

Acadia All American Road

From craggy shorelines and granite-capped mountains to crystal lakes and spruce-fir forests, Acadia All American Road is perfect for exploring. Extensive carriage roads and hiking trails give access to Acadia National Park. See fishing and sailboats in Frenchman's Bay or go back in time to see the "cottages" of old Bar Harbor.



Length: 40 miles / 64.0 km

Time to Allow: Take three hours to drive and see this byway.

Local Information

Acadia National Park

207-288-3338

Send E-mail

Bar Harbor Chamber

207-288-5103

Maine Office of Tourism

207-624-7483

888-624-6345

Visitor Services

Fees



Acadia National Park charges an entrance fee. For more information, visit the Acadia National Park website.

Accessibility



All of the information centers meet ADA requirements, but the Hulls Cove Visitor Center has 52 steps at the front entrance. An ADA-compliant rear entrance is available. The Island Explorer buses feature wheel chair lifts and automatic enunciators. Most of the accommodations are ADA compliant.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



The Park Loop Road was designed around biking and walking recreational activities. It is a one-way road and the right lane is specifically designated for both bikers and walkers. Bicycle tourists flock to Mount Desert Island, and the Rockefeller Carriage Roads are another popular ride. There are also plenty of other places to walk and bike along this byway. In the Acadia National Park alone, there are 120 miles of hiking trails and 45 miles of carriage roads. You can take all kinds of hikes. For a sample of these hikes, click [here](http://www.downeastguide.com/Pages/acadia_national_park.html).



Camping

Camping sites are available at Blackwoods, Seawall, and Isle au Haut (with a special-use permit). Blackwoods and Seawall can accommodate tents and trailers up to 35 feet in length. Island au Haut has lean-to sheds. Reservations must be made at Blackwoods and Isle au Haut during the peak season (May 15 to October 15). Seawall has sites available on a first-come, first-served basis. Prices for each campground vary with the season. The park requires all camping to be at established campgrounds. Overnight backpacking is prohibited in the park. Nearby towns also have camping sites.



Food

Bar Harbor is home to the byway's best dining, with many fine and local-flavor restaurants. Just off the byway is Northeast Harbor, which also hosts many fine restaurants.



Gasoline

Gasoline and other fuel can be found in the City of Bar Harbor and Northeast Harbor.



Information

Visitor Centers are located at the following locations: Acadia National Park Carriage Roads, Great and Little Cranberry Island, Hull's Cove, Mount Desert Narrows and Thompson Island, and Thunder Hole Ranger Station. * The Trenton Info Center is open year-round. * The Acadia National Park (ANP)/MDI Chamber's information center at Thompson Island, Trenton, is open mid-May to mid-October. * The ANP Hulls Cove Information Center at Bar Harbor is open from mid-May to mid-October. * ANP Headquarters has year-round business hours.



Lodging

Both Bar Harbor and Northeast Harbor offer a range of lodging services.



Phone

Public phones can be found at the following locations: Acadia National Park Carriage Roads Visitor Center, Hull's Cove, Mount Desert Narrows and Thompson Island, Thunder Hole Ranger Station, and Bar Harbor. Northeast Harbor, just a few miles off of the byway, also has phones available.



Restrooms

Restrooms can be found at the following locations: the Abbe Museum, Acadia National Park Carriage Roads Visitor Center, Great and Little Cranberry Island, Hull's Cove, Mount Desert Narrows and Thompson Island, Northeast Harbor, Thunder Hole Ranger Station, and Bar Harbor.



Retail

Retail stores and quaint gift shops can be found at both Bar Harbor and Northeast Harbor.

Special Considerations

Mount Desert Island now has a free seasonal bus service that visitors are encouraged to use. The central terminal for the "Island Explorer" buses is located in downtown Bar Harbor. The buses stop at many of the hotels and campgrounds along the way. They will also stop anywhere that there is adequate space to pull over. You can easily flag them down.

Restrictions

The Park Loop Road is closed from late November to mid-April. Other roads can be closed during extreme weather conditions. Also, the area experiences a high volume of visitors over the 4th of July weekend.

