

APOGEE ADVENTURES

2022 Maine's Downeast Explorer

Summarized Itinerary

TRIP BEGINS: Brunswick, Maine (flights in to Portland, ME)

TRIP ENDS: Brunswick, Maine (flights out of Portland, ME)

- Day 1:** Our group will meet in Freeport, Maine this afternoon before transferring to a local campground where we'll spend the rest of the day getting to know one another, playing games, and talking about our trip.
- Days 2-3:** We'll start Day 2 by meeting our professional kayaking guides on beautiful Orr's Island, where they'll run us through a kayaking safety and skills orientation to help prepare us for our two-day paddle on idyllic Casco Bay. Our mornings on the water will be spent kayaking from island to island and helping clear marine debris from these remote spaces. In the afternoon, we'll swim, set up our island camp, and explore the island by foot and water.
- Days 3-4:** With a fond farewell to our sea kayaking guides, we'll load up our van and head about an hour "downeast" to the charming coastal village of Camden, Maine. We'll spend time hiking through Camden Hills State Park while enjoying beautiful ocean panoramas.
- Days 5-7:** Next, we'll set our sights further north to Acadia National Park, the Eastern Jewel of the National Park System. We'll spend the next few days day-hiking in Acadia, swimming in the lakes on Mount Desert Island, and maybe even hiking amidst the stars to see the sunrise from the top of Cadillac Mountain.
- Day 8-11:** Leaving Mount Desert Island and the coast behind us, we'll head for the Great North Woods and Baxter State Park. We'll get outfitted for our time in the backcountry before transferring to our trailhead along the "100 Mile Wilderness" on the Appalachian Trail (AT). On the AT, we'll hike towards Baxter State Park and Mount Katahdin, Maine's highest mountain, cook tasty backcountry meals, and keep our eyes out for moose. We'll rest for a day and then, weather permitting, we'll attempt to summit Mount Katahdin on our last full day in Baxter State Park.
- Day 12-13:** Sore-legged, accomplished, and having taken in the stunning scenery and vistas of Baxter State Park, we'll point our van south and head towards Portland, Maine. In Portland, we'll explore the city and celebrate our last night with a great meal in one of the Old Port's many great restaurants. Our final morning will be spent saying goodbye and preparing for the arrival of parents, with promises to keep in touch with new friends.

Please note that we often run Maine's Downeast Explorer with two groups in the field concurrently, an "A" and "B" group. Both groups will include very similar activities but might be in a different order. Students will be placed into groups and will receive their night-by-night itinerary a few weeks before the trip begins. All itineraries are subject to change.

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