

DOWNEAST REGION

DIRECTIONS

In East Machias, turn right onto Route 191 and proceed 16.9 miles (3 miles past Cutler village) to the trailhead and parking area marked by a the Maine Public Land sign.

From Lubec, take Route 189 to Route 191. Turn left and travel 10 miles to the parking area/trailhead. Parking is limited to 20 cars.

CONTACTS

Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands
Eastern Public Lands Office
106 Hogan Road, Suite 5
Bangor, ME 04401
207-941-4412
www.maine.gov/dacf/publiclands

TRAVEL INFORMATION

- Machias: www.machiaschamber.org
- Region: www.downeastacadia.com
www.downeastcoastalconservancy.org
- Maine: www.visitmaine.com

NEARBY DESTINATIONS

Quoddy Head State Park - www.maine.gov/quoddyhead

Easternmost point of land in U.S., scenic waterfront trails, iconic lighthouse run by Light Keepers Association.

Rocky Lake Public Lands - www.maine.gov/rockylake

10,000 acres with canoeing, fishing, and backcountry camping.

Cobscook Bay State Park - www.maine.gov/cobscookbay

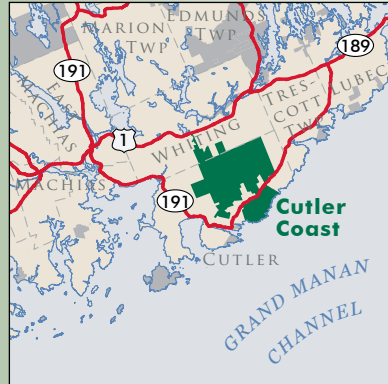
Waterfront camping & good base to explore easternmost Maine.

SERVICES & FACILITIES

- 20-car parking lot
- 10 miles of hiking trails
- 5 primitive campsites with pit toilets: 3 at Fairy Head and one each at Black Point Cove and Long Point Cove. Camping is only allowed at these five sites which are first-come, first-served with no reservations. A log-in book is at the trailhead.
- Privy at main trailhead



2022



Lat 44.698689, Lon -67.158178

CUTLER COAST PUBLIC LAND

GUIDE & MAP

Shorefront hiking and camping along Maine's Bold Coast



www.ParksAndLands.com

Cover photo by Jim Vogel.



OVERVIEW

Cutler Coast Public Land offers a taste of wilderness along Maine's coast in a 12,234-acre expanse of blueberry barrens, woodlands and peatlands, plus 4.5 miles of headlands interspersed by pocket coves and cobble beaches overlooking the Bay of Fundy. Ten miles of trails, five remote tent sites, and spectacular views from the property's steep cliffs—part of the dramatic "Bold Coast" that extends from Cutler to Lubec—await.

WILDLIFE WATCHING Birders have recorded nearly 200 species on or near the Cutler Coast. According to www.mainebirding-trail.com, warblers, chickadees, golden-crowned kinglets and six species of owls frequent the woods, while seabirds and ravens nest along shoreline ledges. Offshore, from early summer to early fall, visitors may spot seals, porpoises and occasional humpback, finback, northern right and minke whales.

ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Raised coastal peatlands, known as bogs or heaths, exist here and are a plant community not usually found south of Canada. The grassland "barrens," support blue joint grass, flat-topped aster, alder and meadowsweet and bobolinks and savannah sparrows. The maritime spruce-fir-larch forest is unique here too, Maine designated 5,216 acres of the property as an Ecological Reserve to maintain these representative ecosystems in their natural condition and allow for monitoring of ecological changes over time.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Some timber is harvested to generate revenues for property stewardship. Harvest areas at Cutler lie northwest of Route 191 and are clearly signed if active.

PROPERTY HISTORY

The igneous bedrock visible along the Cutler Coast (some of it in hexagonal columns of basalt) was deposited in the Silurian Age, roughly 420 million years ago, through a series of volcanic eruptions and intrusions of magma into existing rock. Much of the coastal land represents a plateau, sitting roughly 220 feet above sea level, that rebounded after the last glacial retreat (about 12,000 years ago).

An archaeological excavation in 1984 turned up stone tools and fire-cracked rocks, evidence that Native Americans used this coastline for centuries. European explorers first arrived around 1605, followed by settlers around 1785. The settlers, while few in number, harvested much of the region's valuable timber and erected a sawmill. Major fires in 1851 and 1854 created the extensive grassland "barrens" that dominate the property's northern portion today. Following the fires, the mill was replaced by a dairy farm and—in 1881—a short-lived cheese factory. The stonewalls and cellar holes still evident on the land date back to this brief agrarian period.

