



**Sunday, September 27 –
Friday, October 2, 2026**

Discover Maine with Us This Fall

Crisp ocean air, vibrant autumn scenery, charming coastal villages, and Maine's rich lumber and building materials industry — this year's Mill Tour has it all.

Throughout the week, we'll visit a variety of LBM and industry-adjacent operations that showcase the innovation, craftsmanship, and diversity of Maine's forest products sector. Highlights include window and door manufacturing, advanced materials research, large-scale additive manufacturing, sustainable forest management, specialty wood product innovation, and a maritime experience connecting Maine's shipbuilding heritage to the region's forest products industry.

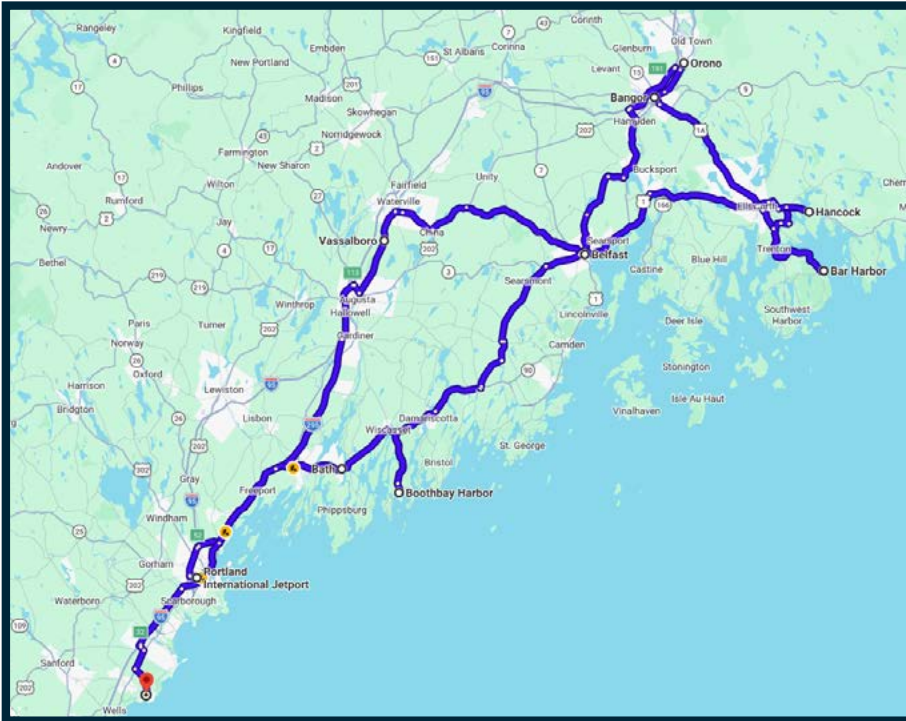
Alongside these organized industry experiences, you'll have time to explore some of Maine's most picturesque coastal communities, including Portland, Bar Harbor, Boothbay Harbor, and Kennebunkport. Stroll scenic waterfronts, browse local shops and galleries, enjoy fresh seafood, or simply take in the atmosphere that makes each destination unique.

This thoughtfully planned itinerary blends valuable industry insight with coastal exploration, creating the perfect balance of learning, networking, and memorable New England experiences.



**10700 Old County Road 15, Suite 200 | Plymouth, MN 55441
(888) 544-6822 | info@BLDConnection.org | www.BLDConnection.org**

POINTS OF INTEREST & FEES



Map of Route

- Portland, ME (starting point – airport area)
- Vassalboro, ME
- Belfast, ME
- Orono, ME
- Bangor, ME
- Bar Harbor, ME
- Hancock, ME
- Boothbay Harbor, ME
- Bath, ME
- Old Port, Portland, ME
- Cape Elizabeth, ME
- Kennebunkport, ME
- Portland, ME (ending point – downtown)

Points of Interest

Industry tours:

- Duratherm Windows & Doors
- Advanced Structures & Composites Center & 3D Bio Home
- University of Maine Forest Tour
- Cinder Wood Products
- Maine Maritime Museum (industry adjacent)

Due to changes outside of our control, the details of this tour and planned agenda stops are subject to change at any time throughout the planning process or even onsite if necessary.

Sight Seeing & Points of Interest:

- Acadia National Park guided trolley tour
- Generous free time to explore Maine's Coastal Cities/Villages
 - Bar Harbor
 - Boothbay Harbor
 - Old Port, Portland
 - Kennebunkport
- Lots of beautiful views along the way!

