

NEW ENGLAND EXPLORER

July 24 to July 31, 2011



ORIENTATION DAY

July 24 Arrive at Logan Airport, Boston in the morning. Your instructors will be waiting for you at your gate or baggage claim if arriving by plane. If driving, we meet at the American Airlines baggage claim office. Once our group is assembled we will load up our van and begin the few hour drive north toward the Rangeley Lakes area of the Appalachian Trail in Maine. We will spend the day getting to know each other, discussing details of the expedition and figuring out our daily routines and responsibilities. We spend the night at a campground in the area.

APPALACHIAN TRAIL – BIGELOW RANGE HIKING & BACKPACK

July 25 to July 27 After breakfast, we divide up group gear and provisions, learn to pack our backpacks and start off on the trail to explore the Bigelow Range. Our first day, we backpack a short distance and set up a base camp from which to explore this area. For the next few days, we take time to develop our wilderness skills, discuss backcountry safety, land navigation and low-impact camping techniques – exploring this area on foot. When not on the move, we have time to play games and get to know the rest of the group, go swimming and maybe even partake in a traditional Williwaw water-bottle-race. After returning from the backcountry, we make our way toward Flagstaff Lake. We plan our meals for the next phase of our expedition and begin packing for our upcoming paddling trip.

FLAGSTAFF LAKE KAYAKING

July 27 to July 29 We begin our expedition by learning kayak safety, including wet-exits, rescues and paddling techniques. After loading up our boats – we begin our exploration of Flagstaff Lake. We learn to navigate and paddle our boats efficiently, as we continue our journey through this remarkable wilderness area in Northern Maine. We set up camp each night along this beautiful stretch of wilderness waterway – swimming in clear water, watching for moose and listening for loons. After two nights on the lake, we finish at our transition point on the other side of Flagstaff Lake.

KENNEBEC RIVER – WHITEWATER RAFTING & FINAL DAY

July 30 to July 31 We drive a short distance to make our way to the Kennebec River, the most popular whitewater river in New England. After learning paddling and river reading techniques from our expert guides, we load our boats to begin our descent. With the help of our guides, we navigate down class III+ whitewater on this section of the Kennebec River. Depending on water levels, we may also get to paddle our own individual inflatable kayaks through a less technical stretch of river. This is a great way for us to spend our last day together, enjoying an exhilarating day on the river.

After finishing our river trip in the early afternoon, we begin our trip back toward Boston and enjoy our last night together with a final-farewell-feast in along the way. We stay at a campground on the way, and the next afternoon we say our goodbyes where we began 8 days earlier, at Logan Airport in Boston, after what promises to be an amazing experience.