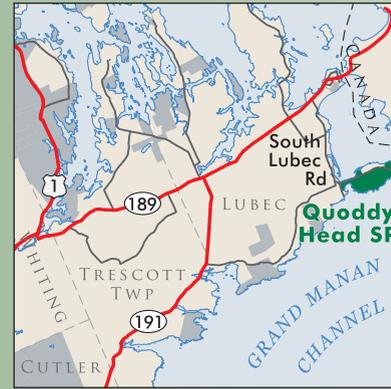


DOWNEAST REGION

DIRECTIONS

From Route 189 in downtown Lubec, turn right on South Lubec Road and follow 2 miles to a fork, bear left and continue 2 miles to the park entrance. Disabled persons can park near the lighthouse visitor center.



Lat 44.81622 / Lon -66.952943

CONTACTS

Quoddy Head State Park
(May 15 - October 15)
973 South Lubec Road
Lubec, Maine 04652
207-733-0911
www.maine.gov/quoddyhead

Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands
(October 16 - May 14)
106 Hogan Road STE 7
Bangor, Maine 04401
207-941-4014

West Quoddy Head Light Keepers Association
P.O. Box 84 / 973 S. Lubec Rd.
Lubec, ME 04652
207-733-2180
www.westquoddy.com



- Maine travel information: www.visitmaine.com
- Region travel information: www.downeastacadia.com

FEES & HOURS

- Park fees are payable at the self-service collection station at the picnic area parking lot.
- Open 9:00 a.m. to sunset daily from May 15 through October 15 unless otherwise posted. Off-season, visitors are welcome during daylight hours but should take care in inclement conditions.

SERVICES & FACILITIES

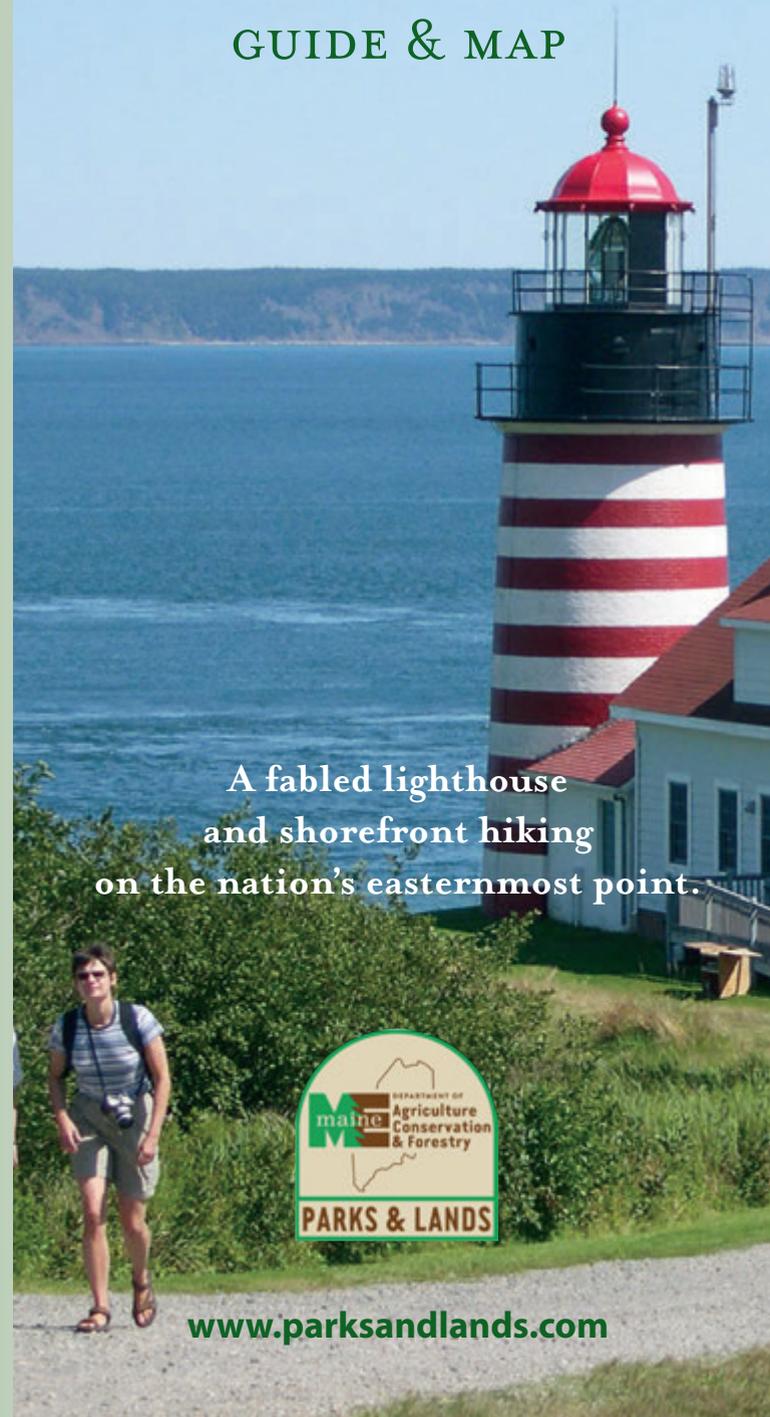
- Visitor Center with exhibits; open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily from Memorial Day weekend through mid-October.
- 5 miles of hiking trails
- Interpretive signs (at picnic area & Bog Trail)
- Picnic area with tables, grills and privies