Tour Fee

Members (First access to registration):

- \$2550 per person (double occupancy/sharing hotel room) / \$5100 per couple
- \$3250 per person (single occupancy/own hotel room)

Non-members (Not available to register until Phase 2 of registration):

- \$2800 per person (double occupancy/sharing hotel room) / \$5600 per couple
- \$3500 per person (single occupancy/own hotel room)

Contact Info

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ITINERARY DETAILS

Sunday, September 27, 2026

ORIENTATION & WELCOME DINNER

Embassy Suites by Hilton Portland Maine (Airport property)

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

The tour begins with our **Orientation & Welcome Dinner** on Sunday evening at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Portland Maine* starting at **6:00 pm**. This gathering is a great opportunity to meet your fellow travelers and kick off the week together. During the evening, we'll review tour highlights, distribute name badges and tour materials, and do introductions before enjoying dinner & drinks as a group.

Guests are welcome to take advantage of the hotel's complimentary evening reception beginning at 5:00 pm, which includes snacks and two free beverages in the hotel bar prior to our group dinner.

We encourage all participants to schedule flights into Portland on Sunday (or prior) in time to attend the orientation and dinner. If travel delays prevent you from arriving on time, please notify the tour director.



*Embassy Suites Hotel Portland Airport | 1050 Westbrook Street, Portland, ME 04102 | 207-775-2200

- Provides complimentary shuttle from airport to hotel, although the hotel is also within walking distance of the airport if you choose not to wait for the shuttle.
- Hotel check-in begins at 4:00 pm
- For those wishing to arrive on Saturday, the Embassy has extended a rate of \$299 plus tax and fees for Saturday night (reservation made through tour director but cost is up to each individual). We are holding NO rooms these nights as part of the block so availability cannot be guaranteed.

SUNDAY INCLUSIONS:

- DINNER & DRINKS
- HOTEL ROOM IN PORTLAND



ITINERARY DETAILS

Monday, September 28, 2026

Craftsmanship, Innovation & Maine's Working Forests

Monday will be a full and fascinating day as we travel north from Portland into the heart of Maine's forest products industry.

Our day begins in Vassalboro with a visit to **Duratherm Windows & Doors**. Established in 1967 and now part of Pella's luxury division, Duratherm is recognized for crafting premium hardwood and wood-clad windows and doors that combine traditional craftsmanship with modern performance. During our behind-the-scenes manufacturing tour, we'll see firsthand the precision, technology, and attention to detail that go into these high-end architectural products.



From there, we'll head east to Belfast for a waterfront lunch at **Young's Lobster Pound**. This classic Maine seafood destination offers a relaxed coastal atmosphere and beautiful harbor views. Guests will pre-select from a limited menu shared prior to the trip, featuring both fresh Maine seafood favorites and non-seafood options.

After lunch, we'll continue north to Orono to visit the **Advanced Structures and Composites Center (ASCC)**, one of the nation's leading research facilities focused on advanced materials, engineered composites, and large-scale additive manufacturing. A highlight will be seeing the Ingersoll MasterPrint 3D printer, recognized as one of the world's largest thermoplastics 3D printers and used for groundbreaking projects including bio-based housing components made from locally sourced materials.



We'll also spend time with the **University of Maine School of Forest Resources** for an immersive look at Maine's forestry industry. Alongside university staff and forestry professionals, we'll explore Maine's working forests while learning about sustainable forest management, harvesting practices, forest health, and the stewardship that supports the region's forest products industry.

Our evening concludes at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bangor, where you can relax and enjoy dinner at the hotel restaurant and bar, order food in, or venture out to explore the local dining scene on your own.

MONDAY INCLUSIONS:

- MEALS: BREAKFAST & LUNCH (DINNER ON OWN)
- DAYTIME BUS TRANSPORTATION (EVENING TRANSPORTATION ON OWN, IF NEEDED)
- DURATHERM TOUR ACCESS
- ADVANCED STRUCTURES & COMPOSITES CENTER TOUR ACCESS
- UNIVERSITY OF MAINE FOREST TOUR ACCESS
- HOTEL ROOM IN BANGOR

ITINERARY DETAILS

Tuesday, September 29, 2026

Acadia National Park, Coastal Maine & Innovative Wood Design

On Tuesday, we'll travel from the Bangor area to the stunning coastal destination of Bar Harbor and nearby **Acadia National Park**.

