

# DOWNEAST REGION

## DIRECTIONS

**From the south**, turn right off Route 1 onto Roque Bluffs Road in Jonesboro. At the T-intersection in 5 miles, turn right and continue south on Roque Bluffs Road to Schoppee Point. **From the north**, turn left on Roque Bluffs Road approximately one mile south of the Machias town center and continue 8 miles to the village of Roque Bluffs (where there is parking for hiking trails) or continue down Schoppee Point to reach the beach and boat launch.



Lat 44.611496, Lon -67.483113

## CONTACTS

In Season: May 15 to October 1  
Park phone: (207) 255-3475

Off Season:  
Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands  
106 Hogan Road, Suite 7  
Bangor, Maine 04401  
207-941-4014  
[www.parksandlands.com](http://www.parksandlands.com)

Machias Bay Area  
Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. Box 606  
Machias, ME 04654  
207-255-4402  
[www.machiaschamber.org](http://www.machiaschamber.org)

State Tourism:  
[www.visitmaine.com](http://www.visitmaine.com)

Region Tourism:  
[www.downeastacadia.com](http://www.downeastacadia.com)

## FEES & HOURS

- Please deposit fees in the collection structure by the picnic area parking lot.
- Park hours are 9 a.m. to sunset, unless otherwise posted at the entrance. Park season: May 15 to October 1st.
- Day Use Fess & Annual Park Passes:  
[www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/park\\_passes\\_fees\\_rules/](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/park_passes_fees_rules/)
- Boat Launch Listing [www.maine.gov/dacf/boatlaunches](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/boatlaunches)

## SERVICES & FACILITIES

- Accessible parking at trailhead, beach and boat launch
- Accessible privies (no running water) at beach parking lots
- Picnic area with tables and grills (some of which are accessible), and playgrounds. There are no reservable group areas: please contact the park for help planning a special event.
- Trailerable boat launch (at the end of Schoppee Point)
- 3 miles of hiking trails
- 60 acre stocked freshwater pond



# ROQUE BLUFFS STATE PARK

## GUIDE & MAP

**A beautiful setting with  
oceanfront beach, freshwater pond  
and hiking trails**



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



## OVERVIEW

**R**oque Bluffs State Park provides visitors with a great diversity of coastal landscapes to enjoy in 274 acres on Schoppee Point (south of Machias). A beautiful, half-mile crescent of sand and pebbles along Englishman Bay is backed by the shallow waters of 60-acre Simpson Pond—allowing for bracing saltwater swims and much warmer fresh water soaks. Between the beach and the pond are several picnic areas and a children's play area adjoining the parking area. A three-mile trail network just inland from the shore leads through old orchards, fields and woods, with paths that follow the rocky shores of Great Cove and Pond Cove.

The diverse habitats at Roque Bluffs State Park support abundant wildlife, and bird watchers enjoy interesting sightings at all seasons. Bald eagles frequent the area year-round and many migrant species stop over during spring and fall. Birders occasionally spot less common waterfowl, such as Barrow's Goldeneye, Redhead and Gadwall ducks, and Hooded Mergansers. During summer months, pipers, plovers and interesting species of gull (like ring-billed) frequent the beach.

Both Englishman Bay and Simpson Pond can be explored by canoe or kayak (with rental kayaks available for use on Simpson Pond). The pond is stocked so anglers can fish for brook trout in the spring and brown trout through much of the summer. Bait fishermen use the pond in fall and winter.

## WHEN TO VISIT

The park is open from May 15 to October 1st, for day-use only, from 9 a.m. to sunset unless otherwise signed at the gate. While parking areas are gated the remainder of the year, visitors may enjoy the trails and beach at any season.

## PROPERTY HISTORY

These lands are part of the ancestral homelands of the Passamaquoddy, one of several Tribal Nations (the Maliseet, Mi'kmaq, Passamaquoddy and Penobscot) that collectively are known as the Wabanaki. Learn more about the Passamaquoddy People at [www.passamaquoddypeople.com](http://www.passamaquoddypeople.com)

The sand/pebble beach at Roque Bluffs State Park is an unusual geologic feature along the Downeast coast, much of which is marked by bold cliffs and cobble shores. It resulted from an accumulation of sediment that eroded from a prominent glacial moraine lying to the east. The bedrock outcrop at the eastern end of the beach visitors can see glacial striations (deep grooves in the bedrock left by the glacier's movement toward the southeast). The evidence here of glacial history has made the Park Stop #29 on Maine's Ice Age Trail. To learn more, visit <https://iceagetrail.umaine.edu>.

Roque Bluffs beach is one of five State Park beaches in the 32-unit Maine Coastal Barrier System which buffer the coast from storms and provide valuable habitat for plants and wild-life.

