

# 2015 Acadia Sensory Quest

This Quest Card belongs to:

(Team Name)

## HOW TO QUEST:

**Acadia Quest-** teams must complete two activities in the Sight, Smell, Sound, and Touch category and one activity in Big 5.

**Speed Quest-** teams must complete one activity in the Sight, Smell, Sound, and Touch category and one activity in Big 5.

*See reverse side for how to document and become eligible for prizes.*

### SIGHT

- \_\_\_ Gaze at the starry night sky from a summit or shoreline
- \_\_\_ Hike or bike to the summit of Day Mountain and view the vistas as you descend the carriage road
- \_\_\_ Notice the islands along the coast as you hike down a south ridge trail
- \_\_\_ Watch the rush of the tide, which can move up to 13 feet in six hours
- \_\_\_ Walk or bike to discover two historic bridges anywhere along the Around-Mountain Carriage Road loop
- \_\_\_ Take in the view from Schoodic Head summit
- \_\_\_ Spot a marine mammal during a boat trip (seal, porpoise, dolphin, whale)
- \_\_\_ Look at a lighthouse from Bass Harbor Head Light trail or Schooner Head Overlook

### SOUND

- \_\_\_ Listen to the water falling at Man O' War Brook into Somes Sound or Hadlock Brook Falls at Waterfall Bridge (between carriage road intersections 12 & 19)
- \_\_\_ Hear the thunder of the waves at Thunder Hole
- \_\_\_ Enjoy a Ranger talk during a park program
- \_\_\_ Gawk at a hawk and hear it squawk! Listen for the cry of a raptor while hiking, especially near Precipice Trail or Cadillac Mountain.
- \_\_\_ Discover a place where you can only hear nature sounds
- \_\_\_ Orient yourself with the gong or blast of a navigational aid (foghorn, bell buoy)
- \_\_\_ Dance to the music of tumbling cobbles at Hunters Beach Cove or Seawall Picnic Area
- \_\_\_ Hear the drums beat at a Wabanaki cultural demonstration

### SMELL

- \_\_\_ Sniff a flower with a perfume at the Wild Gardens of Acadia
- \_\_\_ Enjoy the aroma of popovers at the Jordan Pond House
- \_\_\_ Find the fragrance of a juniper bush along the Ocean Path
- \_\_\_ Catch a whiff of low tide at Thompson Island, Bar Island or Ship Harbor
- \_\_\_ Discover the odor of mud under the bog walk along the west side of the Jordan Pond Path
- \_\_\_ Is your sweat stinky as you hike up Perpendicular Trail?
- \_\_\_ Inhale the salty ocean air as you bike the Schoodic Peninsula
- \_\_\_ Breathe in the smell of horses as you walk or bike along the carriage roads

### TOUCH

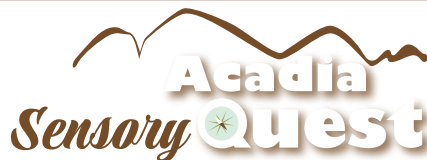
- \_\_\_ Dig into the sand at Sand Beach
- \_\_\_ Explore the Touch Tank in the George B. Dorr Museum of Natural History
- \_\_\_ Grip an iron rung on a fixed ladder trail
- \_\_\_ Pat a piece of moss on a tree or the forest floor
- \_\_\_ Sit on the Island Explorer as you ride into and/or out of the park. FYI the bus is free and has bike racks.
- \_\_\_ Rub the rough surface of pink granite on Pemetic Mountain
- \_\_\_ Explore the Interactive Horse Box at Wildwood Stables
- \_\_\_ Feel the cool water as you swim in Echo Lake, The Bowl, Lake Wood, Sargent Mountain Pond, or at Duck Rock in Long Pond.

**BIG 5** Explore all five senses with these activities. Each activity has sensory suggestions.

- \_\_\_ Complete the new Sensory Trail on the Jesup Path: hear the music of frogs, see animal homes, smell the wetlands, taste a snack you brought, touch the grasses
- \_\_\_ Volunteer on the Carriage Roads and Trails each Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday morning: hear the laughter of the volunteers, see the good you are doing, smell the fresh earth you move, taste a provided granola bar, touch a trail tool
- \_\_\_ Explore all three habitats at Ship Harbor (forest, mudflat, and intertidal zone): hear the call of sea birds, see a shell, smell a balsam fir, taste the snack you brought, touch a piece of seaweed
- \_\_\_ Take Pride in Acadia Day- hear the cheers of the volunteers, see the fall colors, smell the wet leaves, taste the provided (cider, chili, combread, and cake), touch a rake
- \_\_\_ Abbe Museum- hear a Wabanaki voice, see the recurring patterns in Wabanaki designs, smell sweet grass, taste traditional food at a demonstration, touch a birch bark item. FYI there are cultural demonstrations each Wednesday in the park or at the Abbe Museum.

**BONUS CATEGORY! TASTE** Try these foods from Maine for fun!

- \_\_\_ Savor fresh seafood \_\_\_ Lick some local ice cream \_\_\_ Bite into a blueberry treat \_\_\_ Smack your lips on a maple sweet \_\_\_ Tickle your tongue with fizzy soda



### STEP 1: REGISTER YOUR TEAM

Complete the registration form online or from a packet you pick up in person. Then e-mail/mail registration form to Friends of Acadia.

### STEP 2: GET A PACKET & PARK PASS

After registering your team, you can print a packet from [www.friendsofacadia.org](http://www.friendsofacadia.org) or pick up a packet in person at the following locations. You may also purchase a Park Pass from these locations, which are open daily:

#### **Thompson Island Information Center**

May 15 - October 12

8 am - 4 pm

#### **Village Green Information Center**

June 1 - October 12

8 am - 5 pm

#### **Hulls Cove Visitor Center**

May, June, September, and October: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

July & August: 8 am - 6 pm

#### **Sieur de Monts Nature Center**

June - early October, open daily

9 am - 5 pm

### STEP 3: DOCUMENT YOUR QUEST

Document activities by taking a photograph of your team completing chosen activities. To find out more background information on quest activities, refer to the online Quest Lore (optional). In place of photographs, teams may submit a rubbing (using paper and a pencil or crayon) of a summit sign, geological survey medallion, carriage road signs, etc. A boat ticket stub, signature of an Island Explorer bus driver, or signature of an event leader can take the place of self-documentation. Teams may submit documentation via email or mail by sending the images of your completed activities and a copy of your Quest Card.

