

Pelagic Trip to Brier Island & Lurcher Shoals

Sunday, August 16, 2026

6 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



TRIP DESCRIPTION: Join us for an unforgettable day at sea on our exclusive Grand Pelagic Adventure, co-hosted by Maine Audubon and FLUKES. We'll set sail on the fast, stable catamaran Friendship V for a special charter across the Gulf of Maine to famous Brier Island, Nova Scotia and the legendary Lurcher Shoals. This is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to traverse international waters in search of diverse seabirds, whales, dolphins, and other marine wildlife in the peak of summer!

This is an “exploratory trip” taking a new route to productive areas; Brier Island and Lurcher Shoals are among North America’s top spots for rare seabird sightings and cetacean diversity—yet few U.S. trips have ventured this far.

MEETING PLACE: Please arrive by **5:30 a.m.** at the dock for the Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company. **A PHOTO I.D. IS REQUIRED TO BOARD THE BOAT.** A government issued photo identification card, driver’s license, or student I.D. is sufficient. A passport is not necessary.

DIRECTIONS: From Ellsworth, follow Route 3 East to Bar Harbor. It is approximately 10 miles to Bar Harbor after crossing the causeway to Mount Desert Island. Turn left onto West Street; the first street on your left in Bar Harbor. West Street is about ½ mile past the Bar Harbor Regency, Bar Harbor Days Inn and Cat Ferry to Nova Scotia. The Bar Harbor Whale Watch Co. (B.H.W.W.C.) and town pier will be located on your left at 1 West Street.

PARKING: Parking has changed recently and is now metered throughout Bar Harbor, so pay attention to the rules in the areas you park. We recommend parking in the “no limit” areas (see map here: <https://www.barharmoraine.gov/400/Parking-Information>) and paying for enough time to cover the length of our trip. The meters will be turned on by 5AM and you can prepay. Enforcement begins at 12:00PM on Sundays, and we recommend paying for some additional time as we cannot guarantee getting back exactly on time. You can also download the ParkMobile app to be able to pay ahead or add time remotely.

PREPARATION: There is plenty of room on board so don’t worry about over-packing. It can be quite cool on the water so please bring sufficient clothing to ensure your comfort. Ocean spray is certainly a possibility. If you tend to get motion sickness, please consult your doctor or pharmacist for the best remedy. There are enclosed cabins which are heated. We recommend packing your own food, like snacks and breakfast or lunch. There is a galley on board, but options and quantities are limited.

SUGGESTED ITEMS:

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

LEADERS:

Jan Pierson is one of the founders of Field Guides and a veteran of more than 35 years of international birding and guiding. He has traveled far and wide to all continents, yet some of his favorite birding experiences remain simple ones: spring warbler migration, savoring good, long looks at birds, be they rare or common, tropical or temperate, and watching other birders thrill at their first-time discoveries.

Doug Hitchcox is Maine Audubon's Staff Naturalist. He cut his teeth working for Maine Audubon at the Scarborough Marsh Audubon Center where he led tours by land and sea. In his free time, Doug is one of Maine's eBird reviewers, owner and moderator of the 'Maine-birds' listserv, York County Audubon board member, and voting member of the Maine Birds Record Committee.

Zack Klyver, Founder (FLUKES):

For over 30 years Zack has led whale-watching and research trips in the Gulf of Maine. His expertise and conservation advocacy have made him a staple of the Bar Harbor marine science community.

Julie Taylor, Lead Guide (Bar Harbor Whale Watch):

Julie brings over 20 years of hands-on marine guiding experience. She's known for her sharp eyes, calm leadership, and unparalleled service aboard Bar Harbor's top whale-watching vessel.

PLEASE NOTE: Cancellation of this trip is up to the discretion of BHWW Co. and your trip leaders. *If there is any change in the status of this trip, we will do our best to notify you.* If you have any questions, please email dhitchcox@maineaudubon.org. If you have an urgent question, you can call Doug Hitchcox's cellphone at 207-671-0185.

CANCELLATION POLICY: See: <https://maineaudubon.org/events/forms-and-policies/#cancel> or: If an event is cancelled by Maine Audubon, attendees will be notified, and full refunds will be issued. If event participation is cancelled by the attendee, no refunds will be issued if the cancellation is received within 7 days of the event. For cancellations received at least 7 days in advance of the event, refunds will be issued as follows:

Programs under \$10 will be not be refunded.

Programs \$10 – 100 will be refunded minus a \$5 processing fee.

Programs over \$100 and up to \$400 will be refunded minus a \$20 processing fee.

Programs over \$400 are rare and processing fees will be decided on a case by case basis.

All program proceeds benefit the work of Maine Audubon.