



Cruising the Coast of Maine

Sample 7-10 day Itinerary - Portland to Northeast Harbor

By Julie P. Nicholson

Join your yacht at the Portland Yacht Club which is actually in Falmouth Foreside. Sail immediately from the Portland Yacht Club and visit nearby Jewel Island where you can have a barbecue ashore at this sweet little inhabited island with two crescent beaches and rose hips etc.



Next day, sail over to Bailey's Island (which is not an island but the tip end of a peninsula)...where there are long legged jetties at low tide...lovely meadows of wild flowers...picturesque and pastoral...(for a Power walk there to stretch your legs and view the scenery.)

Then on to the quaint little island of Monhegan. Only about 50 inhabitants live there during the winter time. It is an artist's colony, offering fabulous seascapes...a rambling resort hotel with rockers on the porch...a museum...wild deer...gorgeous walks.

No cruise to Maine should miss out sailing up the Kennebec River to Bath, Maine. What delight to go up with a following tide...it is deep all the way...deep even six feet from the sides of the river. It offers meadows, villages, church steeples, woods on either side. Once in Bath, visit the fantastic Maritime museum there...it's really, really good, and take a sightseeing boat whose guide will tell you all about the enormous war ships the

Bath Iron works are building. Funny story about the Bath Iron works... Maine humor.... During the war, a VIP from Washinton, DC visited the Bath Iron works; looking down at the people during the change of shifts, he asked his Maine guide, "How many people work here?" The Maine guide replied in his laconic Maine accent, "Oh, about half of 'em, I guess."

From Bath, I would visit Isle au Haut...amazing Thoroughfare there, twisting and turning...cormorants, seals, marsh grass, woods, summer houses, yachts, lobster pots. Eggemoggan Reach is also a must....Deer Isle...(especially the quaint little town of Stonington, where you might want to attend their summer theater at the Opera House.. Or just shop or take pictures and hob nob with the local lobster men.

I would visit Frenchboro - near Swan Island – where the lobsters are the best in Maine... Explore the quaint little village – visit the tiny museum...collect your own mussels for dinner among the sea weed at low tide. Soames Sound and Northeast Harbor and Southwest Harbor are fun...a long Norwegian type fjord. Fly US Air out of nearby Trenton Airport back to civilization, Bangor International Airport...or Portland, a 3-hr drive.