### STEP 4: SHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Share your Acadia Quest adventures on Social Media! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @FriendsOfAcadia and tag your photos using **#AcadiaQuest**. With your permission, photos may be used by Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park.

### STEP 5: PRIZES!

**ACADIA QUEST:** teams that submit a completed registration form and full documentation of their completed Acadia Quest will receive a 2015 patch for each team member under 18, a 2016 Acadia Annual Pass, and qualify for the grand prize drawing.

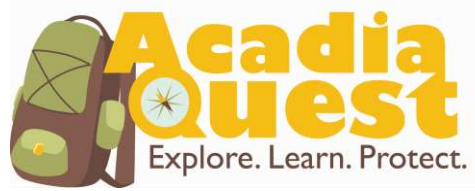
**SPEED QUEST:** teams that submit a completed registration form and full documentation of their completed Speed Quest will receive a 2015 patch for each team member under 18.

**DEADLINE:** Friday, November 13, 2015. Prizes will be sent to teams after the deadline at the end of the year.

***Teams may submit registration forms, documentation, photos, and questions to:***

**AcadiaQuest@friendsofacadia.org | 207-288-3340 | Friends of Acadia, PO Box 45, Bar Harbor, ME 04609**





## Your Safety in Acadia National Park

Acadia National Park offers many opportunities for discovery. To help ensure a safe, enjoyable visit, pay attention and follow a few important guidelines as you explore the park.

- **Emergency phone: 911**
- Be prepared. While hiking, remember to bring: water (at least 20 ounces), map, adequate clothing, first aid kit, and flashlight.
- Be careful while walking near cliff ledges. Loose gravel on rocks creates dangerous footing, which can result in serious falls.
- Be sure to tell someone your plans—when you are leaving, where you are going, and when you will return.
- Remain in one place if you become separated from your group.
- Check for ticks, as Lyme disease can occur in this area. If you are walking through tall grass, consider wearing long pants and using insect repellent.
- Poison ivy is found at Acadia. Learn to identify and avoid it while exploring the park.
- Drive safely and wear your seatbelt at all times. The speed limit is 35 mph in the park unless otherwise noted. It is easy to get distracted by scenery—pay attention.
- When in doubt, ask a ranger first!

### Trail Safety

There are a number of things you can do to make your hike safer.

- Carry water.
- Wear sturdy hiking shoes. Dress for variable weather.
- Follow blue trail blazes and use a map.
- Do not modify or build new cairns. Changes to trail markers may endanger other hikers.
- Know the difficulty level of the trail and your physical abilities and limitations.

### Carriage Road Biking Safety

You may encounter heavy machinery and trucks used for carriage road maintenance. Please be careful.

- Bicyclists yield to all users. Everyone yields to horses, which can be startled by sudden movements.
- Slow down! Speeding can be hazardous.
- Be prepared to stop. Sudden stops are dangerous on loose gravel.
- Stay to the right. Give a clear warning before passing on the left.
- Move to the side when stopped.
- Wear a helmet and carry water.
- Leave no trace. Carry out what you carry in.

### Pets

With some restrictions, you may bring your pet with you to Acadia National Park. At all times, pets must be restrained on a leash no longer than six feet in length. Leashes protect dogs from becoming lost and from other hazards, such as porcupines and sick, injured, or rabid animals. Leashes also help protect park resources, including wildlife and vegetation. Pet owners are responsible for removing pet waste from campgrounds, picnic areas, parking lots, roads, and other developed areas. For more information about where you can and cannot bring your pet in Acadia, visit <http://www.nps.gov/acad/planyourvisit/pets.htm>.

# Please Practice LEAVE NO TRACE



## Know Before You Go

- Be prepared! Remember food and water, and clothes to protect you from cold, heat and rain.
- Use maps to plan where you're going. Check them along the way so you'll stay on course and won't get lost.
- Remember to bring a leash for your pet and plastic bags to pick up your pet's waste.
- Learn about the areas you plan to visit. Read books, check online and talk to people before you go. The more you know, the more fun you'll have.

## Stick To Trails and Camp Overnight Right

- Walk and ride on designated trails to protect trailside plants.
- Avoid stepping on flowers or small trees. Once damaged, they may not grow back.
- Respect private property by staying on designated trails.
- Camp only on existing or designated campsites to avoid damaging vegetation.
- Good campsites are found, not made. Don't dig trenches or build structures in your campsite.

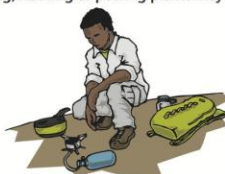


## Leave It As You Find It

- Leave plants, rocks and historical items as you find them so others can enjoy them.
- Treat living plants with respect. Carving, hacking or peeling plants may kill them.

## Trash Your Trash and Pick Up Poop

- Pack it in, Pack it out. Put litter—even crumbs, peels and cores—in garbage bags and carry it home.
- Use bathrooms or outhouses when available. If not available, bury human waste in a small hole 6-8 inches deep and 200 feet or 70 big steps from water.
- Use a plastic bag to pack out your pet's poop to a garbage can.
- Keep water clean. Do not put soap, food, or human or pet waste in lakes or streams.



## Be Careful With Fire

- Use a camp stove for cooking. Stoves are easier to cook on and create less impact than a fire.
- If you want to have a campfire, be sure it's permitted and safe to build a fire in the area you're visiting. Use only existing fire rings to protect the ground from heat. Keep your fire small.
- Remember, a campfire isn't a garbage can. Pack out all trash and food.
- Before gathering any firewood, check local regulations.
- Burn all wood to ash and be sure the fire is completely out and cold before you leave.