Offshore, visitors can see Libby Lighthouse (formerly known as Machias Lighthouse because it marks the entrance to Machias Bay). This historic structure, built in 1817, is still an active beacon.

## PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

- The Maine State Park Commission used proceeds from a public bond to acquire and protect the land in 1969.
- AmeriCorps Maine Conservation Corps members have provided trail maintenance.
- Consider lending a hand. Contact the park if you would like to help with land or trail stewardship.



# VISITOR RULES

- Trash

Carry out all trash.
- Pets

Dogs are not permitted on the ocean beach.  
Pets must be leashed, attended and under control at all times. Clean up their waste.
- Beverages

Intoxicating beverages are not permitted.
- Camping

Is not allowed at this park. For park locations and reservations visit, [www.campwithme.com](http://www.campwithme.com)
- Wildlife

Observe from a distance; do not follow or feed.
- Leave No Trace

Stay on trails to protect the land, and please do not pick or remove anything.
- Fires

Kindle fires only at picnic sites with fire pits or grills. Do not cut live vegetation.
- Fishing, Hunting & Firearms

Anglers & hunters must follow all State hunting laws; visit [www.maine.gov/ifw/](http://www.maine.gov/ifw/) No Hunting between June 1st and Labor Day. Do not discharge weapons within 300 feet of any picnic area, camping area, parking area, marked hiking trail or other developed area. Loaded firearms are not permitted at campsites or on hiking trails.



# SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Please enjoy Roque Bluffs State Park during daylight hours: the main area is gated at night.
- Bring potable water with you as there is none on site.
- Do not leave valuables unattended in your vehicle
- Visitors are welcome to swim in Englishman’s Bay and Simpson Pond but no lifeguard protection is offered. Those who fish off the beach on Englishman’s Bay should be careful of nearby swimmers. For more on saltwater angling, consult the online *Maine Saltwater Angler’s Guide*: [www.maine.gov/dmr/fisheries/recreational/anglers-guide](http://www.maine.gov/dmr/fisheries/recreational/anglers-guide)
- Kayakers can launch their boats from the beach on Englishman’s Bay, but the State does not own any nearby islands so public access is not guaranteed. Only experienced kayakers should paddle the open waters of Englishman’s Bay, given the potential for fog and wind. Wear a life vest/PFD.

# TRAILS

The main trailhead parking lot is a quarter-mile east of the beach parking lots (up the hill toward Roque Bluffs village). The trail network can also be accessed from the beach parking area via Starr Trail. Three main hiking trails (Houghton’s Hill Trail, Mihill Trail and Pond Cove Trail) and several smaller connector trails (Blueberry Camp Trail and Larry’s Loop) allow visitors to create a variety of hikes meandering through fields and woodlands bordering Pond and Great coves. Trails are color coded and clearly marked on the ground.

- **Houghton’s Hill Trail** (0.8 mile, red blazes) provides a woods walk from the main trailhead to Pond Cove. A picnic table located halfway along the trail offers a place to rest or snack.
- **Mihill Trail** (1 mile, yellow blazes) is accessed via Houghton’s Hill Trail or the Starr Trail to Houghton’s Hill Trail. Mihill Trail ascends a small hill and skirts the shore of Great Cove to the north end of the Pond Cove Trail. Look for two turnoffs providing shortcuts back to Houghton’s Hill (these create Larry’s Loop).
- **Pond Cove Trail** (0.8 mile, green blazes) leads through meadows and woods over largely flat terrain and offers scenic vistas over Pond Cove.
- **Blueberry Camp Trail** (0.2 mile, blue blazes) provides an alternative route to the Houghton’s Hill Trail and climbs a small hill.
- **Starr Trail** (0.3 mile) skirts a wetland and provides a connection from the beach area to the trail network.

# REGIONAL DESTINATIONS

Roque Bluffs State Park lies within the Downeast-Acadia Region ([www.downeastacadia.com](http://www.downeastacadia.com)) that encompasses Hancock and Washington Counties and represents the easternmost corner of the United States. Regional destinations include:

- **Cobscook Bay State Park** offers waterfront campsites and a good base for exploring easternmost Maine.
- **Cutler Coast Public Lands** offer 10 miles of trails with 4.5 miles of frontage along the dramatic “bold coast.”
- **Fort O’Brien State Historic Site** guarded the Machias River in the American Revolution, War of 1812 and Civil War.
- **Quoddy Head State Park** has a photogenic lighthouse and scenic waterfront trails along the easternmost point of land in the United States.
- **Rocky Lake Public Lands** offers 10,000 acres of lands well suited to canoeing, fishing and backcountry camping.

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

