

Island Activities for Children

Not sure what to do here on the island that your children will enjoy? Search no further because here is a list of things that will bring out the adventurous side of your children!

Acadia Alphabet Picture Find

Head into Acadia National Park and look for anything in nature that looks like or starts with each letter of the alphabet and take a picture of it. You'll have a beautiful assortment of pictures from Acadia National Park when you're finished!

Swimming

Children love playing in the salty ocean waves and the beautiful sand at Acadia's Sand Beach. Those preferring calmer, warmer waters may want to visit the freshwater beach at Echo Lake. Sand Beach is located on the Park Loop Road while Echo Lake is located here in Southwest Harbor with the entrance along Route 102.



Pirate's Cove Miniature Golf

Enter the world of 18th Century pirates--carousing buccaneers, an authentic, full-scale pirate ship, and lavish landscaping. Putt your way through mountain caves, over footbridges, and under cascading waterfalls! Ahoy, Matey! (207) 288-2133.

Wild Acadia Fun Park

Experience the Bar Harbor region's best amusement park and water slides! PLUS the area's only aerial park and ropes course! Wild Acadia offers affordable fun for the entire family! Experience the Aerial Adventure Park, slide down wickedly wonderful water slides, challenge your friends to a round of mini golf, or race your friends on the Go-Karts! (207) 667-3573.



Playgrounds

Park Street Playground and Town Hill Playground are both great places for your younger children to burn off energy. Park Street Playground is just down the street from the Glen Mary Wading Pool in downtown Bar Harbor next to the YMCA. Town Hill Playground is located at 1316 Route 102 near the Fire House in the village of Town Hill.

Hiking

Check out these four easier hiking trails your kids are bound to love: Beech Mountain, Flying Mountain, Ship Harbor, and Wonderland. Wonderland and Ship Harbor are 1.5 miles of flat terrain. Flying Mountain is 0.3 miles high with steady elevation. Beech Mountain is 0.7 miles high with elevation and a view of Harbor Ridge, Echo Lake, Long Pond, and the outer islands.



Visit the "Bar" of Bar Harbor

At low tide, kids can immediately see how Bar Harbor got its name—a large sand bar connects downtown Bar Harbor to Bar Island. Children love taking buckets and shovels onto the bar and exploring all the sea life uncovered at low tide. Across the sand bar to Bar Island, a nature trail rises to a summit, offering spectacular views of Mount Desert Island. If you go, don't forget to check the local tide schedule and leave plenty of time to get back before the tide rolls in—it comes fast!



Shell Seeking and Treasure Hunting

Go on a hunt to local areas to search for wonderful treasures the waters wash up. Areas include: Ship Harbor, Seal Cove, Seawall, and Lamoine State Beach. (Maybe if you butter up a local, they will let you know where there are other hidden treasure hunting spots).

National Park Junior Ranger Program

Kids up to 18 can become Junior Rangers. First they complete activities in the Junior Ranger booklet. Ranger-led programs include hikes, cruises, and simple drop-ins at interesting places. After joining one or two ranger-led programs or walks and promising to take care of the park, they get their very own Junior Ranger patch. (207) 288-3338.



Nature Center

The Sieur de Monts Nature Center of Acadia National Park features guidebooks and displays about park wildlife. Children get to record the animals they have seen in the center's logbook. Open daily from mid-June through September.

Abbe Museum

At the Abbe Museum, a short walk from the Nature Center, children learn about the Wabanaki Nations. Wabanaki people and their ancestors have lived in Pesamkuk, this place we now call Mount Desert Island and Frenchman Bay, for thousands of generations. A variety of hands-on learning and arts activities teaches them about the culture and traditions of the "People of the Dawnland." The museum's collection includes pottery, bone and stone tools, porcupine jewelry, trade beads, a large birch bark canoe, and a wigwam. (207) 288-3519. www.abbemuseum.org



Abbe Museum

Dorr Museum of Natural History



The Dorr Museum features dioramas of coastal Maine wildlife and a tide pool tank that houses a variety of live sea stars, hermit crabs, snails and other marine creatures. Visitors of all ages can touch, smell, listen and create while learning about the natural history of Maine. The museum is located at the College of the Atlantic, 105 Eden Street, Bar Harbor. (207) 288-5015. www.coa.edu/dorr-museum

Great Maine Lumberjack Show

Go watch Timber Tina as she fits 12 exciting events into an hour and 15-minute show. Axe throwing, log rolling, underhand chopping, power hot sawing, obstacle pole relay, crosscut sawing, pole climbing, and more! RAIN OR SHINE! Shows are nightly at 7pm. The show is located at 127 Bar Harbor Road in Trenton. (207) 266-5486 www.mainelumberjack.com



The Dive-In Theatre

Cruise Frenchmen's Bay as Diver Ed takes the plunge, explores the bay while on view on a topside LCD screen, and surfaces to provide a hands-on experience of what he has found. (207) 288-3483 www.divered.com

Acadia Repertory Theatre

In picturesque Somesville they perform a children's classic every Wednesday and Saturday at 10:30 am. (207) 244-9332 www.acadiarep.com

Reel Pizza

See a movie in Bar Harbor where, in addition to theatre seats, there are couches and recliners. In addition to traditional movie and concession food selections, there is delicious fresh-dough gourmet pizza. (207) 288-3828 www.reelpizza.com



Wildlife Checklist

Stay on the lookout for all these popular species of wildlife while out and about the island. Keep the checklist with you and mark each species off the list as you spot them! Ask the Front Desk and they will provide you with a copy of the wildlife check list.