

Bar Harbor Continues to Captivate Visitors

Beginning in the mid-1800s and continuing through the 1930s, Bar Harbor was known as a summer haven for the very rich and famous, including the Astors, Fords, Morgans, Rockefellers, Vanderbilts and Carnegies. Grand-scale hotels and mansions — known locally as “summer cottages” — were built during that time. As times have changed, Bar Harbor welcomes the world with open arms and an endless variety of sights, attractions and activities.

Situated on Mt. Desert Island and near renowned Acadia National Park, Bar Harbor is the island’s largest town. Joining Bar Harbor are the picturesque villages of Southwest Harbor, Tremont and Northwest Harbor.

While glaciers created the upside-down claw-like shape of the island, its shape is not the only thing that makes it unique. The third-largest island on the east coast of the United States, Mt. Desert is home to the only natural fjord on the coast and Cadillac Mountain, the highest mountain on the east coast north of Rio de Janeiro. From atop Cadillac Mountain’s 1,532 feet, visitors are the first in the United States to watch the sunrise each day during certain times of the year.

The area is a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts who want to bike, hike, rock climb, paddle, sail, paddle board and golf. For those who enjoy getting out on the water, consider sailing on a historic schooner, taking a lobster boat cruise to see how Maine’s iconic crustaceans are harvested, search for whales off the coast, or look for seals, puffins, birds and other wildlife that hug the coastline. And there is just as much to do on land. The Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce website provides a comprehensive hiking section that includes easy walks to strenuous hikes.

In search of quieter pursuits and sightseeing? You will find spectacular gardens, serene coves just waiting to be explored, rustic lobster eateries with waterfront picnic tables, unique museums, festivals and plenty of restaurants and attractions.

If you like discovering new places on foot, downtown Bar Harbor is well worth a stroll. The village contains an incredible assortment of streets, alleys, squares and piers. In addition to unique boutiques, art galleries and restaurants, there is a



Witch Hole Pond Carriage Trail in Acadia National Park – Photo by: Heather Anderson



Paddling on Echo Lake – Photo by: Heather Anderson

Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce

shore path that begins downtown and takes you by the front yards of many of the town's well-known summer cottages. Be sure to stroll past St. Saviour's Church on Mt. Desert Street to view the Tiffany windows. The church was built in 1877 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1995. And while on Mt. Desert Street, don't miss a visit to the Abbe Museum, dedicated to Maine's Native American history.

The biggest draw on Mt. Desert Island is the magnificent Acadia National Park. Acadia is truly one of the country's most spectacular destinations. The 47,000-acre preserve is stunning in every way — from its unusual flora and fauna to its rugged coastline and from its breathtaking views to its man-made carriage trails, Acadia National Park is an unforgettable experience.

Whether you opt for a guided tour or go on your own to discover the wonder and beauty of Acadia National Park, be sure not to miss the following:

The Carriage Roads: Explore the 45 miles of gravel pathways and granite bridges created by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. for horse-drawn carriages. Always closed to motorized vehicles, the carriage trails are enjoyed by walkers, hikers, bicyclists, cross-country skiers and snowshoeing enthusiasts.

The Park Loop Road: A 27-mile scenic ride along the eastern portion of Mt. Desert Island offers access to most of the well-known park sites.

Thunder Hole: A thunderous sound is made in this natural wonder during each high tide. As water rushes into the narrow granite channel, it effectively traps the air. When the air escapes, 'thunder' follows.

Jordan Pond: Formed by a glacier, the pond's pristine clear water reflects the surrounding mountains.

With all the activity surrounding you, sustenance plays a leading role in your Bar Harbor and Mt. Desert Island experience. Dining options range from lobster shacks to fine-dining restaurants. Many options include incredible views served with your meal. While seafood may be the draw, area restaurants are also known for sourcing farm-fresh products locally.

You will have no trouble finding lodging at a price point right for you. Options range from campsites to luxury resorts and from motels to elegant inns. Vacation rental properties are also available on the island.

For detailed information on Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park, visit www.visitbarharbor.com.



Bass Harbor Head Light