Seasons

Best Time to Drive

Many visit the byway during July and August. However, this byway is excellent year-round, so the best time to drive really depends on your interests. Foliage viewing is popular in autumn, while hiking and cross-country skiing are superb in winter.

High Season

The byway is busiest from late June through September, especially July 4 and Labor Day weekends. Traffic congestion can occur in late July and August, primarily in the neighboring town of Ellsworth and in some Acadia National Park venues.

Map and Directions



Legend:

Point of Interest	Campground	Featured Byway	Water	State Border
Park	Picnic/Rest Area	America's Byways	Wildlife Refuge	Urban Area
Mountain	Interstate	Other Byway	Wilderness Area	Tribal Nation
City	U.S. Highway	Other Road	Other Federal Lands	Military Base
Capital	State Highway	Trail	Other State Lands	

Driving Directions

- Begin at the Ellsworth-Trenton town line.
- Take Route 3 heading south and stay east at the fork in the road.

- Follow Route 3 (Bar Harbor Road) as it heads east and eventually turns north to Acadia National Park. Route 3 becomes Eden Street at the Park.
- Continue to Bar Harbor.
- Take Mt. Desert St. east and turn right onto Main Street and follow that out of town.
- Take a left (east) onto Park Loop Road and follow the coastline down to Otter Cove, skirting the coast before heading north through the middle of the National Park.
- Head right just before Eagle Lake Road to rejoin route 3 again or head north to Eagle Lake Road to return to Bar Harbor to complete the loop.

Getting to the Byway



Nearby airports

Bangor International Airport, ME (35 miles / 56.33 km, 50 minutes)

Start:



Godfrey Blvd
N 44.812° W 68.814° [?]

Directions:

- Keep right on Godfrey Blvd from the Bangor International Airport.
- Turn right onto SR-222.
- Take the ramp onto I-95 going south.
- At Exit 45AB, take ramp onto I-395.
- At Exit 6, turn right onto the ramp and bear right onto US-1A.
- Turn left onto Oak St and keep straight onto High St.
- Keep right onto SR-3.

Junction with byway:

* Trenton Town Line
N 44.532° W 68.407° [?]



Road Trip: Acadia All American Road Must See Tour

Departure: Acadia Visitor Center In Hull's Cove, Maine

Destination: Northeast Harbor, Maine

Time to allow: 3 days

The most important thing to remember while traveling this Byway is to take your time. Since this route is on the coast and in a national park, brilliant views await at every bend and turn. Things to do and places to relax can be found in abundance along Acadia All American Road.

Day 1

- **Start: Acadia Visitor Center In Hull's Cove**

Before you start, pick up hiking guides, brochures, and pamphlets at the visitor center, which is at the beginning of the Byway. If you're planning on hiking, you'll want to know the difficulty of the hikes to plan accordingly. You'll also want to find out the cost of ferries to go out to the Cranberry Islands or to go whale watching.

- **Stop 1: Bar Harbor**



From previous stop: 5 minutes / 3 mi (4.8 km)

Directions: Leaving the Acadia Visitor Center in Hull's Cove, take SR-3 (Bar Harbor Rd) for 2.9 miles. Turn left onto Cottage St to enter Bar Harbor.

Suggested time at this stop: 8 hours

Spend a day in the city of Bar Harbor, soaking in the relaxed atmosphere, eating at a fine or local-flavor charming restaurant, and exploring specialty shops. Some of the items the shops offer are so unique and distinctive that you'll never see their like again. There's plenty of nightlife: bars, clubs, concerts, specialty movie theatres (one is art deco, one has couches and pizza). You may even be able to catch one of the two annual music festivals, part of the annual film festival, or an opening night at an art gallery. There are so many hotels and other kinds of places to stay that you really have no end of choice.

- **End: Bar Harbor**

From previous stop: same location

Lodging is available in Bar Harbor.

