Holbrook Island lies in eastern Penobscot Bay about .4 miles from the mainland part of Holbrook Island Sanctuary. Bordered by rocky ledges, sandy beaches and mud flats, the mile long island includes about 115 acres of woods and fields. Seeing the forested parts of the island, a visitor might not guess the island's long human history.

According to Anita Harris, the island's last private owner, Holbrook Island was settled just after the Revolutionary War by Capt. Jesse Holbrook of Truro, Massachusetts. For years, his island provided the tall pines for the sailing ships built in nearby Castine. The next owner reportedly kept his mistress on the island, and their daughter tended to sheep there most of her life. In 1891, Edward Kelleran Harris bought the island from her for $500, cleared more fields for a farm, and built a summer home for his family. His daughter Anita, the last member of his family, lived on the island until her death in 1985.

A great lover of nature, and of animals in particular, Anita Harris willed her island to the State of Maine on condition that it be maintained "as a wildlife and natural area….devoted wholly to the preservation of nature".

In keeping with her wishes, most of the buildings have been removed to allow the island to return to a natural state. To further protect the island, Miss Harris' will forbids picnic facilities, motorized vehicles, commercial ventures, road construction, hunting, fishing, and trapping. Within these constraints, the Bureau of Parks and Lands, provides for appropriate, low-impact use of the island.

“II hhaavvee ssttrugggled to preserve for the future a piece of the unspoiled Maine that I used to know”

- Miss Harris said in a 1966 interview. We support this goal and request your cooperation.

“A unique coastal treasure”

Holbrook Island
Sanctuary State Park
172 Indian Bar Road
Harborside, Maine 04642

Lat 44.351855 / Lon -68.793291
Open all year; 9:00 a.m. to sunset daily unless otherwise posted.
No entry fee is charged.

www.parksandlands.com

Rev.5/12/2020
Mud Cove Trail .25 miles, easy walk to Mud Cove.

Lookout Point Trail .24 miles, easy walk to Lookout Point along the shoreline.

Northwest Cove Trail .34 miles through the forest. Good bird watching and wildlife sighting.

Marsh Point Trail .25 miles, leads to Southeast Cove Trail and Arrowhead Beach Trail. Easy walk, good bird watching and wildlife trail.

Southeast Cove Trail .05 miles. Leads to nice small beach and lookout to the thoroughfare between Nautilus and Holbrook Island.

Arrowhead Beach Trail .02 miles. Leads to a shale and flint area where (legend has it) the Indians found materials for their arrowheads.

Please observe the posted rules:
- Park hours are from 9:00am until sunset.
- Camping is not permitted anywhere in the park or on the Island.
- Dogs must be leashed at all times, and are not allowed on the beaches.
- Open fires are not permitted on the Island or the beaches.
- Charcoal cookers and Coleman stoves are permitted on the beaches.
- There is a donation can by the floats. The proceeds are used for the upkeep and maintenance of the Park and Island.
- There is one visitor mooring near the docks on the Island, please share.
- There are two visitor moorings in Tom Cod Cove on the mainland, please share.