



Friday, September 26th, 2008

Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park

"A ship is safe in a harbour, but that is not what ships are made for."

If there is a single place in the country where it could be said that America began its love affair with nature, it is likely Mt. Desert Island. Its rugged, surf pounded coastline and stunning forests make Acadia National Park one of the most popular destinations for hikers, campers, and photographers. During the early morning we will anchor just off of the town of Bar Harbor. Our first order of business is to clear back into the US. Our plan is to have two busses for a tour of Acadia National Park. Our stops will be at some of the most beautiful sites in the park. The tour will include Cadillac Mountain, the highest point along the US Atlantic coast. We'll have about an hour to explore and walk the loop trail with the staff. We'll also visit the Sand Beach area and Sieur De Mont Springs, where there is a nature center and Park Ranger/Naturalist. To accommodate all guests, we expect to have two tours in the morning and one in the afternoon. When not on the tour we will have time on our own to wander in the town of Bar Harbor. Built up by tourism as far back as the early 1900s, the town suffered terribly during the years of the great depression. Much of the town was destroyed by fire in 1947 when 17,000 acres of the island burned although much of downtown was spared. Today, Bar Harbor's history, distinguished architecture, and beautiful location on Frenchman Bay make it a desirable base for exploring the island.

The ships clocks will be set **BACK** by **ONE HOUR** tonight (September 25th)

Good Morning!

- 0600 *National Geographic Explorer* is anchored off of Bar Harbor.
- 0645 Wake-up call and weather update over the PA system.
- 0700 - 0830 Breakfast is served in the dining room & bistro.
- 0715 (*approx*) Customs Clearance. Be ready to meet with a customs official in the Chart Room following Disembarkation Group order 3,4,1,2.
- 0815 (*approx*) **Zodiacs ashore to Bar Harbor for Tour Groups #1 & #2, then anyone else who would like to go ashore to visit the town in the morning. Zodiac shuttles will run every half hour from the ship and the shore.**
- 1200 *Last Zodiac before lunch.*
- 1200 - 1330 Lunch is served in the Dining Room & Bistro.
- 1345 **Zodiacs ashore to Bar Harbor for Tour Group #3, then anyone else who would like to go ashore to visit the town in the afternoon. Zodiac shuttles will run every half hour from the ship and the shore.**
- 1600 Afternoon Tea is available in the Bistro.
- 1730 *Last Zodiac! National Geographic Explorer* sails for Camden.
- 1845 *Recap & Briefing* - you are invited to join the staff in the lounge.
- 1930 Dinner is served.