

The Bogs

Carrying Place Cove Bog and West Quoddy Head Bog are home to plants that can tolerate cold temperatures, acid conditions, low oxygen, and little nitrogen. Visitors do not often see plants like these: black spruce, leatherleaf, sheep laurel, Labrador tea, pitcher plant, and cotton grass; plus subarctic species, such as baked-apple berry and black crowberry; and lichens, such as reindeer moss and Icelandic moss. Listed as a National Natural Landmark, Carrying Place Cove Bog shows its 10 to 15 foot profile of peat and underlying mineral soil being exposed by wave action and rising sea level on its ocean side.

The Forest

Clinging to life in the thin boggy soil over the bedrock, shallow-rooted white spruce and balsam fir trees provide cones with seeds for red squirrels and insects for chickadees and nuthatches. Tiny parula warblers weave nests from strands of old man's beard lichen draping from the trees. Harsh conditions take their toll on the trees: the wind and salt spray from the Groundhog's Day Gale of 1976 left many trees dead, but still standing like silver sculptures along the shore.

Keeping Safe

Even in summer, temperatures at the park can be chilly; please dress accordingly. If you plan to hike, you should bring drinking water, as there is none in the park, and carry this brochure or another map for orientation, as this coastal area is often very foggy. Exercise caution and supervise children when walking on trails along the cliffs. Please observe park boundaries and do not trespass on adjacent property. For your protection, do not leave food unattended or valuables in your vehicle.

Rules

- Intoxicating beverages are strictly prohibited.
- Please note that there is no camping here.
- Do not feed, touch, or disturb park animals.
- Pets must be on four-foot leashes at all time.
- Picnicking is on a carry-in, carry-out basis; visitors must carry out all their refuse.

A complete list of park rules is posted at various locations throughout the park.

The Climate

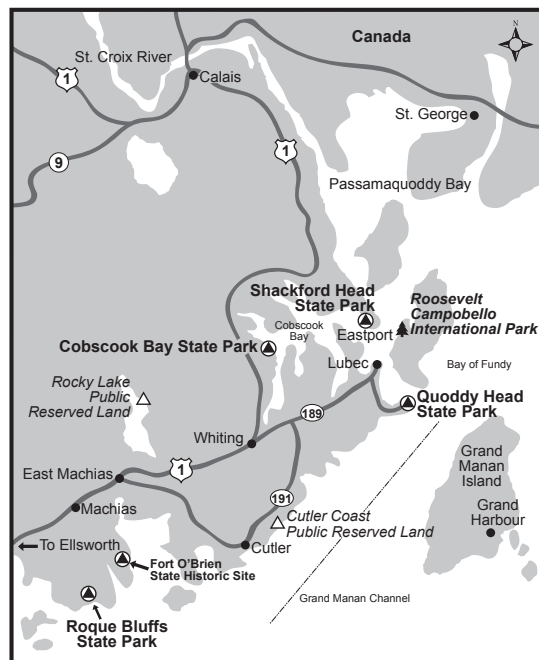
Located on a peninsula surrounded by cold water, the park has extreme oceanic climate with cool temperatures, wind, and fog. Fog is especially likely to form when warm, moist air masses meet cold air here. The fog and winds help spread the boggy growth over the thin soil and rocky outcrops.

In the Area

In this scenic area there are several other parks to visit within an hour's drive of Quoddy Head, including Cobscook Bay, Shackford Head, and Roque Bluffs State Parks.

Campobello International Peace Park in New Brunswick, is just across the bridge from Lubec. Nearby, visitors will also find restaurants, lodging, campgrounds, a golf course, whale watching trips, and rentals of bicycles, canoes, kayaks and fishing boats. For more information about local businesses and points of interest, please contact:

Cobscook Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 42, Whiting, Maine 04691
Telephone (207) 733-2201
www.cobscookbay.com



Quoddy Head State Park



*Quoddy Head State Park
973 South Lubec Road
Lubec, Maine*

*Telephone:
(207) 733-0911 (April ~ October)
(207) 941-4014 (November ~ March)*



**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Bureau of Parks and Lands**

About the Park

Quoddy Head State Park is located four miles off Maine Route 189 in Lubec on the easternmost point of land in the United States. On its 532 acres, purchased by the state in 1962, the park features 4½ miles of hiking trails, extensive forests, two bogs, diverse habitat for rare plants, and the striking red and white striped lighthouse tower of West Quoddy Head Light. With its diverse landscape, breathtaking views, scenic picnic sites, and opportunities for hiking and whale watching, Quoddy Head State Park is a fun and fascinating destination for visitors to downeast Maine.

Enjoying Quoddy Head State Park

Picnickers, sightseers, and hikers will find much to enjoy at this scenic park. While picnicking, visitors enjoy sweeping views across the channel to Grand Manan Island with its towering red cliffs. After poking around the cobble beach below the picnic area, sightseers can follow the path to the lighthouse to take pictures and perhaps see a seal, porpoise, or whale just offshore.

To enjoy the quiet beauty of field and forest or the unparalleled grandeur of bold coast, hikers may choose from a variety of trails. In the bog, interpretive signs along a boardwalk help visitors learn about this northern environment that is uncommon in Maine. At the shore, visitors may see marine mammals, including whales that return from their breeding grounds in the Caribbean and off Bermuda to feed here in summer. Also just offshore may be rafts of ducks, including eider, scoter and old squaw, and sometimes more northern sea birds, such as kittiwakes and gannets. Careful observers may spot ospreys, bald eagles, and other raptors. At Carrying Place Cove and the Lubec Flats, birders may see flocks of shorebirds resting and feeding during spring and fall migration.

West Quoddy Head Light

In 1808, West Quoddy Head Light became the easternmost lighthouse in the United States. Its light and fog cannon warned mariners of Quoddy's dangerous cliffs, ledges, and Sail Rock. Among the first to use a fog bell and later a steam-powered foghorn, this lighthouse greatly reduced shipwrecks in this foggy area, even as shipping increased.

In 1858, the present red and white tower replaced the original. Monitored and serviced by the US Coast Guard, its light still shines through its original third-order Fresnel lens. After automation in 1988, the light station became part of adjacent Quoddy Head State Park. The tower is closed, but visitors are welcome to enjoy the lighthouse grounds.

The Rocks

The story of the park's impressive black cliffs began millions of years ago during Silurian time, when hot liquid rock (magma) rose up from under the ocean floor and intruded layers of other rock. This magma eventually cooled and solidified into a coarse-grained, dark rock, called gabbro. Now that the overlying rocks have eroded away, the gabbro is visible as 80ft cliffs along the shore. A particularly scenic spot, Gulliver's Hole is a narrow chasm formed by the erosion of a vertical fault in the gabbro.

The Bay

Offshore, the Bay of Fundy formed along Fundy Fault, as Europe broke away from North America, and the Atlantic Ocean opened about 200 million years ago. Strong tidal currents between West Quoddy Head and Campobello Island drive what is said to be the largest whirlpool in the Western Hemisphere. No wonder Native Americans avoided that long dangerous trip by portaging their canoes across the bog still known as Carrying Place Cove.

Thompson Trail: 1.25 miles, an inland route from Bog Trail to Coastal Trail.

Coastal Trail: 4 miles round-trip, the park's longest trail provides spectacular ocean views and a close look at West Quoddy Head's cliffs.

Bog Trail: 1.5 miles, round-trip, this trail branches off the Inland Trail near High Ledge and leads to West Quoddy Head Bog.

Inland Trail: 2 miles, a moderate walk through cool conifer woods filled with a variety of mosses and lichens.