## Keep Wildlife Wild

- Observe wildlife from a distance and never approach, feed or follow them.
- Human food is unhealthy for all wildlife and feeding them starts bad habits.
- Protect wildlife and your food by securely storing your meals and trash.



## Share Our Trails and Manage Your Pet

- Be considerate when passing others on the trail.
- Keep your pet under control to protect it, other visitors and wildlife.
- Listen to nature. Avoid making loud noises or yelling. You will see more wildlife if you are quiet.
- Be sure the fun you have outdoors does not bother anyone else. Remember, other visitors are there to enjoy the outdoors too.



leave no trace™

CENTER FOR OUTDOOR ETHICS  
WWW.LNT.ORG

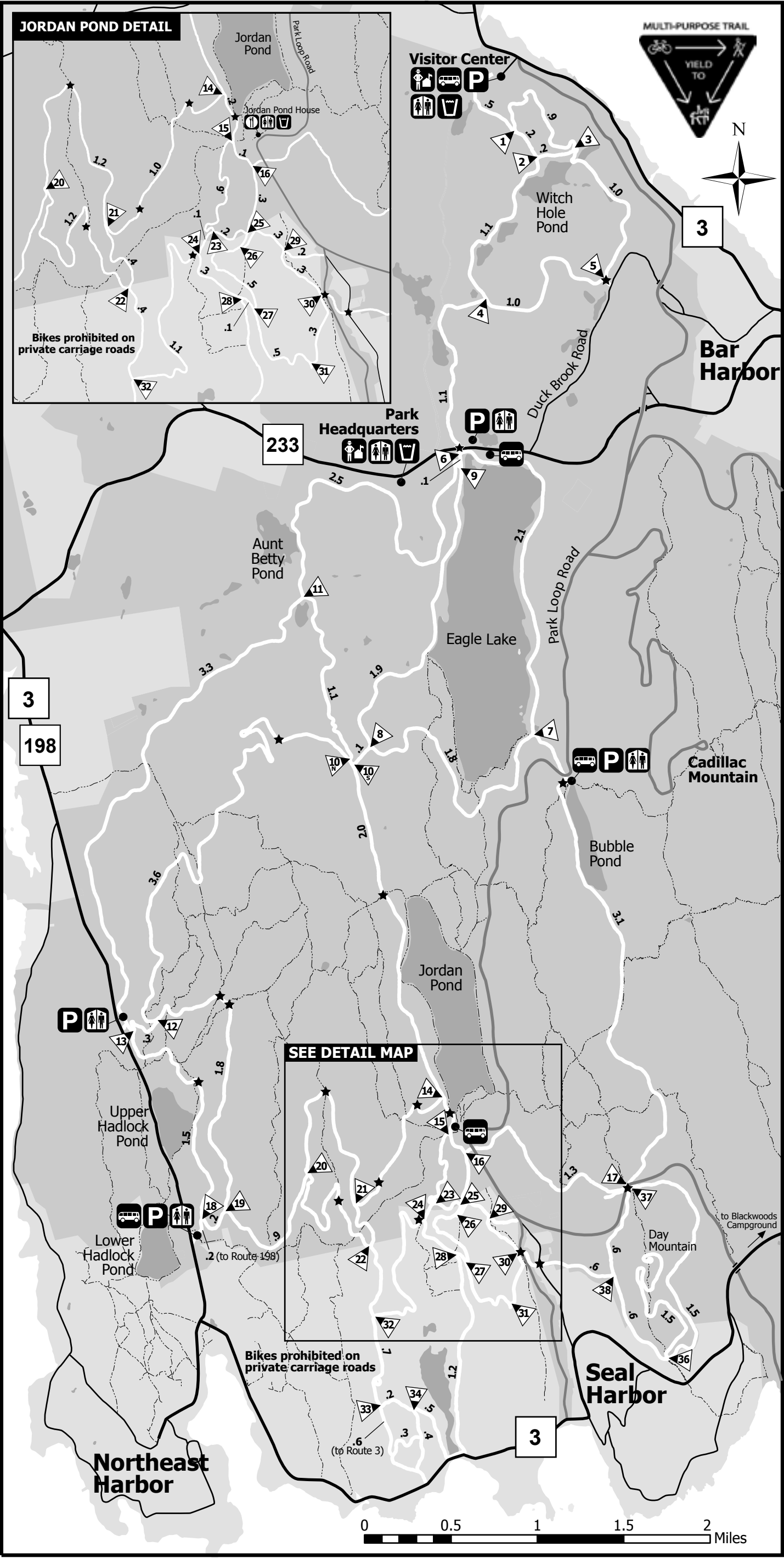
The Leave No Trace Seven Principles adapted for Frontcountry environments are copyrighted by the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics.

The member-driven Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics teaches people of all ages how to enjoy the outdoors responsibly. In its simplest form, Leave No Trace is about making good decisions to protect the world around you—the world we all enjoy. Through targeted education, research and outreach, the Center ensures the long-term health of our natural world. Do your part to pass our nation's outdoor heritage on to future generations by joining us at [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org).

Special thanks to  SUBARU for the printing of this poster.



# Carriage Road User's Map



## Rules and Regulations

- Carriage roads are closed to motor vehicle use.
- Bicycles are prohibited on privately owned carriage roads.
- Horses are prohibited on the Witch Hole Pond and Paradise Hill Loops and the Eagle Lake Loop, except between intersections 7 and 8.
- Pets must be restrained on leashes six feet or less.
- Hiking trails are closed to bicycles and horses.
- Swimming, wading, and pets are prohibited in public drinking water supplies. Please respect posted regulations at lakes and ponds.

