

SCHOONER LEWIS R. FRENCH • AMERICA'S OLDEST WINDJAMMER

SCHOONER
Lewis R. French
CAMDEN, MAINE



SAILING VACATIONS ON AMERICA'S OLDEST WINDJAMMER



There really are places that look like this.

As you walk down the dock towards the *Lewis R. French* to begin your adventure along the Maine coast, the beauty of Camden Harbor unfolds. A cozy harbor brimming with old schooners, lobster boats, tiny rowboats and yachts bobbing at their docks, it's the classic Maine coastal village. And, it's the perfect harbor to start your windjamming cruise.

Once at sea for a 3-6 day cruise, the never-ending beauty of Maine scenery continues to unfold. Every hour of every day brings new and amazing sights: playful porpoises, the mountains of Acadia National Park, untouched islands, stunning sunsets, majestic lighthouses, tall masts and sails.

To make the most of each day, the destinations are decided by the wind, weather, and whim. There's no noisy gas engine or modern electric motors on the *French* - she's a pure sailing vessel just as she was when she was originally launched in 1871.

There really are places that look like this. It's a thought that will return to you time and time again during your cruise.

*What makes our sailing grounds so spectacular are the **1000s of islands along the coast**. Most are uninhabited with perfect anchorages and beaches. The islands also provide protection from ocean swells, which makes for smooth sailing. Cruising through these islands is what the *French* was built to do back in 1871.*



Mario Tobi



Bridget Besaw Gorman



Sit back. Or join in.

Like any cruise, you can simply relax, leave the sailing (and cooking!) to others and just enjoy the experience of being out on the water, gliding among the islands. The casual atmosphere makes it easy to befriend your shipmates and settle into life aboard.

Unlike any cruise, you are welcome to take an active part in sailing the schooner. Help us each morning as we weigh anchor, often done to the song of a traditional sea chanty sung by a crew member. Join in hoisting the sails as we get underway. And throughout the day, the crew will welcome your help: tacking and furling sails out on the bowsprit, launching a rowboat, even polishing the ship's bell! Or maybe you'd like to lay below to help our chef with tonight's dessert. You can even take a turn at the helm...no experience necessary.



Teresa Soutman

Bald eagle, seal, osprey, and porpoise sightings are daily occurrences. By chance we see puffins, whales, dolphins, ocean sunfish and more. Quite often we spy the elusive Maine Lobsterman too! Keep your eyes peeled.



More than just sailing

Sailing is the centerpiece of daily life, but your trip includes so much more; nature, history, stargazing, swimming, music, great company and island exploration. Each afternoon, the *French* will anchor in a different cove for the night. There are thousands of islands strewn across our cruising grounds with sheltered coves to protect us from the wind and waves. Once at anchor, we'll lower our small boats and head ashore to explore.

On some islands you'll find small communities, on others nothing but footpaths and wilderness. Both make for interesting shore adventures. Wander the island, comb the beach for treasures, go for a swim, or just enjoy a good row. It's truly a different world, far from strip malls, billboards and touchscreens.

Unplug and Unwind. *While on board give your devices a vacation too! You're welcome to use silent electronics (we all love our cell phone cameras and e-readers!) but we ask that you limit phone calls to shore excursions.*

Your Hosts

Captain Becky Wright and Nathan Sigouin are happy to welcome you aboard the Lewis R French! Since 2011 Becky has been working on windjammers and yachts in Maine and in the Caribbean, while Nathan is a craftsman with an equally long history in the trades.

In addition, each trip includes a crew of three sailing professionals who not only prepare delicious food, sail the schooner and keep her shipshape, but also act as guides throughout the cruise. You can find them leading hiking trips, giving rowing lessons and sailing tips, teaching lobster biology or astronomy - and who knows? - they may even pull out a banjo and lead a few songs.

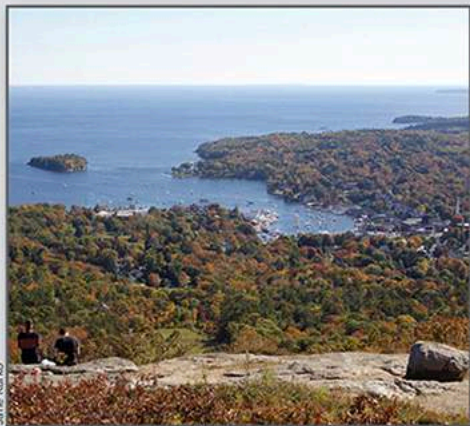
We are honored to share such a distinguished vessel with you and look forward to being your shipmates.

