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Beaver Log Visitor Guide

Winter

Experience Your America

Winter Explorations at Acadia National Park

Welcome to Acadia National Park! Following are some suggestions to help you plan your visit.

Welcome to Acadia National Park!

Winter is a time of contrast in Acadia. The turbulence of the sea during a storm gives way to the serenity of deer walking through snow covered forests. Leafless hardwood trees reveal the forest that was hidden during most of the year, while frozen ponds seal their secrets until spring thaw. Winter is a wonderful time to discover Acadia's subtle wonders first hand, but also presents challenges for the unprepared visitor. Following are some suggestions to help you plan your visit.

Begin at the Winter Information Station

Open every day, weather permitting, except Thanksgiving, December 24 and 25, and January 1. Located three miles west of Bar Harbor on Route 233 at park headquarters. Hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Scenic Driving

Although state and county roads on Mount Desert Island are plowed in the winter, most of the Park Loop Road remains closed due to snow and ice. Two short sections of the Park Loop Road are open year round. Plowed roads in the park are only plowed and sanded during daylight hours. Visitors may encounter heavy snow and icy conditions on park roads. See map inside and use the following directions.

Coastal Scenic: Includes shoreline from Sand Beach to Thunder Hole and Otter Cliff. Follow Route 3 one mile south from downtown Bar Harbor. At the Ocean Drive Dairy Bar, take a left, following Schooner Head Road for 2.5 miles. At the intersection, turn right. In .1 mile, at the intersection turn left onto Park Loop Road, which is plowed on the right lane for two miles. This section is one way for motorists. Snowmobiles use the unplowed left lane. Stay in the right lane. Do not drive over the snow. You must exit via Otter Cliff Road to Route 3.

Jordan Pond Area: Follow Route 3 from Bar Harbor to Seal Harbor. In Seal Harbor, take a sharp right turn at the Jordan Pond sign onto an unmarked residential road. In one mile, the residential road joins the Park Loop Road, which remains plowed to the south end of Jordan Pond. Snowmobiles use the unplowed right lane. Exit by backtracking.

Sargent Drive: Sargent Drive skirts the shore of Somes Sound. Carved by glaciers, the steep granite walls drop to the sea forming the only fjord on the east coast of the United States. Follow Route 198 toward Northeast Harbor. Continue past the junction of Route 233, driving 1.2 miles. Turn right at the sign indicating Sargent Drive.

Schoodic Peninsula: The scenic road on Schoodic Peninsula, the only part of Acadia National Park on the mainland, is open year round. Follow Route 3 to the mainland and through Ellsworth. Follow coastal Route 1 north. Turn right onto Route 186. Take another right when you see the sign for the park. Schoodic Peninsula is about an hour's drive from Bar Harbor.

Wildlife Watching

A variety of birds and mammals are active in the winter. Great cormorant, American black duck, and large rafts of common eider duck can be seen along Park Loop Road. Small land birds like snow bunting, evening grosbeak, and golden-crowned kinglet are found throughout the island. Snowshoe hare in their winter coats are a common sight throughout the park, as are white tailed deer.

For your own safety and the well-being of animals, do not touch or feed wild animals. Feeding wildlife is against park regulations and can make them dependent beggars, unable to take care of themselves.

For the protection of wildlife and pets, and as a courtesy to other visitors, pets must be leashed at all times while in the park.

Cross-Country Skiing, Skating, and Snowshoeing

Suggested routes for skiing and snowshoeing include 45 miles of carriage roads. Park volunteers may lay ski tracks on the following sections when snowfall exceeds 4": Witch Hole Pond, Aunt Betty Pond, the west side of Eagle Lake, Parkman Mountain to Gilmore Meadow, Gilmore Meadow to Jordan Pond, and the Upper Hadlock Pond loop.

Forty-one miles of unplowed park roads, including the Park Loop Road and fire roads, also offer opportunities for skiing and snowshoeing.

Skiing on hiking trails can be difficult or impossible. Usually snow is too shallow to cover roots and rocks, many trails are steep, and occasional ice floes block the path. Light snowfall may obscure trail routes.

Skating on lakes is possible, but lakes rarely freeze smoothly and free of snow.

Ski, skate, and snowshoe rentals are available in Bar Harbor.

Snowmobiling

Snowmobile travel is allowed on the 27 mile Park Loop Road (except a one mile section at Jordan Pond House), and most fire roads. The parking lot of the Summer Visitor Center in Halls Cove is open to accommodate visitors trailering their snowmobiles.

Parking on the west side of Mount Desert Island is available at Ikes Point, on Echo Lake and on the east end of Seal Cove Road.

