

“High Island” is the English translation for Isle au Haut, the name given by the French navigator Samuel Champlain during his explorations of the Maine coast in 1604. Although shell heaps along the island’s shores tell of an American Indian presence long before Champlain’s arrival, it wasn’t until the end of the American Revolution that farmers, fishermen, and boat builders came to the island in large numbers. In the 1880s a small summer community, attracted by agreeable weather and idyllic scenery, was established.

In 1943, heirs of the founder of that community donated portions of Isle au Haut to the federal government as part of Acadia National Park. Because of their generosity, much of the island’s beauty and solitude is now yours to experience and enjoy.

Although about one-half of Isle au Haut is federal park land, the other half is privately owned, with summer residents and a year-round fishing community. Please respect private property rights.

For more information about Isle au Haut or Acadia National Park, visit www.nps.gov/acad or contact the park at 207-288-3338.

Camping

Five sites are available at Duck Harbor from May 15 to October 15 by advance reservation only.

You must have a reservation to camp. Camping is permitted in designated sites only. Checkout is 11 a.m. Pets are not permitted in the campground.

Facilities include:

- Five lean-to shelters, three-sided with roof and floor. Dimensions are 8’ tall, 8’ deep, 12.5’ wide. Tents, if using, must be set up within shelters.
- Fire ring
- Picnic table
- Storage locker for storage of all food and toiletries
- Composting toilet
- A hand pump for water is located approximately ¼ mile (400 meters) from shelters.
- There is no trash disposal on Isle au Haut. You must carry out all trash.

Camping Reservations

Reservation Request Form

1. Obtain a reservation request form from the park website at www.nps.gov/acad or by contacting the park at 207-288-3338. Reservation requests must be postmarked April 1 or later. Requests postmarked before April 1 will be returned without action. Telephone requests are not accepted.

2. Choosing dates:

- Check with Isle au Haut Boat Services for schedule (see ferry information).
 - Maximum length of stay:
 - May 15–June 14, five nights
 - June 15–September 15, three nights
 - September 16–October 14, five nights
 - “Departure date” is the day you vacate the campsite.
 - Campers are limited to one stay per year.
 - You are more likely to receive a reservation if you apply for alternate dates and/or indicate that you will accept fewer days than the number requested.
3. One reservation request form reserves one site. Six people are permitted per site. Larger groups need additional request forms.

Special Use Permit

A \$25 special use permit fee must accompany each reservation request form regardless of how many nights you wish to camp. There is no additional camping fee.

- Postal money orders, certified checks, or personal checks payable to the National Park Service are accepted. Do not send Canadian currency.
- If your reservation request is accommodated, your fee becomes non-refundable, and you will receive a reservation confirmation. If the park is unable to honor your request, your \$25 will be returned.
- When you travel to Isle au Haut, bring your special use permit with you.

Mail request form and special use permit fee to:

Acadia National Park
Attn: Isle au Haut Reservations
P.O. Box 177
Bar Harbor, ME 04609



Hiking

Eighteen miles of trails offer opportunities to explore rocky shorelines, wooded uplands, marshes, bogs, and a mile-long freshwater lake. Be prepared for rough and sometimes wet trails. Bring adequate footwear, warm clothing, and raingear.

Duck Harbor provides the best starting point for hiking. During the summer, a park ranger may board the ferry at the town landing to answer questions about Isle au Haut.

Biking

Bicycles are prohibited on hiking trails. There are five miles of paved roads and seven miles of rough, unpaved roads. The ferry charges an additional fee to transport bicycles and will only drop them off and pick them up at the town landing.

Ferry

Isle au Haut is linked to the mainland by a passenger ferry from Stonington (approximately 1½ hours by car from Bar Harbor). No auto ferry exists. The ferry runs year round to the town landing. From mid-June through early September, the ferry also goes to Duck Harbor, which is located in the heart of the park.

The ferry operates on a first-come, first-served basis. For current fare and schedule information, contact Isle au Haut Boat Services at 207-367-6516 or 207-367-5193 or visit www.isleauhaut.com.

The number of visitors allowed in the Isle au Haut section of Acadia is limited, and day trippers may, on rare occasions, be denied access to the park.

Services

A small store and post office with limited hours are located near the town landing. There are no private campgrounds on Isle au Haut.

Call 911 for emergencies.

Regulations

Fire Danger: Campfires are allowed only in designated campground areas. Never leave fires unattended. During periods of high fire danger, campfires in the campground and smoking on trails may be prohibited.

Pets must be leashed at all times while in the park and are prohibited in the campground.

Public Property: The possession, destruction, removal, or disturbance of park property or natural resources is prohibited.

Disorderly Conduct/Intoxication: It is illegal to be in the park when under the influence of alcohol and/or a controlled substance. The possession of alcoholic beverages by a minor (less than 21 years old) is prohibited.

Audio Devices: The operation of any audio device that unreasonably annoys other park visitors is prohibited. Radios must be completely off during quiet hours, from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Accidents must be reported to park rangers if property damage or personal injury are involved. Fishing is permitted in accordance with Maine law. A state license is required for freshwater fishing.

Fireworks: The possession or use of fireworks or firecrackers is prohibited.

Hunting and trapping are prohibited.

Firearms must be unloaded and cased or otherwise packed in such a way as to prevent use.



Isle au Haut

