



## *Brilliant New England Fall Foliage Maine/New Hampshire/Vermont & Boston*

*October 2nd- 11th, 2021*



*8 nights and 11 days*

*from: \$3395 triple/ \$3595 double/\$4295 single*

*Cancel for any reason up to 60 days prior-FULL REFUND!*



*Maximum Tour size is 24 tour members!*



*Are you ready for some leaf-peeping, but not sure where to go? With the arrival of autumn, comes the fiery red, orange, and yellow flames of foliage season in New England. Come along on this scenic road trip, “Brilliant New England Fall Foliage Tour” as we search out the best viewing spots in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.*

*We begin in Maine, nicknamed named “The Pine Tree State” as well as “The Birthplace of Prohibition”. This classic New England State is known for its diverse landscapes and lighthouses, delicious seafood and its wildlife and natural wonders.*

*From here, off to New Hampshire, the “Granite State”, accommodations in a classic country inn, in the heart of the White Mountains. Next, off to Vermont, the “Green Mountain” state, in a traditional Vermont inn, nestled at the base of Killington Ski Resort, stretching across six majestic mountains.*

*We end in Boston, the cradle of liberty and once the home to famous sons, Samuel Adams, Paul Revere, and Benjamin Franklin. You will have free time to enjoy and explore America’s oldest city.*

*Besides all the colorful natural beauty, enjoy the extra highlights, a narrated boat cruise on Squam Lake, filming site of On Golden Pond, dinner on board a restored 1950’s restored vintage rail car, gondola ride, and lunch at the Trapp Family Lodge, the resort that inspired The Sound of Music to name a few!*

### **Itinerary/Details**

**Day 1 – October 2nd, 2021 Saturday – Depart from Honolulu**

**Hawaiian Airlines #90 Departs Honolulu 2:05 pm – Arrive Boston 5:45 am + 1**

Please meet your Panda Travel representative at the Hawaiian Airlines domestic check-in counters at least 2 hours prior to the flight departure time.

**Day 2 – October 3rd, 2021 Sunday– Boston-York Harbor-Kennebunk-Portland**

On arrival in Boston, please make your way to the baggage claim area. Once everyone has claimed their luggage, off to our charter bus as we journey towards north to Maine, the Pine State”.

The day begins with a stop at York Harbor for a photo opportunity of Maine’s southernmost lighthouse, the Nubble Light. Constructed in 1879 of cast iron plates lined inside with brick, its red-light flashes 88 feet above the ocean. It is one of the most photographed lighthouses in the world, a photographer’s dream. The drive time is under 1.5 hours.

From the viewpoint, you will be able to spot the infamous Boon Island Lighthouse, just offshore. Boon Island is a tiny outcropping of granite, only two football fields long and fourteen feet above sea level at its highest point and home to New England's tallest lighthouse. This rocky outcropping is usually inhabited by sea birds and occasional colonies of seals.

From here, we continue to Kennebunkport where we will be meeting our local guide at the Franciscan Monastery, established in 1947. Sit back, as we are off to tour Kennebunk/Kennebunkport, two shipping villages on Maine's south coast. Hear the history and folklore of sea captains and shipbuilders as you past the beaches, the Wedding Cake House, through the port and along Ocean Avenue, and past the Bush summer home at Walker's Point.

Next, a stop at Dock Square, the historic neighborhood where you can enjoy lunch on your own, along the shores of the Kennebunk River. It is the perfect spot to indulge in Maine lobster and then discover the iconic art scene and shops.

We are now off to Portland, Maine's most populous city. Accommodations for our first 2-nights on tour is at the Clarion Hotel. At check-in, we have a welcome reception set up including a local "Lobsterette" to greet us with souvenir lobster hats.

While the hotel is close by to the airport, it is just 5-minutes from downtown Portland. Dinner is on your own tonight. There is an on-site restaurant or call Uber for the quick ride to downtown.



**Accommodations: Clarion Hotel**  **free**

### **Day 3 – October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Monday– Portland-Boothbay Harbor-Bath-Portland (B/D)**

After breakfast at our hotel, please meet in the lobby at the designated time as we are off on a day of touring with our local guide.