Our morning begins with a fully guided, narrated trolley tour through Acadia National Park, one of the nation's most scenic and beloved national parks. During this approximately 2.5-hour excursion, we'll travel portions of the historic 27-mile Park Loop Road while taking in Acadia's dramatic coastal scenery, forested mountains, rocky shorelines, and glacially carved landscapes. We'll hear stories about the park's natural and cultural history and make several scenic stops that may include Cadillac Mountain, Thunder Hole, Jordan Pond, and other iconic viewpoints for photos and short walks.

Following our tour, you'll have several hours of free time in **Bar Harbor** to enjoy lunch, shopping, and exploration at your own pace. This vibrant coastal town offers waterfront views, charming streets, local boutiques, galleries, and plenty of opportunities to enjoy fresh seafood and regional favorites.

On our return to Bangor, we'll stop at **Cinder Wood Products** for a demonstration and behind-the-scenes look at one of Maine's most innovative specialty wood manufacturers. Cinder specializes in Shou Sugi Ban, a modern adaptation of the traditional Japanese wood-charring technique used to enhance durability and visual appeal for interior and exterior architectural applications. We'll see how raw lumber is transformed through controlled charring and finishing processes that create striking, high-performance wood products used in projects across the country.

We'll conclude the day back in Bangor with another evening at the Hilton Garden Inn, where you'll have time to relax, dine on your own, or enjoy the local area at your leisure.

TUESDAY INCLUSIONS:

- MEALS: BREAKFAST & LUNCH (DINNER ON OWN)
- DAYTIME BUS TRANSPORTATION (EVENING TRANSPORTATION ON OWN, IF NEEDED)
- NARRATED & GUIDED TROLLEY TOUR OF ACADIA NATIONAL PARK
- FREE TIME IN BAR HARBOR
- CINDER WOOD PRODUCTS TOUR ACCESS
- HOTEL ROOM IN BANGOR



Wednesday, September 30, 2026

Coastal Maine, Wooden Boat Building & Portland's Historic Waterfront

Wednesday takes us from Bangor south to the picturesque coastal community of **Boothbay Harbor**. Known for its active harbor, scenic waterfront, and classic maritime charm, Boothbay Harbor offers the perfect opportunity to slow down and enjoy Maine's coastal atmosphere. You'll have several hours to explore the village at your own pace - browse local shops and galleries, relax along the waterfront, or enjoy lunch at one of the many cafés and seafood restaurants overlooking the harbor.



After our time in Boothbay Harbor, we'll travel to the **Maine Maritime Museum** in historic Bath, where Maine's shipbuilding and maritime heritage come to life. Located on the site of a 19th-century shipyard, the museum highlights the craftsmanship, materials, and woodworking techniques that helped shape New England's maritime industry.

As an industry-adjacent experience, this stop connects closely to the LBM and woodworking sectors through exhibits focused on traditional wooden boatbuilding, timber use, and marine construction. Guests will have the opportunity to explore hand-crafted wooden vessels, historic shipbuilding tools, and exhibits showcasing Maine's longstanding relationship with the sea and the skilled trades that supported it.

Following our museum visit, we'll continue to the Cambria Hotel in **Portland's Old Port** district, where the evening is yours to enjoy. Explore Portland's renowned restaurant scene, browse waterfront shops, stroll the cobblestone streets of the Old Port, or enjoy one of the city's many optional waterfront experiences or tours.



WEDNESDAY INCLUSIONS:

- MEALS: BREAKFAST & LUNCH (DINNER ON OWN)
- DAYTIME BUS TRANSPORTATION (EVENING TRANSPORTATION ON OWN, IF NEEDED)
- FREE TIME IN BOOTHBAY HARBOR
- MAINE MARITIME MUSEUM ACCESS
- FREE TIME IN OLD PORT
- HOTEL ROOM IN DOWNTOWN PORTLAND (OLD PORT)

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Lighthouse, Coastal Wrap-Up & Farewell in Portland

On our way toward the southern coast, we'll begin with a stop at the iconic **Portland Head Light** in Fort Williams Park. Here, you'll have time to explore one of Maine's most photographed landmarks, walk the park grounds, and take in sweeping views of the rugged coastline.



