

You can become a WebRanger today!
Visit www.nps.gov/webangers.

Management: Plan for the future.

computers work.

Administration: Keep track of money, hire rangers, and make sure the parks

Interpretation: Help visitors learn about the park. Work at the visitor center. Give programs about the park.

air and water for pollution.

Resource Management: Study plants, animals, and historical resources. Test the

trails.

Maintenance: Maintain buildings, roads, and restrooms in the park. Build and fix

visitors, fight fires, and more.

Resource and Visitor Protection: Enforce rules to protect the park. Look for lost

do in the national parks.

Here are some of the jobs that park rangers would you like to work in a park someday?

Rangers Wanted!

A Park Is Born

In the early 1900s, some summer residents were worried that the island forests would be cut and that homes someday would line every inch of the rocky coast. A group of citizens began buying land to save it. They worked hard for years to convince the federal government to take over the land. In 1916 President Woodrow Wilson created Sieur de Monts National Monument. More land was given, and in 1919 the name was changed to Lafayette National Park. It was the first national park east of the Mississippi River. In 1929 the name changed one more time to Acadia National Park. All of the land was donated by people who wanted to protect it.

Visitors today enjoy those earlier efforts. The people who visit Acadia each year come to:

- hike on 125 miles of trails;
- bicycle, ride horses, cross-country ski, or walk on 45 miles of carriage roads;
- visit tidepools;
- attend park ranger talks; and
- sit quietly along the rocky coast.

Acadia is part of the National Park System, which includes almost 400 sites. These special places are protected because of their natural beauty or historical importance. We can visit our national parks to experience and appreciate nature or to learn about the past. Operated by the federal government, the national parks belong to each and every one of us.

Park Facts

Date Established:

July 8, 1916 - Sieur de Monts National Monument

February 26, 1919 - Lafayette National Park

January 19, 1929 - Acadia National Park

Location: Most of the park is on Mount Desert Island, Maine. The park protects all or part of several coastal islands. Part of the Schoodic Peninsula is the only part of the park on the mainland.

Size: 35,000+ acres, plus 12,000+ acres in conservation easements (land not owned by the park but protected like a park by its owners)

Altitude: 0-1,530 feet (0-466 meters)

Weather:

Average winter temperature: 27°F

Average summer temperature: 67°F

Annual precipitation: 47 inches

Contact Us

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Visit us on the Web!

www.nps.gov/acad



History! History! Read All About It!

American Indians lived on Mount Desert Island at least 5,000 years ago. Some lived here only part of the year, others year round. A

French explorer, Samuel Champlain, was the first European to name the island in 1604. He

named the island *Isles des Monts Deserts*, which means "the island of barren mountains" in

French. For many years England and France

fought over the area. England won in 1759.

Early settlers fished, built boats, farmed, and

cut timber. In the middle 1850s, people from New York and Boston began to come to enjoy

the views. Hotels were built in some island towns. Many of these visitors had lots of

money and built large summer homes called cottages. In 1947 a large fire burned 17,000

acres of the island. The fire destroyed many

cottages and burned almost one-third of the

park land.



Where the Land Meets the Sea...

Acadia National Park is a special place. For

people, the park offers views of ocean and mountains, lots of fun things to do, and a place

to study and learn about the natural world. For plants and animals, the park provides

a home.

