



# **MOOSE SAFARI &** **WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY**



**May 1st – Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Once a fringe inhabitant of lakes, swamps and waterways, the Maine Moose population and range expanded exponentially following the last spruce budworm epidemic (late 1970's to early 1980's). The combination of that natural cycle and salvage forestry practices changed the forest's make-up, which promoted hardwood shoots to grow wherever a clear-cut was made. This bonanza of food allowed the moose population to spike, leading up to the first regulated hunt (1980) in decades.

Alas, in recent years, Maine's Moose have suffered from winter tick infestations that have led to winter mortality in over half of the previous year's recruited calves under study. Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Biologists in collaboration with Maine Forest Service helicopter pilots have continued a GPS collar tracking study to gather data about winter mortality with hopes of stemming the steady decline of Moose populations.

Maine still touts a population of approximately 76,000 animals, state wide. Although, there are many North Woods travelers that will state anecdotally that moose sightings are on the decline. Does that mean you won't see a Moose on your visit to Maine? Not necessarily. Our guides spend time afield, year-round, keeping track of Moose sightings, so the probability of seeing a Moose on one of our tours is greatly in your favor!

May through June, and September through October are the months that we have the greatest success with Moose sightings. That is not to say that they can't be seen during other months, it means that we may have to work a bit harder for you to spy one during the non-peak months. Another factor is time of day... Moose tend to be most active at twilight; dawn and dusk. Keep these variables in mind as you plan your trip, for you may be required to leave before sun-up and/or return to your base camp after sun-down, to see one of these magnificent giants!

### **What we offer**

- Expert itinerary planning, detailed checklists, transportation, Registered Maine Guides that are there to facilitate a safe and enjoyable trip.
- Opportunities to learn about the cultural and natural history of the Katahdin Region.
- Opportunities to photograph wildlife, dramatic landscapes, and other natural treasures.

**What we offer - continued:**

- Limited 5-person capacity. You'll share the experience with no more than four other clients. This allows for a top-quality trip, being able to maintain a low profile when visiting remote areas, as to not tip-off our presence to moose and other critters that would vanish quickly with the disturbance that a larger group would bring.

**What we supply:**

Canoes, paddles, life vests, first-aid kits, dry bags, snacks, and drinks.

**(NOTE: Upon booking, clients will be provided a detailed checklist of gear and personal effects that they will be responsible for bringing on the trip. Photographers should have a minimum sized camera lens of 75-300 mm to be able to reach out far enough to give wildlife plenty of safe distance.)**

As with any outdoor adventure, Mother Nature deals the cards when it comes to weather and biting insects. Our Guides are there to adapt to those changes in weather and buggy conditions, to keep you as comfortable as the conditions will allow. Following the lead of the Guides and being conscientious of their suggestions will help the group get through the challenges of poor weather and annoying insects. Bringing the required personal effects outlined in the provided checklist and employing those items when necessary will go a long way in ensuring personal comfort.

**RATES & PRICING**

**Half Day (Sunrise OR Sunset) –**

This trip is a good value for the visitor that wants to pack as much variety into their visit, in the shortest amount of time possible. We're usually able to travel to two or three local haunts, where it's probable to find Moose.

4 hour tour, \$ 65 per person, with a 2 person minimum OR \$ 130 for 1:1

**Full Day (Sunrise to Sunset) -**

Why not spend a full day with a knowledgeable guide, learning about the area, viewing various hot spots for landscape and wildlife photography and be catered to a barbeque lunch along the way? This is the best option to combine travel by tour truck, canoeing and hiking into places off the beaten path that won't have the visitor impacts and pressure that other outfitters must deal with. Plus, you'll also get the benefit of both sunrise and sunset to increase your odds of capturing your images of the Maine Moose!

8 to 12 hour tour, \$ 290 for 1:1, \$ 85 per each additional person.

12 to 16 hour tour, \$ 375 for 1:1, \$ 115 per each additional person. (Memorial Day to Labor Day)