## Carriage Road Courtesy and Safety

- Bicyclists yield to all users. Everyone yields to horses, which can be startled by sudden movements.
- Slow down! Speeding can be hazardous. Bicycling on the carriage roads is a major cause of visitor injuries at Acadia.
- Be prepared to stop. Sudden stops are dangerous on loose gravel.
- Stay to the right. Give a clear warning before passing on the left.
- Move to the side when stopped.
- Wear a helmet and carry plenty of water.
- Leave no trace. Carry out what you carry in.
- You may encounter heavy machinery and trucks used for carriage road maintenance. Please be careful.

Winter issues:

- Snowmobiles may travel on the carriage road on the east side of Eagle Lake. Please use caution.
- Please refrain from walking or snowshoeing in ski tracks and keep dogs and horses out of ski tracks.



## Fare-Free Acadia Shuttles

Help reduce pollution and traffic congestion—ride the bus! From late June through Columbus Day, you can ride fare-free Island Explorer buses to the carriage roads. Bus routes link hotels and campgrounds with popular park destinations. For more information, pick up the Island Explorer schedule at Hulls Cove Visitor Center or park headquarters. The fare-free buses are funded in part by your Acadia National Park entrance pass—please buy your park pass!

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| ★   | Carriage Road Bridges                          |
| —   | Carriage Roads                                 |
| △   | Numbered Intersection Signposts                |
| 1.1 | Mileage Between Signposts                      |
| —   | Primary Roads                                  |
| —   | Secondary Roads                                |
| —   | Park Loop Road                                 |
| —   | Hiking Trails (bicycles and horses prohibited) |
| —   | Lakes and Ponds                                |
| —   | Acadia National Park                           |
| —   | Private Property                               |
| ☺   | Drinking Water                                 |
| 🚌   | Island Explorer Bus Stop                       |
| 🍴   | Food Service                                   |
| P   | Parking  |
| 👤   | Ranger Station                                 |
| 🚽   | Restrooms (some closed in winter)              |

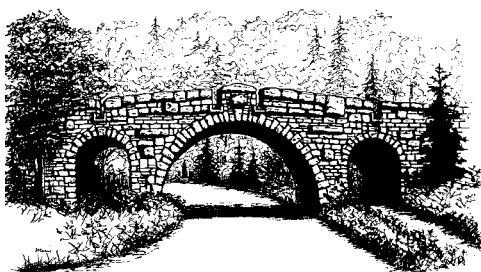
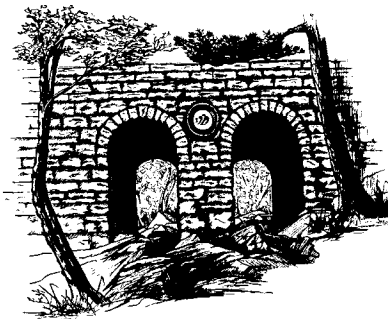


Left to right: Bicyclists near Eagle Lake, Jordan Pond Gate Lodge, horseback riders, Waterfall Bridge

# The Carriage Roads of Acadia National Park

Forty-five miles of rustic carriage roads, the gift of philanthropist John D. Rockefeller Jr. and family, weave around the mountains and valleys of Acadia National Park. Rockefeller, a skilled horseman, wanted to travel on motor-free byways via horse and carriage into the heart of Mount Desert Island. His construction efforts from 1913 to 1940 resulted in roads with sweeping vistas and close-up views of the landscape. His love of road building ensured a state-of-the-art system.

Rockefeller’s interest in road building grew naturally from his father’s. John D. Rockefeller Sr., the founder of Standard Oil, had built and landscaped carriage roads on his Ohio and New York estates. From his father the junior Rockefeller learned many techniques that he applied to building his Mount Desert Island carriage roads.



Carriage road bridges, top to bottom: Hadlock Brook Bridge, Deer Brook Bridge, Stanley Brook Bridge. Right: Little Harbor Brook Bridge

## State-of-the-Art Roads

Acadia’s carriage roads are the best example of broken-stone roads—a type of road commonly used at the turn of the 20th century—in America today. They are true roads, approximately 16 feet wide, constructed with methods that required much hand labor.

The roads were engineered to contend with Maine’s wet weather. Stone culverts, wide ditches, three layers of rock, and a substantial six- to eight-inch crown ensured good drainage.

Rather than flattening hillsides to accommodate the roads, breast walls and retaining walls were built to preserve the line of hillsides and save trees. Rockefeller, naturally gifted with the eye of a landscape architect, aligned the roads to follow the contours of the land and to take advantage of scenic views. He graded the roads so they were not too steep or too sharply curved for horse-drawn carriages.

Road crews quarried island granite for road material and bridge facing. Roadsides were landscaped with native vegetation such as blueberries and sweet fern. The use of native materials helped blend the roads into the natural landscape.

## An Integrated System

Rockefeller participated in the construction process. He walked areas staked out for road alignment and observed work in progress. He knew the laborers by name and used experts to design the bridges and engineer the roads. Throughout it all, he paid rapt attention to the most minute details, from the placement of coping stones to the cost of a running foot of road.

Following are some elements that unify the carriage road system:

**Coping Stones:** Large blocks of granite lining the roads serve as guardrails. Cut roughly and spaced irregularly, the coping stones create a rustic appearance. These coping stones have been affectionately called “Rockefeller’s teeth.”

**Signposts:** Cedar signposts were installed at intersections to direct carriage drivers. The posts were stained with Cabots shingle stain #248. The lettering was painted first with one coat of flat yellow paint, then with another coat of enamel yellow. Today, numbers that match maps and guidebooks are attached to the signposts and help carriage road users find their way.

**Roadside Grooming and Landscaping:** Rockefeller employed a crew of foresters to remove debris from the roads and roadsides. Nationally known landscape architect Beatrix Farrand consulted on planting designs to frame vistas and bridges and to heal scars left behind by carriage road construction. The Fire of 1947 destroyed much of her work.

**Gate Lodges:** Two gate lodges, one at Jordan Pond and the other near Northeast Harbor, ornament the roads and serve as impressive welcomes to the system. A third gate lodge was planned at Eagle Lake, but was never built. During carriage road construction, engineer Paul Simpson and his family lived at the Jordan Pond Gate Lodge.

