Acadia National Park

Island Explorer Bus Schedule Inside!

This summer, a new Island Explorer express bus is running directly from the Hulls Cove Visitor Center to the Jordan Pond House. Take the 15-minute Jordan Pond House Express to avoid traffic congestion and limited parking at the Jordan Pond House. Leave your vehicle and board the bus at the Hulls Cove Visitor Center parking lot.

The Jordan Pond House Express begins on June 23rd and runs through Labor Day weekend. The bus departs daily from the Hulls Cove Visitor Center every 20 minutes, from 12:00pm to 2:45pm. Return bus service from the Jordan Pond House to the Hulls Cove Visitor Center departs daily from 12:25pm to 5:10pm.

To travel to the Jordan Pond House from downtown Bar Harbor, Northeast Harbor, or Seal Harbor, take the Island Explorer–Jordan Pond bus, which operates daily every 30 minutes from these locations.

For all Island Explorer bus route information, see the Island Explorer Bus Schedule inside this Beaver Log. The Island Explorer buses are free, but remember that a park pass is required for all visitors entering Acadia National Park.

Beaver Log Content
Leaves information about Leave No Trace principles in Acadia National Park.

Feast in Acadia!

Fare-free Island Explorer shuttle stops begin operating on June 23rd and end on October 4th, providing service throughout Mount Desert Island and the Schoodic Peninsula, linking the park to neighboring towns. By parking your car and riding these propane-powered buses, you help reduce rural and suburban commuting and air pollution in the area.

Ranger-led Programs

Interpretive programs led by park rangers are presented throughout the park from mid-May to mid-October. Bring your mind and body with a wide range of topics and activities including walks and talks, mountain hikes, boat cruises, sea kayak explorations, and bike rides. Pick up a program schedule at park information centers and campgrounds or find it on our website at: www.nps.gov/acad

Kids@Acadia

Explore Acadia Checklist

See the ocean and forest from the top of a mountain. Listen to a babbling waterfall or stream. Examine a boulder lodge and dam. Smell a balsam fir tree. Hear with a park ranger. Watch the stars or look for moonlight shining on the sea. Observe the night sounds of insects, owls, and coyote. Feel the sand and see what your bare feet. Learn about the park and earn a certificate and become a Jr. or Sr. Ranger.

Accessibility

Acadia’s accessible amenities and facilities are detailed in the Access Guide, a free publication available at Acadia information centers, the entrance station, and online at: www.nps.gov/acad/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm

Assistive Listening Devices

Accessible interpretive programs are indicated in the monthly programs schedule. Assistive listening devices (ALDs) are available for use by visitors with hearing loss. For reservations of ALDs, call (207) 288-8832.

Emergency!–Call 911

Acadia Contacts

Address: P.O. Box 177, Bar Harbor, ME 04601
Acadia Information Centers: 207-288-3388
TTY Accessible: 207-288-8800
Lost & Found: 207-288-5791
Email: info@acadia.nps.gov
Website: www.nps.gov/acad

Experience Your America

Acadia’s Partners

Eastern National Bookstore

Eastern National is a non-profit partner which provides educational materials such as books, maps, videos, and posters at the Hulls Cove Visitor Center, the Sieur de Monts Nature Center, and the park campgrounds. Members earn discounts while supporting research and education in the park. For information visit: www.easternnational.org

Friends of Acadia

Friends of Acadia is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring the long-term protection of the natural and cultural resources of Acadia. With the support of its members and volunteers, Friends of Acadia makes conservation grants to the park and communities, recruits and leads volunteers working in Acadia, and advocates for Acadia before the federal and state legislatures. For information call: 800-623-0321 or visit: www.friendsofacadia.org

Schoodic Education & Research Center–Institute

The National Park Service manages SERC in cooperation with SERC-Institute, a nonprofit facility that hosts research and education programs. The Schoodic Education Adventure (SEA), led by park rangers, is a curriculum-based residential program for fifth to eighth grade students. SERC also coordinates programs such as the Acadia Artist-in-Residence, a Bioblitz, and Resource Seminars. For more information visit: www.sercinstitute.org

Safety Tips

Be Careful Out There–protect yourself and others. Be careful in Acadia, unless otherwise posted.

Be Careful Out There

Stay away from cliff edges. Watch for wet roadsides, near dusk and dawn.

Drive safely, wear seat belts, and don’t drink and drive. The speed limit is 35 mph on park roads.

Carry a map, first aid kit, flashlight, and extra water and appropriate weather gear on all hikes.

Yield to pedestrians and horses. Watch for wildlife closures to allow for successful nesting of peregrines, loons, ducks, and eagles.

