

## 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](http://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

### 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.

### 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:

- Entire season is limited three 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

**To Request a Reservation**—Mail the camping reservation request form (located on our web site) 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