1. All Maine State snowmobile laws are enforced in Acadia National Park. Pick up a Maine State registration sticker (required) and a regulation book at any town office.
2. Snowmobiles are not allowed on the carriage roads, except for the east side of Eagle Lake in order to make the connection to the Park Loop Road at Bubble Pond.
3. Snowmobilers must use caution and yield the right of way to anyone not on a snowmobile (i.e., skiers, snowshoers, or hikers).
4. Snowmobiles must obey the posted speed limits in the park. The maximum speed limit is 35 MPH, but slower on the one section of carriage road where they are permitted.
5. Snowmobiles are not allowed on any hiking trails, or off road anywhere.
6. All snowmobile routes are two-way.
7. Towing people on sleds or skis is prohibited.
8. It is illegal to operate a snowmobile while under the influence of liquor or drugs.
9. Turn on your white headlight and red taillight one half hour after sunset to half an hour before sunrise, and whenever visibility is less than 500'.
10. Drivers under age 12 must be accompanied by a person 21 years or older on their snowmobiles. Drivers 12-16 years old must be supervised by a person 21 years or older.

Ice Fishing

Freshwater fishing requires a Maine State license which may be obtained in town offices and various local businesses. Inquire at the Winter Information Station for more information.

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Acadia Safety Alert

Are you ready for winter?

Let's be careful out there!

- Ice often makes trails impassable and extremely dangerous without special equipment. Use extreme caution when navigating icy patches.
- Darkness comes early. Be prepared to turn back.
- Beware of hypothermia, a condition where exposure to cold causes the body's inner core to lose heat. Untreated, hypothermia leads to mental and physical collapse.
- Guard against frostbite. Dress appropriately for conditions. Extreme conditions and windchills can damage exposed skin.
- Coastal rocks are slippery and random waves can sweep you to your death.
- Wear proper footwear for your chosen activity. Stay on roads and trails.
- RABIES has been found on Mt. Desert Island.
- Pets must be on a leash at all times.

Critter Crossings

Watch for Wildlife along roadsides.
Be prepared to slow down or brake quickly.

Thanks: To our Friends

Friends of Acadia is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring the long-term protection of the natural and cultural resources of Acadia National Park and its region. To meet this aim, Friends of Acadia channels private donations to conservation and historic preservation projects in the park, monitors planning and legislative activities affecting Acadia, and publishes the Friends of Acadia Journal.

For more information
Friends of Acadia
PO Box 45
Bar Harbor, ME 04609

Or phone:
1-800-625-0321
On the web:
www.friendsofacadia.org

Leave No Trace

Winter is the quiet season at Acadia for humans and wildlife. Gone are the summer crowds and full park campgrounds. Winter storms bring turbulent seas, but also the serenity of a single deer track between snow-covered trees. Research shows that most of the impact on wild lands occurs at low levels of visitor use. Please consider the following Leave No Trace principles and tread as lightly as possible in the "Quiet Season."

Plan ahead and prepare. Check on trail and ice conditions and plan to return before dark. From November to January, it gets dark between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. If hiking or skiing alone, tell someone your plans, or leave a discreet note on your vehicle.

Camp and travel on durable surfaces. Concentrate impact on established sites in high use areas. Avoid places where impact is just beginning.

Crampons and other footwear allow travel on icy trails without contributing to trail widening.

Do not walk in established ski tracks.

Midwinter thaws soften travel surfaces on carriage roads and trails. Wait for re-freezing before using those areas.

Pack it in, pack it out. You can pack out toilet paper, along with your trash.

Properly dispose of what you can't pack out. Human waste is the most obvious example of this. Get at least 200 feet from the trail and any water sources and bury it six inches. Please also consider the impact of your pet in winter, as spring thaws reveal trails and carriage roads lined with an entire winter season's frozen dog waste.

Leave what you find. This includes: not collecting; preserving the quietness of the park; not building more cairns for trail marking or other structures along the trail; respecting wildlife by not feeding or touching them. Wild animals fed by people often starve, are hit by cars, or become dangerous pests.

Use fire responsibly. Fires are permitted only in campground campsites and picnic areas. Gather only dead and down wood for campfires.



Emergency 911

Acadia National Park
General Information:
207 288-3338 Voice
207 288-8800 TTY
Daily 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
TTY pay phones available outside the
Hulls Cove Visitor Center, and outside
park headquarters (24 hrs.)

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Exceptional winter skywatching opportunities await you in Acadia National Park...

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The winter season starts with a total eclipse of the moon which starts at 8:00 p.m. the night of Nov. 8 and reaches maximum about 1:00 a.m. on Nov. 9.

Venus starts appearing low in the west in early Nov. as an evening “star.” This brilliant planet will continue to be seen after sunset in the west all winter and right into next summer.

Mars is the bright, reddish planet that is rising in the east just after sunset. It will appear earlier each night and will be easily seen all night throughout the winter months.

As the Earth catches up with distant Jupiter, it will be a late night sight here in Maine. It rises in the east after midnight in November, 10:30 p.m. in December, and then earlier each night. In January look for it as a bright “star” in the east about 9:00 p.m. By the time Spring starts to arrive it will be rising just as the sun sets to the west and will be visible in the sky all night.

Saturn which is much more distant, is rising in the east at 9:00 p.m. but by New Year’s it will be rising in the east right at sunset. During the winter months Saturn will be visible all night and if you have a telescope you should easily see the rings as they are tilted very favorably all winter.