The morning begins with a visit to the coastal town of Boothbay Harbor to enjoy a two-hour narrated scenic harbor cruise. Journalist and professional wanderer Charles Kuralt, best known for his long career with CBS and host of "On the Road" chose Boothbay Harbor as one of his twelve favorite destinations. With its beautiful, protected harbor, the town's rich history is steeped in lobster fishing and boat building.

Once on board, sit back, choose your seat, either the enclosed or open deck and off we sail past beautiful vacation homes, picturesque lighthouses, busy harbors, playful seals, and other memorable landmarks.

Back on land, enjoy free time to explore the town and have lunch on your own. Start with a walk along the Boothbay Harbor footbridge that dates to 1901. From there wander through the town's many shops and art galleries.

From here, off to the small seafaring city of Bath, home to one of the top museums in the world, The Maine Maritime Museum. Enjoy a guided overview tour along with free time. The museum offers fascinating artifacts, interactive exhibits, a historic shipyard with original 19th-century buildings, and New England's largest sculpture- a replica of Wyoming, the largest wooden sailing ship ever built.

In downtown Bath, shopping is some of the best in New England. You will find a variety of stores ranging from upscale boutiques and jewelry shops to local specialty stores and antique shops.

We now make our way back to Portland. Dinner is included in today's tour, at a local restaurant.



**Accommodations: Clarion Hotel**  **free**

#### **Day 4 – October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Tuesday–Portland-Waterville Valley (B/D)**

After breakfast, please meet in the lobby by the designated time as we are off on a full day of touring with our local guide.

The morning begins with a narrated tour of Portland, Maine’s largest city-by-the-sea. You will view Longfellows’ boyhood home, sea captains’ houses, and the elegant Victoria Mansion as we drive through historic neighborhoods overlooking the islands of Casco Bay in Portland Harbor.

On tour, we have included a stop at Portland Head Light, a historic landmark, and the most photographed lighthouse in America. It is set in Fort Williams Park, with crashing surf, a beach, and an old fort. Enjoy a private tour of Spring Point Ledge Lighthouse, not normally open to the public. See how the lighthouse keepers lived as you walk through the rooms to the top of the two-story lighthouse. Walk out on the ledge at the top for a beautiful view of the Portland waterfront.

Accessibility to the lighthouse is via a granite jetty which does have some uneven footing. If you are unable to navigate the jetty, you can tour the nearby park with views of the lighthouse and WWII shipbuilder’s memorial.

You will now have time in the city to enjoy lunch on your own.

This afternoon, we are off to the heart of the White Mountains, Waterville Valley, New Hampshire. Accommodations are at the Valley Inn, just a 2-minute drive of the Village Center of Waterville Valley. Dinner is included this evening followed by a viewing of the movie, “On Golden Pond”. The drive time is approximately 2.5 hours and a rest stop will be made along the way.

Nestled between 770,000 acres of White Mountain National Forest and offering 360-degree mountain views, this self-contained village offers a variety of shops.



**Accommodations: Valley Inn**  **free**

#### **Day 5 – October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Wednesday– Waterville Valley (B/D)**

After breakfast, please meet in the lobby by the designated time as we are off on a full day tour with a local guide.

The morning begins with a visit to Squam Lake, the filming site of several scenes of the Academy Award winning film, “On Golden Pond” was shot. Enjoy a narrated cruise and hear stories of the natural forces that created the lakes and the wildlife that makes the lake so special. Be on the lookout for loons. They stand out conspicuously as large, tuxedoed birds swimming about in the middle of the lake. They can be very vocal and easy to locate, as the yodeling of one loon will often elicit a chorus response from other loons in the area.

Loons are water birds, only going ashore to mate and incubate eggs. Their legs are placed far back on their bodies, allowing efficient swimming but awkward movement on land. They swim underwater to catch fish and swallow most of their prey underwater. A sharp, rearward-pointing projections on the roof of their mouth and tongue helps to keep a firm hold on slippery fish.

Enjoy lunch on your own here in the Lakes Region.

This afternoon we will be visiting Moultonboro Country Store, an old-fashioned New England country store, originating back to 1781. The store is among the oldest in the country and one of the oldest surviving businesses of any kind. It has been the scene of town meetings in the early 1800's, and again in the 1900's; the library; post office for over 100 years; and a stage stop.

This quaint country store has it all, penny candy, pickles in wooden barrels, books, and cooking utensils to mention a few. What fun you will have poking around at all the unusual and current items.

