

Lobsters and Lighthouses

13 Day Self-Drive Tour

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Boston • Salem • Portsmouth • Kennebunkport • Wiscasset • Bar Harbor • Ellsworth • North Conway • Stowe • Green Mountains • Williamstown • Middletown • Hyannis

ITINERARY

Day 1: Boston

Fly to Boston from the UK and on arrival pick up your hire car. Upon check in; please ask the hotel reception for your ATI Tour documentation pack which will include your tour essentials. **Accommodation stay – 2 nights in Boston.**

Day 2: Boston

Explore Boston's Seaport on foot and view the Boston Lighthouse which holds a head light visible for sixteen miles "as a reminder of the inextinguishable American spirit." To take a closer look, there are several guided harbor tours (optional, fees apply) to get you there. Tonight, enjoy dinner at Boston's world famous waterfront. Weather permitting, may we suggest a harbor side evening stroll to see the moonlight dancing on the water.

Day 3: Boston – Salem – Portsmouth – Kennebunkport

Along the route north of Boston lies almost four centuries of history, as well as some of the coast's finest beaches and seascapes. First stop is Salem, the location of the infamous witch trials. Then drive along the coast to the charming harbor towns of Gloucester and Rockport. Enjoy the old-time seaport atmosphere of Portsmouth, New Hampshire and its wealth of historic buildings before crossing into Maine.

Your destination today is the popular resort of Kennebunkport, a haven for writers and artists. **Accommodation stay – 1 night in Kennebunkport.** Driving distance 206 kilometers.

Day 4: Kennebunkport – Wiscasset – Ellsworth/Bar Harbor

Travel along the beautiful Maine Coast to Bar Harbor. Along the way you will pass through quaint fishing villages where fishermen mark their grounds with colorful buoys. Don't miss the chance to try a lobster or cup of clam chowder. **Accommodation Stay – 2 Nights in Ellsworth.** Driving distance 340 kilometers.

Day 5: Ellsworth/Bar Harbor – Acadia National Park – Ellsworth/Bar Harbor

A full day to explore one of the oldest and most beautiful national parks in America. Discover soaring peaks, dramatic glacier-carved valleys, clear lakes, and the rugged shoreline with the only true fjord on the U.S. Atlantic coast. Witness the area's natural wonders from Park Loop Road or drive to the summit of Cadillac Mountain, at 1,530 feet (466 meters), the highest point on the U.S. Atlantic seaboard.

Day 6: Ellsworth/Bar Harbor – North Conway

Depart Ellsworth and make your way west towards North Conway to spend a day at leisure and even take a visit to see the White Mountains. Experience breathtaking views of mountain ranges and pristine forests. **Accommodation Stay – 1 night in North Conway.** Driving distance 345 kilometers.

Day 7: North Conway – Stowe

Today, traverse the White Mountains that divide the New England states of New Hampshire and Vermont. The mountains are home to bears, moose, wild turkey, and deer. This route takes you through some of New England's most beautiful scenery. Drive by Lyndonville and see Willey's General Store in Greensboro before continuing through Craftsbury, a Grandma Moses kind of village, to Stowe. See picture-perfect villages and some of Vermont's famous covered bridges. **Accommodation Stay – 1 Night in Stowe.** Driving distance 210 kilometers.

Day 8: Stowe – Green Mountains – Williamstown

Continue south along Route 100, where you will take in some of the most spectacular scenery in Vermont's Green Mountains. With their dense forests, the mountains are home to bears, moose, wild turkey, and deer. See picture-perfect villages and some of Vermont's famous covered bridges before crossing into Massachusetts' Berkshires, known for their rural beauty and cultural assets. Overnight in the college town of Williamstown. **Accommodation Stay – 1 Night in Williamstown.** Driving distance 260 kilometers.

Day 9: Williamstown – Middletown/Newport

Drive south and pass through a series of wonderful little towns, including Lenox, summer home for the Boston Symphony Orchestra. See Hancock Shaker Village near Pittsfield before continuing to the storied little city of Newport, Rhode Island, once a prosperous colonial seaport. **Accommodation stay – 1 Night Middletown.** Driving distance 290 kilometers.