You will find the answers to

many of your questions

about Acadia

National Park in

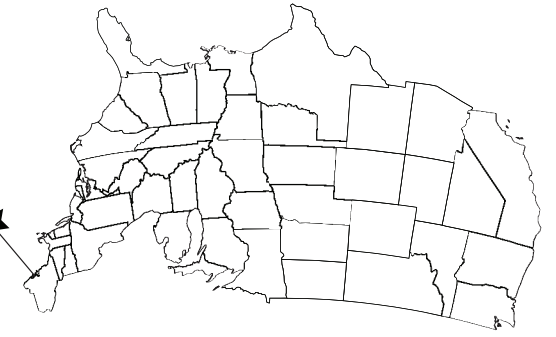
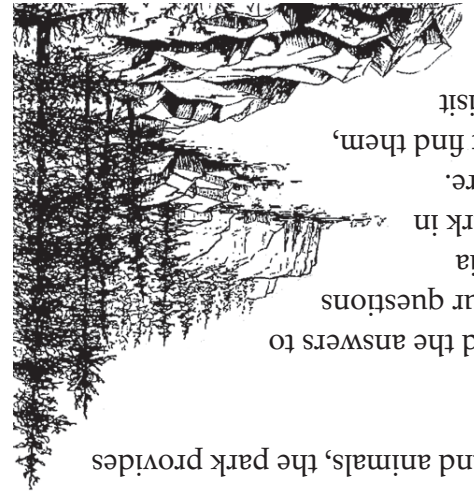
this brochure.

If you don't find them,

be sure to visit

the park

website.



The park is located along the coast of Maine. Most of the park is on Mount Desert Island, which is 18 miles long and 14 miles wide. About one-half of the island is park. The park also contains part or all of 19 coastal islands. One area of the park—part of the Schoodic Peninsula—is located on the mainland.

Water, Water Everywhere!

One thing Acadia has is a lot of water! There are streams, lakes, ponds, marshes, and 40 miles of ocean shoreline. Park biologists are concerned with the health of the aquatic (water) systems. They test the water for pH (a measure of acidity) and some pollutants.

There is some concern about acid precipitation, which falls in the form of rain, snow, or fog. Rainfall at Acadia is about 10 times more acidic than normal rainfall. Acid precipitation can drop the pH level in water habitats. That means that some of the plants living in the water now may not be able to survive.

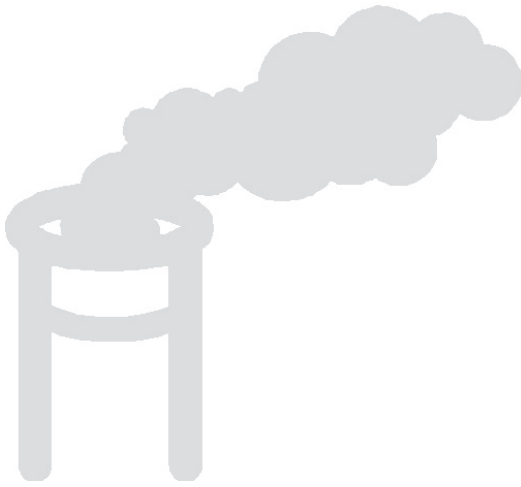
Acadia's water systems are healthy right now, but biologists continue to test the water so they can learn if it changes.



Oh, Say Can You See?

Many visitors are surprised to learn that Acadia's air is sometimes polluted. Acadia faces a problem with ground-level ozone, a pollutant created through a chemical reaction with other pollutants in the presence of sunlight. Wind patterns carry pollutants from the Midwest and East Coast cities such as Boston and New York. As these winds reach the coast of Maine and Acadia, unhealthy ozone levels can occur, especially in the summer.

Ozone high in the atmosphere protects us from harmful sun rays. Ozone near the ground is a problem, even if you can't see it. Ground-level ozone makes it hard to breathe, especially for young children and older people. Often other visible pollutants are found with ozone. These pollutants can make it hard to see. Sometimes you can't see far-away mountains and islands. Air quality specialists monitor the ozone levels and alert visitors when ozone levels are high.

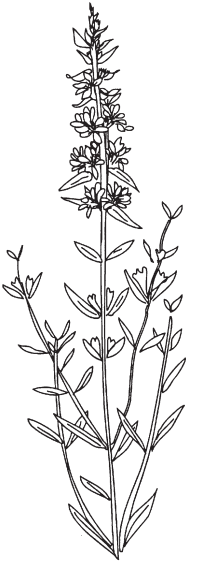


Packed Park

Acadia is not a large park in size. With more than two million people visiting each year, the park can sometimes be very crowded. Especially in the summer, the scenic Park Loop Road is crowded. Parking lots overflow. Park planners look to the future to find answers to help lessen the affect crowding has on Acadia.