Dinner is included in today's touring and we have quite a treat, an evening aboard the Café Lafayette Train. Located in the scenic White Mountains, this dinner train offers a truly unique and memorable dining experience. Featuring a two-hour train ride complete with a five-course dinner aboard 1950's restored vintage rail cars, the Cafe Lafayette Dinner Train is a dining experience of a lifetime.



**Accommodations: Valley Inn** free

### **Day 6 – October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Thursday– Waterville Valley-Franconia-Loon Mountain-Killington (B/D)**

After breakfast, please meet in the lobby by the designated time as we are off touring with our local guide.

This morning we bid our good-byes to New Hampshire and journey on to Vermont, the “Green Mountain” state.

Our touring day begins with a visit to Franconia Notch State Park, in the heart of the White Mountain National Forest. The mountain pass consists of peaks from both the Kinsman and Franconia mountain ranges. The parkway is a remarkable mountain pass offering travelers spectacular views of nearby ridges, area attractions, and natural wonders.

Once home to the famous Old Man of the Mountain rock formation, Franconia Notch also encompasses the Flume Gorge and Visitor Center, which we will visit to view exhibits along with an orientation film. The Notch is an outdoor enthusiast's oasis, with many species of wildlife. It is not uncommon to spot furry critter while traversing the parkway. Hawks, moose, falcons, eagles, deer, bear, racoons, porcupines, and skunks are just some of the possible sightings.

Next, a stop at the basin, one of the most popular stops in the park, with several beautiful waterfalls, crystal clear water, and plenty of places to stop for a snack. See how a beautiful waterfall of the Pemigewasset River has eroded this waterfall basin over the past 25,000 years. The rock formation seen in the stream's bed at the outlet has been known for generations as “The Old Man's Foot”.

From here, off for breathtaking views and high-altitude adventure on New Hampshire's longest gondola skyride. Enjoy a scenic ride to the summit of Loon Peak in the four-person Gondola Skyride. At the end of the 1.3-mile ascent, you will enter a high alpine world of refreshing breezes and stunning mountain views.

Lunch is on your own as you dine along the unbeatable views from the Summit Café, offering indoor and outdoor seating. Enjoy views stretching over the town of Lincoln and beyond to Mt. Moosilauke and White Mountain peaks.

We now bid our good-byes to our local guide and continue to Killington. Along the way, a photo stop at Quechee Gorge, Vermont's “Little Grand Canyon”.

Some 13,000 years ago, during the Ice Age, Quechee, like most of our continent, was covered by a glacier. As the glacier receded from the ocean waters, the melting waters slowly and steadily cut away the bedrock ridge that has become Vermont's most spectacular natural wonder, Quechee Gorge. It is amazingly beautiful, the trees in their full fall wardrobe!

Now, off to Killington, Vermont, and our hotel, Northstar Inn, among the beautiful foothills of Killington Mountain offering stellar views all around. A welcome reception awaits us followed by dinner.



**Accommodations: Northstar Inn** free

### **Day 7 – October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Friday– Killington-Waterbury-Stowe-Killington (B)**

After breakfast, please meet in the lobby by the designated time. We will meet up with our local guide for a full day of touring.

The morning begins with a visit and tour of Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory. Find out how two childhood friends turned a \$5.00 correspondence course into a successful ice cream business.

Welcome to the Flavor Graveyard at the Ben & Jerry's Waterbury Factory, built in 1985. Today, it continues to manufacture approximately 350,000 pints per day. The Scoop Shop continues to tickle the taste buds of fans who visit from around the world.

From here, a luncheon featuring Austrian pastries at the Trapp Family Lodge, a mountain resort in European tradition by the family that inspired "The Sound of Music". You will be amazed by the rolling Green Mountains, beautiful bucolic views, and the Austrian architecture. Enjoy time to stroll the grounds and visit the exquisite gift shop.

Now, off to Stowe, a town in northern Vermont. Enjoy free time in to explore this classic 200-year old village, filled with natural beauty and the serenity of Mt. Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak. Here you will find more than 60 unique shops along with a variety of restaurants.

The image of a Vermont village typically includes a cluster of century-old houses around a common, usually dominated by the towering steeple of the white village church. Our guide will point out the village's most photographed church steeple, the Stowe Community Church steeple against a deep autumn backdrop. The church was built between 1861 and 1863 — the Civil War period. The slender spire, whose top is over 240 feet above ground, is visible from afar and completes the classic scene of the Vermont village.