Totals for Day 1

Total Distance Traveled: 3 miles / 4.8 km

Total Travel Time: 5 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 8 hours

Day 2

- **Stop 1: Champlain and Dorr Mountains, the Tarn**



From previous stop: 8 minutes / 3.9 mi (6.2 km)

Directions: Leaving Bar Harbor, take Holland Ave for 0.2, then turn left onto SR-3 (Mt Desert St). Drive for 0.4 miles, then turn right onto SR-3 (Main St). Follow for 3.0 miles, then turn left. Follow for 0.4 miles until you come to the Champlain Mountain.

Suggested time at this stop: 3 hours

The Byway runs through the valley between spectacular bald (granite capped) Champlain Mountain and Dorr Mountain. Spend the day hiking around Dorr and Champlain Mountains and the Tarn.

- **Stop 2: Acadia National Park Carriage Roads**



From previous stop: 13 minutes / 6.5 mi (10.4 km)

Directions:

- Leaving Champlain Mountain, follow the road for 0.4 miles.
- Turn right onto SR-3 (Otter Creek Rd) and follow for 3.0 miles.
- Turn left onto SR-3 (Mt Desert St) and follow for 0.5 miles.
- Turn right onto SR-3 (Eden St) and follow for 2.4 miles.
- Turn left onto Paradise Hill Rd, then turn right after 0.1 miles.
- Bear left for 0.2 miles until you arrive at the Acadia National Park Visitor Center.

Suggested time at this stop: 4 hours

Explore off-road Acadia National Park on a mountain bike; take the 45 miles of Carriage Roads. They are safe, serene, gorgeous, and well-maintained.

- **End: Northeast Harbor**

From previous stop: same location

Lodging is available in Northeast Harbor.

Totals for Day 2

Total Distance Traveled: 10.4 miles / 16.6 km

Total Travel Time: 21 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 7 hours

Day 3

- **Stop 1: Thunder Hole**



From previous stop: 10 minutes / 4.5 mi (7.2 km)

Directions: Leaving the Park, follow the Byway south for about 2 miles. Turn left onto Park Loop Road, and follow for a little over 2 miles. Thunder Hole is just off the road.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour

Thunder Hole is a chasm into which ocean waves crash with great booms and splashes.

- **Stop 2: Otter Cliffs and Otter Point**

From previous stop: 1 minute / 0.4 mi (0.6 km)

Directions: Otter Cliffs are less than half a mile south of Thunder Hole.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

Otter Cliffs and the adjoining Otter Point are simply remarkable. You may want to don a jacket as you sit on the rocks and have a picnic lunch.

- **Stop 3: Great and Little Cranberry Island**



From previous stop: 20 minutes / 10 mi (16.0 km)

Directions: Leaving Otter Point, follow Otter Cliff Road north for about 1.5 miles until it intersects with SR-3. Turn left onto on SR-3 (Otter Creek Rd) and follow for 4.4 miles. Turn right onto SR-3 (Peabody Dr) and follow for 3.0 miles, then turn left onto SR-198 (Harborside Rd). After 0.7 miles, turn left onto Harbor Dr. Follow for 0.2 miles, then at the roundabout, take the second exit. After 0.3 miles, you'll arrive at the ferry terminal.

Suggested time at this stop: 4 hours

Hop a ferry out to Cranberry Islands to explore, or take a ferry to whale-watch. You can see many other kinds of wildlife while whale watching: bald eagles, puffins, and peregrine falcons. While out near the water, you can ocean kayak or canoe, deep-sea fish, or take a windjammer cruise. Equipment may be rented, and there are plenty of guides available.

- **End: Northeast Harbor**



From previous stop: 3 minutes / 0.6 mi (1.0 km)

Directions: Leaving the ferry terminal, drive south for less than 0.1 miles, until you come to a roundabout. At the roundabout, take the first exit onto Harbor Dr, and follow for 0.2 miles. Turn left onto SR-198 (Harborside Rd) and follow for 0.2 miles. (Road name changes to Summit Rd.) Turn left onto Joy Rd, and arrive in Northeast Harbor, Maine.

A lovely and quaint historic rural coastal village, shoreline, islands, and a recreational waterfront. It provides passenger ferry access to the Cranberry Islands.

Totals for Day 3

Total Distance Traveled: 15.5 miles / 24.8 km

Total Travel Time: 34 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 7 hours