-- Captain Becky Wright and Nathan Sigouin



Bridget Bewaw Gorman

Our crew takes special pride in teaching guests about our vessel and the Maine Coast. Wanna help sail the schooner? Sounds great, we'll show you the ropes... Wanna learn about cooking apple pies on a wood stove? Navigate? Row? Splice? Sure, it's all part of the fun!



Jane Kurko

Join Us.

Whether you pick June for its strong breezes and long days, July and August for the warmth, or the fall for the strong winds, crisp clear nights and stunning foliage, every trip offers something special and different.

You'll find our schedule on the brochure insert and on our website. Some cruises offer a special focus, while others are open to unscheduled adventure.

If you'd like to reserve the whole boat for a group charter, please contact us.

To reserve a cabin on one of our cruises, give us a call or send us an email. We require a deposit to secure your reservation. If you need to cancel and you do so more than eight weeks before the sail date, we'll give you a refund. If you need to cancel within eight weeks of the sail date we'll refund your payment *if we can sell your space*. We strongly recommend you purchase travel insurance, just in case.

www.schoonerfrench.com

captain@schoonerfrench.com

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What's Cooking?

We know how the salt air stirs up appetites, so a top priority on board is fabulous food and plenty of it. You will be amazed by the outstanding meals that emerge from our authentic galley, all cooked on our vintage wood stove nicknamed "Clarita."

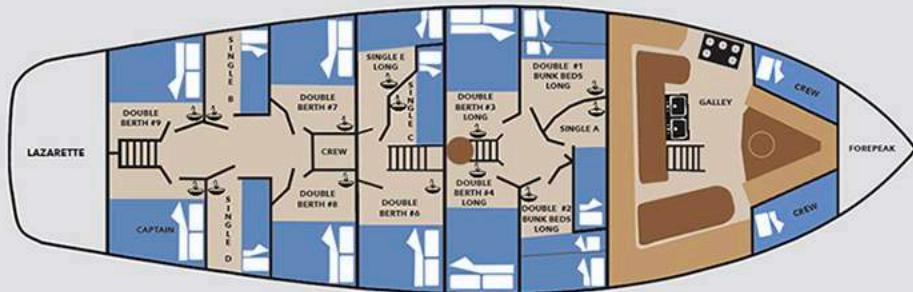
The menu is classic New England farm-style food, all cooked fresh, much of it with seasonal local produce and meats. Each morning you'll wake to a different fresh-baked goodie, fruit, coffee and tea - and that's before breakfast is even served! All day long our chef cooks up delicious handcrafted meals, which include homemade breads, desserts, soups and stews, roasts, salads and hors-d'oeuvres. There are always plenty of healthy choices (and some unhealthy ones too!)



Sarah Szewjlos

The French takes 21 guests in our 5 single cabins, 6 double-bed cabins and 2 bunk bed cabins. The cabins are cozy and comfortable, each with a freshwater sink, an opening window and electric lights. The two heads (bathrooms), one with a hot freshwater shower, are located on deck.

The deck is 65' long, so there is plenty of space to stretch out and enjoy the views. If you prefer some privacy, you can find a quiet spot to read or relax. There's always coffee, tea and snacks in the galley, which is a popular spot for games, music, and conversation. The *French* was built to take heavy cargo as quickly as possible from port to port, so she is the perfect combination of stability and speed.



*On every cruise we head to a deserted island for an all-you-can-eat lobster bake. Besides lobster, we'll steam fresh corn, grill burgers, serve veggies & roast s'mores over a bonfire. While ashore you can explore the island, comb the beach for seashells, or go for a swim or a row. And yes, it is **ALL YOU CAN EAT LOBSTER!***



