

MAINE

Birding & Natural History

44.29° N - 43.66° N

June 19-26, 2027



Wild **LATITUDES**
WORLDWIDE NATURE TOURS

MAINE

Birding & Natural History

Greetings Fellow Traveler,

Join Wild Latitudes on this 8-day tour of Maine, renowned for the natural beauty of its wild forests, vast blueberry bogs, and rugged coastlines. Wildlife and scenery will be at the heart of this tour as we venture to salt marshes, the boreal forest, and the crown jewel of the north Atlantic: **Acadia National Park**.

We will begin the tour exploring the salt marshes of southern Maine. Many waders like **Snowy Egret** and **Glossy Ibis** will be returning to the marshes to breed, while several shorebird species may drop in for only a day or two to refuel for their long journey to the arctic.

Our next stop will be the **northern boreal forest**, to which millions of birds migrate annually to breed. Here we will seek out some of these migrant birds like **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, **Philadelphia Vireo**, and **over 20 species of warblers!** We will also be on the lookout for some of the specialty species that call the boreal forest home year-round, such as **Boreal Chickadees**, **Black-backed Woodpeckers**, and **Canada Jays**. With any luck, we may even get to see some large mammal species like **Black Bear** or **Moose!**

The final leg of our tour will be to the east, to **Acadia National Park**. Here the scenic combination of rocky coasts, granite mountains, and dense forests will surely leave us in awe. We will look for **Common Loons** on the still glacial lakes, nesting **Peregrine Falcons** in the cliffs, and **Black Guillemots** & **Common Eiders** bobbing in the waters just offshore. To see what lies farther out to sea, we will take a boat ride to the outskirts of **Petit Manan Island**, where nesting **Arctic Terns**, **Razorbills**, and endearing **Atlantic Puffins** will be busy catching fish to take to their young on the island. This boat will leave from **Bar Harbor**, a charming town with a multitude of shops, galleries, and restaurants which we will make time to visit.

This tour is designed so that there is something for birders and nature enthusiasts of all levels to enjoy. We hope that you'll join us on this exciting exploration of Maine!

TRIP DETAILS

Start Date: June 19, 2027

Duration of Tour: 8 days

Number of participants: Max of 8

Fee: \$3,950 per person

Deposit: \$2,000

Single Supplement: \$995

Trip Leaders: Chris Payne

Included:

- Double-occupancy lodging
- Ground transportation
- Breakfasts and lunches
- Excursions and park fees
- Guiding services

Not Included:

- Flights
- Dinners
- Alcoholic beverages
- Personal items
- Optional gratuities for guides



Steve Robertson and Ivan Phillipsen
Co-owners and Lead Guides at Wild Latitudes
info@wildlatitudes.com 503-714-3504



ITINERARY

Tentative and subject to change depending on weather, road, or other conditions.

Day 1 - June 19 - Arrival in Portland, Maine

Flights will arrive in **Portland** in the afternoon. The group will be met at the airport by your Wild Latitudes guide, **Chris Payne**, and then we'll get checked in at the hotel. Then we'll meet up for a nice dinner in a local restaurant where we'll get to know each other and go over some details of the tour. We'll get a good night's rest so that we can dive right into the birding and nature exploration the following morning.

Lodging: Holiday Inn, Portland

Day 2 - June 20 - Scarborough Marsh and Entering the Boreal Forest

After having breakfast at the hotel, we'll make the short drive to **Scarborough Marsh**, just south of Portland. As the largest salt marsh in Maine, Scarborough Marsh is a crucial habitat for a wide variety of wetland breeding birds. We'll be on the lookout for conspicuous waders such as **Glossy Ibis** and **Snowy Egret**, but also for more secretive

birds like **Nelson's** and **Saltmarsh Sparrows**. Afterwards, we'll begin our drive north towards the boreal forest, stopping near **Bangor** for lunch and to do a little bit more birding. Here we may start to add some warbler diversity to our list with possibilities like **American Redstart**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, and **Black-throated Green Warbler**. It will only be a short drive from here to our lodge, where we'll get settled in, and go over our bird and wildlife lists for the first time before heading to dinner.

Lodging: **Big Moose Lodge**



Blackburnian Warbler



Northern Blue Flag iris



Acadia National Park

Day 3 - June 21 - Full Day in the Boreal Forest

With a big day ahead of us, we'll get an early morning start into **Baxter State Park**. This park protects a vast area in the boreal forest, much of which is still untouched, making it an excellent place to observe wildlife. As we drive the gravel roads and take short walks at key spots, we'll be listening for the melodious, bubbling song of **Winter Wrens** and looking for flashes of color that could be any number of beautiful breeding warblers

such as **Magnolia Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, or many more! A fun birding challenge here will be to search for boreal specialties like **Black-backed Woodpecker**, **Boreal Chickadee**, **Philadelphia Vireo**, and others which all can be found in the park in low numbers. We'll bring a picnic lunch with us so that we can enjoy an unhurried pace through the scenic beauty of this wild landscape. We'll aim to get back to the lodge by mid-afternoon, giving us some time to relax before we meet up to work on our bird list before dinner.

