

Maine: Bar Harbor & Acadia National Park

Bike Vacation Only

Nothing could be more seamless than VBT's spectacular self-guided tour of Acadia National Park. A three-night stay at the historic Bar Harbor Inn gives you the flexibility to ride as much, or as little, as you want each day—and with VBT's audio-guided navigation app, finding your way around is a breeze! Mount Desert Island's extensive network of carriage trails are carefully graded—providing optimal conditions for riding one of VBT's beautifully-fitted and maintained gravel bikes, with local VBT support available 24/7. This is the perfect getaway for riders of all interests and abilities—whether you're looking to challenge yourself with a climb up Cadillac Mountain, explore Acadia's charming coastal shops and villages, or relax with a luxurious spa treatment at your hotel. The choice is yours!

Cultural Highlights

- Ride along Rockefeller's historic, car-free carriage roads through Acadia National Park.
- Browse Bar Harbor's enticing shops, art galleries, and seafood bars.
- Ride through a refreshing and unspoiled landscape of rugged coastline, forested coves, and idyllic fishing harbors.
- Pause at Jordan Pond's pristine waters reflecting the beautiful curves of the Bubbles, two of Acadia's distinctive small peaks.
- Sample the Pine State's famous mouth-watering scones, pies, cobblers, and martinis infused with Maine blueberries.

What to Expect

This tour offers a full range of easy terrain and moderate hills and is ideal for beginner and experienced cyclists. Please verify your bike selection for this tour as changing bikes once you arrive is not always possible. Travel with your friends and family—we can accommodate multiple guests on this self-guided vacation. Our 24/7 support system is available if needed.

Tour Duration: 4 Days

Average Daily Mileage: 8-26 miles

Average Cycling Time: 1-3 hours

Climate Information

Average High/Low Temperature (°F)

April 67°/50°, May 65°/45°, June 74°/54°, July 79°/59°, August 78°/59°, September 70°/52°, October 59°/42°

Average Rainfall (in.)

April 2.39, May 4.6, June 4.1, July 3.5, August 3.3, September 4.5, October 5.3

DAY 1: Bar Harbor / VBT Self-Guided Bicycle Vacation begins

Make your own independent arrangements for travel to Bar Harbor. If you're flying to Maine, Bangor International Airport is the closest airport. For suggestions on traveling to Bar Harbor, please refer to your VBT Vacation Preparation Handbook.

As you begin biking Acadia National Park, you'll meet your Local host and any other VBT guests arriving on the same day in the lobby of the Bar Harbor Inn in the lovely seaport town of Bar Harbor. At 1:00 p.m., join your VBT Local host for a Welcome Orientation and head out on a ride.

Today's Ride Choices

Bar Harbor to Schooner Head — 8.3 miles

What to Expect:

Ride to Schooner Head Scenic Overlook along paved roads and enjoy the lovely ocean views before returning the way you came.

DAY 2: Cycle the Park Loop / Stay Put Day

Today's route biking Acadia National Park passes Compass Harbor, site of George Dorr's Old Farm ruins. If you wish, a short hike (one-mile roundtrip) takes you to Dorr Point with views of Compass Harbor and the Porcupine Islands. Continue on the Park Loop to Sand Beach, where you can relax on the shore. After the Fabbri Memorial Picnic Area, you may cycle back to Bar Harbor or, for additional miles, continue on the Park Loop Road past Cadillac Mountain Summit Road. If you're feeling strong and want to bike to the summit, the road is a steady ascent of 1,000 feet in 3.5 miles but the view from the top is worth the effort. Be forewarned that unless you go early in the morning, the road may be busy with cars.

Tonight you'll find several delightful options for dinner in Bar Harbor.

Today's Ride Choices

Park Loop Road to Sand Beach short option — 14.4 miles

Park Loop Road base of Cadillac Mountain long option — 22.6 miles | Long option with out-and-back ascent of Cadillac Mountain Road — 29.6 miles

What to Expect:

Short option:

Today features a nice ride along the Park Loop Road to Sand Beach where you can spend time on the sand or hike along the cliffs. You'll return to your cycling route on Park Loop Road and visit Thunder Hole, Otter Cliffs, and Fabbri Memorial.

The long option:

This longer ride continues past the Fabbri Memorial Picnic Area on the Park Loop Road passing Bubble Rock and the Cadillac Mountain Summit Road, back to Bar Harbor.

Long option plus Cadillac Mountain Ascent:

If you love to climb, at mile 18.1, you can add a seven-mile roundtrip pedal up and back down Cadillac Mountain Road for an elevation gain of 1,000 feet and spectacular views.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 3: Carriage Roads to Eagle Lake / Stay Put Day

Today's route biking Acadia National Park has you depart the Bar Harbor Inn skirting the edge of town and at 3.4 miles, you'll merge with the carriage roads of Acadia National Park joining a loop around Eagle Lake that brings you back along the carriage roads and past Breakneck Ponds and back to Bar Harbor.

This afternoon, you may choose among several activities (at your own expense) including sea kayaking in Frenchman Bay or a sunset cruise on the schooner *Margaret Todd*. You may also decide to spend time browsing Bar Harbor's charming gift shops and boutiques.

Today's Ride Choices

Carriage Roads to Eagle Lake — 15.9 miles

What to Expect:

Depart the Bar Harbor Inn skirting the edge of town and at 3.4 miles, you'll merge with the carriage roads of Acadia National Park joining a loop around Eagle Lake that brings you back along the carriage roads and past Breakneck Ponds and back to Bar Harbor.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4: Bar Harbor / VBT Self-Guided Bicycle Vacation ends

This morning, you can ride the carriage roads one last time for a ride around Witch Hole Pond from your hotel in Bar Harbor.

Today's Ride Choices

Witch Hole Pond Loop — 8.7 miles

What to Expect:

In Ride with GPS Experience, select "D2 Witch Hole Pond Loop." Depart the Bar Harbor Inn skirting the edge of town and joining the Carriage Roads at the Duck Brook Carriage Road trailhead. A counterclockwise loop provides views of Witch Hole Pond and surrounding wetlands with an option to stop at the Hulls Cove Visitor Center before returning to Bar Harbor.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations

May vary depending on departure date.

Bar Harbor Inn (Days 1-3)

Built in 1887, the Bar Harbor Inn offers luxurious, air-conditioned suites that overlook sprawling,

beautifully landscaped grounds. The Reading Room boasts picture windows with views of the harbor and Porcupine Islands. On your downtime, recharge at the world-class luxury spa, enjoy a leisurely walk along the gracious green lawn, or try the renowned lobster bisques and bakes.