With the clear skies of winter we have the brightest of the constellations overhead. At 9:00 p.m. in November we have the Pleiades high overhead, and brilliant Orion climbing up out of the eastern horizon. On Christmas Orion is well up in the sky. Continue to watch this best known of the winter constellations as it appears farther and farther to the west as the sky gets dark each night. By the time Spring birds are returning to Acadia this star cluster will be setting in the west and disappear into the evening twilight. Also watch another constellation, probably the best known of all, the Big Dipper as it dives straight down toward the horizon in November, then appears to level out as it rotates around the North Star, and appears flat and level by the end of March.

The clear night skies are good for spending a little time outside looking for meteors. The Leonid meteors will be appearing between November 16 and 20. There is a shower of bright meteors in December called the Geminids, that can be seen between the 7th and

the 17th. There are several smaller clusters of meteors throughout the winter, particularly the first week of January, and the last week of February. Throughout March and into April there are several minor showers and it is possible to see bright meteors and even fireballs at almost any time during the evening hours. Many of these are coming from the east and a good observing location would be along Ocean Drive.

Watch the Moon as it passes by Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn at various times each month all winter. On dark moonless nights notice the Milky Way as it passes overhead from northeast to southwest in December and then gradually swings southward until it runs from north to south but close to the horizon in March.

Starwatching Sites

Two very good locations for skywatching at Acadia during the winter months, which afford both accessibility in winter and good horizons without any light glare, are the Schooner Head overlook and the Fabbri Picnic area. The former looks to the east and affords good parking. This location affords a good look to the east and south with the only bright lights being far across Frenchman Bay. It also provides a good view to the eastern horizon.

The latter location involves a very short walk from your automobile. Park at the picnic area and then walk to the Fabbri Memorial parking area just across the Park Loop Road to the west. This spot allows one to look to the west and northwest. The horizon is a bit higher at this point but still allows an excellent view.

Be Prepared

Warm clothing is critical for winter starwatching. Wind is a major factor and one’s face quickly gets cold. A warm coat sufficient to break the wind is a necessity. Due to standing relatively still one needs good footwear and dry socks. Warm but supple gloves are needed as one holds and focuses binoculars and telescopes, and a face mask is also sometimes needed. One will quickly learn that strong winds do not lend themselves to starwatching but the still cold nights, although much more conducive to skywatching, are still potentially dangerous.

Bill Townsend is a retired science teacher and former seasonal naturalist at Acadia National Park.

Winter Wildlife

by Ruth Grierson

Frigid temperatures and swirling snowflakes let us know winter has arrived once again. We humans stay indoors or continue activities with some difficulties but we adapt. Wildlife also adapts in order to survive in this harsh environment for several months.

Migrants like hawks and shorebirds leave for warmer areas traveling in large, noticeable flocks. They pass over this island, landing only briefly, as they hunt for food to sustain them on their long journeys. Summer nesters like hummingbirds and kingfishers quietly leave. Our resident birds continue to feed in their chosen habitats but groups of chickadees, nuthatches, goldfinches, creepers, and woodpeckers often travel about in small mixed flocks in the winter and can be seen feeding in thickets.

We have a good number of resident birds on this island and to them are added migrants from the north coming south to spend the winter here. Snowy owls appear in late October and a Great Gray or Boreal owl may appear as well. A few Glaucous and Iceland Gulls join Black Back Gulls and Herring Gulls at local dumps and along the shore. Snow Buntings, Horned Larks and Purple Sandpipers become birds to look for along shores and rocky jetties throughout the winter.

Snowshoe Hares and Long Tailed Weasels turn white in anticipation of a snow covered landscape in which they can then move about unseen by predators. Their fur also becomes denser. Beavers have prepared well in stockpiling food under water so it is easily accessible from their lodges. The lodge may be visible to us in a frozen pond, but the beavers remain hidden away, cozy and comfortable inside. Otters continue to move about in the snow and seem to revel in sliding on their sleek bodies down some snowy incline.

Foxes and coyotes are on the move throughout the winter but hunting is more difficult, especially if the snow is deep for their rodent prey remains hidden under the protection of snow. Moose and deer find it harder to move about when the snow is deep or if a crust forms on the surface. Snow depth is an important factor in survival. Deer and moose often yard up, with their own kind, under a canopy of trees to conserve heat and get protection from chilling winds.

Our native squirrels cope differently. Gray, Flying and Red squirrels keep active all winter except in severe storms for they have hidden food caches to help them survive

and they are regular visitors to local feeders. Chipmunks are sleeping underground, only waking now and then to eat from their nearby stored food supplies.

Most insects are inactive; some residing in galls on plants poking up in the snow and others tucked away under the bark of trees, under old boards and in rocky crevices. It is these tucked away insects that chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers and creepers search for avidly each day. Occasionally a Mourning cloak butterfly, wintering over as an adult, will come out on the snow on a warm day in January or February to briefly flutter about and then go back in hiding.