2017

QUODDY HEAD STATE PARK

GUIDE & MAP



A fabled lighthouse and shorefront hiking on the nation's easternmost point.



www.parksandlands.com

OVERVIEW

Quoddy Head State Park encompasses 541 acres at the tip of America's easternmost peninsula, offering opportunities to visit an historic lighthouse, picnic and hike up to 5 miles of scenic trails. From the candy-striped West Quoddy Head Light, Maine's easternmost lighthouse, visitors can look out over Quoddy Channel (which divides the U.S. and Canada) to the towering red cliffs of Grand Manan Island in New Brunswick.

Commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson, West Quoddy Head Light was first built in 1808. The present tower and house, which date back to 1858, were staffed by resident light-keepers until 1988 when the U.S. Coast Guard automated the light.

The Park affords some of Maine's best wildlife watching. Visitors in summer may spot humpback, minke and finback whales offshore, along with rafts of eider, scoter and old squaw ducks. Kittiwakes, gannets, black-bellied plovers, ruddy turnstones and purple sandpipers all can be seen at times roosting on Sail Rock. During spring and fall migration periods, hundreds of shorebirds congregate near the Park's western boundary at Lubec Flats and Carrying Place Cove (named for a canoe portage site that Native Americans used). Birding opportunities continue into winter, with sea ducks, murre, and razorbills offshore and frequent bald eagles.

An easy, one-mile round-trip walk leads to an unusual coastal plateau bog (also known as a heath) with sub-arctic and arctic plants rarely seen south of Canada. Shrubs predominate, particularly black crowberry, baked appleberry and Labrador tea, along with carnivorous plants such as pitcher plants and sundew. A second bog at the property's western boundary, Carrying Place Cove Bog, is a National Natural Landmark: www.nps.gov/subjects/nlandmarks/index.htm.



PROPERTY HISTORY

The name Quoddy Head, which means "fertile and beautiful place," comes from the Native American Passamaquoddy tribe ("People of the Dawn"). The park's impressive black cliffs date back to the Silurian Age (roughly 420 million years ago) when volcanic magma rose up from under the ocean floor intruding between existing rock layers. That magma solidified into a dark, coarse-grained rock (gabbro), which is visible now that overlying rocks have worn away.

In 1962, the State secured this exceptional property by purchasing much of the current acreage from several private landowners. As part of the Maine Lights Program, in which the Coast Guard transferred title to 28 Maine lighthouses to nonprofit organizations or agencies, the deed to West Quoddy Head Light went temporarily to the Island Institute and in 1998 to the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands. The Bureau now manages the light, one of 63 active lighthouses along the coast of Maine, with assistance from the nonprofit West Quoddy Light Keepers Association.

