

NIU
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ASSOCIATION

The Northern Illinois University Alumni Association
Presents

Autumn In New England

October 3 - 12, 2019

\$3,985 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago



This is an exclusive travel program presented by the Northern Illinois University Alumni Association

Day by Day Itinerary

Thursday, October 3 – CHICAGO / BOSTON (L)

This morning we depart Chicago's O'Hare Airport and take to the skies for Boston, Massachusetts. On arrival, we'll meet our Tour Guide who will accompany us on vacation. Leaving the airport, we'll enjoy an introductory tour that will take us past the historically significant neighborhoods in Boston including the North End, Charlestown, West End, Theatre District, Back Bay, Fenway, Prudential, Beacon Hill, and Seaport District. Along the way, we'll see the sights and hear the stories from Boston's colonial past to its most recent history.

Friday, October 4 – BOSTON (The Freedom Trail) (B)

Our day begins with the perfect introduction to the history of Boston. We'll enjoy the Freedom Trail Foundation's most popular walking tour which highlights the revolutionary history that took place at 11 of the 16 Freedom Trail historic sites. We begin in Boston Common, the oldest park in the country, and pass by the Massachusetts State House, the Park Street Church, and adjacent Granary Burying Ground, the final resting place of John Hancock and Paul Revere. Then we're headed into the heart of Old Boston where we'll see the site of the First Public School, established in 1635. Continuing along School Street, we'll see the Old Corner Bookstore and Old South Meeting House before arriving in the square in front of the Old State House. Here, British soldiers, who were quartered in the city, fired into a rioting mob killing five American civilians in the Boston Massacre. Our tour will come to an end in popular Faneuil Hall, called the "Cradle of Liberty" for the history of patriotic speeches made in its public meeting hall. Free time will then be set aside to visit the Faneuil Hall Marketplace and neighboring Quincy Market, an immensely popular shopping and dining complex that is a favorite destination for locals and tourists alike. For the more energetic, you may wish to continue along the Freedom Trail as it meanders through the narrow streets of the North End across the Charles River to Charlestown, where Boston's settlers first landed. This evening (pending scheduling) we will join up with alumni from the Boston area for a reception and dinner event.

Saturday, October 5 – BOSTON / KENNEBUNKPORT (B,L)

This morning we depart Boston and travel to Cambridge, Lexington, and Concord to hear the tale of the American Revolution. We'll begin with a visit to Cambridge, home to two of the world's most distinguished universities: Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. We'll drive by historic Harvard Yard, not only the oldest part of the campus but also the center of its history where General George Washington gathered troops in Cambridge Common during the Revolutionary War. Then we'll follow the same path Paul Revere took on his legendary midnight ride in 1775 and stop at Lexington Battle Green. It was here, in 1775, that the "Minute Men" took a stand by challenging the British Redcoats. From this point on, Lexington and Concord would be known as the birthplace of the American Revolution. Our next stop will be the Minute Man National Historical Park Visitors Center to view the multi-media presentation "The Road to Revolution." Afterward, we're headed to the Old North Bridge where the "shot heard round the world" was fired, before stopping to visit the Concord Museum to see the famous Revere Lantern that was hung in the steeple of the Old North Church as a signal to Paul Revere.

After lunch, we'll be on our way to the southern Maine coast and the resort of Kennebunkport. The historic Lower Village, Dock Square and Ocean Avenue have inspired local and national artists and photographers, and in the fall, visitors gather to see some of the most beautiful foliage in New England. On arrival, we'll enjoy a narrated trolley tour, an interesting and informative orientation to the Kennebunkport area that will introduce us to President Bush's Estate, the Franciscan Monastery, the beaches, Spouting Rock, and Blowing Cave.