Plants are dormant and survive best under a blanket of snow protecting them from browsers, and drying out from chilling winds. Turtles and frogs in local ponds have settled into the mud but occasionally will be seen moving slowly along beneath clear ice. Snakes have gone below the frost line and with the exception of the garter snakes will not be seen until warm spring days arrive. Garter snakes are able to tolerate lower temperatures than the others and may even be seen out in the snow on a sunny day. Courtship starts for Great Horned Owls well before winter is over and their courtship hooting is a familiar sound in late winter.

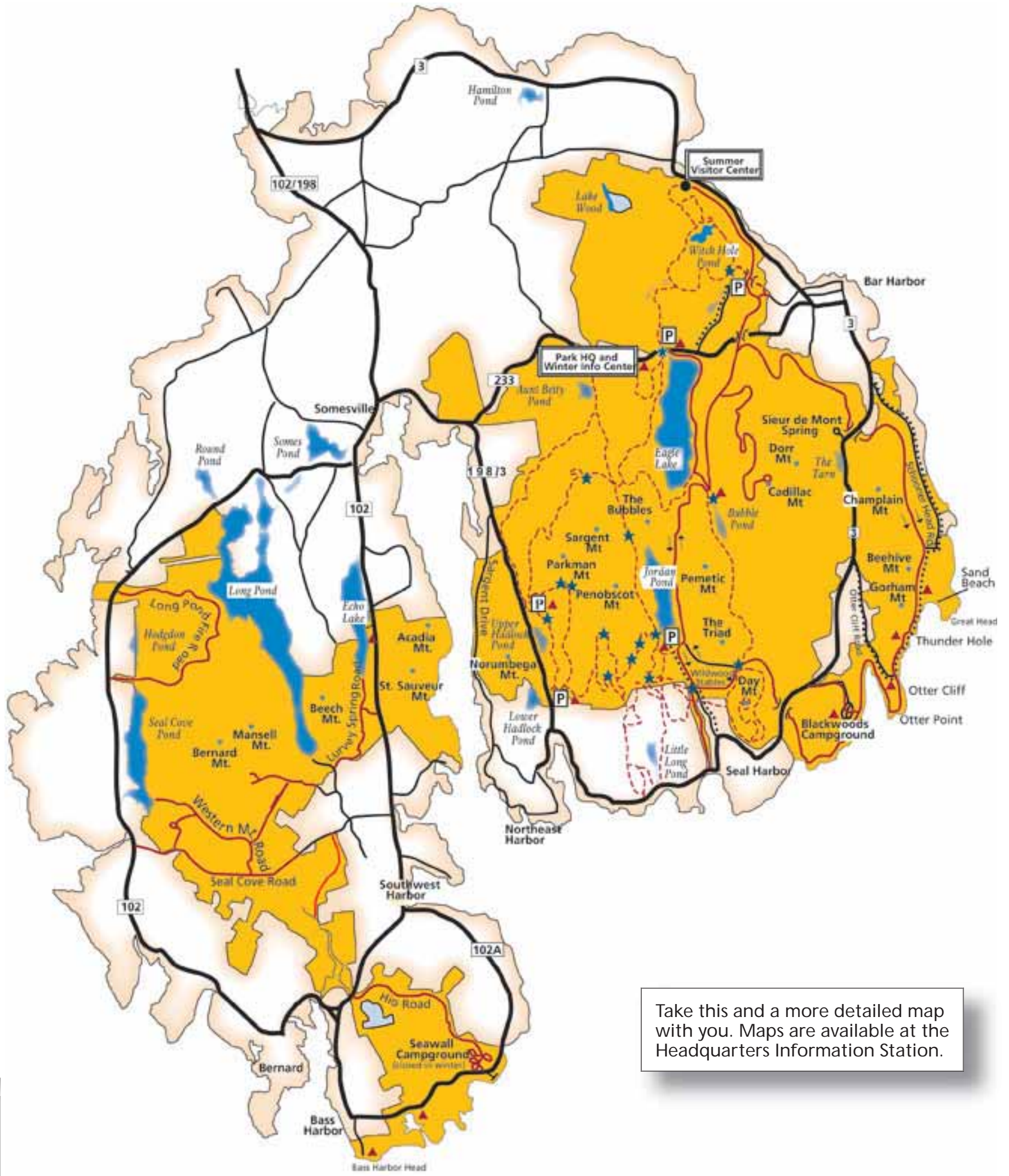
Wildlife is not as noticeable in a snowy landscape where some creatures sleep, hide, and reduce activities. Mammals living on the edge of survival in such a harsh environment tend to be more secretive and are reluctant to spend extra energy at a time when food is hard to find. Take time after a new snowfall to look for tracks of mammals moving about. This may be your best indication that they are present in an area.

Although a Maine winter can be difficult, creatures and plants living here are uniquely adapted for survival. At best, winter is a time when creatures live on the edge of life and death. A catastrophe for one animal means food and life for another. The hunted breathe a little easier under a protective snow covering but hunters have to work harder. The interaction between animals and plants and snow and cold is very complex. Whatever a Maine winter brings to wildlife in the forms of ice, snow, cold, and freezing winds they cope in their individual ways so that life goes on with great energy when spring once again returns to the northeast.