The lighthouse was originally fueled by sperm whale oil, later by lard oil in the 1860s, then kerosene around 1880, and finally electricity in the 1890s. The light still shines, two white flashes every 15 seconds, 15-18 miles (24-29km.) out to sea through an 1858 third-order Fresnel lens that is 5.5 feet tall. The 15 red and white stripes, which make the station more visible in snow and fog, were added after the house and tower were reconstructed in 1858 when the original stone tower was replaced by brick. The tower is closed but visitors can enjoy the former light keeper's quarters now staffed by West Quoddy Light Keepers volunteers.

VISITOR RULES

To ensure a safe & pleasant visit for everyone:

- Leave No Trace** Stay on trails or stairs to protect the headland's fragile vegetation, and please do not pick or remove anything or disturb ground cover. Use the stairs by the picnic area to access the shore.
- No Camping** There is no camping in this day-use park. For State Park camping locations visit www.campwithme.com
- Picnic** On a carry-in, carry-out basis, and take refuse home to recycle. Intoxicating beverages are strictly prohibited.
- Fires** May be built only in grills; use only charcoal.
- Pets** Must be leashed, attended and under control at all times. Clean up their waste.
- Trash** Carry out all trash.
- Wildlife Watching** Please do not feed, touch or disturb wildlife. View or photograph them from a distance so they do not flush or become alarmed.
- Hunting** No hunting is permitted within 1,000 feet of the lighthouse. Visit www.maine.gov/ifw for hunting laws.

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 wear layered clothing. Be prepared for low visibility and carry a park map with you when hiking trails. Please take note of park boundary signs and do not trespass on adjacent property.

- Exercise caution and supervise children closely by cliffs and near the water, particularly along the Coastal Trail. Tides can fluctuate more than 20 feet and flow in quickly.
- Please note that the only wheelchair-accessible privies are by the lighthouse. The lighthouse also meets ADA standards. The first 0.5-miles of the western portion of the Coast Guard Trail is accessible.
- Do not leave valuables unattended in your vehicle.
- In late spring and summer, be prepared for some mosquitoes and black flies. Deer ticks, while not prolific, do occur in the area so check yourself daily to prevent Lyme and other tick-borne diseases. FMI: www.cdc.gov/ticks

TRAILS

Hikers may choose from five trails that wind through forest and wetlands and offer expansive coastal views. Trails closest to the parking area allow some wheelchair access. For shore access, use the stairway near the picnic area. Please be careful near high cliffs and bluffs and be prepared for wet terrain.

Bog Trail (1-mile round-trip from trailhead, the bog loop is 0.2 miles, easy), has a raised boardwalk and interpretive signs describing how the plants here adapt to high levels of acidic water and few nutrients. Please stay on the raised boardwalk to prevent damaging bog plants.

Coastal Trail (4-miles round-trip, moderate), affords more challenging terrain (and spectacular ocean views), with some steep and rocky sections. This trail passes Gulliver's Hole (a narrow chasm formed from the erosion of a vertical fault in the volcanic gabbro rock); High Ledge (a 150-foot bluff); and Green Point (a large ledge outcropping where hikers can reach the beach).

Coast Guard Trail (1-mile, easy-moderate), allows easy access to a high cliff overlook typical of the "Bold Coast" with views north across the Lubec Channel to the town of Lubec. This trail was originally used by the lightkeepers when returning to the lighthouse. The first 0.5-miles of the western portion of the Coast Guard Trail to the overlook is accessible to motorized wheelchairs, and with assistance for non-motorized chairs.

Inland Trail (0.75-mile loop, easy-moderate), offers a walk through conifer woods rich in mosses and lichens and climbs steadily uphill to Green Point.