From there, we'll continue to **Kennebunkport** for a relaxed partial day in Dock Square, the heart of this iconic seaside village. The area is filled with boutique shops, art galleries, and a variety of inviting restaurants, offering time to enjoy lunch at your own pace - whether that's a classic lobster roll by the water, a casual outdoor patio, or a local New England bistro or brewery. For a unique experience, guests may also choose to stop aboard the dockside "Spirit of Massachusetts" schooner for drinks and light fare in a distinctive harbor setting. With its blend of coastal scenery, local flavor, and small-town charm, Kennebunkport is the perfect place to unwind.



We'll then return to Portland with plenty of time to enjoy more of Old Port independently - explore shops, dine, stroll the waterfront, or take advantage of optional activities such as ferry rides or city & harbor cruises.

In the evening, we'll come together one last time for a Farewell Dinner at our host hotel, where we can share highlights from the week and celebrate the close of our Maine experience.

THURSDAY INCLUSIONS:

- MEALS: BREAKFAST AND FAREWELL RECEPTION (LUNCH ON OWN)
- DAYTIME BUS TRANSPORTATION (BUS RELEASED AFTER RETURNING US TO PORTLAND)
- PORTLAND HEAD LIGHT ACCESS
- FREE TIME IN KENNEBUNKPORT
- FREE TIME IN OLD PORT
- HOTEL ROOM IN DOWNTOWN PORTLAND (OLD PORT)

ITINERARY DETAILS



Friday, October 2, 2026

Departure Day

On Friday, participants have the option to fly home or extend their stay (at their own expense) to continue exploring the stunning beauty of Maine.

All guests must check out of the hotel by **11:00 am**, unless prior arrangements have been made to extend your reservation. Any lodging beyond this point is the responsibility of each guest.

Please note there is no motorcoach service or hotel shuttle available on departure day. Guests should plan to arrange a taxi or ride-share service for transportation to the airport or their next destination. To help facilitate easier connections, an attendee departure schedule will be provided so guests with similar flight times may coordinate shared transportation if desired.

FRIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- BREAKFAST



PRE & POST TOUR IDEAS

If you have extra time before or after the tour, consider expanding your stay to take in even more of what Maine has to offer. From scenic coastlines and outdoor adventures to charming towns and unique local experiences, the region offers something for every interest – and we simply can't see it all on our 4-5 days together! The suggestions below are not included in the tour but are great options to enhance your visit.

In & Around Portland:

- Portland Discovery Tours – we'll only be visiting the Portland Head Light Lighthouse (with our coach bus) on this tour. Consider taking a full, guided tour of land, sea, combo or sunset experience through Portland Discovery Tours during your time pre or post tour.
- Ride the ferry to Peaks Island for biking, coastal views and alternate dining
- Visit local breweries (Portland is one of the top craft beer cities in the U.S.)
- Explore the Portland Museum of Art

Coastal Experiences:

- Visit additional seaside towns like Ogunquit, Wells, Orchard Beach, Rockland and many more!
- Walk the Marginal Way in Ogunquit for stunning ocean views
- Book a lobster boat tour or lighthouse cruise
- Relax on one of Maine's sandy beaches

Nature & Outdoor Adventures:

- Extend your stay near Acadia National Park for hiking, biking, or sunrise views
- Visit Camden State Park and additional state parks
- Go kayaking or paddleboarding along the coast

Unique Maine Experiences:

- Enjoy a traditional lobster bake – these are tougher to find this time of year but as a smaller group, you may be able to find something accommodating.
- Explore art galleries and studios featuring local artists

Other:

- Venture further out and explore parts of New Hampshire, Vermont, or even down to Boston, etc.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Airport Info

Portland International Jetport (Airport Code: PWM)
1001 Westbrook St, Portland, ME 04102

- Award winning airport - small with modern amenities
- Shuttles, taxi service, Uber and Lyft service the airport and the surrounding area
- Served by multiple major airlines with easy connections
- Assortment of car rental agencies onsite



Starting Hotel Info

Embassy Suites by Hilton – Portland Airport
1050 Westbrook St. Portland, ME 04102
207-775-2200

- Host hotel on Sunday, Sept 27 (and for early arrivals)
- Check in time is 4:00 pm
- All rooms are suites
- Onsite restaurant and bar available, with manager's reception (snacks and drinks) each evening and made-to-order breakfast in the morning.
- \$13 per day parking charge (for those that may be driving)
- Complimentary airport shuttle, but also within a 5 minute walk of the airport



Transportation Info

Arrival: The Embassy Suites (our starting hotel) has a free airport shuttle. Or, if you choose, you may walk, as it is within 5 minutes of the airport.

