

# DOWNEAST REGION

## DIRECTIONS

Take Route 1 to Route 190 in Perry. Travel 7 miles, passing the Sipayik (Pleasant Point) Passamaquoddy Reservation and a causeway (part of an unfinished project designed to be the world's largest tidal dam project, when built in the 1930s). Approaching the city of Eastport, the road bends to the left by a gas station. Take a hard right-hand turn onto Deep Cove Road, and travel 0.8 miles to the entrance of Shackford Head State Park (a gravel drive on your left just after the town dog park and the old boat school buildings. The main trailhead is just off the circular gravel drive to the left of the large brown sign beyond the interpretive panels.

## CONTACTS

Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands  
106 Hogan Road, Suite 7  
Bangor, Maine 04401  
207-941-4014  
www.parksandlands.com

Eastport Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. Box 254  
Eastport, Maine 04631  
207-853-4644  
www.eastportchamber.net

For travel information about the state go to [www.visitmaine.com](http://www.visitmaine.com)  
For travel information about the region go to [www.downeastacadia.com](http://www.downeastacadia.com)

## SERVICES & FACILITIES

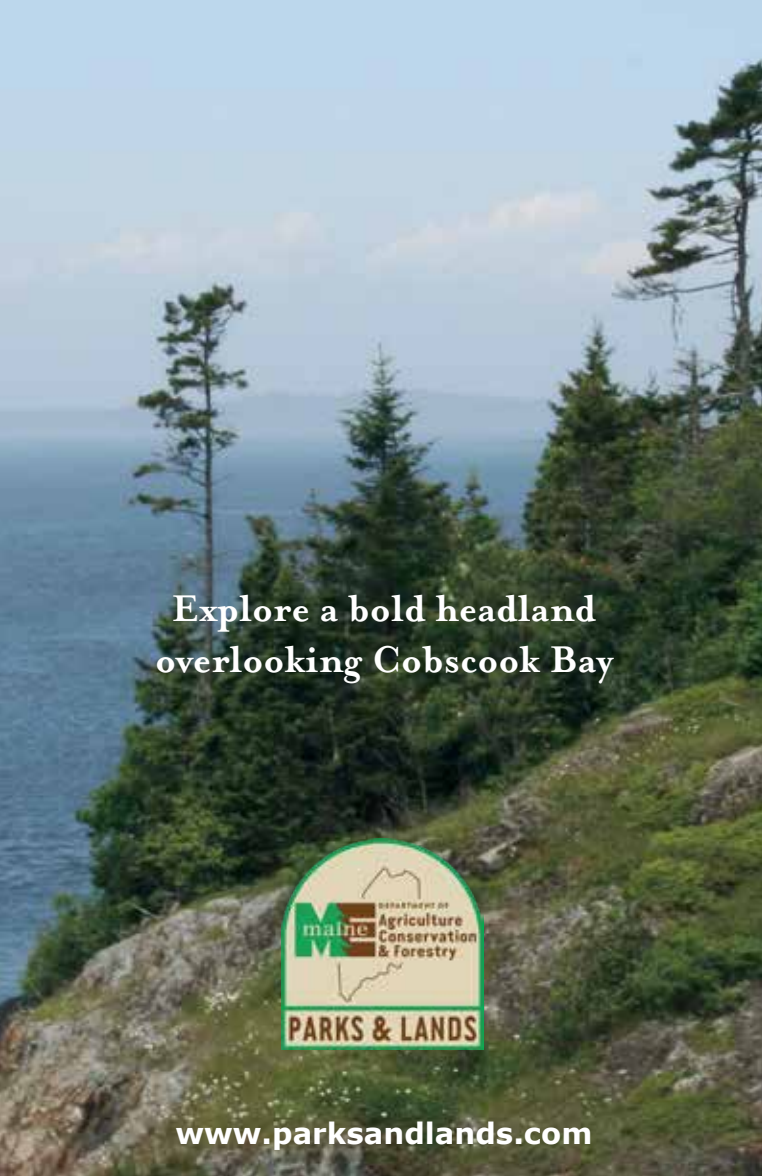
- More than 2 miles of hiking trails
- Parking area with privies
- Interpretive signs (parking area)
- Memorial to Civil War ships



2025

# SHACKFORD HEAD STATE PARK

## GUIDE & MAP



Explore a bold headland  
overlooking Cobscook Bay



[www.parksandlands.com](http://www.parksandlands.com)



## OVERVIEW

Close to downtown Eastport, the easternmost city in the United States, Shackford Head State Park encompasses 90 acres on Moose Island overlooking Cobscook Bay. This promontory at the entrance to Cobscook Bay encircles the west side of Broad Cove.

Several miles of trails cross the headland. A hiking trail from the parking area leads through woods to a rocky headland 173 feet above sea level, passing several pocket beaches and protected coves. From this outlook, visitors can see Campobello Island in New Brunswick, Canada, the town of Lubec, and the Eastport cargo pier on Estes Head, as well as aquaculture pens where Atlantic salmon are raised. Park trails afford great opportunities for wildlife watching as well—with warblers and hermit thrushes in the woodland areas, and bald eagles, common terns and spotted sandpipers along the shore. Ornithologists have documented 28 different bird species nesting on the headland.