Ruth Gortner Grierson is a year-round resident of Mount Desert Island with her dog friend “Elle.” She writes a weekly nature column for a local newspaper and has written four books: Nature Diary of Mount Desert Island, The Wonderful Wildflowers of Mount Desert Island, Wildlife Watcher’s Guide to Acadia, and she also co-authored Living On The Edge.

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Getting Around



Take this and a more detailed map with you. Maps are available at the Headquarters Information Station.

- * Skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobile routes are shown in red.
- * One way regulations do not apply to skiers, snowshoers, and snowmobilers.
- * Please do not block park gates. In case of emergency, responders need access.
- * Do not drive through open gates that have unplowed roads beyond.

Legend

- Snowmobiling and skiing routes
- Skiing only routes
- Carriage road parking area
- Carriage road bridge
- Toilets
- Winter driving routes
- Major plowed roads
- Secondary plowed roads
- Park land
- Private land
- Mountain summit

Scenic Snowmobiling Tour

Looking for some beautiful winter scenery to enjoy from the comfort of your snowmobile? Acadia National Park has some of the most spectacular views in Maine. Located on Mount Desert Island, the park is a combination of mountains, ocean, lakes, and woodlands.

Begin your ride from the Summer Visitor Center parking lot in Halls Cove, which is kept plowed in the winter. After unloading your machine, enter onto the 27 mile Park Loop Road, which remains unplowed in the winter, except for a 2 mile stretch between Sand Beach and Otter Cliff, and one mile at Jordan Pond. Be extremely careful as you approach these areas because there may be cars driving in the plowed lane.

Along the wooded sections of the road, stop and savor the sounds of the snow swishing from the trees or ice crackling on branches as they're tossed about by the winter wind. Look for animal tracks in the snow and try to guess what may have been running, hopping, or scurrying across the snow before you arrived. Better yet, take a track finder field guide with you!

As you continue your ride on the loop road, views of the Atlantic Ocean will open up before you. Stop at Sand Beach and possibly enjoy being the only one there, unlike in the summer! The sounds of the powerful ocean beating on the rocks, and the cries of the gulls flying overhead will serenade you as you progress along the coast. Look for large rafts of eider ducks in the water.

A ride up Cadillac Mountain is a great way to end your ride, although you could start there, as well. On your way up the summit road, enjoy the icicle-covered pink granite cliffs and views of Eagle Lake and Bar Harbor. The summit of the mountain offers views in every direction, including the Cranberry Isles, Schoodic Peninsula, and the Porcupine Islands in Frenchman Bay.

You may also ride on park roads on the west side of the island. See the map for all snowmobile routes and parking areas.

Have a safe and enjoyable snowmobile ride in Acadia National Park.

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ALWAYS KEEP SAFETY IN MIND!

- Always slow down when approaching or passing other snowmobiles.
- Always yield to pedestrians, including hikers, skiers, and snowshoers.
- Do not speed!
- Stay to the right and park in single file when you stop.
- Conditions of the ice on lakes vary drastically depending on temperature, snowcover, and thickness of the ice. Play it safe-stay off the ice.

Winter Camping

Off-season camping is permitted only at Blackwoods Campground, located on Route 3 East, approximately 5.5 miles south of Bar Harbor. All campsites are situated in woods, within a 10 minute walk of the ocean. One vehicle, six people, and two small tents or one large tent are allowed at a campsite. No pull through sites are available. There are no utility hook-ups. A dump station at Tapley's gas station in Bar Harbor is available year round. Campground facilities are limited to picnic tables, fire rings, chemical toilets and a hand pump for drinking water.

- Self register at the campground entrance station porch. The registration system is for your safety.
- Gather only dead and down firewood. Firewood is available for purchase in Otter Creek.
- Maximum length of stay is 30 days.
- There is no backcountry camping at Acadia National Park. The park is small and fragile.

Other Accommodations

The park has no overnight accommodations except the campground. Lodging is available in nearby communities. For further information, please write or call:

Chamber of Commerce, Bar Harbor, ME 04609, 800-288-5103; 288-5103
www.barharborinfo.com

Chamber of Commerce, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679, 800-423-9264; 244-9264
www.acadiachamber.com

feel free to take
pictures
maps
books
trail guides
& more
home
please leave
plants
wood
& rocks
for the next
visitor
to see

Buckle

Up!

Federal law requires that seat belts are worn when driving or riding as a passenger in a national park.

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17

Simple Things You Can Do to Save Acadia

s i m p l e • t h i n g s • y o u • c a n • d o

Individuals who wished to protect its natural and historic qualities set Acadia aside for preservation in 1916. Thanks to their foresight, we can still enjoy essentially the same place they preserved. In fact, many have grown to love Acadia, which receives an annual visitation of over three million people each year. However, three million sets of feet, the automobiles that bring visitors, and individual acts of litter and wear and tear can leave a significant impact on this very small and fragile national park. Following are some ideas to help minimize those impacts. It's up to each and every one of us to leave the park in better condition than when we arrived, so our children's children can one day enjoy an unimpaired, beautiful Acadia National Park, just as we do today.

