this vital conservation work. Sebago Lake, just northwest of Portland, is the second largest in the state and conserving the forests that keep this water healthy is at the heart of SCW's mission.

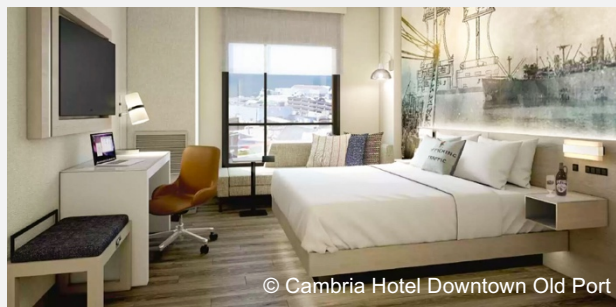
Over a picnic lunch, learn more about these partnerships, water funds, and how Portland's burgeoning brewery scene is working to support this mission. Afterwards, we will hike these trails as a group, seeing firsthand the forestlands, watersheds, and ecosystems that TNC is committed to conserving. In the afternoon, we'll continue our drive to Bethel, Maine, where we will check in to Bethel Inn Resort, our home for the next two nights. Have dinner at a favorite local restaurant this evening.

### OVERNIGHT AT BETHEL INN RESORT

**DAY 3 — Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>** | After a leisurely morning, we will make our way to Sunday River Ski Resort. Take a ride in the Chondola (a chair lift/gondola combo!) and soak in the sweeping views of Sunday River Valley and the Mahoosuc Mountains, including the third highest peak in Maine, Old Speck. Looking out into this sprawling landscape, learn how TNC is conserving a network of climate-resilient lands, leveraging ground-breaking science to protect critical habitat for wildlife.

Lunch will be enjoyed in the sunshine, before making our way down the mountain; you may choose to do so via the Chondola or on foot via trail.

## LODGING



© Cambria Hotel Downtown Old Port

### Cambria Hotel Downtown Old Port

Located in the historic district along coastal Portland, Maine, this hotel is just steps away from some of the city's best sights.



© Bethel Inn Resort

### Bethel Inn Resort

A historic resort dating back to 1913, Bethel Inn is on a stunning 200-acre property.



© Rangeley Inn

### Rangeley Inn

Dating back to the turn of the century, The Rangeley Inn was built in sections and attached together over time. It is the last of nearly a dozen grand hotels that once hosted visitors arriving by train from Boston, New York, and Philadelphia.



## ITINERARY, CONT.

Return to Bethel for downtime, before heading out with our local guides for an afternoon of kayaking on the Androscoggin River, the third largest river in Maine. Dinner will be in town this evening.

### OVERNIGHT AT BETHEL INN RESORT

**DAY 4 — Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>** | Today we will have breakfast and check out of our hotel before transferring 1 hour and 30 minutes north to Rangeley, Maine. On arrival at Quill Hill, meet with TNC and Trust for Public Land staff; through these partnerships, TNC is protecting vital wildlife habitat along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, mitigating climate impacts, and creating public access. We'll enjoy a picnic lunch as a group and hike along the stunning trail.

In the afternoon, return to the hotel to freshen up; we will meet as a group in the early evening to walk to the Rangeley Lakeside Theatre. Dinner at our hotel will follow.

### OVERNIGHT AT RANGELEY INN

**DAY 5 — Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup>** | Enjoy another wonderful breakfast at the hotel to gear up for a great day in the outdoors. With its unique topography, the Rangeley region attracts a plethora of migrating birds; we'll spend a half day with our guide, Steve Hale. Experienced in marine biology, evolutionary biology, and ecology, he will have plenty to share as we make our way along easy terrain exploring as a group. Don't forget to pack your birding gear!

In the afternoon, return to the hotel to freshen up; you may choose to spend the afternoon relaxing at the hotel or visit the Outdoor Heritage Museum.

The evening will be spent together with a final farewell dinner in town.

### OVERNIGHT AT RANGELEY INN

**DAY 6 — Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup>** | Transfers back to Portland will begin after breakfast; plan to book flights that depart after 3pm.



### PRICE DETAIL

Double Occupancy: \$5,000  
Single Occupancy: \$5,675

Price is based on a minimum of 14. Trip size not to exceed 14 travelers.

Price **includes** all lodging, domestic transportation, activities, tips, meals, TNC expert staff and local guides. Price does **not include** your roundtrip flight to Portland, Maine.

**PLEASE NOTE:** 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.