EXPLORE!



Why book this trip?

Travelling from Montreal to Boston, this 2 week trip takes in the highlights of the U.S and Canadian East coast. Starting out in the Quebec province of Canada, we explore the stunning city of Montreal and soak up the wealth of history in Quebec City. We then cross the border into the U.S and go on the search for black bears in Jacques Cartier Park, before journeying down the dramatic Atlantic coastline to Boston.

- National parks Wade through Jacques Cartier Park's rivers, explore the pristine natural wilderness of Baxter State Park and the cobblestone beaches at Acadia
- Martha's Vineyard Stroll around this idyllic and isolated island, dotted with lighthouses and scenic sandy beaches
- Boston Discover the city's important revolutionary history by walking along the 'Freedom Trail'







TRIP STAFF
Explore Tour
Leader / Driver



TRANSPORT
Ferry
Minibus



2 nights
comfortable cabins
10 nights
comfortable hotel



TRIP PACE: Moderate



GROUP SIZE:

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Join tour in Montreal (Canada)

Our trip begins today in Montreal, the world's second-largest French-speaking city. An eclectic mixture of English and French heritage has led to a city of extreme diversity, and the streets filled with 17th- and 18th-century buildings are a joy to explore on foot.

Due to the number of evening flights into Montreal, your Leader plans to do the welcome meeting on the morning of day two, and will leave a message in reception with details on timings and everything else that you'll need for the day. There are no activities planned today, so you are free to arrive in Montreal at any time. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you'll need to arrive into Montreal International Airport (YUL), which is a 30 minute drive from the hotel.

If your flight arrives earlier in the day, our centrally-located hotel is a great place to explore the old port area. For food, try the famous Schwartz's Deli, a haven for Montreal's delicious smoked meat bagels.



ACCOMMODATION: Hotel Le Faubourg Montreal (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel





MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 2 - Explore Montreal on foot and drive to Quebec City

Montreal is the world's largest inland port and the world's second-largest French-speaking city. This morning we will take a walk around the city to discover its 17th and 18th century streets and buildings, Old Port and Notre-Dame Cathedral. We will take a short walk on Mount Royal for a great view of the city before heading to Jean Talon Market, one of the largest outdoors farmers markets in North America. In the afternoon, we will transfer to the UNESCO World Heritage city of Quebec City, a three hour drive.



ACCOMMODATION: Hotel Jardin (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 3 - Walking tour of Quebec and visit Jacques Cartier Park

Quebec is a very compact city to explore on foot, and we will take a guided walking tour including the cobbled streets of the Old Town, the Ramparts, the Abraham Plains and the Chateau Frontenac.

In the afternoon we leave the city behind and drive into the Laurentian Mountains chain to one of the most beautiful parks in the Quebec province; Jacques-Cartier Park. Formed during the last glacial period, Jacques-Cartier Park offers an incredible environment due to its U shaped valley where mountains crash into the river below. The eponymous Jacques-Cartier River flows at the bottom of these 550m knife cut mountains and is a mecca for white water enthusiasts, while the park itself is home to moose, bears, deer and many bird species. Once arriving in the park, we head into the valley and choose an easy hike to offer a breathtaking view of the surrounding cliffs and mountains and the river flowing below.



ACCOMMODATION: Hotel Jardin (or similar) **Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 4 - Drive to Baxter State Park (USA)

Today we take the scenic route from Quebec City into the USA and the state of Maine. We travel to the American border via Old Canada Road Scenic Byway. We continue to Millinocket, meaning 'Land of Many Islands'. This region of the state of Maine (most people are surprised to find such amazing wilderness here) contains thousands of ponds and lakes, miles of hiking trails across the famous Appalachian trail and Baxter State Park.

Baxter State Park is home to Mount Kathadin, which at 1606m towers over the park. Arriving at the park in afternoon, we settle into our cabins overlooking Millinocket Lake. The afternoon is free to relax and enjoy the calm ambience. Later, we can watch the sunset over Mount Katahdin from the shores of Lake Millinocket.



ACCOMMODATION:
New England Outdoor Centre (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Cabins



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 5 - Explore the scenic Baxter State Park on foot

Today is a full day to explore Baxter State Park. It is a wilderness area with more than 200,000 acres. The park is named in honour of former Maine Gov. Percival P. Baxter, the land's original owner. There are approximately 200 trails that are maintained by the park. Depending on the fitness of the group, the Tour Leader will find the best hike for everyone. There is also the opportunity to join an optional wildlife viewing safari by boat or vehicle (moose season in New England extends from roughly late May to August).