Stop that Plant!

It may sound strange, but one way Acadia helps protect habitat is by removing plants that don't belong. These non-native plants are called exotics. Many of the exotics at Acadia escaped from gardens. Wind, birds, and other animals helped to carry their seeds into the park.



Botanists, scientists who study plants in the park, are on the lookout for one exotic in particular—purple loosestrife. This plant loves wetland habitats. Purple loosestrife can "take over" the wetland habitat, choking out the plants that should be there. By removing purple loosestrife and other plants that are not native, Acadia is protecting habitats for plants and animals that do belong.

Reading the Landscape

What does it look like where you live? Is it flat or hilly? What do your trees look like?

Here at Acadia, you will find rocky coastline where the land meets sea. The park has lakes, ponds, meadows, forests, and mountains. Seven mountains are more than 1,000 feet high.

Much of the landscape is due to the carving action of glaciers, thick slabs of ice that came south from Canada. The last glacier to cover Maine melted about 11,000 years ago.

As this most recent glacier came south, it cut through an east-west ridge of granite, leaving mountains separated by valleys. Big blocks of ice left behind formed lakes and ponds. When the glacier melted, the sea level rose, flooding the valleys. Over the years, the forces of erosion and crashing waves continued to wear down the rock, slowly changing the island. Eventually plants began to cover the land.

Today Acadia has a mixed forest. The coniferous forest contains spruce, fir, and pine. Part of this forest burned in a large fire in 1947. Deciduous trees (trees that lose their leaves) such as aspen, maple, and birch grew back in the burned areas. Someday conifers may replace most of the deciduous trees because conifers grow better in shade. Plants adapted to other special habitats can be found in the marshes, meadows, and mountaintops.

Back from the Brink

Acadia is concerned with the protection of endangered species. Peregrine falcons, still endangered in Maine, are found here. The numbers of peregrines got smaller due to loss of habitat, trapping, hunting, and chemical pesticide use. One pesticide in particular, DDT, caused egg shells to be very thin and crack. The young could not survive.

Acadia National Park took part in a program to reintroduce peregrine chicks through a process called hacking. Biologists place chicks in cages on the cliffs and feed them through long tubes. The chicks don't know that people are feeding them. Acadia "hacked" 22 peregrine chicks from 1984 to 1986. Peregrines have successfully raised chicks at four different sites in the park nearly every year since 1991. More than 85 chicks have been raised in the park since then.



The WILD Side

Many kinds of animals live in Acadia. About 50 species of mammals and more than 300 species of birds are found in the park. Some live here year round, while others migrate through. Some common birds are chickadees, herring gulls, and cormorants. Some people are lucky to see bald eagles and ospreys.

There are also many amphibians and reptiles, including five species of snake. Common land mammals include beaver, white-tailed deer, red fox, muskrat, porcupine, skunk, raccoon, snowshoe hare, red squirrel, and chipmunk. There are small numbers of black bear, river otter, and coyote.

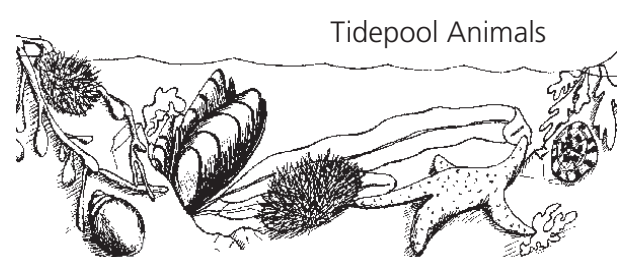
The ocean surrounding the island is home to harbor seals, harbor porpoise, lobster, and many kinds of fish. At low tide, you can see lots of marine animals like sea stars in the tidepools.



Common Loon



Beaver



Tidepool Animals