**Bridges:** Rockefeller financed 16 of 17 stone-faced bridges, each unique in design, to span streams, waterfalls, roads, and cliffsides. The bridges are steel-

reinforced concrete, but the use of native stone for the facing gives them a natural appearance. Over time, the stone cutters grew very skilled and Rockefeller often requested them not to cut the facing too well lest the rustic look be lost.

The result of Rockefeller’s vision and attention to detail is an integrated system of carriage roads that blends harmoniously with the landscape.

## The Carriage Roads Today

Maintaining the extensive carriage road system is no easy task, and the National Park Service could not do it alone. Between 1992 and 1995, an extensive rehabilitation of the carriage roads was financed by federal construction funds along with matching private funds from Friends of Acadia, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and cultural distinctiveness of Acadia National Park and surrounding communities. Woody vegetation was removed from roads, shoulders, and ditches, and drainage systems were reestablished to arrest erosion. The crown and subgrade layers were restored, and new surface materials were applied to replace thousands of cubic yards washed away over the years. Coping stones were reset or replaced, and some of the historic vistas that once greeted horseback riders, carriage drivers, and walkers were reopened.

To ensure that the carriage roads will continue to be maintained close to their original condition, the park has formed a partnership with Friends of Acadia. In 1995, Friends of Acadia established an endowment to help protect the carriage roads in perpetuity. Each year, the organization contributes more than \$200,000 from this endowment to the park for carriage road maintenance. Volunteers working under the guidance of Friends of Acadia contribute thousands of hours cleaning ditches and culverts, clearing brush, and assisting park staff with other restoration projects. The commitment demonstrated by Friends of Acadia in maintaining the carriage roads is only one of many ways the organization helps support the park.

A portion of park user fees, authorized by the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program, also helps fund carriage road maintenance. Between 2001 and 2005, federal funds and park user fees paid for a major re-pointing, cleaning, and water-proofing of all carriage road bridges within the park. User fees have also funded annual projects, including repairing stone walls and opening overgrown vistas. More than one hundred vistas have been cleared in the past ten years.

## A Spirit of Philanthropy

Park volunteers, visitors, and groups like Friends of Acadia are continuing a tradition of philanthropy begun by John D. Rockefeller Jr. and other early conservationists. Their valuable contributions of time, effort, and funds help protect the park and improve the quality of your experience. For more information about joining in these efforts, stop at Hulls Cove Visitor Center or visit the Friends of Acadia website at [www.friendsofacadia.org](http://www.friendsofacadia.org). Such generous spirit allows the park to better meet its mission of protecting and preserving its cultural and natural resources for present and future generations.





## The Schoodic Peninsula

The Schoodic Peninsula, containing the only portion of Acadia National Park on the mainland, boasts granite headlands, rocky beaches, and spruce-fir forests. Although similar in scenery to Mount Desert Island, the coast of the Schoodic Peninsula is more intimate and secluded.

### History

Much of the Schoodic Peninsula was once owned by John G. Moore, a Maine native and Wall Street financier. In the 1920s, Moore's heirs donated the land to the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations with the stipulation that the land be used as a public park and for other uses, including the "promotion of biological and other scientific research." In 1929, legislation authorized the National Park Service to accept land on the Schoodic Peninsula as an addition to the park and changed the name of the park to Acadia. Soon after the law's enactment, the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations donated the former Moore property (2,050 acres) to the National Park Service "for the public good and for the extension or improvement of said park, forever."

In the 1930s and 1940s, some of this land was transferred to the U.S. Navy for use as a radio communication station. The U.S. Navy operated the base until the land was transferred back to the National Park Service in 2002.

The former base has become the Schoodic Education and Research Center, one of 17 National Park Service research learning centers across the country. The center facilitates research projects throughout Acadia National Park and provides opportunities for learners of all ages to discover the park's natural and cultural resources. For details, visit [www.nps.gov/acad/serc.htm](http://www.nps.gov/acad/serc.htm).



### Activities

#### Enjoying the Scenery

A six-mile, one-way loop road offers views of lighthouses, sea birds, and forest-draped islands. Automobile turnouts provide the opportunity to pull over and enjoy the views. An unpaved road leads to the top of Schoodic Head (440 feet). Please be careful when meeting traffic on this narrow gravel road.

At the southern end of the peninsula, the two-way road to Schoodic Point leads to a windswept coast with dark diabase dikes that intrude between pink granite ledges. Please use caution exploring the rocky shore. The ocean views are spectacular, but the footing is dangerous—*people have died here*. Wet rocks are slippery, and waves can sweep you into the sea.

#### Bicycling

Bicycling is popular along the loop road; bicyclists must obey the one-way traffic flow. Combine your ride with Island Explorer buses for an easier trip.

#### Hiking

Four hiking trails traverse the area. The Schoodic Head Trail, Anvil Trail, and East Trail travel through spruce-fir forests to pine woodlands at the top of Schoodic Head. The level, easy Alder Trail leads you through a shrubland.

#### Picnicking

Frazer Point picnic area has tables, fire rings, restrooms, drinking water, and a dock. Please do not feed animals, including gulls, anywhere in the park.

### Plan Your Visit

#### Getting Here/Getting Around

The drive from Bar Harbor to the Schoodic Peninsula takes about one hour. In the summer, a ferry travels between Bar Harbor and Winter Harbor, and the Island Explorer bus provides transportation from the ferry terminal to the Schoodic section of the park and Prospect Harbor and Winter Harbor.