Day 10: Middletown/Newport – Hyannis/Cape Cod

Depart Newport for a relatively short journey where you will quickly cross the Stateline into Massachusetts, then driving along Buzzard Bay before making the turn onto the Mid-Cape Highway, which will quickly take you to Hyannis. One of most noteworthy summer escapes in the country, Hyannis Port is home to the Kennedy Compound, from where JFK ran his successful campaign for President in 1960 and which later became the Summer White House during his brief albeit memorable Presidency. The compound was built by Joseph Kennedy Sr., the family's patriarch, who became very rich (some say from bootlegging) during the same interwar era as the fictional Jay Gatsby. **Accommodation stay – 2 Nights in Hyannis.** Driving distance 119 kilometers.

Day 11: Hyannis/Cape Cod

Explore magnificent Cape Cod with its high cliffs, rolling dunes, broad beaches, miles of walking trails, picturesque villages and delicious seafood. This peninsula is a beloved vacation spot for visitors and natives alike. Stop in Plymouth, a living panorama of Pilgrim and Colonial times and see the Mayflower II.

Day 12-13: Hyannis/Cape Cod Departure

Return your hire car to the airport prior to your flight back to the UK.

This tour is based on a Room only basis

***Denotes local charge** – Optional trips and excursions suggested on the itinerary are bookable and payable locally.

This is a set tour itinerary, if you have booked any pre/post or optional tour arrangements please refer to your separate vouchers and final documents.

All hotels & locations are subject to change based on availability, final hotel list will be confirmed 10 days before departure.

TOUR NOTES

For current departure dates and prices please check our website

Pre/Post Tour information

If you would like to extend your trip or make the tour part of a longer holiday, we can easily add on a pre or post night stays for you. Our Sales Team will work with you to arrange the best connecting flights and book any additional hotel stays. Simply tell us what you'd like and we can arrange it.

Time difference

Eastern Time Zone: GMT -5 hours

Pacific Time Zone: GMT -8 hours

Mountain Time Zone: GMT -7 hours

Central Time Zone: GMT -6 hours

Tour inclusions

- Accommodation listed above
- Welcome phone call from American Tours International on Day 1
- Virgin Holidays branded rucksack with tour documentation and Atlas, please ask when you check in at your first hotel for your 'ATI Pack'
- Old Town Trolley Tour

Tour exclusions

- All Flights and airport transfers in the UK
- Travel Insurance
- Car hire and insurance unless this has been booked by the sales consultant
- Items of a personal nature such as drinks, laundry, tips & gratuities, video camera fees at monuments
- The required ESTA application
- Anything not detailed on the itinerary.

Dining inclusions

Room Only

Visa requirements

It's mandatory for everyone travelling to or transferring through the US, under the Visa Waiver Program, to obtain approval to travel no later than 72 hours prior to travel by completing an online process ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) scheme.

Failure to obtain an ESTA could result in the passenger being denied boarding by the airline. The cost of an ESTA is currently approx \$14 per person and can be obtained by visiting <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>. Once completed & approved, the ESTA application is valid for two years and allows multiple visits without the need to reapply – simply update your details on the same website. Travelers can apply for an ESTA even if they have no firm plans to travel to the US. If you need any further information on the ESTA or you have any other visa queries, then try the Visit USA Website at www.visitusa.org.uk where further information on the scheme and up to date fee can also be found. The ESTA is very similar to the automated visa that you purchase to enter Australia and is completely paperless

Currency

The official unit of currency in the US is the US dollar. Optional excursions will need to be paid locally by cash to the tour guide. Major credit cards and debit cards will be accepted within the US.

Electricity

If you bring any electrical appliance to the USA, you may need an adaptor to fit the US electrical receptacles. You may also need a converter to change the voltage from 110 volts to 220 volts.

Tipping

Tipping is a big part of the USA's service economy and their taxation system, all visitors should understand that this is a part of the local culture; please see below a list of useful suggestions for tipping:

- Waiters/Waitresses: 15% - 20% for average - good service, more for exceptional service.
- Bartenders: \$1 - \$2 a round -or- 15% to 20% of the tab, with a minimum of 50 cents per soft drink, \$1 per alcoholic drink.
- Room Service: 15% - 20%
- Taxi driver: Varies depending on locality. Assume 15% will be enough; an extra \$1 to \$2 for help with bags.
- Hotel doorman: \$1 per bag for help with luggage; \$1 per person for hailing a cab.

Recommended vaccinations

We advise you to discuss your individual requirements for the USA with your GP at least 6-8 weeks prior to travel.