Lastly, a photo stop at one of Vermont's historic covered bridges.

Dinner is on your own this evening and our guide will offer suggestions.



**Accommodations: Northstar Inn**  **free**

#### **Day 8 – October 9th, 2021 Saturday– Killington-Rockingham-Boston (B)**

After breakfast, please meet in the lobby by the designated time. Today, we make our way back to Boston for the last two nights of our tour.

Before bidding our good-bye to Vermont, a stop at the Vermont Country Store, owned and operated by 7th & 8th generation Vermonters and 4th & 5th generation storekeepers. Enjoy free time to discover this unique general store with so many top-quality products to offer.

Now, off to Boston, the capital of, and largest city in Massachusetts. It is one of the oldest cities in the United States. The drive time is approximately 2.5 hours and a rest stop will be made along the way.

Accommodations for our last 2-nights on tour is Boston Marriott Copley Place Hotel, located in the heart of the city, steps from Copley Square, the Prudential and Copley Place Malls and one block from Boston's 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Newbury St. Fenway Park, the brownstone lined streets of the Back Bay, the Public Gardens, and Esplanade are an easy walk.



**Accommodations: Boston Marriott Copley Place Hotel**  **free**

#### **Day 9 – October 10th, 2021 Sunday– Boston**

Enjoy a complete free day!

For breakfast options, the hotel offers a buffet or close-by in the Prudential Mall, Dunkin' Donuts, a New England favorite. There is also a Starbucks' Café off the hotel lobby.

We have included a hop-on hop-off trolley tour pass. The pick-up point is conveniently right in front of our hotel. This is a great way to discover the city and its neighborhoods, complete with a driver/guide narrating.

On your list of things to do consider the following:

**A guided tour of the legendary Fenway Park**, known as “America’s Most Beloved Ballpark”. Nestled in the Fenway neighborhood, it is a place where dreams are made, traditions are celebrated, and baseball is forever. See the home of Red Sox legends, Williams, Yaz, Fisk, and Rice. Visit Pesky’s Pole and sit atop the fabled Green Monster, 37 feet 2 inches high above deep leftfield. Experienced tour guides will take you on this one hour thrilling tour and afterwards some free time to visit the official Red Sox souvenir shop across the street. A walk to the park is only 15 minutes.



**Fenway Park neighborhood, “The Fens” Iconic Citgo sign**

**Boston skyline from inside the park**

#### **How about a visit to Boston’s Italian North End?**

Stroll these neighborhood streets sampling the best of Italian foods, whether from pushcarts or a wide selection of restaurants. Also, enjoy browsing the storefronts for a selection of unique souvenir keepsakes and mementos.

**Close-by to our hotel is the Public Gardens and the Boston Common**, a perfect outdoor setting. On the way, make a stop at the famous Cheers Bar. Take a photo or walk down for a drink and food.



**Cheers!**

**Boston State House**

**Public Gardens and the Boston Common**

There is also Chinatown, historic Beacon Hill, the Esplanade where the Boston Pops performs for free during the summer, and a walk along the Charles River.



**Chinatown      Brownstone lined streets    walk along the Esplanade**

**Need a little shopping time, take some time to explore Newbury Street**, Boston's chic shopping address which offers a mix of elegant boutiques, art galleries and unique one of a kind quaint shops nestled into the historic nineteenth-century brownstones that line this mile-long avenue. You will also find some of Hawaii's favorites, Uniqlo, Muji and Trader Joe's. Sorry, no Don Quijote, but there is a Hokkaido ramen shop, small and busy, but worth the wait.

Besides shopping, enjoy a wide variety of dining options along Newbury Street. There are many outdoor cafes and eateries.

**Do you enjoy museums?** Boston has some of the finest in the country which include, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston's Children's Museum, Museum of Science and the Hayden Planetarium, Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA), and many more to choose from.

**Accommodations: Boston Marriott Copley Place Hotel**



**Wi-Fi free**

**Day 10 – October 11th, 2021 Monday – Boston-Honolulu**

Please meet your Panda Travel escort in the lobby by 6:00am as we bid Boston good-bye and make our way back to the airport.

**Hawaiian Airlines #89 Departs Boston 9:00 am – Arrive Honolulu 2:10 pm**