1 Stay on trails. Hiking in the center of the treadway especially in the late fall, winter and early spring avoids trail widening. You can prevent trampling of plants, flowers, and tree roots, which can lead to erosion. Hike and rest on durable surfaces whenever possible. Remember that plants grow by the inch and die by the foot! Go through trail puddles - not around them.

2 Stay attached to your dog. Leashes protect dogs from becoming lost, injured by porcupines, or infected with rabies. Keeping dogs leashed is courteous to other visitors and protects wildlife. Unleashed dogs sometimes harass, injure, and kill wildlife whose home this is. Failure to leash your dog may result in a fine. Skiers appreciate when walkers and their pets avoid walking in ski tracks.

3 Leave what you find. Removing natural and historic objects such as beach cobbles, flowers, starfish, and antlers degrades the park and threatens species survival. Over three million people visit this small island every year. Imagine if every visitor took something from the park. What would be left? Collecting is prohibited.

4 Pack it in. Pack it out. Carry out anything you have carried into the park. Better yet, carry out any other litter you find. Properly dispose of human waste in a cathole six inches deep and at least 100 feet from trails and water. Even better, make use of the many restrooms available in the park before you hit the trail.

5 Learn more about Acadia. Join a ranger-led walk, hike, cruise, or evening program. Topics cover the natural and cultural history of the park. The more you know about and understand the unique qualities of your national park, the more determined you may become to help this "crown jewel" survive through the new millennium.

6 Recycle. Several receptacles in the park offer the opportunity to discard your rubbish, and to recycle plastics and glass at the same time. It's easy! Just carefully read the labels on the lids of receptacles to determine which are for rubbish and which are for recyclables.

7 Camp in designated campgrounds. Camping is permitted only in designated campgrounds because the park is small and fragile. In the winter there are limited camping spaces within Acadia National Park. Check with a ranger for more information.

8 Shhh... Respect natural silence. Stop and listen. An astounding world of sound exists in national parks, whether it's birdsong, a lake lapping on shore, or a breeze in the trees. As the din from civilization grows, national parks are valued for the respite they offer. Not only that, but you are showing respect to your fellow visitors who are also seeking a quality national park experience.

9 Keep wildlife wild. Wild animals fed by people often starve in winter, are hit by cars, or become dangerous pests. Do not feed wild animals or birds.

10 Join our Friends. Friends of Acadia is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring the long-term protection of Acadia National Park and its region. Friends of Acadia channels private donations to conservation and historic preservation projects in the park, monitors planning and legislative activities affecting Acadia, and publishes the Friends of Acadia Journal. Contact Friends of Acadia, PO Box 45, Bar Harbor, ME, 04609; 800-625-0321; www.friendsofacadia.org.

11 Buy your Entry Permit. Purchasing your annual Entry Permit or one as a gift for someone else is an investment in your national park. Your fees directly benefit Acadia National Park, which means you benefit from improved facilities, protection, and educational programs. Examples of your fees at work include repairs to carriage-road bridges and outdoor exhibits at the visitor center.

12 Leave the rocks for the next glacier. Following painted blazes and stone markers (cairns) on hiking trails without adding to them is important. Moving rocks can destroy the plants around them, building extra cairns can mislead other hikers and get them lost, and rock sculptures ruin the natural scene created by glaciers long ago. It's just another kind of graffiti, and who wants to travel hundreds of miles to see graffiti in their national park?

13 Volunteer. A stint as a volunteer can range from a brief few hours one morning, to an entire season. Volunteers answer visitor questions, help maintain trails, assist at campgrounds, and more! Check out the call for volunteers in this paper, and for more information or a volunteer application, call 288-3338, or visit www.nps.gov/volunteer/

14 Drink clean water. Having a glass of water with your meal? Chances are, that water came from one of several public water supplies on the island, namely a lake or pond. Acadia is a place of water. Lakes fill valleys carved by glaciers, streams rush through forests, and the sea pounds the shore. Not only is drinking water derived from freshwater sources, but also they are home to fish, wildlife, and other aquatic species. They provide scenic beauty and recreational opportunities. When near a lake or pond, stay on trails and tread lightly to prevent erosion. Likewise, tread lightly along the ocean shoreline in the intertidal zone where thousands of creatures may come underfoot. When observing tidepool creatures, return them to where you found them to help ensure their survival.