Wildlife Restrictions

Only locally obtained wood is allowed for campfires in Acadia. Wood from outside Maine is not permitted because it can carry invasive insects. If you/your group brought wood from outside Maine, burn it immediately to protect Acadia’s forests.

Designated firepits only.

Firewood Restrictions

Designated parking sites with restrooms, tables, and grills are located throughout the park and are available on a first-come basis. Charcoal cooking fires are allowed in park-provided grills, or in your personal grill, placed on the gravel pad. Grill site fee is $10. If you brought wood from outside Maine, burn it immediately to protect Acadia’s forests.

Leaving no Trace is important for protecting Acadia’s plants, animals, and natural and cultural resources.

Stay on the trail to protect fragile plant life.

Leave what you find. Take what you bring.

Don’t approach or feed wild animals.

Remove whispers coughs to allow for successful nesting of peregrines, loons, ducks, and eagles.

Stay down and walk for wildlife along roadsides, near dusk and dawn.

Be considerate to others—kill natural sounds gravel and limit your group size.

Tidepool habitats and animals are fragile. Handle them with care and leave them where you find them.

For more about Leave No Trace principles see: www.nps.gov/acad/supportyourpark/leavevotstrace.htm

Leave No Trace Principles

The Leave No Trace Principles are:

1. Plan ahead and prepare
2. Respect others
4. Dispose of human waste properly
5. Follow rules
6. Minimize campfire impact
7. Prevent fires
8. Minimize impact on campsites
9. Post-hike–leave no trace

2012

Welcome to Acadia!

Acadia National Park is a national park located on Mount Desert Island, Maine. It is a part of the National Park Service, and is managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Beaver Log

Parco-Vers Franciškui! Un traduction française Est-ce que vous rencontrez du frénésie à Hulls Cove ou est-ce que vous passez par la route 233. Vielen Dank für Ihren Besuch.

Information & Passes

Thompson Island Information Center
As you explore Mount Desert Island, look for signs to this center, operated by Acadia and the MDI Regional Chambers of Commerce. Park in the shade, get park information, park entrances, and passes are available here. The picnic area and restrooms are located by the highway from the center.

Hulls Cove Visitor Center
Talk with a ranger to plan your visit. Purchase your entrance pass, pick up a park map, watch the 15-minute "Acadia Always" film, and look over the three-dimensional model of Mount Desert Island. Acadia-related books, maps, and materials are available for purchase at the Eastern National Bookstore. Information and an accessible restroom are available for purchase at the Eastern National Bookstore. Restrooms are located across the highway from the center.

Park Headquarters
Located west of Bar Harbor on Route 198, park headquarters provides park information, entrance passes, and a small Eastern National Bookstore. It is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. On weekends and holidays, limited short-term parking is available at this location.

Bar Harbor Village Green
The Village Green Information Center is located at Bar Harbor Hole. It offers a variety of park information, a gift shop, and restrooms are available here. The Village Green area offers free wi-fi access.

Pets in Acadia
Pets are welcome in Acadia. Pack as long as you are on a leash (up to 6 feet) at all times and under control. Never leave pets unattended. Some areas of Acadia are off-limits to pets. Contact the park information center for a list of buildings and facilities, including the Wild Gardens. Commercial kennels are available to help you learn about Acadia's natural resources and its management challenges. Browse a small Eastern National Bookstore and gift shop.

Explore Low-Tide
The Ranger-Led Program Schedule is posted on tide charts.

Get Out--Get Active!

Biking
Acadia allows you to exercise and enjoy Acadia's natural beauty. Bicycles are allowed on roadways and park carriage roads, but not on hiking trails or private carriage roads as marked. You can rent bicycles from local businesses.

Biking Safety--Be cautious on motor roads with no bike lanes or shoulders. Check traffic and obey posted speed limits on the Park Loop Road. Ride slowly and enjoy the scenery. Plan ahead and know the condition of your tires. When hiking in the park, ride two bikes only, side-by-side, on the bike, on the left, and on the path. Water is scarce when passing from behind and pass slowly with a wide berth. Slow down near houses, contact the rider, and be prepared to stop if the tide changes. Don't ride under the bridges and be extra careful when biking with pets.

Hiking
Over 140 miles of trails throughout Acadia offer a variety of hiking experiences. Wild Gardens of Acadia provide access to a rare sand beach. Here you can see creatures with dangerous footing and can lead to serious falls. For specific information, pick up a hiking guide.

