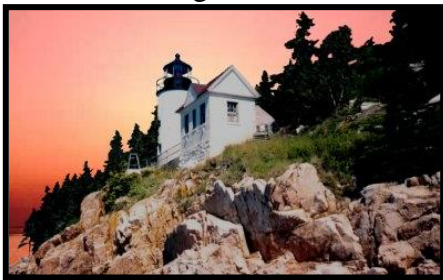


Area Attractions

Bass Harbor Lighthouse



Marking the entrance to Bass Harbor, this light was first put into operation in 1839 and rebuilt in 1889. Its white cylindrical towers are 100 feet above mean high tide. Now it is the private home for the Commander of the Southwest Harbor Coast Guard. Many trails wind around the lighthouse and down to the shore. Sometimes harbor seals can be seen here. You may also hear the gong on the channel buoy that is just a few hundred feet off shore. It is approximately 10 minutes from the resort.

Beech Mountain

The only mountain with a fire tower (inactive) offers many hiking trails but the most popular route begins at the parking lot located at the end of the Beech Hill Road. The trail follows a gradual climb up the west face of Beech Mountain with wonderful views of Long Pond and Southwest Harbor and descends the North Ridge. You should allow three hours for this 2-mile hike.

Beehive

This is a short but difficult hike overlooking Sand Beach and so named for the unusual shape of its east cliff face. The climb is very steep with exposed iron rungs and ladders and begins by the Sand Beach Parking Area. “The Bowl” is a swimming hole located near the summit and a gradual trail back to Sand Beach begins there. You should allow two hours for this hike. Do not attempt this climb if you have a fear of heights.

Birds Acre Sanctuary

This 40-acre woodland sanctuary has eight trails, three small ponds, and free parking. It is in Ellsworth on Route 3 just south of McDonald’s as you head up the hill, traveling toward Mount Desert Island, it is located on the right. It is about a 30-minute drive from the resort and you should allow 2-3 hours for exploring the trails and the museum.

Indian Point Blagden Preserve

This is a Nature Conservancy Preserve of 110 acres of secluded tall Red Spruce, White Cedar and Balsam with 300 yards of shoreline. Here you can walk on trails that take you through wooded areas and along the shore of Western Bay. Observation points along the shore have chairs and benches where you can sit, relax and watch the wildlife. You often see seals, bald eagles, and ospreys. The Preserve is surrounded by private landowners so please be respectful of Preserve boundaries. It is approximately a 15-minute drive from the resort and is located on the Indian Point Road.



Carriage Roads

This network of over 45 miles of gravel roads was built between 1915 and 1933 and financed by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. The roads are free of motor vehicles and maintained just for biking, walking, horseback riding, and carriage rides. You can pick up the carriage roads at Eagle Lake on Route 233 or the Brown Mountain Gatehouse on Route 198. The network of carriage roads can be confusing, make sure you have a map, water, and appropriate clothing. Ask about distances and time allowances!

Day Trips to other Islands

Spend a day exploring the Cranberry Islands by foot, bike, or Swans Island by foot, bike, or car. Mail boats run from Northeast Harbor and Southwest Harbor to the Cranberries, while the ferry to Swans Island leaves from Bass Harbor. Be sure to bring a picnic lunch, water, and a warm jacket for all ferry crossings. You should call the local ferry companies for rates and times of departure as they may change. You may find a brochure at the Clubhouse or just ask the Front Desk.

Lamoine State Park

Spectacular views of Cadillac Mountain and Mount Desert Island can be seen from this Park located on Eastern Bay. This park offers swimming, fishing, picnic facilities, a dock, and a boat launch. There is a fee for parking. Take Route 102 toward Ellsworth, take a left at Route 204 and follow the signs to the Park. It is approximately a 30-minute drive from the resort.

Park Loop Road

This 26-mile loop will take you through the main section of Acadia National Park. Popular stops include the summit of Cadillac Mountain, Sand Beach, and Thunder Hole. The Park Loop Road offers impressive views in all directions. Cadillac's summit is accessible by car during the summer season. The road is three and a half miles with an elevation gain of 1200 feet. Allow most of the day for the round trip. Cassette tapes and CD's are available at the Visitor Center for a self-guided tour of the Park Loop Road. You will need to purchase a pass to the park to complete this loop yourself, or you have the option of taking a trolley tour of the Park Loop Road with a local operator in Bar Harbor.



Penobscot and Sargent Mountain

This is a wonderful hike beginning at Jordan Pond House and offering views of the Bubble Mountains and Cadillac Mountain. The ascent up Jordan Cliffs is difficult but the remainder of the hike is moderate. The 6.5-mile hike follows the south ridge of Penobscot Mountain to Sargent Mountain and back again. You should allow about 5 hours for this hike.

Sand Beach



This beach is famous for its unique sand made of shell fragments. It is a great place to go for the day to relax and enjoy the Maine weather. Sand Beach is located within Acadia National Park, and has limited parking. You can pick up the Park Loop Road either at the Cadillac Mountain or Sieur de Mont Springs entrances and follow the signs. It is approximately a 30-minute drive from the resort.

Somes Sound and Sargent Drive

This 7-mile "drowned fjord" nearly divides Mount Desert Island and is the only fjord on the eastern seaboard. Take Route 198 toward Northeast Harbor and follow the signs for Sargent Drive for this beautiful scenic drive. There are also many beautiful homes for viewing.



Thunder Hole

Located on the Park Loop Road, Thunder Hole is a cave or "hole" in the rocks carved out by wave action. It is most active three hours before high tide, when incoming waves trapped in the hole create the famous "thunder." This is a fantastic location to see the sunset or sunrise.