15 Join Eastern National. If you bought a map, book, postcard or anything else in the bookstore at Acadia's winter visitor center, you have supported Acadia via the cooperating association Eastern National. Eastern National is a nonprofit agency that provides quality educational products and services to America's national parks and other public trusts. Eastern National's contributions have benefited parks and visitors by supporting research, educational and interpretive projects, and even by funding the newspaper you are currently reading. Joining Eastern National supports your parks, and gives you 15% off merchandise in any Eastern National store! Visit www.easternnational.org

16 Donate. Acadia was the first national park created solely from donated lands. It was not carved from the public domain as were Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, or Yosemite; rather it was set aside by generous individuals who wished to see the beauties of this island preserved in perpetuity. Today, people continue to donate to Acadia in both small and great ways. Though limited by law, on which lands may be accepted for donation, Acadia does accept and oversee donations of scenic conservation easements on private islands. Many people donate their time as volunteers (see "Volunteer" above) or drop pocket change into the donation boxes at the visitor center, Islesford Historical Museum, or Nature Center. Each donation perpetuates the vision and stewardship of those people who first gave their lands to create a national park on the coast of Maine.

17 Conserve at home. Acadia National Park is not isolated from the rest of the world. Air pollution, for instance, is a regional problem. The downeast currents may carry pollution -- produced by power plants, manufacturers, traffic, etc. -- from urban areas along the northeast coast. With a change of winds, pollution may find its way to Acadia from the midwest. Air pollution may haze Acadia's scenic views, and it leads to ozone alerts, which pose health hazards to children, those with respiratory problems, and the elderly. There is much that can be done at home to help Acadia: use public transportation, turn off the lights when you don't need them, use energy-efficient bulbs, recycle, plant a tree, minimize use of household chemicals, don't waste water. The steps you take can be minimal, but may have significant and positive impacts for your immediate area, as well as your more distant national parks.

“National Parks are an investment in the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of Americans as individuals...”

Caring for and preserving Acadia National Park is much like maintaining your home. It takes time, effort, and money. You may budget a portion of your annual salary for maintaining your home but you might also need to seek other financial sources to adequately protect your investment.

Although Acadia National Park receives an annual appropriation from Congress, operating costs have not kept pace with budgets. Consequently managers must look to other sources of revenue to fund improvements to visitor services, the maintenance backlog of deteriorating infrastructure and facilities, and the preservation of natural and cultural resources. Since 1996 the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program authorized by Congress has enabled national parks to acquire additional funds to address these needs.

The Recreational Fee Demonstration Program allows parks like Acadia, that collect fees, to retain 80% of this revenue to fund needed improvements. The other 20% of the fees are made available to parks that do not collect fees.

Examples of your fee dollars at work are:

- New outdoor exhibits installed this summer at Hulls Cove Visitor Center and Thompson Island Information Center
- Newly constructed Sand Beach entrance station
- Repairs to carriage road bridges and numerous hiking trails
- Installation of an accessible walkway at Thunder Hole
- Vegetation barriers and signs on Cadillac Mountain to protect fragile alpine plants.

During your visit you will see other projects funded by your fees.

Fee money also supports the Island Explorer bus system. In 2004, the 7-day park pass will cost \$20 and the annual Acadia pass will cost \$40. \$10 from the sale of each pass will go into the new transportation account, directly supporting the Island Explorer.

The Island Explorer fare-free transportation system has been tremendously successful since its inception in 1999. The Island Explorer propane buses have transported thousands of visitors, commuters, and residents across Mount Desert Island and the park, helping to relieve traffic congestion and reduce air pollution. Ridership has increased annually as visitors realize how easy it is to use the bus. “Excellent concept, convenient and eliminates parking problems-good for the environment!” “Our second vacation stop at MDI. Your buses brought us back as much as did MDI. The passenger/bike service is top drawer!”

During the winter, you may purchase your Acadia Annual pass or National Parks pass at the Winter Information Station.

Thank you for purchasing your park pass which helps support improvements in Acadia National Park.

“National Parks are an investment in the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of Americans as individuals. They are a gainful investment in something as simple, yet as fundamental as good citizenship-love of country, and appreciation of the natural and historical fabric of America”
Conrad Wirth, NPS Director 1965

Eric Hopkins - Journal Excerpt

It's not just the
ice
that gets me going

It's what's behind
the old
cold
frozen water

It's the forms
this salty fluid
makes
when the temperature
drops
below
freezing

And changes everything
Matter -
liquid
solid
gases.

(re-)awaken me to the fact
We're on a constantly
changing
living
breathing
planet

And this isn't all
a matter of fact
to be taken for granted.

It's time to open eyes
and see
beyond
the ice
into what
makes
this
incredible
world
HAPPEN.

To make
VISIBLE
unseen forces.

Artist/writer Eric Hopkins is a native of North Haven, Maine. His expressive paintings of the edges where sky, land, and water meet is a major focus of his work. Eric was an Artist-in-Residence in Acadia National Park in 2000.

Are You Ready for Winter Weather?

The ocean moderates temperatures and snowfall along the coast, but it is often below freezing here. Ice storms are common in winter and early spring, and rain or snow is frequent every winter month. Snowfall averages 61" annually, but accumulation varies from year to year, depending on the temperatures. Conditions can change rapidly.

