

Be sure to visit

# Fort Knox State Historic Site

while you are here today.



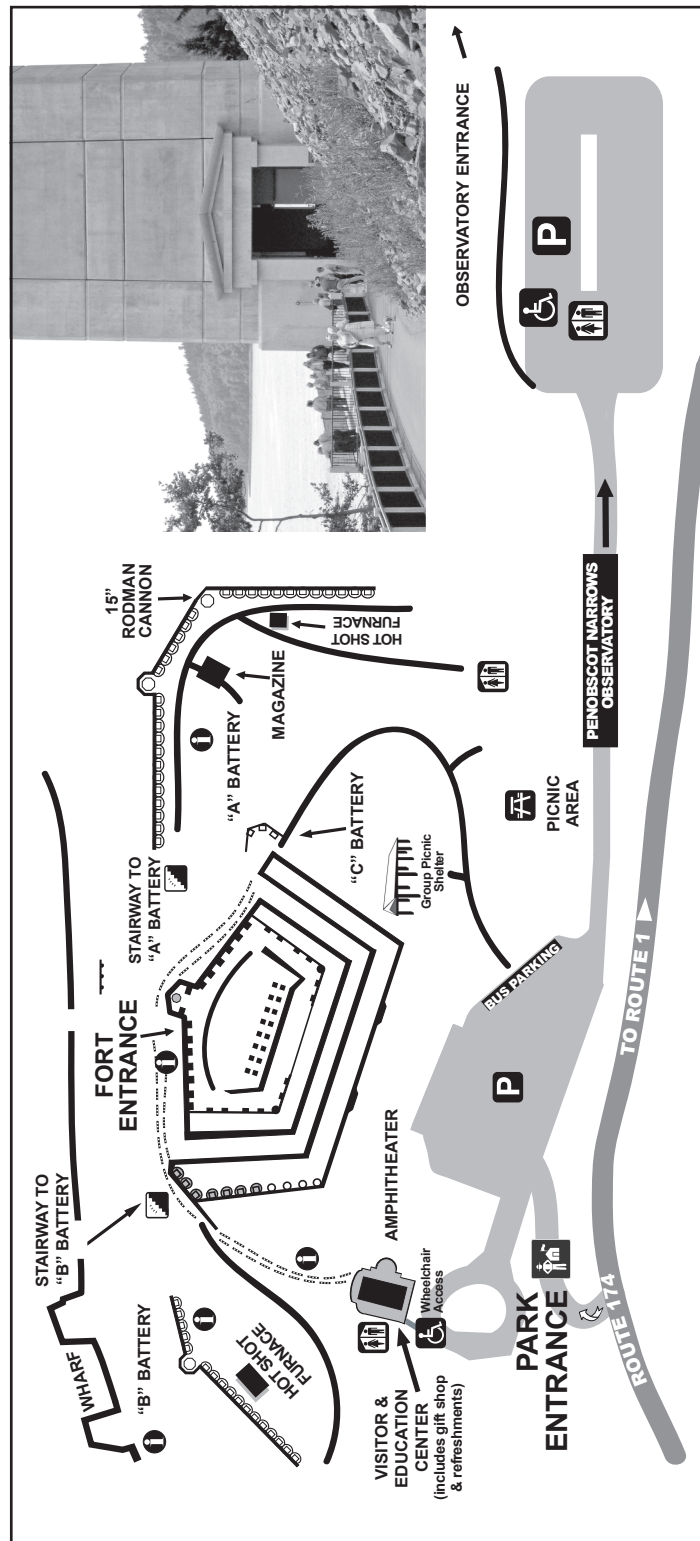
- ◆ Park hours are 9:00am to sunset.
- ◆ Visitor and Education Center with exhibits.
- ◆ Interpretive panels are located throughout the fort.
- ◆ Gift shop located at the Visitor and Education Center
- ◆ Guided tours given daily. Please check the Visitor and Education Center for today's schedule.
- ◆ Picnic grounds with tables and grills.



## Maine DOT



The Penobscot Narrows Observatory is a joint operational project of the Maine Department of Transportation and the Maine Department of Conservation