Hiking Safety--Stay on trails and durable surfaces, like bare granite, to protect fragile plant life. Carry a trail map and carry an extra map, obtained by the park, please do not do so, or remove them. Hiking sticks and plants are a trail and may be used for support and trails and may be used for support and trails for posted trail closures--the Precipice Trail and the Orange and Black Path (East Face Trail) are closed until peregrine falcons leave their nests in late summer. For specific information, call 207-288-3388 or visit www.nps.gov/acad.

Walking
Many dogs can be enjoyed on the carriage roads, on trails at Sieur de Monts Spring, Jordan Pond, and Cadillac Mountain, and on the Ocean Path. When on the carriage roads--walk on the right side, with only people side-by-side, and move to the side when stopped.

Swimming
Swimming is provided at Sand Beach and Echo Lake starting in June until Labor Day. During the summer, ocean currents at Sand Beach rarely rise above 55°F and Echo Lake averages about 70°F. Swimming, wading, and pets are prohibited in most lakes and ponds in Acadia, which are public drinking water sources.

Canoeing & Kayaking
Boating is allowed on several lakes and ponds in Acadia. Commercial operators on Echo Lake and Ocean Path are recommended. Use caution when boating and wear personal flotation devices.

Climbing
There are a variety of established climbing routes within a mile of Bar Harbor. Belaying is strongly encouraged. You should only be attempted by experienced climbers or with a licensed climbing guide, available at local businesses.

Bird Watching
Acadia is home to a wide variety of migratory and resident birds. Birding hot spots include lakes and ponds, Sieur de Monts, Otter Point, and Schoodic Point. Eagles can be seen from the shoreline. Eagles are seen throughout Acadia. Ranger-led bird watching programs are listed in the Ranger-Led Program Schedule, including bird walks, Peregrine Watch from May to August, and Hawk Watch from August to October.

Sunrise, Sunset, & Night-sky Viewing
Enjoy brilliant sunsets and sunrises highlighting Acadia's unique landscape. Limited light pollution around Acadia helps to provide dark night skies. Popular night-sky viewing locations include Sand Beach and Eagle Lake. The following are recommended: Ranger-Led Program Schedule for star gazing programs and sunrise/sunset schedules.

Volunteering
Volunteers are recommended and are available for purchase. Some of Acadia's trail names have recently changed to their historic names. Until maps are updated, trail names may also differ from names posted on trail signs.

Hiking
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Ocean Adventures

Baker Island
Watch for wildlife and breathtaking views of Mount Desert Island, the Cranberry Isles, and Egg Rock Lighthouse on the way to Baker Island. On the island, visit the Baker Island Light--the highest lighthouse on the top of the mountain. Only concession bus tours travel to the top of Cadilac. For more information, call 207-288-3388 or visit www.nps.gov/acad.

Isle au Haut
The road to Isle au Haut offers a drive for a day trip, with relative solitude and 18 miles of motor roads. Isle au Haut is accessible by ferry from Stonington, about a 65 mile drive from Mount Desert Island. Bring your own snacks with you--there are few amenities on the island. The Duck Harbor Campground on Isle au Haut requires a $25 permit that allows camping once a year, per group. For more information, call 207-288-3388 or visit www.nps.gov/acad.

Isleford Historical Museum
Discover what life was like for early settlers and the island's unique culture. The museum is located at Little Cranberry Island, in the village of Isleford, and is accessible by ferry from Northeast Harbor or Southwest Harbor. The museum is serviced by the summer and closes September 30th. For ranger-led bus tours on the Sea Princess call 207-276-5352.

Schoolcraft Peninsula
Visitors are not allowed to hike the Schoolcraft Peninsula, the easternmost portion of Acadia on the mainland. To get there, take the Schoodic Peninsula Road. The road to the Schoodic Peninsula takes about 1.5 hours each way. Don't forget to pick up your park pass before you go. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/acad.

Bass Harbor Head Light
Bass Harbor Head Light is the only lighthouse on Mount Desert Island and is located off Route 198 in Bass Harbor. It is a private property and respectfully keep quiet, please respect their privacy. Short trails on both sides of the lighthouse offer views of the Gulf of Maine. The area closes dark.

Bus Tours
Chartered bus tours throughout Acadia and the Wild Gardens of Acadia are offered by Acadia Island Tours. For reservations and scheduling contact National Park Tours at 207-288-3090 or visit www.acadiaindiantours.com.

Wildwood Stables
Learn about Acadia's history of carriage rides on horse-drawn carriages. Accessible carriage rides, private tours, and stabling are available from the Wildwood Stables. Riders on your personal horses are also available. For reservations call Carriages of Acadia, Inc at (207) 276-5352 or www.carriagesofacadia.com.