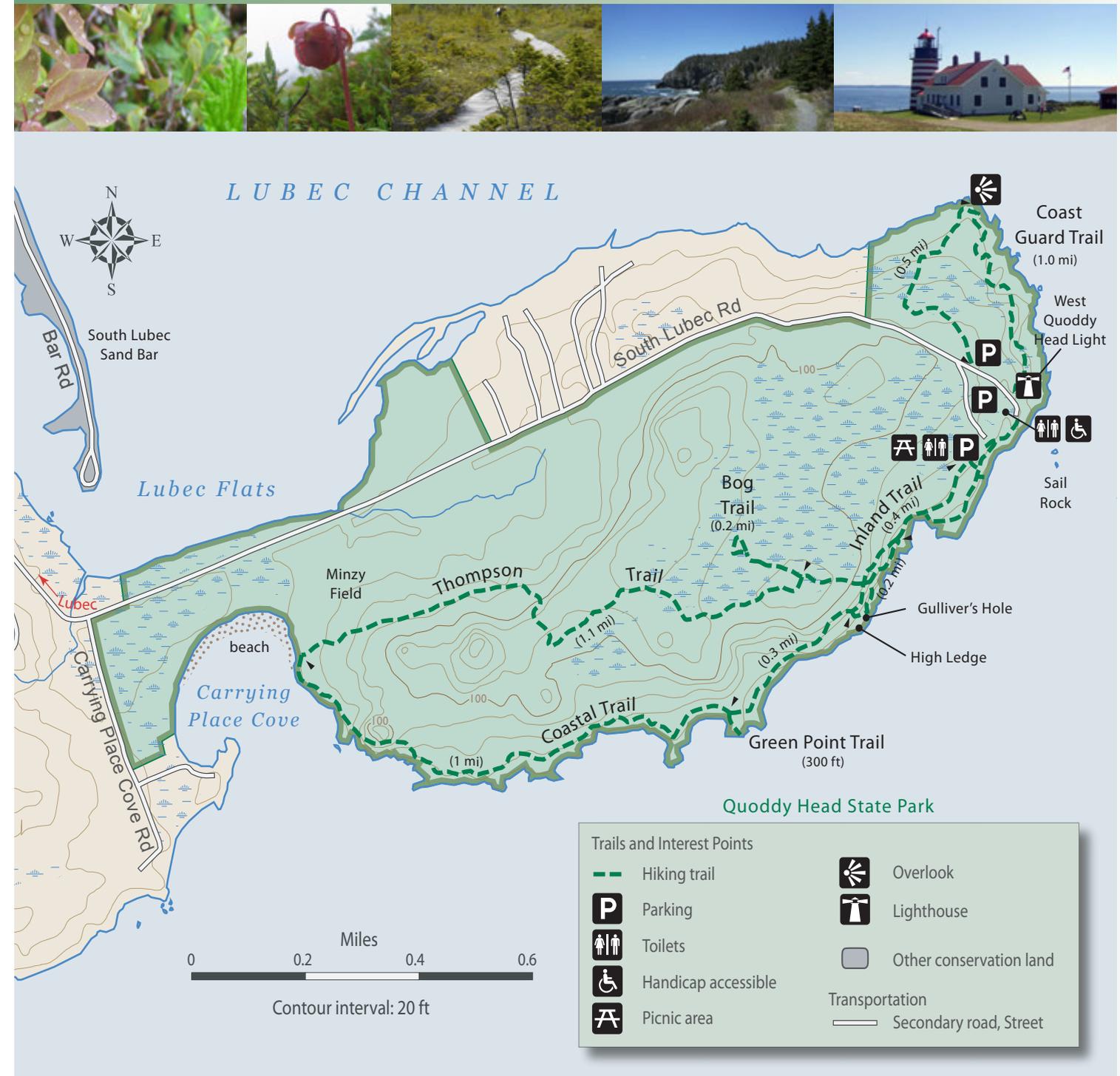
Thompson Trail (1.25 miles, easy), offers a fairly level wooded route running inland between the Bog Trail and Coastal Trail. Carrying Place Cove offers 1,200 feet of sandy beach.

NEARBY DESTINATIONS

Quoddy Head State Park lies within the Downeast-Acadia Region (www.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.
- **Mowry Beach**, a 48-acre preserve owned by the Quoddy Regional Land Trust, offers an accessible 2,100-foot trail and 1,800 feet of beachfront overlooking Lubec Narrows.
- **Cobscook Bay State Park** in Edmunds offers a good base for exploring easternmost Maine with many waterfront camping sites.

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



Consider lending a hand.

Contact the Park if you would like to help with land or trail stewardship.

This brochure was made possible in part by funding assistance through the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program (RTP), administered by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands.

Additional Online Information

- www.parksandlands.com
- www.mainetrailfinder.com