ACCOMMODATION:
New England Outdoor Centre (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Cabins



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 6 - Travel to Bar Harbor

This morning we will drive down the coast to Bar Harbor where we spend the next two nights. This afternoon is left free to enjoy some of the optional walks or trips in the area.



ACCOMMODATION: Edenbrook Motel (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 7 - Explore Acadia National Park

Bar Harbor lies off Maine's northeast coast on Mount Desert Island, a short distance from Acadia National Park, the only national park in the state. We aim to spend the next two days enjoying the blanketed hills and trails of this sumptuous natural haven, where pine and birch forests cover the rolling downs, providing an idyllic setting for beaver and bald eagles, whilst the waters off shore provide rich hunting grounds for seals and cetaceans. Encompassing some 35,000 acres, the park is made up of granite cliffs and cobblestone beaches, lying in the shadow of glacier-carved mountains and covered in dense forests. Our second day affords an opportunity to spend time following some of the many trails that crisscross this wilderness, or perhaps enjoy a range of optional activities in the park, that include fishing, whale watching excursions and boat trips. Or perhaps you might like to hire bicycles and enjoy venturing farther afield, following the 'carriage roads' built in 1913 by John D. Rockefeller in protest of the introduction of cars onto the island.



ACCOMMODATION: Edenbrook Motel (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 8 - Continue down the Maine coast to Ogunquit

Transferring onto the mainland we follow the Maine coastline today, passing through a landscape that is peppered with beautiful old harbour towns that testify to the colonial influx of French and British settlers. We will pass through towns that have been built on the influx of some of North America's selfproclaimed aristocracy, where the homes of America's 'old money' occupy locations overlooking some of the best real estate in the country. We will pass by Portland, Maine's largest city and a community that has a rich heritage of trade and ship building. At Old Orchard Beach we pass one of the best beaches in the state, that take us down towards Kennebunkport, famed as the domicile residence of former president George Bush Senior. Our destination today is the town of Ogunquit, which in the language of the indigenous natives translates as beautiful place by the sea. During its heyday the town attracted the rich and famous to these stunning shores, affording it a genteel ambience that is still evident beneath the surface even today. It was also once a vibrant haven for artists and its Museum of American Art is still home to an enviable collection of 19th and 20th century works from some of the country's foremost artists.



ACCOMMODATION:
Ogunquit Wells Resort (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 9 - Transfer to Boston, drive or take ferry to Provincetown; then travel to West Yarmouth

We start this morning driving through New Hampshire and onto Massachusetts and the coastal city of Boston, probably one of the east coast's most famous cities, steeped in the history of the county's colonial development and its fight for independence, before heading to Cape Cod. You can choose to pay extra and enjoy the scenery from the ferry if you wish to. A pleasant and welcoming resort town today, the settlement has an historic pedigree to match any of its more renowned mainland rivals. Both the Vikings and the Pilgrims stopped here en route to pastures new and the town's importance as a fishing and whaling port saw its fortunes rise out of all proportion to its small size, making it at one point in the latter years of the 19th century the richest town per capita in the whole state. On arrival many shops and galleries, or just enjoying the afternoon people watching outside one of its numerous cafes. Later this afternoon we will head out to the beach, before continuing on to West Yarmouth for the evening.



ACCOMMODATION:
Mariner Motor Lodge (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 10 - Take a ferry to explore Martha's Vineyard

A ferry to Martha's Vineyard this morning brings us to one of the most famous, prestigious and popular of all New England's attractions, where we will spend the day exploring this delightful haven. Probably more famous for the curse it seems to hold over the Kennedy clan (Chappaquiddick and the death of John Kennedy Jr are still very much to the fore), the island is in fact a beautiful collection of rolling hills and serene meadows, interspersed with tiny communities of genuine historic importance. Discovered by a British explorer at the turn of the 17th century, this was the traditional home of the Wampanoag Native Americans, before its purchase from the Earl of Stirling (for apparently £40 and a beaver skin hat!) saw an influx of Puritan settlers arriving on the island. Growing rich on the proceeds of whaling, the island still retains a vestige of the elegance and grandeur of those halcyon days amongst its old sea captain's houses, whilst the influence of its farming stock can be found amongst the colourful 'gingerbread' cottages of Oaks Bluff. After our visit we will return to West Yarmouth by ferry later this afternoon.