Sunday, October 6 – KENNEBUNKPORT / ROCKLAND (B,L)

This morning we depart Kennebunkport and travel to Freeport, the "birthplace of Maine." Freeport dates back to 1789, but shoppers would argue that it did not arrive on the scene until 1917, when the first L.L. Bean outdoor apparel company opened its doors to the public. Leaving Freeport, we'll travel to the quintessential waterfront village of Boothbay Harbor, the Boating Capital of New England, where we'll enjoy lunch at Fisherman's Wharf. Afterward, free time will be set aside to stroll and shop the boardwalk area where you'll find distinctive, high quality glass and pottery, handmade jewelry, nautical home décor and books about the region by local authors. Then, we continue our journey north to Bath to discover Maine's seafaring history. The 20-acre waterfront campus of the Maine Maritime Museum includes indoor galleries, the country's only surviving historic wooden shipyard, a working boat shop, a newly restored 1906 schooner, and more. Our day will come to an end in the town of Rockland, one of the most beautiful destinations on the coast of Maine.

Monday, October 7 – ROCKLAND

(Bar Harbor & Acadia National Park)

(B,L)

Today, we are in for a special treat, as we travel to Acadia National Park, located primarily on Mt. Desert Island, to enjoy the scenic vistas that cover 35,000 acres of the Atlantic shoreline. We'll begin with a visit to the Victorian town of Bar Harbor where free time will be set aside to explore the waterside resort, home to quaint restaurants and charming shops. After lunch, we'll travel Acadia National Park's Loop Road, a 27-mile drive that will climb the pink granite mountains of the east coast of the island before swinging inland past Jordan Pond, Bubble Pond, and Eagle Lake. Along the way, we'll stop to visit Thunder Hole, the breathtaking Otter Cliffs, and the summit of Cadillac Mountain for a spectacular view of Frenchman's Bay.

Tuesday, October 8 – ROCKLAND / ST. JOHNSBURY (B,L,D)

This morning we depart Rockland and travel inland to the small town of Bethel, Maine, nestled in the Western Lakes and Mountain Regions. The history of Bethel is extensive as it was founded by settlers who were granted the land as a reward for fighting to conquer Canada in 1690. We'll find a picturesque and walkable downtown with everything you need and nothing you don't. After lunch, we'll travel to neighboring Newry to view the Sunday River Covered Bridge. This bridge, built in 1872, is named the Artist's Bridge because of its reputation as being the most photographed and painted of the venerable covered bridges in Maine. Then we'll get our first glimpse of New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest as we travel to Cannon Mountain to enjoy a magnificent aerial tram ride revealing the surrounding

countryside's rich variety of flaming red maples, golden birch and maroon northern red oaks. Afterward, we'll be on our way to St. Johnsbury, Vermont, the unofficial capital of the "Northeast Region" that sits high atop a promontory at the convergence of the Moose, Sleeper, and Passumpsic rivers.

Wednesday, October 9 – ST. JOHNSBURY

(Made in Vermont)

(B,L,D)

A leisurely day on tour will allow us to revel in Vermont's pastoral landscapes dotted with pristine villages and covered bridges. We start our day by traveling to the world-renowned Cabot Creamery, nestled on a hillside in one of the state's smallest towns. Next, we'll visit the Morse Sugar Farm to learn firsthand about the history of sugaring, Vermont's most traditional occupation. Then we'll travel to nearby Waterbury to visit the Cold Hollow Cider Mill, New England's largest producer of apple cider, where we'll view the cider making process and sample free cider fresh from the press. Just a few miles down the road we'll arrive in New England's ski capital, the pretty mountain village of Stowe, where an afternoon at leisure will allow us to explore the quaint village lined with chalets, restaurants and pubs.

Thursday, October 10 – ST. JOHNSBURY / LACONIA (B,L)

This morning we depart St. Johnsbury and travel to the Rock of Ages granite quarry, the world's largest deep-hole granite quarry. From the safety of the visitor's platform we'll have a bird's eye view as the quarriers cut enormous blocks of granite far below. We'll also enjoy a factory tour to observe the master sculptors and talented artisans as they create from granite enduring works of art. Then, we'll travel to the impeccably clean and friendly state capital of Montpelier for an introduction to the smallest state capital in the United States. This afternoon we travel to Quechee Gorge, Vermont's Grand Canyon, for a remarkable view of the fall foliage as it transforms the gorge from a verdant green cloak to one of many colors. Following a visit to the Quechee Gorge Village, one of the premier shopping attractions in the state featuring antiques, collectibles, and craft dealers, our day will come to an end as we arrive in the town of Laconia, located on the shores of Lake Winnepesaukee.