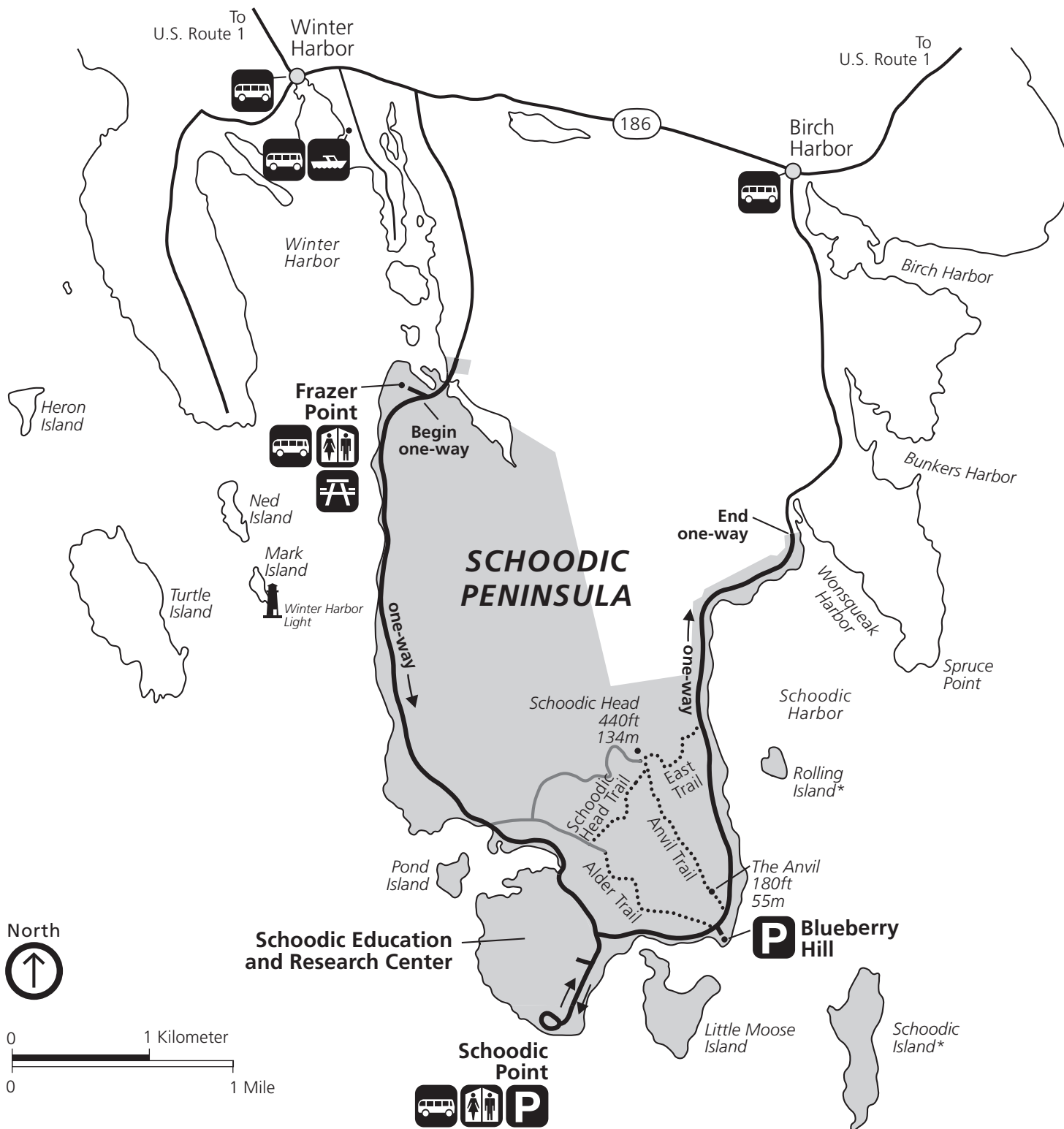
#### Lodging

Overnight camping is not permitted

in the Schoodic section of the park, but private campgrounds and other lodging options are located nearby. For information, contact the Schoodic Peninsula Chamber of Commerce at 207-963-7658 or visit their website at [www.acadia-schoodic.org](http://www.acadia-schoodic.org).

#### More Information

For more information about Acadia National Park, visit the park website at [www.nps.gov/acad](http://www.nps.gov/acad) or call 207-288-3338.



- Acadia National Park
- Hiking Trail
- Paved Road
- Gravel Road

- Bus Stop (summer)
- Ferry
- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Restrooms

\*Schoodic Island and Rolling Island are closed from February 15 through August 31 to protect nesting birds.

| Hiking Trails (one way) |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Alder Trail             | 0.6 mi |
| Anvil Trail             | 1.1 mi |
| East Trail              | 0.5 mi |
| Schoodic Head Trail     | 0.6 mi |

Acadia National Park

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Isle au Haut



Acadia National Park  
P.O. Box 177, Bar Harbor, ME 04609

Information (207) 288-3338  
TTY (207) 288-8800  
Lost & Found (207) 288-8791  
acadia\_information@nps.gov  
www.nps.gov/acad

Emergency–Call 911

Isle au Haut’s History

“High Island” is the English translation for Isle au Haut, the name given by the French navigator Samuel Champlain during his explorations of the Maine coast in 1604. Although shell heaps along the island’s shores tell of an American Indian presence long before Champlain’s arrival, it wasn’t until the end of the American Revolution that farmers, fishermen, and boat builders came to the island in large numbers. In the 1880s a small summer community was established–attracted by agreeable weather and idyllic scenery.

In 1943, heirs of the founder of that community donated portions of Isle au Haut to the federal government as part of Acadia National Park. Because of their generosity, much of the island’s beauty and solitude is now yours to experience and enjoy.

Although about one-half of Isle au Haut is federal park land, the other half is privately owned, with summer residents and a year-round fishing community. Please respect private property.

Hiking

Eighteen miles of trails offer opportunities to explore rocky shorelines, wooded uplands, marshes, bogs, and a mile-long freshwater lake. Be prepared for rough and sometimes wet trails. Bring adequate footgear, warm clothing, and raingear.

Duck Harbor provides the best starting point for hiking. During the summer, a park ranger may board the ferry at the town landing to answer questions about Isle au Haut.

Safety Tips

Be careful out there–protect yourself and the park! Keep these tips in mind to help ensure a safe visit to the park.