ACCOMMODATION:

Mariner Motor Lodge (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 11 - Free day on Cape Cod; optional Nantucket excursion

Today has been left free to continue exploring at your leisure. You may wish to stay around the area and spend time relaxing on the beach, enjoy some tranquil cycling, or perhaps take a whale-watching excursion. One possibility for today, and one that is highly recommended, is a visit to nearby Nantucket, where New England's whaling heritage is probably at its strongest. Once one of the largest cities in Massachusetts, Nantucket still harbours some vestige of its old traditions, with beautifully restored old houses and wharves gracing the cobbled streets of its centre and waterfront. For a century and a half, from the early years of the 1700s, whaling ships from these shores traversed the oceans in search of fame and fortune. At its height the harbour was home to over 100 sea going vessels, until the introduction of larger whalers and a devastating fire in 1846 saw the sad decline of its prosperity. A visit to the Nantucket Whaling Museum will help to better explain this fascinating history, whilst the island is also peppered with beaches and hiking trails, cultural artefacts and historic monuments that will make any visit an enchanting insight into this region's diverse past.



ACCOMMODATION:
Mariner Motor Lodge (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE





MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 12 - Journey to Boston; afternoon free

Following a relaxing start to the day we transfer back to Boston, where the rest of the afternoon is free to enjoy this beautiful city at your leisure. Settled by Puritan settlers in the 17th century, the city went on to become a hotbed of revolutionary zeal against the interference of the British Crown. This culminated in the infamous Boston Massacre and Boston Tea Party, events that went on to ignite a fermenting powder keg and initiate the start of America's War of Independence. The port's growing fortunes after the war saw it inundated with immigrants from all across the globe and the city today still thrives on the rich influences of the Irish, Italian and Chinese settlers who flocked to these shores over 200 years ago. A great way to absorb some of this rich history is to take a walk along the 'Freedom Trail', which links some of the most significant points in the city's historical development, including the site of the Boston Massacre, the old State House and even the 19th century warship the USS Constitution (Old Ironside), the oldest commissioned warship still afloat anywhere in the world.



ACCOMMODATION:
Constitution Inn (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 13 - Tour ends in Boston

The trip ends this morning at our hotel in Boston.

There are no activities planned today, so you are free to depart at any time. If your flight is departing later in the day, luggage storage facilities are available at our hotel. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you'll need to depart from Boston International Airport (airport code: BOS), which is a 20 minute drive away.



Trip information

Climate and country information

Canada

Climate

May-Sep is the best time to visit, when the weather is usually warm, dry and pleasant. Temperatures can be a little cooler on the coast and in the mountains; rain can be expected at any time. Early in the season, there can be snow in some areas which may limit walking possibilities.

Time difference to GMT	Plugs	Religion	Language
-7	2 Pin Flat	Roman Catholic, Protestant	English and French

USA

Climate

There are great variations in the altitude and terrain of the areas visited and this is reflected in the temperatures. Desert areas can be extremely hot in the summer months (49°), though temperatures can drop dramatically at night. The mountains are cooler and wetter especially in the north of the Rockies. At the beginning and end of the season there may still be some snow around in the high passes and it can be cold, whereas in mid-summer the day time temperatures can soar.

Time difference to GMT	Plugs	Religion	Language
-9	2 Pin Flat	Christian	English

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

There are a number of exciting optional excursions you can do on your trip. These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Baxter State Park - Wildlife Viewing Safari US\$53

Bar Harbor - Whale watching US\$ 56 (3 hours), Fishing US\$ 40 August only, Bike hire US\$ 28, Sea kayak US\$ 50 half day.

Ogunquit - Museum of American Art US\$ 10.

Cape Cod - Ferry (from Boston) US\$61 one way, Whale Watching US \$53; Bike hire US\$15 per hour. Nantucket - Nantucket ferry US\$ 33, High speed ferry US\$ 75, Nantucket history site US\$ 6, Whaling museum US\$ 20 (all access pass), Nantucket walking tour US\$ 10.

All optional excursion costs are subject to change at the discretion of the local supplier and prices are per person.

Clothing

A warm fleece and sweater are essential in September/October. Nights can be cold at this time and thermals are recommended, also include a long sleeved shirt and warm trousers. Bring swimwear and lightweight waterproof trousers and jacket.

