

Bald Eagles of Merrymeeting Bay

Saturday, September 21, 2018

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



TRIP DESCRIPTION: When Maine Audubon first began running this trip in 1969, sighting one or two eagles was all that could be expected. Since then, the Bald Eagle population has rebounded from the devastating effects of pesticide poisoning, and in 2013 we saw an amazing 66 eagles! We will board the boat in Boothbay Harbor for a trip across Sheepscoot Bay to the Sasanoa River then up the Kennebec River to Merrymeeting Bay. Weather and tides permitting, we will return to Boothbay via the Kennebec. The sheltered tidal waters of Midcoast Maine offer some of the most pleasant and scenic cruising to be found anywhere—plus excellent wildlife watching. In addition to Bald Eagles, expect other raptors, seals, sturgeon, shorebirds, and waterfowl along the way.

MEETING PLACE: Please meet at Pier Seven in downtown Boothbay Harbor by **7:30 a.m.** so we can depart promptly at 8:00. We are sailing aboard the Island Lady from Cap'n Fish's Whale Watch.

DIRECTIONS:

- Follow Route 1 through Bath and Wiscasset to Route 27 South and Boothbay Harbor.
- When you leave Route 1, you will travel 10.5 miles along winding Route 27 to the shopping center on the outskirts of Boothbay Harbor.
- As you approach the shopping center you will see the YMCA on your left, then 500 yards on the right, the Hannaford supermarket. Stay in the right lane as you pass the Hannaford and proceed up a slight grade (keeping to the right at the top of the hill as you pass the First National Bank of Damariscotta).
- Continue straight (Oak Street) approximately a ½ mile to a stop sign (just past the Post Office). If you were to continue straight ahead, you would be on Commercial Street.
- Pier Seven is down the hill directly behind the Village Market. There is no parking on the pier but there are several pay lots (\$7-\$10 per day) close by. Cap'n Fish's has several boats, so make sure you ask for the Maine Audubon charter.

PREPARATION: You are welcome to bring your own lunch but the ship's galley offers hot dogs, coffee, donuts, snacks, wine, soda and beer. Because Cap'n Fish's has a liquor license, bringing alcohol on board is not permitted. It can be quite cool on the water so please bring enough clothing to ensure your comfort. The Island Lady has an enclosed cabin as well as an open top deck.

SUGGESTED ITEMS:

Binoculars	Lunch, snacks, and drinks	Sunscreen
Camera (batteries)	Plenty of Water	Sunglasses
Field guides	Rain gear (for spray on a windy day)	Hat
Wind-resistant layer	Warm clothes	Gloves

PLEASE NOTE: Rough winds do not pose a problem as this trip is in sheltered waters. Rain may be to our advantage, as the eagles are more likely to be perched. In the case of severe weather conditions, cancellation of this trip is up to the discretion of Cap'n Fish's Whale Watch and your trip leaders. In this unlikely event, you would be notified.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Participants may receive a refund – minus a \$50 processing fee – if they cancel their registration at least fourteen (14) days before a program begins. Programs with registration fees below \$50 are nonrefundable. Refund requests must be made in writing. Written requests for a refund due to a medical emergency must include a doctor's note, and must be received no more than two weeks after the program's start date. Refunds due to medical emergencies will be paid minus the \$50 processing fee. If Maine Audubon cancels a program, participants will receive a full refund. In the event that Maine Audubon needs to cancel part of a multi-day program, such as camps, Maine Audubon will make an effort to reschedule that part of the program, but refunds will not be issued.

All program proceeds benefit the work of Maine Audubon.