Lodging: [Big Moose Lodge](#)



Scarborough Marsh

Day 4 - June 22 - Morning in the Boreal Forest and Transfer to Mount Desert Island

Before we leave the boreal forest, we'll make a special effort to see a **Moose**, employing the help of the locals and their knowledge to maximize our chances. Time allowing, we may go to **Katahdin Woods** and **Waters National Monument** for more boreal birding before we reverse course and head south. Our destination will be **Mount Desert Island**, home of **Bar Harbor** and the main portion of **Acadia National Park**. We'll reach our lovely inn by the mid-afternoon and will have time to do some birding on the property and check out the coastline nearby. This will give us a chance to see our first **Common Eiders** with their newly hatched ducklings, and perhaps **Harbor Seals** basking on the rocks. After working on our bird list, dinner will be at a nice restaurant near the inn.

Lodging: [Harbourside Inn](#)

Boat dock on the Maine coast



Day 5 - June 23 - Full Day in Acadia National Park

Today we'll visit what many call the crown jewel of the North Atlantic coast: **Acadia National Park**. The stunning granite mountains, rocky Atlantic coastline, and pristine glacial lakes make Acadia one of the most scenic places in the country. We'll be sure to visit the iconic attraction of **Thunder Hole**, a carved-out inlet that can make a thunderous booming as water rushes in under the right conditions on a rising tide. As always, we'll be looking for birds while we're here, and we may come across **Peregrine Falcons** soaring above the cliffs, **Black Guillemots** bobbing on the waves, and breeding **Common Loons** belting their ethereal call across glassy surface of the lakes. We'll finish the day off with a visit into the charming gateway town of **Bar Harbor**, where there will be time to explore the plentiful shops and galleries on your own before we rendezvous for dinner at one of the many excellent restaurants the town has to offer.

Lodging: Harbourside Inn

Moose



Saltmarsh Sparrow



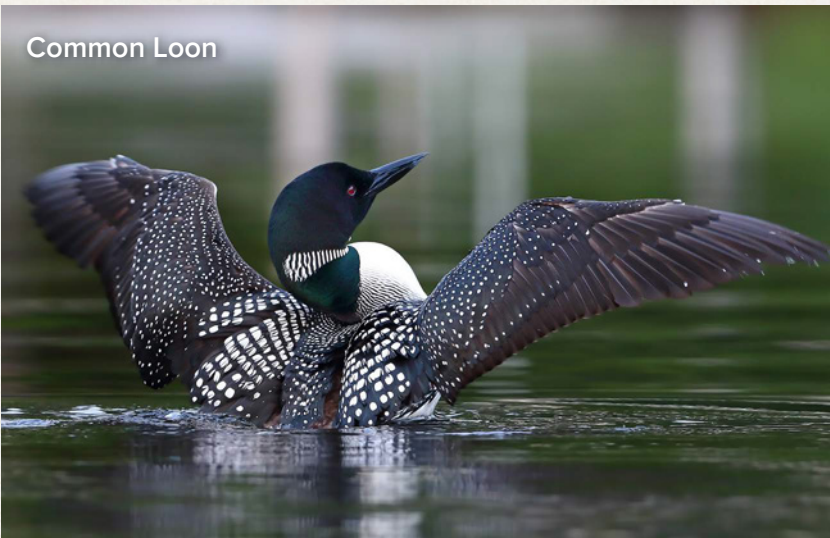
Boreal Chickadee



Chestnut-sided Warbler



Common Loon



Harbor Seal



Day 6 - June 24 - Schoodic Peninsula of Acadia National Park

Today we'll again be in Acadia National Park, but in the lesser-known area of the Schoodic Peninsula. Lying across the inlet from Mount Desert Island, the peninsula gets fewer visitors than the main portion of the park, making it a quiet haven for wildlife. The forests there are home to both **Ruffed Grouse** and one of the most southerly populations of **Spruce Grouse** in the east. The beautiful songs of **Hermit** and **Swainson's Thrushes** ring through the calm woods as **Nashville Warblers** and **Northern Parulas** flit through the trees. The peaceful serenity of the peninsula makes it a truly enjoyable birding location. We'll spend the better part of the day there, then return to Mount Desert Island for dinner near the Inn.

Lodging: Harbourside Inn

Our Commitment to Conservation

On every Wild Latitudes tour, we aim to make a positive conservation impact wherever we travel. We utilize the services of local guides and, when possible, stay in environmentally-sensitive, locally-owned lodges. Through our partnership with the Rainforest Trust, a portion of all international tour fees goes to purchasing rainforest acreage, for its protection in perpetuity. On every trip, we also make a contribution to a local conservation effort that works to protect a native species or ecosystem.