- Watch your step and wear sturdy shoes. Carry a map, first aid kit, flashlight, water, and appropriate weather gear on all trips, long or short. Tell someone where you’re going and when you’ll return.
- Yield to pedestrians. Watch for loose gravel on road curves and hills. Bicycles are prohibited on hiking trails.
- Stay away from cliff edges. Watch for wet rocks and loose gravel near cliff edges and shorelines.
- When in Acadia, all pets must be on a leash no longer than six feet for the protection of your pet, people, and wildlife.
- When tidepooling, remember to keep three points of contact with the ground, watch for waves and where you walk.

Ferry Service to Isle au Haut

Isle au Haut is linked to the mainland by a year-round, passenger-only ferry from Stonington to the Isle au Haut Town Landing. Stonington is approximately 1.5 hours by car from Bar Harbor. From mid-June through late September, the ferry also stops at the Duck Harbor Boat Landing, near the campground. The ferry operates on a first-come, first-served basis. For current fare and schedule information, contact Isle au Haut Boat Services at (207) 367-6516 or (207) 367-5193 or visit: [www.isleauhaut.com](http://www.isleauhaut.com)

Bicycling

There are five miles of paved roads and seven miles of rough, unpaved roads on the island. Bicycles are prohibited on hiking trails. The ferry charges an additional fee to transport bicycles to and from the Isle au Haut Town Landing only.

Camping

You must have a reservation to camp at the Duck Harbor Campground. Camping is permitted in designated sites only. Five sites are available at Duck Harbor from May 15 to October 15. Pets are not permitted in the campground. A hand pump for water is located approximately 0.25 miles (400 meters) from the campground. All trash must be carried out. Checkout time is at 11AM.

**Camping Limits**–Campers are limited to one stay per year. You are more likely to receive a

Day Trips to Isle au Haut

The number of visitors allowed in the Isle au Haut section of Acadia is limited and day trippers may, on rare occasions, be denied access to the park.

When visiting Isle au Haut:

- Campfires are allowed only in designated campground areas. Collection of dead and down wood is permitted. Never leave fires unattended. During periods of high fire danger, campfires in the campground and smoking on trails may be prohibited.
- Pets must be leashed at all times while in the park and are prohibited in the campground.
- The possession, destruction, removal, or disturbance of park property or natural resources is prohibited.
- It is illegal to be in the park when under the influence of alcohol and/or a controlled substance. The possession of alcoholic beverages by a minor (less than 21 years old) is prohibited.
- The operation of any audio device that unreasonably annoys other park visitors is prohibited. Radios must be completely off during quiet hours, from 10PM to 7AM
- Accidents must be reported to park rangers if property damage or personal injury are involved.
- Fishing is permitted in accordance with Maine law. A state license is required for freshwater fishing.
- The possession or use of fireworks or firecrackers is prohibited.
- Hunting and trapping are prohibited.

reservation if you apply for alternate dates or indicate that you will accept fewer days than the number requested. One reservation request form reserves one site. Six people are permitted per site. Larger groups need additional request forms.

Maximum length of stay per person or group:

- May 15 to June 14–five nights
- June 15 to September 15–three nights
- September 16 to October 14–five nights

All 5 camping sites include:

- One three-sided, lean-to shelter with a roof and floor. Dimensions are 8 feet tall, 8 feet deep, and 12.5 feet wide. All tents must be set up within the shelter.
- Fire ring
- Picnic table
- Storage locker for all food and toiletries
- Composting toilet

Camping Reservations

Before choosing a camping date–check with the Isle au Haut Boat Services for the current ferry schedule (see the Ferry Service section in this brochure). Camping reservation requests must be postmarked April 1 or later. The departure date is defined as the day you vacate the campsite.

**Special Use Permits**–A \$25 special use permit fee must accompany each reservation request form regardless of how many nights you wish to camp. There is no additional camping fee. If your reservation request is accommodated, your fee becomes non-refundable, and you will receive a reservation confirmation. If the park is unable to honor your request, your \$25 will be returned. When you travel to Isle au Haut, bring your special use permit with you.

**To Request a Reservation**–Mail the camping reservation request form on the back of this brochure and the special use permit fee to:

Acadia National Park  
Attn: Isle au Haut Reservations  
P.O. Box 177  
Bar Harbor, ME 04609

Requests postmarked before April 1 will be returned without action. Telephone requests are not accepted. For more information call (207) 288-3338 or visit: [www.nps.gov/acad](http://www.nps.gov/acad)

Postal money orders, certified checks, or personal checks payable to the National Park Service are accepted. Do not send Canadian currency.



# Isle au Haut

**Isle au Haut Services**—There are no private campgrounds on Isle au Haut. There are no moorings available at Duck Harbor. Boats can be anchored on the shore side of the float only. A small store and post office with limited hours are located near the town landing.

## Map Legend

- .....