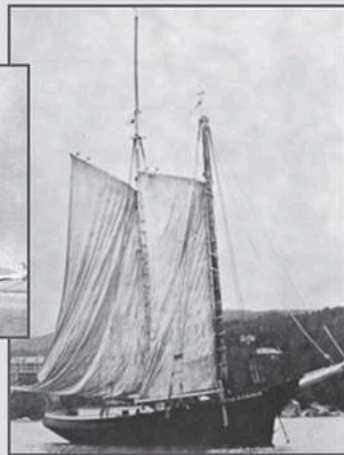
Sarah Szewjlos

A National Historic Landmark

The *Lewis R. French* is our nation's oldest schooner and a National Historic Landmark. Launched in Christmas Cove, Maine on April 28th, 1871, the *French* is the only survivor of thousands of vessels built in Maine in the 1800s. She's a classic coasting schooner designed to hug the coast and haul cargo - including granite, lumber and even Christmas trees - but now beautifully restored to accommodate passengers.

She's the best of the old and new. A proven vessel in all weather, she's a nifty and quick sailer. Even veteran sailors are thrilled when she sets her topsails and dips the lee rail. She is outfitted with modern safety and navigation equipment to earn her Coast Guard license, but a sailor from 1871 would feel right at home under her towering masts and 3,000 square feet of sail.

Imagine how the world has changed since 1871, yet the *French* still sails on - and you can join her to be part of this living history.



The *Lewis R. French* offers Windjammer Cruises featuring:

- ★ **Pure Sail** - No noisy inboard engine: True to 1871, she uses a push boat if the wind is calm and for docking.
- ★ **A National Historic Landmark:** Sail a piece of American History
- ★ Only **21 guests** per cruise
- ★ Minimum age of 16 years old. No maximum age!
- ★ Participation encouraged (but not required!)
- ★ 5 Single, 6 Double and 2 Bunk bed cabins; no single supplement
- ★ Delicious homemade food
- ★ No smoking on board
- ★ Hot fresh water shower: Even sailors need showers!
- ★ Island Lobster Bake on every cruise: 2 rowboats for exploring our anchorages
- ★ Owner Captained
- ★ Escape from the digital world (trust us, it's nice!)
- ★ Fully Coast Guard inspected and licensed

Schooner Lewis R. French 2024 Sailing Schedule

Each trip is unique, with no set itinerary or schedule. However, a few trips offer a special theme or focus.
(See back for special event details)



Boarding after 6 PM	Return by 11 AM	Trip	Cost per Person	Special Events	America's Oldest Windjammer
May 24	May 27	3 nights: Friday p.m. to Monday a.m.	\$785	Memorial Day Weekend	
May 28	June 1	4 nights: Tuesday p.m. to Saturday a.m.	\$980	Sailing and Hiking!	
June 3	June 7	4 nights: Monday p.m. to Friday a.m.	\$980	Stargazer's Delight - New Moon	
June 8	June 13	5 nights: Saturday p.m. to Thursday a.m.	\$1185	The Schooner Gam	
June 14	June 17	3 nights: Friday p.m. to Monday a.m.	\$980	Father's Day weekend	
June 18	June 22	4 nights: Tuesday p.m. to Saturday a.m.	\$1220	Sailing and Optional Kayaking -Full Moon	
June 23	June 26	3 nights: Sunday p.m. to Wednesday a.m.	\$980	Classic Windjamming	
June 27	June 30	3 nights: Thursday p.m. to Sunday a.m.	\$980	Classic Windjamming	
July 1	July 6	5 nights: Monday p.m. to Saturday a.m.	\$1340	The Great Schooner Race	
July 7	July 10	3 nights: Sunday p.m. to Wednesday a.m.	\$980	Classic Windjamming	
July 11	July 15	4 nights: Thursday p.m. to Monday a.m.	\$1160	Rest and Restore - Massage	
July 16	July 20	4 nights: Tuesday p.m. to Saturday a.m.	\$1160	Lighthouses!	
July 21	July 24	3 nights: Sunday p.m. to Wednesday a.m.	\$980	Full Moon	
July 24	July 27	3 nights: Wednesday p.m. to Saturday a.m.	\$980	Classic Windjamming	
July 28	Aug 3	6 nights: Sunday p.m. to Saturday a.m.	\$1510	Classic Windjamming	
Aug 4	Aug 10	6 nights: Sunday p.m. to Saturday a.m.	\$1510	Swan's Island Music Festival	
Aug 11	Aug 15	4 nights: Sunday p.m. to Thursday a.m.	\$1160	Classic Windjamming	
Aug 16	Aug 19	3 nights: Friday p.m. to Monday a.m.	\$980	Classic Windjamming	
Aug 20	Aug 24	4 nights: Tuesday p.m. to Saturday a.m.	\$1220	Sailing and Optional Kayaking	
Aug 25	Aug 31	6 nights: Sunday p.m. to Saturday a.m.	\$1510	Camden Windjammer Festival	
Sept 2	Sept 7	5 nights: Monday p.m. to Saturday a.m.	\$1340	Stargazer's Delight - New Moon	
Sept 8	Sept 13	5 nights: Sunday p.m. to Friday a.m.	\$1340	WoodenBoat Sail-In	
Sept 14	Sept 17	3 nights: Saturday p.m. to Tuesday a.m.	\$940	Full Moon	
Sept 18	Sept 23	5 nights: Wednesday p.m. to Monday a.m.	\$1260	Rest and Restore - Massage	
Sept 24	Sept 28	4 nights: Tuesday p.m. to Saturday a.m.	\$980	Lighthouses!	
Sept 29	Oct 5	6 nights: Sunday p.m. to Saturday a.m.	\$1340	Stargazer's Delight - New Moon	

