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Sunrise on Cadillac Mountain

Vacation time and Maine was our destination. What should we do in Maine this August? We googled this question and consulted our friends. The number one answer - Watch the sunrise on Cadillac Mountain! Cadillac Mountain is located in Acadia National Park, in the northern most part of Maine. It is the tallest mountain along the eastern coast of the United States, slightly over 1500 feet high. The eastern edge is directly on the Atlantic Ocean. From this peak, every day, you can witness the first sun rays to shine on North America.

The day had finally arrived. We are going to watch the sunrise on Cadillac Mountain! We woke up that morning, just as the red-headed rooster gave his first gravelly call of the day. It was still dark outside and I was on vacation! I shivered as I stepped outside into the damp, cold mountain air. The chill of the night air cut right into my Florida bones, like a sharp knife!

We drove up the winding, narrow, 3.5 mile mountain road. I smelled the scent of the northern trees! Delicious! We left the lights of the city for the lights of nature. The night sky was full of stars, too many to count! The stars became brighter, as we got closer to the top! The full moon guided us up the mountain. The morning birds chirped their melodic notes. The chilling wind rushed through the leaves.

The sounds of the country night were soon drowned by the chatter of people! We were not alone on this exciting adventure. On top of this mountain, other humans had arrived to watch the sunrise. People of all shapes, sizes, and ages, were perched on rocks, like birds on a fence. Others stood in the grassy patches of the hillside. Everyone waited patiently focusing their eyes eastward! We huddled together, trying to keep warm in the chilly night. With every minute that passed, excitement grew!

We starred at the horizon, for this great moment of nature. When would the sun start to rise over the Atlantic Ocean? In the matter of a second, a blink of our eyes, vibrant rays peeked over the horizon! The colors of the sun, golden orange, ruby red and vibrant yellow appeared! My eyes recorded the beginning of a new day! Second by second, the sun became brighter and more visible. The crescent shape of the sun at the beginning of the sunrise blossomed into a full circle. The blue sky was dotted with only a few puffs of white clouds, like cotton balls hanging in the air. The blue ocean sparkled, like diamonds. The surf was white and frothy. To and fro the waves and surf moved, magically, in rhythm with nature.

I felt so peaceful and one with nature. I stood still, like a statue, relishing in the moment. There was a long hush, a moment of silence, in the crowd. Then, spontaneously, everyone cheered

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and clapped at this marvel! We hugged each other and softly whispered, Oh, so beautiful! We were the first people in North America to witness this spectacular sunrise.

The full sun had warmed the mountain air. The chill of the night had lifted. We meandered on a trail at the top of Cadillac Mountain. A brown, small furry chipmunk scurried across the trail. His bushy tail bounced with each step. His coat shined in the bright sunlight. He was small in stature compared to the big gray squirrels of Florida. Beautiful morning, I said to him! His little, short feet carried him off into the field, probably looking for his first morning meal. Bright, colorful wildflowers dotted this grassy field. The yellow and pink petals were opened, reaching for the sunlight. Wild blueberries grew amongst these flowers. I picked a plump blueberry. Thank you, sun, for this berry, for the deep, blue color, softness of the skin and fresh taste. Yum! I sighed deeply. It was time for us to venture forth. I took one long look. The sun was up and a new day had begun!

Slowly and silently, we drove down the mountain. Today, nature played a symphony for us. The sun was the conductor! The birds, ocean, trees, flowers, animals and mankind, were the orchestra. Thank you, Cadillac Mountain, for sharing your sunrise with us today! You lit up my life and soul!