Through the week: We will be utilizing a 56-passenger motorcoach bus for our travels around Maine from Monday - Thursday.

- Bus transportation is available only *during the day* to transport us to industry tours and attractions throughout Maine. It is not available in the evenings. Transportation in the evenings is on your own if you choose to venture further away from the hotel.
- The bus has overhead storage bins & a restroom available for use.
- Beverages and snacks available on the bus at all times.
- All belongings should be removed each day in case we do not have the same bus the following day.

Departure: Transportation to the airport on Friday from our downtown Portland hotel is on your own, as there will not be a bus or hotel shuttle available.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Weather and What to Pack

Late September and early October are beautiful times to visit coastal Maine, with comfortable daytime temperatures and cool, crisp evenings. In areas like Portland, Bar Harbor, and along the coast, daytime highs are typically in the mid-50s to mid-60s°F, while evenings can cool to the mid-40s to low-50s°F. Ocean breezes can also make it feel cooler near the water.

We recommend layered, casual clothing so you can easily adjust throughout the day.

For safety during our industry facility tours, please plan to wear closed-toed shoes and avoid loose or flowing clothing.

Overall attire for the tour is casual and comfortable, including our Welcome and Farewell dinners. Dressing in layers will help you stay comfortable while exploring scenic coastal towns like Boothbay Harbor, Ogunquit, and Kennebunkport.

Activity Level

We welcome participants of all fitness and mobility levels to join our tours. BLD Mill Tours are classified at Activity Level 1-3 (see below), with varying levels of activity throughout the trip. Some days may involve more walking than others. While these tours are designed to be accessible to everyone, attendees are welcome to opt out of any portion of the tour that may involve more movement or participation than desired. No tour or activity is considered strenuous or mandatory.

- **ACTIVITY LEVEL #1:** You're a leisurely traveler. You like to discover the energy of a new place but typically take it easy. You can handle at least one flight of stairs, board a coach, and walk for 15-30 minutes at a time with little difficulty.
- **ACTIVITY LEVEL #2:** You like a balanced approach to travel. You feel confident walking at least 30-45 minutes at a time over a variety of terrains, including walks in the forest, flights of stairs, catwalks, uneven footing, etc. You're comfortable with some activity in your day but also need time to unwind and relax.
- **ACTIVITY LEVEL #3:** You're an on-the-go traveler. You don't want to miss anything so walking and standing for longer periods of time (1-2 hours) isn't a big deal. You can navigate hills and uneven ground, climb into various modes of transportation and could possibly anticipate changes in elevation. You can expect some longer days balanced with free time to recharge or set out on your own adventure.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



What's Included in the Tour Fee

- **Hotel Accommodations:** Sunday night through Thursday night
- **Motorcoach Transportation:** Monday to Thursday for daytime planned itinerary
- **Airport Transfer upon Arrival** if using the hotel shuttle
- **Some Meals**
 - Breakfast is included every day from Monday - Friday at hotel
 - Lunch (or funds for lunch) is included Monday - Wednesday (on own on Thursday)
 - Dinner is included on Sunday (Welcome Dinner) and Thursday (Farewell Dinner)
- **Admission Fees** to scheduled attractions (Acadia National Park trolley tour & Maine Maritime Museum)
- **Gratuities** for motorcoach bus driver and Acadia National Park trolley drivers
- **Beverages and snacks** aboard bus. Selection TBD based upon available stocking options

What's Not Included in the Tour Fee

- **Airfare & Travel Insurance**
- Please check with BLD Connection before purchasing your airline tickets to ensure the trip is confirmed with the minimum number of participants required to operate. (We hope to have this answer the same day registration opens if it sells out as fast as last year.)
- Travel insurance - To protect your travel investment, we highly recommend the purchase of travel insurance, especially if purchasing tickets prior to the official trip "thumbs up".
- **Pre tour or post tour hotel accommodations/meals** if arriving early or staying later than the scheduled tour dates
- **Evening transportation** if venturing out
- **Airport transportation** for departures
- **Spending Money**
- **Some meals** (dinner is on your own Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and lunch is on your own Thursday)

Travel Day Details

The official first day of this tour begins at our evening Orientation & Welcome Dinner on Sunday, September 27th @ 6:00 pm. You should plan to arrive in time to attend this event if possible.