All trips spend the first night at the dock in Camden. Explore the town that evening and enjoy dinner in one of the many fine restaurants. We set sail the following morning. Guests may board anytime after 6 p.m. on boarding night.

Returning guests receive a 10% discount. New guests who reserve before March 15th receive a 5% discount.

Check our website for the latest cruise schedule updates! www.schoonerfrench.com

Themed cruises and Special Events

Sailing and Hiking Cruises: These trips are a wonderful combination of sailing and exploring. Guests will get to explore some of the great hiking trails we have discovered. After sailing each day, we'll take advantage of the long June days and head ashore for a hike. Hikes of different lengths and levels can be arranged. All hiking is optional.

Schooner Gam: One evening we'll raft up with other Maine Windjammers for an evening of music and sea time camaraderie. This is a unique opportunity to tour and photograph these vessels up close.

Windjamming & Kayaking: One morning guests will have the *optional* opportunity to kayak among the hundreds of protected islands between Deer Isle and Isle au Haut. You'll find the paddling phenomenal among these islands. Experienced Maine kayaking guides will lead us on this paddle, give lessons to beginner kayakers, and tailor the length of the course to the skill level of the group. You'll have the option to stop for an island stroll as well. *Add \$65 for kayaking component.*

The Great Schooner Race: Maine's Windjammers and other tall ships meet to participate in an exciting day of racing. Get involved in sail handling and strategy, or just sit back and enjoy the sight of these majestic tallships racing under full sail. The Race usually has 12-15 competing schooners and often includes an award ceremony and post race party.

Lighthouse Cruises: We'll make an effort to sail close up to some of midcoast Maine's beautiful lighthouses offering guests great photo opportunities. We will try to visit a few ashore as well.

Music Festival Week: Midweek we'll sail to Swan's Island to attend the Sweet Chariot Music Festival, a gathering only accessible by boat! This evening show features performers from all over the U.S. (www.sweetchariotmusicfestival.com)

Camden Windjammer Festival: The *French* participates in a parade of sail as schooners return to Camden Friday evening. You'll have the best seat in town for enjoying the schooner crew talent show, fireworks over Camden Harbor, and other festivities in town. Guests disembark Saturday after breakfast. Festival Website: <https://www.camdensnowbowl.com/cwf/>

WoodenBoat Sail-In: The *French* joins other Windjammers for one last gathering in Brooklin, Maine, home to *WoodenBoat Magazine and School*. This is a great opportunity to photograph these vessels close up under full sail, tour the WoodenBoat school and see some really cool wooden boats.

Rest and Restore - Massage: Join us for a relaxing cruise with included custom 10 minute chair massages each full day of our cruise!

Reservation & Cancellation Policy: For all trips, a \$300 deposit is required per guest upon reservation. The balance is due 8 weeks before the sail date. A full refund - less a \$30 cancellation fee - will be given *if you cancel before 8 weeks of the sail date*. A full refund (less \$30) will be granted for cancellations within 8 weeks of the sail date *if we can fill your space*. We strongly suggest you purchase travel insurance, just in case.

We are a 100% no-smoking vessel

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