2027 Maine's Downeast Explorer Summarized Itinerary

Trip Begins: Brunswick, Maine (flights into Portland, ME)
Trip Ends: Brunswick, Maine (flights out of Portland, ME)

Day 1: Our group will meet in Brunswick this afternoon before transferring by van to Maine's iconic Acadia National Park. Here, we will spend the rest of the day getting to know one another, playing games, and talking about our adventure ahead.

Days 2-3: We will spend our first two days exploring Acadia, the Eastern Jewel of the National Park System. We will hike Acadia's stunning trails, swim in the lakes on Mount Desert Island, and even set out on a pre-dawn hike to watch the sunrise from one of the first points in the United States to see daylight over the Atlantic.

Days 4-6: Leaving Mount Desert Island, we will head along the coast to a neighboring island and the coastal town of Stonington, Maine. That evening, our professional kayaking guides will facilitate a paddling safety and skills orientation to help prepare us for our overnight expedition among the islands of Penobscot Bay. Early on Day 5, we will load up our boats and paddle to one of the beautiful and remote islands that make up the Maine Island Trail Association (MITA). During our time on Penobscot Bay, MITA will help facilitate a meaningful service project, which may include cleaning the beaches of some of the islands we explore to preserve the coastal habitat for Maine's fish and wildlife. The rest of our time will be spent swimming, setting up our island camp, and navigating this incredible stretch of coastline by kayak.

Days 7-11: After exploring the stunning shoreline and islands of Maine, we will leave the coast behind and make our way north to Maine's Great North Woods. After getting outfitted for our time in the backcountry, we will head to our trailhead along the legendary "100 Mile Wilderness" section of the Appalachian Trail. Over three days and two nights, we will hike the famed trail, cooking hearty backcountry meals and keeping an eye out for moose. After completing our time on the Appalachian Trail, we will make the short transfer into Baxter State Park, which will serve as our basecamp for the next two nights. Weather permitting, we will have the opportunity to attempt a summit of Mount Katahdin: Maine's tallest peak, and an unforgettable highlight of the trip.

Days 12-13: For our last full day together, we will travel south toward Portland. After a shower and a change of clothes, we will spend the afternoon exploring the city before gathering for a celebratory dinner in one of the Old Port's many excellent restaurants—a perfect way to end our adventure together. On our final morning, we will say our goodbyes and prepare for our reunion with parents, reflecting on an unforgettable journey and promising to stay in touch with new friends.

Please note that we often operate Maine's Downeast Explorer with two groups in the field concurrently—an "A" group and a "B" group. Both groups will participate in the same activities described above, although the order of these activities may differ. Students will be assigned to their group and will receive their detailed, night-by-night itinerary a few weeks before the trip begins. All itineraries are subject to change.

Questions? 207.725.7025 or info@apogeeadventures.com