Footwear

Lightweight hiking boots, trainers and/or sandals for travelling and quick drying sandals for canoeing.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

Bring only the bare essentials - one main bag plus a daysack for walking and for personal items. Main luggage cannot be accessed during the day. Soft luggage is more practical. Bring plastic bags to keep things dry. As it may be stored on the roof rack or in a trailer and you must be able to lift it.

Equipment

Water bottle, high factor sun block, and a small torch are all essential. Binoculars are useful and do not forget your camera.

Tipping

Explore leader

Tipping isn't compulsory, and we work hard to ensure that our leaders all receive a fair wage. However, you might want to recognise a leader that's done a great job or really added to your trip by giving them a tip. We're often asked about the recommended amount. It's a tricky one, and down to personal preference, but we'd recommend between US\$5 to US\$10 per person per day as a guideline.

Local crew

In North America tipping 15%-20% is a recognised part of life across the service industry, including restaurants, activity suppliers, taxis and guides. Local staff will look to you for personal recognition of particular services provided.

Unlike other Explore trips, during our trips in North America our Explore leaders will not operate a tips

kitty. However, they will be more than happy to provide guidance throughout the trip on who to tip when and to suggest appropriate amounts.

Canada

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£13.00	£20.00	£3.00	£1.10

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Canadian Dollars.

Recommended Currency For Exchange

Bring your money in Canadian Dollars or US Dollars cash which can be used almost everywhere, although local stores are not keen to change anything over \$50.

Where To Exchange

Banks or 'Forex' offices in main towns/cities. Your tour leader will advise you on arrival.

ATM Availability Credit Card Acceptance

There are ATMs in the towns. Widely accepted just about everywhere.

USA

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£15	£21	£Varies for different towns, average £4.00	£1.1

Foreign Exchange

Local currency Recommended Currency For Exchange US Dollars. Bring your money in US\$ cash.

Where To Exchange

Banks or 'Forex' offices in main towns/cities. Your tour leader will advise you on arrival.

Widely available.

Widely accepted just about everywhere.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Ferry, Minibus

Accommodation notes

In Millenocket you will be staying in shared cabins, with 6-8 people per cabin in twin rooms and shared bathroom facilities. For those who have paid a single supplement, you will have a single room but with shared bathroom facilities.

Essential Information

Government Travel Safety Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK citizens, check the latest Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office advice.

Please refer to our COVID-19 entry requirements page for any country-specific conditions of entry. Whilst we strive to update this on a regular basis we recommend you also check the FCDO website for the latest advice on entry requirements in this fast-evolving situation. Information can change at any time.

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. Booking Conditions

Visa and Passport Information

When travelling to Canada, you will need the following:

ETA - Citizens of the UK, New Zealand, Australia and passport holders from several EU countries can

apply for an ETA here - http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta.asp - other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

194 - The 194 is a history of entries and exits to the US. You can get this online here for \$6 - https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/194/#/home - as each i94 accessed is only valid for border crossings for 7 days, it is best to apply for this when in country - your Explore Leader will assist you with this.

Please note you must also ensure you get an entry stamp when going through immigration on arrival. In most cases the border agents will provide this stamp automatically but if for any reason they do not provide one, please ensure you request one as you will need this when crossing into the US.

During this trip you will be crossing the border into the US, so you will also need the following:

ESTA - Citizens of the UK, New Zealand, Australia and passport holders from several EU countries can apply for an ESTA here - https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov - you must have an electronic passport with a digital chip containing biometric information. If you have visited Libya, Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, Syria or Yemen since March 2011, or dual national of these countries, you cannot travel with an ESTA. In this case you will need to apply for a visa from the nearest US embassy or consulate.

Please note for your ESTA application you will be required to supply Point of Contact information. This will be provided in your final documentation, which you will receive 3-4 weeks before departure. Explore's USA contact information will be listed as the first nights' hotel in the US. If you are leaving for the USA before this, please call the Explore team to get this information.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

Transfers

Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers. If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer click here

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them here.

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Canada

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against tetanus, typhoid, infectious hepatitis and polio. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

USA

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, polio and hepatitis A. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

Additional Information





The vehicles that we use on this trip are high-roof transit vans. Although not flashy, these small-group vehicles are perfect for exploring as they allow greater flexibility to get to those more off the beaten track places. Your Explore Leader will rotate seating positions regularly within the van.

Reviews







PRICE GUARANTEE PROMISE



AIRPORT TRANSFERS