

# Acadia

NATIONAL PARK • MAINE

## ENJOYING ACADIA

**Park Loop Road.** This 20-mile-long road on the eastern side of Mount Desert Island connects the lake and mountain area with the seashore. Branching off from this circuit loop is Cadillac Mountain Summit Road which leads to superb panoramas from the highest point on our Atlantic Coast.

The view north from the grounds of the Jordan Pond House is one of Acadia's choicest inland scenes. It was created by the passage of a mile-thick glacial ice sheet which carved the U-shaped valleys, scooped out the lake's basin, and rounded the little mountains, which have been aptly named the Bubbles.

Along the Ocean Drive sector of Park Loop Road may be seen a number of marine features such as Sand Beach, Thunder Hole, and Otter Cliffs.

In addition you may wish to drive over the gravel Long Pond and Western Mountain Fire Roads on the western side of Mount Desert Island.

**Schoodic Peninsula** is the only part of Acadia on the mainland. A park road, reached via U.S. 1 and Maine 186, follows Schoodic's colorful rock-bound shore in its entirety. At Schoodic Point, magnificent displays of surf may be seen following storms. Sweeping views of land and sea are additional rewards here.

The Ocean Drive and Schoodic sectors of the park road system are kept open in winter. The remainder of the park roads are available for oversnow-vehicle use.

Park roads are not high-speed highways. They were designed for leisurely enjoyment of the park scenery. Maximum speed allowed is 35 m.p.h., except where posted. Drive carefully.

**Trails and carriage roads.** Trails reach nearly every summit and valley in the park. Ranging from easy lowland paths to rugged mountain trails, they offer many opportunities for stimulating walks and hikes. Trail maps may be purchased at park headquarters.

Supplementing the trail system are some 50 miles of carriage roads. Closed to cars, these roads wind through spectacular mountain and lake scenery. They offer an excellent setting for leisurely hiking, bicycling, and horseback and carriage trips. You can rent saddle horses and carriages at Wildwood Stable, near Jordan Pond, and bicycles in Bar Harbor.

**Boat trips.** No visit to Acadia is complete without a boat trip. At nearly all the island villages you can take scheduled sightseeing trips or hire boats for private cruises.

**Fishing** is permitted in accordance with State laws. A State license is needed for fresh-water fishing, none for salt-water angling. Trout, salmon, bass, and other game fish are in fresh-water lakes; brook trout are in the streams.

**Swimming.** For those who want to brave the chill waters there are park swimming areas with lifeguards at Sand Beach and Echo Lake. Other beaches are at Bar Harbor and Seal Harbor.

*Acadia is a remarkable combination of bold granite mountains, coastal headlands, cliffs, lakes, streams, bays, peninsulas, islands, and ocean unequaled in topographic variety and scenic beauty along our entire Atlantic shoreline.*

Located mostly on Mount Desert Island, the largest island along Maine's rocky, island-studded coast, Acadia is almost wholly surrounded by the sea. Prominent among its scenic features are the "Monts Deserts"—the wilderness mountains—as Champlain named them in 1604, a chain of rounded granite peaks which reach a maximum height of 1,530 feet. Rising steeply above deep valleys with numerous lakes, they overlook the encircling ocean and bays, the neighboring islands, and the nearby mainland.

Equally impressive is the jagged, rocky, surf-swept shoreline where great cliffs, undermined by pounding storm waves, rise vertically from the ocean. In places, chasms and caves have been carved out by the sea, while elsewhere it has built seawalls and beaches of cobble and sand.

Because of its variety of natural environments and a climate tempered by the surrounding sea, Acadia also possesses a great diversity of plants and animals, both land and marine. Teeming tide pools and mossy spruce-fir forests are two of its most distinctive natural communities.

The great appeal of this seacoast island park also lies in its historical associations. Its distinctive outline became an early landmark. For more than 100 years the island was part of France's New World territory of *La Cadie*. It was the site of the first French Jesuit colony in America.

After 1760, it became a New England frontier, settled by hardy seafarers who gained their livelihoods by fishing, shipbuilding, and lumbering.

In 1855 the first summer visitors arrived, and soon the area grew into a noted summer resort.

Today, Acadia National Park stands as a noble monument to those public-spirited citizens who, intensely loving its beauty, felt that it should be preserved unspoiled for the enjoyment of all Americans now and in the future.

