

Cadillac Mountain at Sunrise, Lobster Shacks by Sunset — A 3-Day Acadia & Maine Coast Road Trip | I-Journey

DURATION

3 Days

BEST TIME TO GO

June to September (Peak Season)

FROM

Check-In — Bar Harbor Inn

From \$259-349 USD / night, for 2 people

A white-columned inn on the harbor's edge that's welcomed guests since 1887, with a private pier, a heated pool over the water, and the shortest walk to downtown of any hotel in Bar Harbor.

Bar Harbor Inn · +18448141668 · barharborinn.com

Day 2

Cadillac Mountain, Park Loop Road & Jordan Pond

The full Acadia day: sunrise from the highest point on the U.S. Atlantic seaboard, a loop past the park's signature coastal stops, and popovers on the lawn at Jordan Pond.

Sunrise — Cadillac Mountain Summit

~1.5 hours round-trip, self-drive · \$6 USD vehicle reservation + \$35 USD park pass (per vehicle, 7 days)

At 1,530 feet, Cadillac Mountain is the tallest point on the U.S. Atlantic coast, and from early October to early March it's the first place in the country to see the sunrise — a timed vehicle reservation through recreation.gov is required for the summit road for most of the year.

Park Loop Road — Sand Beach, Thunder Hole & Otter Cliff

~2.5 hours with stops, self-drive · Included with park pass

A 27-mile scenic drive hitting Acadia's greatest hits in order: a rare pink-sand beach cold enough to shock most swimmers, a rock chasm that booms and sprays at the right tide, and 110-foot pink granite cliffs dropping straight into the Atlantic.

Popovers — Jordan Pond House

~1 hour · Popovers with tea or coffee, priced per order

A century-old Acadia institution serving oven-puffed popovers with butter and wild Maine blueberry jam on a lawn looking straight up Jordan Pond to the twin peaks of the Bubbles — reservations recommended in summer.

Jordan Pond House · +12078134342 · jordanpondhouse.com

Overnight — Bar Harbor Inn

From \$259-349 USD / night, for 2 people

A second night on the harbor before tomorrow's drive to the island's quieter western half.

Day 3

The Quiet Side & Departure

A last morning on Mount Desert Island's less-crowded 'quiet side,' with a classic lighthouse and a lobster pound lunch before the drive back to Bangor.

Self-Drive — Bar Harbor to Bass Harbor

~40 minutes · via ME-102 / ME-198

The drive across the island's western half trades Bar Harbor's crowds for fishing villages and blueberry barrens, with far fewer cars on the road even in August.

Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse

~30 minutes, self-guided · Free

An 1858 lighthouse on a granite ledge above the Atlantic, one of the most photographed lighthouses in Maine — a short trail leads down to the rocks below for the classic angle looking up at the tower.

Lunch — Thurston's Lobster Pound, Bernard

~1 hour · \$25-45 USD / person, market price

A working lobster pound on Bass Harbor's working waterfront, with steamed lobster dinners eaten at picnic tables over the water — order it whole and messy, the way the boat captains docking beside you do.

Thurston's Lobster Pound · +12072447600

Self-Drive — Bass Harbor to Bangor International Airport

~1.5 hours · via ME-3 & I-395

The return drive retraces the route back through Ellsworth to Bangor — return the rental car with a full tank and allow extra time for July and August traffic.