Northern Parula



Day 7 - June 25 - Puffin Boat Tour and Return to Portland

Our final full day in Maine will feature one of the primary highlights of the tour: a boat ride to see **Atlantic Puffins**! We'll depart from Bar Harbor in the morning on a Puffins and Lighthouse cruise, which stops within good viewing distance of several islands including the important bird sanctuary of **Petit Manan Island**. In addition to the puffins, we'll have a chance to see other seabirds like **Razorbills**, **Arctic Terns**, and **Common Murres**. At this time of year, adult birds will likely be coming in from the sea with fish in their bills to feed their young on the island. Some of the islands may have mammals as well, such as **Grey Seals** and **Harbor Seals**. On the return trip from Petit Manan, the crew of the ship will give us the history of some of the **lighthouses**, making for an interesting cruise to be sure. When we return to the dock, we'll have lunch at the adjacent restaurant, then begin making the drive back to Portland. We'll check in to the same hotel we stayed at on the first day of the tour, finish off our bird and wildlife lists, then meet for one final dinner together as a group.

Lodging: Holiday Inn

Day 8 - Jun 26 - Departures

Flights will depart from Portland in the morning. We'll go over to the airport together and say our farewells as our wonderful Maine tour reaches its conclusion.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

YOUR GUIDE

CHRIS PAYNE

Chris has been immersed in the natural world his entire life. Growing up in rural Pennsylvania with two naturalists for parents, his first interest in wildlife was anything he could catch: frogs, salamanders, snakes, and the like. Once Chris discovered the world of birds, he was hooked. He soon began making lists of all the birds he could identify, both at home and when his family traveled. Each new bird that Chris encountered left him wanting to learn more about them.

It was during Chris's sophomore year at West Virginia University that he decided that spending time in nature had to be more than just a hobby. After graduating with a degree in biology, he pieced together bird-related field work for several years, conducting surveys for Cerulean and Golden-winged Warblers, nest searching, hawkwatching, and assisting in geolocator research. After meeting his wife, Rebecca, Chris decided to return to school for an M.S. in biology and is currently finishing his thesis at Shippensburg University.

Leading nature tours is the best of both worlds for Chris: getting to work in nature surrounded by birds, but more importantly, getting to share that passion with others.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

THE PACE AND STYLE OF OUR TOURS

The primary goal of our trips is to experience and learn about the natural world, especially the region's birds and other wildlife, and of course, to have fun! As birding is often a primary focus of our tours, and birds are active in the morning, we will sometimes have early morning outings before breakfast. That said, our style of birding may not be ideal for hard-core "listers." We prefer to spend time observing the species we encounter, and learn a bit about their natural history, rather than rushing through the field to add the maximum number of species to our bird list. We also make diversions for interesting, non-avian wildlife, plants, geological wonders, and cultural activities. The pace of most of our trips is moderate, and we encourage anyone in good health to attend and enjoy the experience. Please contact us about if you need specific information on the types of physical activities on a tour and their physical requirements.

We strive to immerse participants in the local culture and to that end, wherever possible, we stay in locally owned and operated hotels that are designed and run in an environmentally sustainable way. Though some accommodations may be more basic than others, all are safe, clean and comfortable. We also utilize the services of local guides, visit local markets, and other culturally significant sites.

TOUR DATE AND TRIP LEADER CHANGES

Leaders and schedules are determined up to a year in advance of our tours. In the event that we have a change in a tour's dates or leaders, we reserve the right to do so, and will strive to inform participants as early in the process as possible. Additional leaders may be added to tours according to the group size, and will be specified in the tour itinerary. We also reserve the right to cancel any trip for which there are insufficient reservations.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE TOUR

When you're ready to sign up for the tour, please let us know by doing one of the following:

- Send us an email at info@wildlatitudes.com
- Call us at 503-714-3504

Then we'll send you the link to our online registration form. You can choose to pay your deposit by credit card or check. See 'Deposit Policy' below.

DEPOSIT POLICY

A deposit is due at the time of registration. ***A deposit is the only thing that guarantees your place on the trip.*** Registration can be made over the phone with a credit card: 503-714-3504. *Note:* there is an additional 3.0% fee for credit card payments. This is only what we are charged by the credit card company.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Checks are happily accepted and should be made out to *Wild Latitudes LLC*. Include the tour name on the memo line of the check and send to:

Wild Latitudes, PO Box 25115, Portland, OR 97298.

PAYMENT POLICY

Full payment is required **90 days** prior to the tour departure date for international tours or any tour involving flights; and **30 days** prior to the tour departure date for local (i.e. in the Portland, Oregon area), van-based tours.

CANCELLATION POLICY

In the event a participant needs to cancel a reservation for any tour, the following policies will apply:

- **90 days** or more prior to tour departure date, the deposit will be refunded, minus an administrative fee of \$100.
- **Less than 90 days** prior to tour departure date, no refunds will be given.

We *strongly* recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect yourself from unforeseen circumstances.

If for any reason Wild Latitudes cancels a tour prior to the start of the tour, full refunds—minus the cost of any internal/in-country airline tickets purchased and/or any non-refundable deposits or expenses already made by Wild Latitudes—will be given to all participants. In the event that the tour is canceled while underway due to unforeseeable events such as but not limited to natural disaster, military activities, social uprising, or other extremely dangerous conditions not within the control of Wild Latitudes, no refund will be issued.