### **NATURALIST PROGRAM**

The best way to increase your understanding of the park, and thus your enjoyment of it, is to take advantage of the naturalist program. Through the varied activities of this program—seashore, woodland, and mountaintop nature walks; boat cruises in Frenchman Bay, to the Islesford Historical Museum and Somes Sound, and to Baker Island; and evening campfire programs—you can become acquainted with the

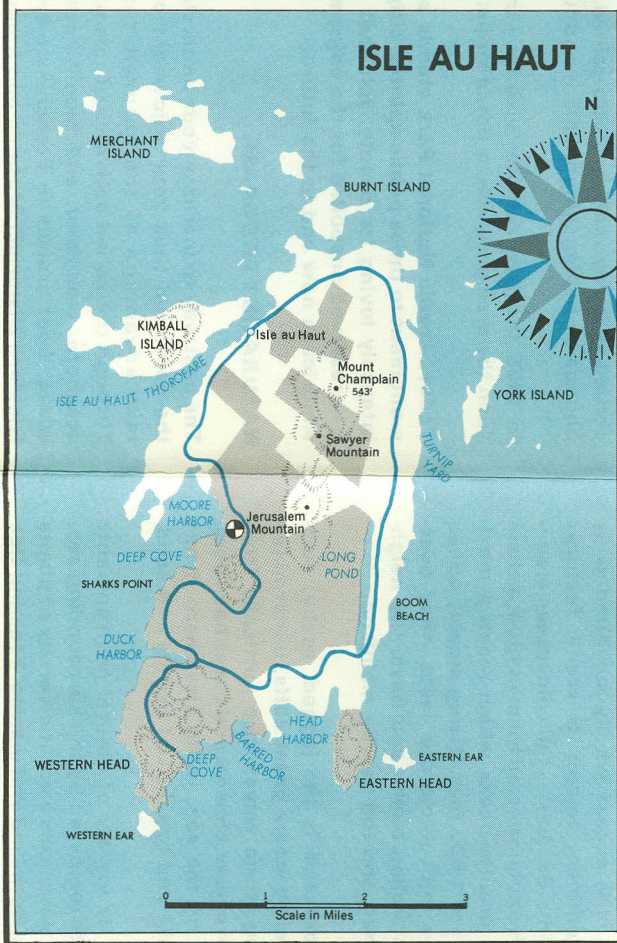
plants and animals, geology, and human history of the park area and at the same time see some of its scenic highlights.

Each summer day, park ranger-naturalists conduct a variety of these activities. Evening campfire programs are held in spacious amphitheaters several nights each week at both the Black Woods and Seawall Campgrounds. All are welcome to these programs, which include talks illustrated with color slides and group singing.

Copies of the naturalist program schedule are available at park headquarters and at the park campgrounds.

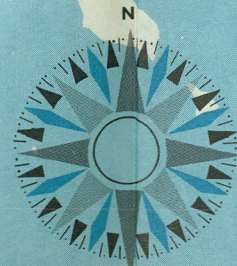
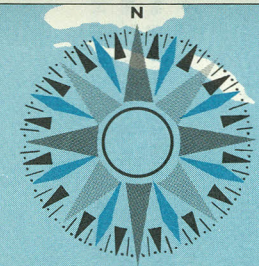
### **MUSEUMS**

At Sieur de Monts Spring are the Nature Center and the Abbe Museum of Stone Age Antiquities. The Nature Center houses natural history exhibits and is open from May to mid-October. The Abbe Museum contains many relics of Indian culture and is open from May 30 to about mid-September. A wildflower garden is located adjacent to the Nature Center. At the Islesford Historical Museum on Little Cranberry Island is a unique collection of historical and cultural objects relating to the settlement and early life of this vicinity. Several naturalist-conducted trips are made to this museum each week in summer.

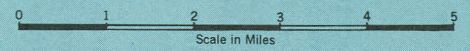


# ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

MAINE



- Campground
  - Picnic Area
  - Ranger Station
  - Fire Lookout
  - Overlook, Parking Area
  - Primary Park Road
  - Numbered Route and Local Road
  - Unpaved Road
  - Park Area (Approx.)
- Note: Respect private property. There are many small private tracts within park boundaries.



REVISED MARCH 1969 DECEMBER 1961 NP-ACA-17.001



## ACCOMMODATIONS

There are two campgrounds within the park—Black Woods and Seawall. Trailers are welcome but no utility connections are available for them. Campsite reservations cannot be made, and there is a 14-day limit on camping in the park. From late June to late August they are usually full before noon. Privately owned campgrounds are available outside the park.

In the villages on Mount Desert Island and on Schoodic Peninsula you can find hotels, motels, rooming houses, and restaurants, some of which are open all year. The National Park Service has no control over these facilities.

## ADMINISTRATION

Acadia National Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Bar Harbor, Maine 04609, is in immediate charge. **THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**—the Nation's principal natural resource agency—has a special obligation to assure that our expendable resources are conserved, that renewable resources are managed to produce optimum benefits, and that all resources contribute to the progress and prosperity of the United States, now and in the future.

U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