There may be more flight options on Saturday, so if you choose to arrive a day early, the hotel room, transportation, meals, etc. are your responsibility to pay for. The Embassy Suites Hotel Portland Airport (our starting hotel) is offering a rate of \$299 plus tax and fees for Saturday night to early arrivals.

If you're arriving on Saturday and wish to stay at the same hotel, **BLD Connection will make the reservation** for you so that the hotel keeps you in the same hotel room for your entire stay. You will need to present your credit card onsite to pay for Saturday's room once you arrive. Also, please make sure to doublecheck that you don't get charged for Sunday, which should be billed to the master account, not your card. (*The hotels sometimes neglect to split the charges accurately.*) If arriving prior to Saturday, you are responsible for making your own reservation at your chosen hotel.

FEES, CANCELLATION & REGISTRATION

Tour Fee

Members:

- \$2550 per person (double occupancy/sharing hotel room) / \$5100 per couple
- \$3250 per person (single occupancy/own hotel room)

Non-members (Not available to register until Phase 2 of registration – see below):

- \$2800 per person (double occupancy/sharing hotel room) / \$5600 per couple
- \$3500 per person (single occupancy/own hotel room)

Deposit: A deposit of **\$500 per person** is required at the time of registration to secure your spot. Full payment can be made right away or delayed, but all final balances are due by **Friday, July 17, 2026**.

Registration Process & Restrictions

Phase 1: Registration will first open up to those on the **Interest list** (members only) on **Tuesday, June 9**. An email will be sent near 8:00 am that morning. Registrations will be honored on a first come, first served basis. You will receive a confirmation within a few hours.

Phase 2: Two days later on **Thursday, June 11**, registration will open (members or non-members/guests). If there are remaining spots to fill - an email will go out to all those in our database that day. (Note – for the past several years, we've filled the tour on opening morning so please make sure to get on the Interest list for the best chance at securing a seat!)

All those who receive an email that their seats have been confirmed will receive a Participant Info form to be filled out and returned by the deadline.

NEW POLICIES THIS YEAR:

- 1. Members First** - Because of the increasing popularity of these tours, we are only allowing current or retired BLD members to register during Phase 1. Non-members (and guests of members) must wait until Phase 2 registration. While we love that you want to bring your friends (and encourage it!) we don't want to turn away interested members. If spots are available by the Phase 2 date, ALL are welcome to register!
- 2. Waiting List First** – Due to the increasing popularity of these tours and the limited availability on each tour, we are implementing waiting lists for those that don't secure a seat on the bus. Those on the waiting list will get the option to “jump on board” in the event that anyone needs to cancel prior to the tour. Those on the waiting list each year that are unable to “jump on” the current tour will have **FIRST DIBS** on registering for the Mill Tour the following year!

FEES, CANCELLATION & REGISTRATION

Cancellation

If **BLD** needs to cancel the trip at any point, you will be refunded your entire tour fee payment. (Not including airfare or additional trip fees you may have already incurred on your own.) To protect your investment, we recommend that you purchase travel insurance.

If **you** decide to cancel, the following fees apply when we receive notice of your cancellation:

Before Final Payment Due Date (on or before Friday, July 17):

- If cancelling on or before Friday, July 17th (final payment due date) all fees are fully refundable, including deposits.

After Final Payment Due Date (after Friday, July 17)

- If cancelling between Friday, July 17 to Friday, August 14, guests receive a full refund minus \$500 per person deposit
- After August 14: No refund issued

Written Notice: Cancellations must be in writing to be effective and must be received no later than 4:00 pm CST on the cancellation date.

Important Dates

Tuesday, June 9 – Registration opens exclusively to those on the Mill Tour Interest List (**must be a BLD member!**)

Thursday, June 11 – Registration opens to everyone else that was not on the Interest List (member or non-member)

Friday, June 12 (or prior) – Official trip status will be announced based on minimum required attendance. You'll receive an email with the status by this date, but likely prior since the trips sell out so fast. If the trip is confirmed, you can proceed with booking your flights. Feel free to purchase tickets earlier if you're already planning to visit the area or if you buy flight insurance.

Friday, July 17 – Participant Info Form Due

Friday, July 17 – **Full payment due. Last day to cancel for a full refund.**

Friday, August 14 – Last day to cancel to receive a partial refund (minus \$500 per person deposit).

August 15 to Event Date - Cancellations after this date result in full forfeiture of fees.

August & September – Ongoing communication with participants, including collection of additional tour details. Keep an eye out for emails!

September 27 – October 2 – MAINE MILL TOUR