Hiking trail
- Paved road
- Unpaved road
- - - -

Limited access road
- Park land
- Private land
- 🏠

Campsite shelter
- 🚽

Composting toilet
- 🥤

Drinking water
- 🍷

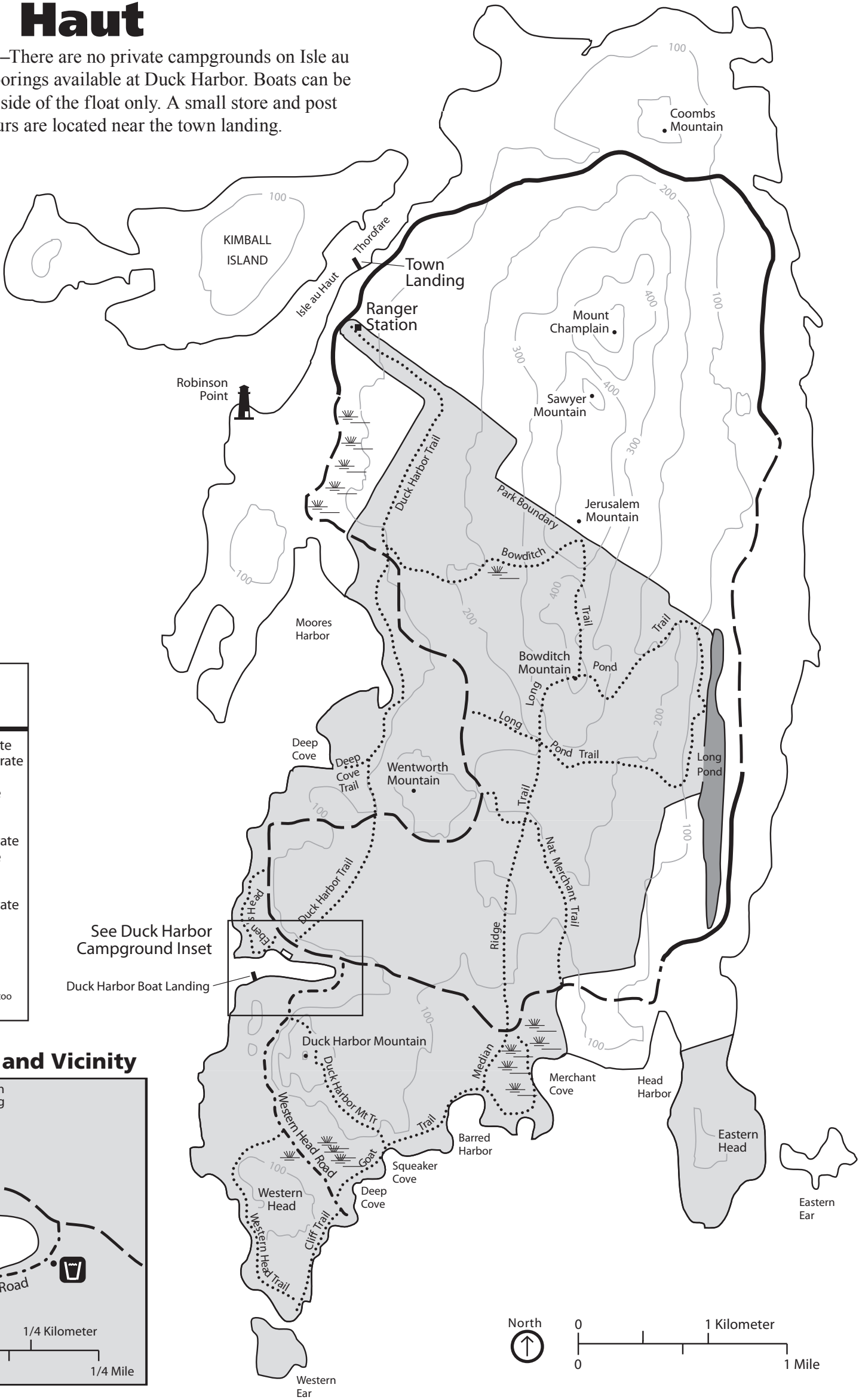
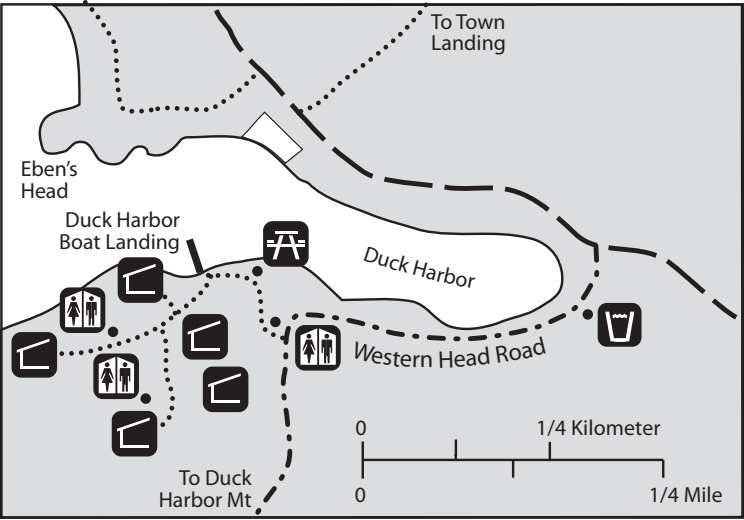
Picnic area

## Trail Information

| Name            | One-Way Distance (mi/km) | Time/Difficulty     |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Bowditch*       | 2.0/3.2                  | 1.5 hours/moderate  |
| Cliff           | 0.7/1.1                  | 45 minutes/moderate |
| Deep Cove       | 0.2/0.3                  | 5 minutes/easy      |
| Duck Harbor     | 3.8/6.1                  | 2 hours/moderate    |
| Duck Harbor Mt. | 1.2/1.9                  | 1.5 hours/difficult |
| Eben's Head     | 0.8/1.3                  | 30 minutes/easy     |
| Goat*           | 2.1/3.4                  | 1.25 hours/moderate |
| Long Pond       | 3.0/4.8                  | 2 hours/moderate    |
| Median Ridge    | 1.8/2.9                  | 1 hour/easy         |
| Nat Merchant    | 1.1/1.8                  | 45 minutes/easy     |
| Western Head    | 1.3/2.1                  | 1.25 hours/moderate |
| Paved Road      | 5.0/8.0                  | —                   |
| Unpaved Road    | 7.0/11.3                 | —                   |
| Western Head Rd | 1.7/2.7                  | 25 minutes          |

\*After rains, marshes along the Bowditch Trail and Goat Trail may be too wet for hiking. Ask a park ranger for current trail conditions.

## Duck Harbor Campground and Vicinity



### Acadia National Park Isle au Haut Campground Camping Reservation Request

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

|               | Arrival Date | Departure Date |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| First Choice  |              |                |
| Second Choice |              |                |
| Third Choice  |              |                |

### Your Contact Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Number in Party: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fee Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

➡ **Mail this camping reservation request form and the special use permit fee to:**

Acadia National Park  
Attn: Isle au Haut Reservations  
P.O. Box 177  
Bar Harbor, ME 04609



Duck Harbor Campground camp site.

(Official Use Only below)

Confirmed Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Deposit Received: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Deposit Received: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_