## PROPERTY HISTORY

The Pleasant Point peninsula (Sipayik), north of Shackford Head, is a traditional seasonal fishing village to the Passamaquoddy. Because of its unique location at the confluence of the Passamaquoddy and Cobscook Bays it was, and remains today, the unique location providing safe harbor, quick access to inland and ocean waterways, and access to abundant marine resources for sustenance. Please respect the Passamaquoddy community; this whole region is their ancestral homeland.

Shackford Head is named for one of the town's earliest settlers, Capt. John Shackford—a Revolutionary War soldier who arrived with his family about 1783. Born and raised in Massachusetts, he spent most of his 87 years based in Eastport. Capt. Shackford owned the headland and used Broad Cove as his ship's anchorage. He died December 25, 1840 and is buried beside his wife in the nearby Hillside East Cemetery.

During the early 1900s, five ships that had served in the Civil War (the *U.S.S. Franklin*; *U.S.S. Minnesota*; *U.S.S. Richmond*, *U.S.S. Vermont* and *U.S.S. Wabash*) were burned for salvage (recovery of brass and iron) at Cony Beach on Shackford Head. A memorial plaque on site provides more details about this chapter in the headland's history.

In the 1970s, Shackford Head was the site of a proposed oil refinery that the Pittston Company sought to construct—a plan that met with strong opposition due to Cobscook Bay's navigational hazards and exceptional wildlife values. When the property came up for sale in 1988, the Eastport Land Trust sought assistance from the State's Land for Maine's Future (LMF) Program to keep the land wild for the public to enjoy. The LMF Program helped fund its acquisition in 1989 and the Bureau of Parks and Lands now owns and manages the land.



# VISITOR RULES

- Please stay on trails to protect the headland’s fragile vegetation. Be careful near cliffs and water (due to the great tidal range, water can move up the shore quickly).
- Park rules strictly prohibit use of intoxicating beverages.
- No hunting, camping or motorized vehicles are permitted.
- Do not feed, touch or disturb wildlife.
- Keep pets on leash (length of 4 feet or less) at all times.
- Carry out all trash.
- While swimming is allowed along other beaches at Shackford Head, it is not recommended at Cony Beach (just east of the parking area) as that was the demolition site of the Civil War ships.

Consider lending a hand. Contact the Park if you would like to help with land or trail stewardship.

# TRAILS

The trail system at Shackford Head State Park includes some easy walking trails and some more challenging, uneven terrain, none of which is wheelchair accessible. Enjoy the overlooks but use care near high cliffs and bluffs. The best shore access is at Cony Beach (by the parking area) or from the **Broad Cove Trail**.

The Shackford Head Overlook (1.2-mile roundtrip) provides good views of Cobscook Bay and environs. If you enjoy challenging terrain, add on the **Ship Point Trail** (an additional half-mile loop) and return to the parking lot via the **Schooner Trail** for a total of roughly 2 miles.

*Note: When eagles are nesting on park lands, certain trails may be temporarily closed to protect young eagle families from disturbance. Please respect signs posting trails as closed.*



Karen Laubenstein/USFWS

# SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Park is often wreathed in fog that forms when warm, moist air from the mainland meets masses of cold air over the surrounding waters. Fog and sea breezes can make for chilly conditions, even in the height of summer, so bring extra layers. Be prepared for low visibility and carry a park map with you when hiking trails.

- Exercise caution and supervise children when walking on cliffside trails or by the shore. Tides can fluctuate more than 20 feet and flow in quickly.
- Please take note of park boundary signs and do not trespass on adjacent property.
- Carry your own drinking water for hikes and picnics as none is available at the park.
- In late spring and summer, be prepared for some mosquitoes and black flies, and the painful stings of European fire ants that occur throughout Eastport and in the park. The best time to avoid them is late fall to early spring.
- Limit your exposure to deer ticks, while not prolific, they do occur so check yourself daily to prevent tickborne

# WHEN TO VISIT

The park is open daily from 9 a.m. to sunset from May 15 through October 15. Off-season, visitors are welcome during daylight hours but should take care in snowy or icy conditions.

# NEARBY DESTINATIONS

Shackford Head State Park lies within the DownEast-Acadia Region (<https://downeastacadia.com/>) that encompasses Hancock and Washington Counties and represents the easternmost corner of the United States. Nearby destinations include:

- **Campobello Island** in New Brunswick has the historic Roosevelt Campobello International Park and East Quoddy Light.
- **Cobscook Bay State Park** in Edmunds offers a good base for exploring easternmost Maine with many waterfront camping sites.
- **Mowry Beach**, a 48-acre preserve owned by the Downeast Coastal Conservancy, offers an accessible 2,100-foot trail and 1,800 feet of beachfront overlooking Lubec Narrows.
- **Quoddy Head State Park** in Lubec offers 5 miles of scenic cliffside and wooded trails, a Bold Coast rocky beach, and a lighthouse at the tip of America’s easternmost peninsula.

For additional hiking opportunities, see the *Cobscook Trails* guide available in area stores or from the Downeast Coastal Conservancy (207-255-4500 or [www.downeastcoastalconservancy.org](http://www.downeastcoastalconservancy.org)).