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS The State of Maine acquired the coastal portion of the Cutler Coast Public Lands in 1989, thanks to The Conservation Fund and the Land for Maine's Future Program. In 1997, the preserve quintupled in size when The Conservation Fund/Richard King Mellon Foundation and Maine Coast Heritage Trust generously donated to the State a 9,485-acre tract of forests and grasslands on the north side of Route 191, and the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands purchased an additional 570 acres.



WHEN TO VISIT Cutler Coast Public Land is open year-round but take extra care in wet or icy conditions.

www.maine.gov/cutlercoast

- Spring** Be prepared for wet and foggy conditions, late snow and unstable ice. Expect black flies and mosquitoes at their thickest May to early July.
- Summer** Hikers enjoy the scenic views along the bold coast. Whale watching is at its best. Birdwatching is excellent spring through fall. Wild blueberries ripen in late July and early August.
- Autumn** Bird and wildlife watching continues. Wear blaze orange during hunting season.
- Winter** Snowshoers and cross-country skiers find beauty and solitude on the trails and unplowed roads.

VISITOR RULES

- Trails** Please stay on trail at all times to protect fragile ecosystems. The hiking trails and campsites are all within an Ecological Reserve.
- Fires** Open fires are prohibited; cook only on self-contained stoves. Cut no live vegetation.
- Pets** Pets in campsites must be leashed and attended; outside of campsites, pets must be under control.
- Trash** Carry out all trash.
- Camping** Only at the five designated sites. Each site is not to exceed 6 campers.
- Limit of Stay** Campers may not exceed a 14-day stay in a 45-day period
- Abandoned Property** Bureau of Parks and Lands staff may take custody of any personal property left unattended for more than 3 days (unless advance written permission is given).
- Firearms** Although hunting is allowed in season, do not discharge weapons within 300 feet of any picnic, camping, or parking area, marked hiking trail or other developed area. Hunting information: www.maine.gov/ifw/
- ATVs** Are permitted on the Cutler Coast Public Lands that are north of Route 191 but may only go on roads and trails posted as open. Please respect the Ecoreserve; it protects fragile bogs and heaths and other unique communities.

TRAILS Cliff tops are often undercut and can be dangerous, especially in wet conditions. Stay on the trail and supervise children closely. This location can fog-in quickly.

COASTAL SECTION (SE of Route 191)
This section offers hiking trips from 3-10 miles through the Ecological Reserve; please stay on trail. Wear sturdy footwear and take care near cliffs, particularly in damp and slippery conditions. Trail times are estimates and assume a leisurely pace in good conditions with brief stops. Five campsites are located in this section of Cutler Coast.

Coastal Trail to Ocean Overlook (2.8 miles down-&-back, allow 2-3 hours) A forested path through a cedar swamp and maritime spruce-fir forest to a promontory overlooking the ocean. This is the easiest trail segment. The remainder of the Coastal Trail, extending southward 3.4 miles along the coast, is moderately difficult.

Black Point Brook Loop (5.4 miles roundtrip, allow 5-6 hours) Route is Coastal Trail to Black Point Brook Cutoff Trail to Inland Trail. Wooded trails and rocky cliff-side hiking lead to a small cobble beach at Black Point Cove. The return route, via the Inland Trail, is somewhat rocky but over fairly gentle terrain.

Fairy Head Loop (9.7 miles roundtrip, allow 7-8 hours) Provides the most extensive shorefront hiking with 3.4 miles on the Coastal Trail along the ocean. At Fairy Head, the trail turns inland through open meadows and forest, passing by a freshwater grass marsh and large beaver pond.

Inland Trail (4.5 miles one-way, allow 4-5 hours) Is relatively easy travelling with an occasional rocky outcrop. The trail travels through areas of open meadow and mature forest with occasional sections of bridge structures.



www.MaineTrailFinder.com

FORESTED SECTION (NW of Route 191)
The forested northern portion of the property offers 19.5 miles of shared-use roads and designated ATV trails, many of them maintained by the East Stream Trail Riders ATV Club. A portion of this system passes through the Ecological Reserve. Please remain on the trail to protect the Reserve grasslands and fragile peatbog ecosystems.

CAMPsites Are 3-5 miles from the parking lot within the Coastal Section of Cutler Coast. Coordinates are provided on the map. Sign-in at trailhead.

- 5 designated campsites (no other camping is allowed)*
- Check the logbook at the trailhead to see if sites are full.
- No more than 6 people per campsite.
- Campfires are prohibited.
- Carry in food, water and camp stoves
- Each campsite has a privy style toilet.

*** Please stay on trail and within designated campsites in this unique Ecological Reserve.**