Temperatures may range from sub-zero to the mid 40s, but the wind chill factor can make it seem much colder. Days are much shorter in the winter, so sunshine is at a premium! Be prepared for cold, short days, and make sure you plan your excursion accordingly.

Stay warm and safe! Below are the winter sunrise/sunset times for Mount Desert Island.

A Fed Raccoon is a Dead Raccoon

When raccoons are fed or gain access to your food they lose their fear of people and become "beggars." Beggar raccoons bite the hand that feeds them, damage personal property, and disrupt a quiet evening in camp. Beggar raccoons must be trapped and destroyed because Maine Law prevents relocating raccoons that may carry rabies. Rabies has been found on Mount Desert Island.

Feeding raccoons either intentionally or through careless camping behavior is a violation of federal regulations that may result in fines.

- Do not leave food unattended at campsites or picnic areas.
- Store food in odor-proof containers inside your vehicle.
- Dispose of food wastes and cooking grease in dumpsters or animal-proof cans.
- Do not store or eat food in a tent.
- Clean up your cooking and eating site as soon as you have finished.

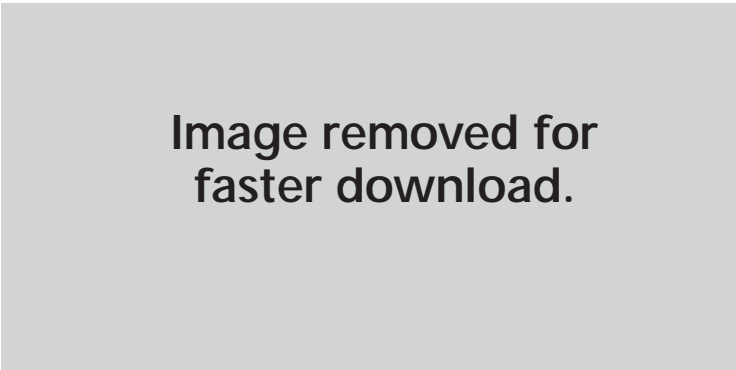


Wildlife Sightings

Stop by the Winter Information Station to learn which animals are being seen in the park. Call with your sightings: 288-3338, select "0" for the operator.

Collect Acadia's pins!

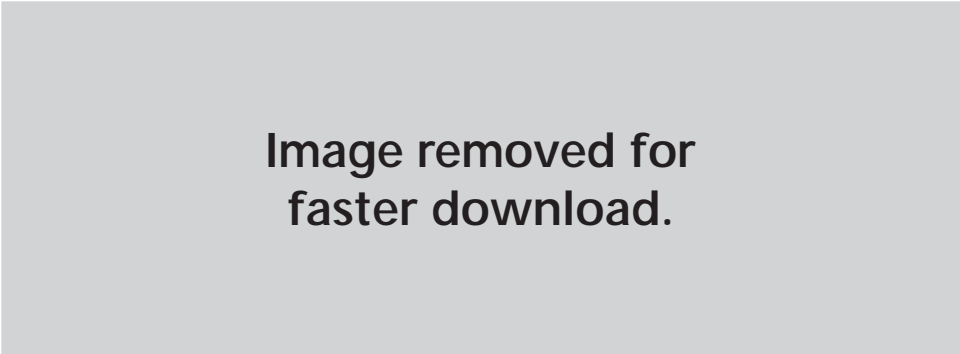
Take your memories home and help support education and research in Acadia National Park. They also make great gifts for collectors of all ages! There are currently 4 pins in the series. You can ask about these pins and other educational products at the Winter Information Station or browse the Eastern National on-line bookstore at: www.eParks.com



Eastern National is a nonprofit agency that provides quality educational products and services to America's national parks and other public trusts. Eastern National's contributions have benefited parks and visitors by supporting research, educational and interpretive projects, and funding publications. Joining Eastern National supports your parks, and gives you 15% off merchandise in any Eastern National store!



Visit www.easternnational.org



Sunrise and Sunset

Date	November	December
1	6:01 a.m. 4:16 p.m.	6:39 a.m. 3:50 p.m.
10	6:13 a.m. 4:05 p.m.	6:48 a.m. 3:48 p.m.
20	6:25 a.m. 3:56 p.m.	6:55 a.m. 3:51 p.m.
30	6:37 a.m. 3:50 p.m.	6:59 a.m. 3:57 p.m.
	January	February
1	6:59 a.m. 3:59 p.m.	6:42 a.m. 4:36 p.m.
10	6:58 a.m. 4:08 p.m.	6:31 a.m. 4:48 p.m.
20	6:53 a.m. 4:20 p.m.	6:17 a.m. 5:02 p.m.
30	6:44 a.m. 4:33 p.m.	
	March	April
1	6:02 a.m. 5:14 p.m.	5:07 a.m. 5:52 p.m.
10	5:47 a.m. 5:25 p.m.	5:52 a.m. 7:02 p.m.
20	5:29 a.m. 5:37 p.m.	5:35 a.m. 7:14 p.m.
30	5:11 a.m. 5:49 p.m.	5:19 a.m. 7:26 p.m.