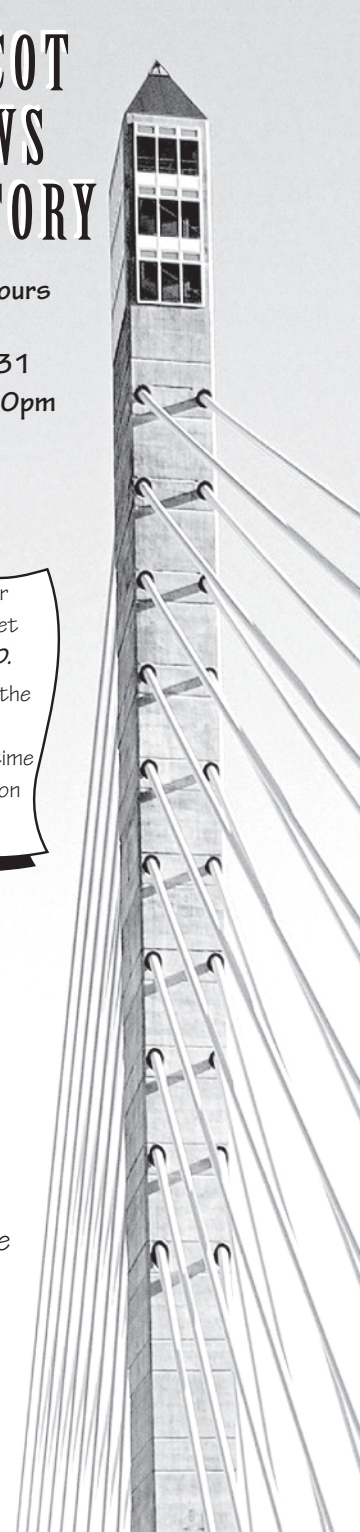


# PENOBSCOT NARROWS OBSERVATORY

Observatory Hours  
Daily:  
May 1 - Oct. 31  
9:00am to 5:00pm

Please note, your  
Observatory Ticket  
is **TIME STAMPED**.  
Your admission to the  
Observatory is  
scheduled for the time  
and date printed on  
your ticket.

On the Campus of  
Fort Knox  
State Historic Site  
711 Fort Knox Road  
Prospect, ME 04981  
Tel: 207-469-7719



## Enjoy your visit to the Observatory

To visit the Penobscot Narrows Observatory, we recommend that you drive your vehicle to the Observatory Parking Lot (see map on the reverse). Rest rooms are also available on this end of the campus.

- ◆ Each ticket is stamped with today's date and the scheduled "go time" of your observatory visit. We schedule this time so that you won't have to wait long in line for others to finish their visits.
- ◆ Please present your tickets to the tower attendant at the base of the observatory tower when you arrive.
- ◆ There is no limit to the time you can spend in the observatory, but please understand that there are others who wish to visit after you.

### Admission Fees

(Includes admission to Fort Knox State Historic Site)

#### **Regular Admission:**

Adults 12 & older:	\$5.00
Children 5 - 11:	\$3.00
Children 0 - 4:	No charge

#### **Discount Fee for Maine State Park Season Pass Holders:**

Adults 12 & older:	\$2.50
Children 5 - 11:	\$2.00
Children 0 - 4 :	No charge

### **Information for Persons with Disabilities**

The Penobscot Narrows Observatory has been carefully designed to accommodate persons with limited vision, hearing, or mobility, including persons using walkers or wheelchairs. Staff are also available to provide assistance to persons who may have difficulty moving over distance or graded walkways. If there is anything we can do to make your experience more comfortable or enjoyable, please don't hesitate to ask.

**The Penobscot Narrows Bridge and Observatory** project was approved in 2003, following the discovery and assessment of structural problems on the 1931 Waldo-Hancock Bridge. Following a series of community meetings to discuss the problems and their possible solutions, the Maine Department of Transportation undertook an amazing project of designing and building a replacement bridge with a goal of having that bridge operational in only 41 months.

The design of the Penobscot Narrows Bridge and Observatory superbly blends the past, the present, and the future. The bridge's pylons are obelisk in design, and are reminiscent of historic granite monuments that include the Washington Monument (which, by the way, was partially constructed from the same granite used at Fort Knox). The single-plane, cable-stay design of the bridge improves on the cable suspension concept used for the Waldo-Hancock Bridge it replaces, in that each cable supporting the bridge can be individually monitored, and if necessary, replaced during the bridge's life. As the first and only cable-stay bridge in Maine (and the only bridge with an observatory on the American continent), the Penobscot Narrows Bridge and Observatory sets a new standard for transportation structures that integrate their primary function with the life, history, and recreation of the communities in which they are located.

### **Bridge and Observatory Facts**

- ◆ First and only cable-stay bridge in Maine.
- ◆ Only bridge with an Observatory in North and South America; one of only three such bridges in the entire world (the other two are in Thailand and Slovakia).
- ◆ An innovative nitrogen gas protection and monitoring system eliminates the effects of moisture or other potentially corrosive elements on the cables.
- ◆ 331 miles of epoxy-covered strands make up the cables (roughly the distance from Portland to Fort Kent).
- ◆ There is enough concrete in the foundations to fill a football field 19 feet high.
- ◆ Total weight of the reinforcing steel rods in the bridge piers and towers is 1.02 million pounds.
- ◆ 373,000 hours of labor
- ◆ Total bridge weight is about 10,500 African elephants (roughly 126 million pounds).
- ◆ Total bridge length is 2,120 feet.
- ◆ 340,000 tons of rock were blasted from the Prospect side to create the new Route 1
- ◆ The observatory sits 42 stories above the river.
- ◆ The observatory elevator is the tallest and fastest in the State of Maine.

#### **For your Safety**

Please take a moment to read and follow these important safety rules for the Penobscot Narrows Observatory.

- ◆ Don't forget to bring your cameras and binoculars! The view is terrific!
- ◆ No weapons of any kind are allowed, including guns, knives, ammunition or protective sprays.
- ◆ No suitcases, duffel bags, or backpacks larger than 18" x 16" x 8" may be carried into the observatory.

- ◆ No food, drink, or smoking is allowed in the observatory.
- ◆ Pets, except for service animals, are not allowed in the observatory.
- ◆ Baby strollers and carriages are not allowed in the observatory.
- ◆ Do not bring flammable materials or ignition sources, including aerosol cans and lighters, into the observatory.
- ◆ Please lock your possessions safely in your vehicle.
- ◆ If you need help, ask any Observatory Attendant.