Freeport is a coastal Maine village just 30 minutes from Portland. You will travel by bus and have 5 hours to experience Freeport’s unique shopping and dining. Shopping includes a vast range of outlet and boutique stores such as Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfiger, Coach, Cole Haan, Dooney & Bourke, The North Face and Henri Lloyd. See local design legends like Jill McGowan, Brahms Mount, Chilton Furniture, Cuddledown, and Brown Goldsmiths make and showcase their world-famous wares. While you’re there, don’t forget to visit Wilbur’s Candy Shoppe where you can tour the chocolate factory, buy some uniquely Maine jewelry, pick up a bag made from used sails at Sea Bags, or experience the fine craftsmanship of Maine woodworkers at Thos. Moser Furniture Showroom. Lastly, don’t forget to explore L.L. Bean’s flagship stores and outlets.

Schedule:

1:30 pm  Depart hotel for Freeport
2:00 pm  Arrive Freeport
5 hours of free time in Freeport for shopping or dining
7:00 pm Meet bus in front of LL Bean
7:30 pm  Arrive back at hotel

Fee: $45.00 per person
Mussel Farm Tour

Wednesday, June 29, 2016

Steam out to Calendar Island Mussel Farm in Casco Bay aboard the Lucky Catch. Throughout the years, Maine farmers have been experimenting with various methods to grow crops more efficiently. There has been a movement towards more environmentally-conscious farming. While some farmers are navigating towards repurposing crops and introducing alternative farming methods, Peter Stocks is literally and figuratively navigating Casco Bay to pursue and succeed in operating a mussel farm. The Calendar Island Mussel Company has several floating rafts from which they hang vertically-suspended ropes from rafts in the top forty feet of the water. Microscopic mussel seed attaches to these ropes and after eighteen months, mature, plump mussels are ready to be harvested. Specially-designed equipment enables the mature mussels to be separated from the ropes when the meat is full and ready for consumption. See how the equipment lifts the roped mussels onto a conveyor belt, strips the mussels and washes them for market. Mussels receive high marks for being low in cholesterol, calories, and saturated fats. They are prized for their richness in manganese, iron, zinc, and vitamins C and B12.

We hope that you will join us for the mussel farm tour!

Please note that the boat limit is 30 people and we will be taking reservations on a first come, first serve basis.

Schedule:

12:45 pm  Meet in hotel lobby & walk down to the Portland Waterfront
1:30 pm  Board the Lucky Catch for an 1 1/2 hour cruise
2:00 pm  Lucky Catch departs for Calendar Island Mussel Farm
3:30 pm  Arrive back at Portland Waterfront

Fee: $25.00 per person
Oyster Farm Tour

Friday, July 1, 2016

“The Damariscotta River is one of the most beautiful rivers in Maine, doesn’t matter if it is low tide, high tide or in between. Come with us on a 10 mile journey to the Atlantic Ocean as we steam upriver aboard The River Tripper. You’ll see so many different sites: seals swimming along side the boat or resting on islands, oyster farmers working on the river, people working on the floating mussel farms, lobster and crab boats pulling up their catches, Eagles flying high in the sky, hawks, and many more natural sites. Many consider the Damariscotta to be the ultimate destination for oyster lovers.

After the boat tour, we have planned a lunch of deli sandwiches, salads, desserts, and beverages under the pines on the waterfront.

Follow lunch, we will have a private tour of the Darling Marine Center before returning to the hotel.

Schedule:

8 a.m.  Depart hotel for Damariscotta
10:00 a.m. Board The River Tripper for 2 hour cruise
12:30 p.m. Lunch at the Darling Marine Center
1:30 p.m.  Tour of the Darling Marine Center
3:30 p.m. Return Portland

Fee: $65.00 per person

Please note that the boat limit is 49 people and we will be taking reservations on a first come, first serve basis.