Friday, October 11 – LACONIA (Lake Winnepesaukee) (B,L,D)

Another leisurely day on tour will begin in nearby Weirs Beach, the home port for the *MS Mount Washington*, for a morning cruise on Lake Winnepesaukee. New Hampshire's largest lake is surrounded by 3 mountain ranges, offering breathtaking scenery of the lake's wooded shoreline and crystal clear waters. On arrival in Wolfeboro, we'll set aside time to explore the oldest summer resort in the country. A lovely town full of galleries, stores and restaurants, it's been said that there is something for everyone in Wolfeboro. Then, we'll be on our way to the Castle in the Clouds, where we'll enjoy a picnic lunch and self-guided tour of the Lucknow estate, an opportunity to explore the mansion and surrounding grounds. Afterward, we'll continue our journey around Lake Winnepesaukee as we travel to the quaint village of Meredith, the heart of the Lakes Region that greets visitors with unsurpassed beauty and a tradition of sincere New England hospitality. Late this afternoon we'll jump aboard the Winnepesaukee Scenic Railroad Turkey Dinner Train to enjoy breathtaking views of New Hampshire's largest lake, while sneaking a peek at some of the beautiful lakeside homes we'll pass along the way.

Saturday, October 12 – LACONIA / CHICAGO (B)

This morning we depart Laconia and return to Boston in preparation for our journey home. No better time to reflect on memories of our Autumn in New England vacation to last a lifetime and new friendships made along the way.

***** Welcome Home *****

Visit myniu.com to make your reservation.

The Tour Price Includes:

- Pre-trip assistance.
- Informational packet.
- Alumni staff assistance for a worry-free travel experience.
- Economy-class air transportation by scheduled service of United Airlines.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Tour Guide.
- Accommodations in first-class hotels.
- All meals as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Luggage handling and portage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotels.
- Taxes for included ground services.

The Tour Price Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature such as travel insurance; airline checked luggage fees; luggage handling at airports; gratuities to the motor coach driver(s), Tour Guide, and Step-on Guides; and meals other than those stated above.

TOUR CONDITIONS

Tour Deposit and Payment: Reservations may be made by check or credit card (Visa, MC, or Discover). Tour prices do increase every year and it is possible that increases could occur after the printing of this brochure in advance of your tour's departure.

Tour Pricing: This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated, and additional charges will be assessed.

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is very important and can be purchased through USI Travel Insurance Services. This insurance is designed to cover you and your trip investment from trip cancellation/interruption penalties and provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and personal effects loss, and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 21 days (Plus and Elite Options) of your initial trip deposit can make you eligible for 1) Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver, and 2) Optional Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (Elite Option). If you wish to take advantage of the special above provisions, you must enroll within 21 days of the date your initial trip deposit is received. Contact Travel Insurance Services at 1-800-937-1387.

RESPONSIBILITY

THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION and/or any travel agency and/or supplier of services pursuant to or in connection with this itinerary shall not be responsible or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation; nor for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond the control of any agency or supplier, or occurring without the fault or negligence of such agency or supplier. The right is reserved to substitute the airline to be used; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the air or land portion of this itinerary. The right is also reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories. Further, the right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The schedules contained herein are subject to change without notice. All rates are based on current Tariff and Exchange rates in effect at the time of the printing of this itinerary and are subject to adjustment without prior notification in the event of changes therein or in changes in the number of participants on which the rates are based. The carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by carrier concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of this tour.

For more information contact the NIU Alumni Association at 815-753-1512 or visit the Travel section at myniu.com to make your reservation.

\$100 of the trip cost is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

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