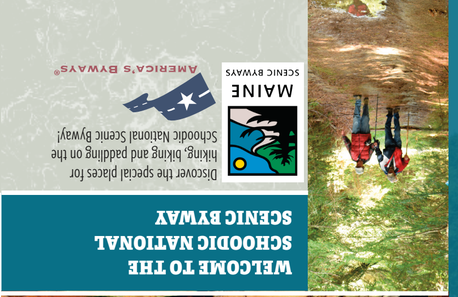

WELCOME TO THE SCHOODIC NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY

Discover the special places for hiking, biking and paddling on the Schoodic National Scenic Byway!

MAINE SCENIC BYWAYS

AMERICA'S BYWAYS®

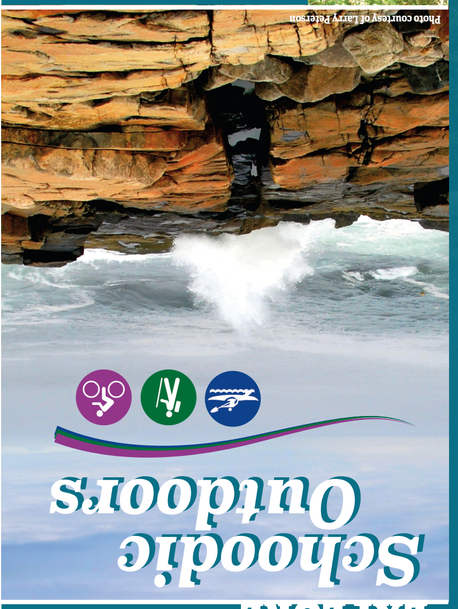

Photo courtesy of Larry Peterson

EXPLORE Schoodic Outdoors

5 GREAT PLACES TO HANG OUT

Tidal Falls Preserve: At this narrow opening between Taunton Bay and the ocean, the water races in and out with the tides creating a "reversing falls" (suitable for paddling by experts only). Headquarters for Frenchman Bay Conservancy, it is a great place for picnicking and wildlife viewing.

Gordon's Wharf: Historically this wharf served ships that loaded and carried granite paving stones to cities up and down the east coast. The site serves as the Kids Quest granite quarry exhibit. There is also a float for small boats, and a hand-carry launch where small boats can enter the Taunton River at high tide. Also visit Sumner Memorial Park (just before Gordon's Wharf) with its gazebo, sculpture (thanks to the Schoodic Sculpture Symposium), memorial, granite trough, and granite garden.

Village of Winter Harbor: A small coastal town, home to restaurants, shops, cultural events and special outdoor spots. Park in the lot next to the Town Office on School St and bike or walk the village. Consider arriving by ferry from Bar Harbor and view the Schoodic Institute's marine exhibit in the ferry building. Check out the local fishing fleet at the Town Pier and take the kids to the Camp Moore Kids Quest site. Enjoy historic sites such as Hammond Hall, the Historical Society and the Channing Chapel Library. Picnic at Frazer Point on the Schoodic Loop Rd and enjoy great views of the village.

Village of Prospect Harbor: The Schoodic National Scenic Byway ends in Prospect Harbor where points of interest are in walking distance. Have a look at the Dorcas Library and take a rest in the Town Green with its impressive sculpture from the Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium. The Prospect Harbor Lighthouse can be seen from the Town Pier.

Village of Corea: This picturesque coastal village rests on a peninsula at the end of Gouldsboro Bay. The small community is built around its fishing harbor. Home-based artisans are part of the mix.

Hiking

You will enjoy plenty of options for hiking along the Byway, from short walks to challenging mountain trails.

DONNELL POND PUBLIC LANDS

Thousands of acres of state-owned public lands draw visitors to crystal clear lakes, granite topped mountains and thick evergreen forests. The land encompasses miles of shore on Donnell Pond, Tunk and Spring River Lakes, as well as most of Schoodic, Black, Tunk and Caribou Mountains (some of this is not shown on this map). Boating, hiking and swimming are popular activities. Visitors can enjoy remote campsites accessible by foot or water on the lakeshores. *Call Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands at 207-941-4412 or visit maine.gov/donnellpond*

Photo courtesy of Frenchman Bay Conservancy

Schoodic Mountain Trails: Access from Route 183/Tunk Lake Rd to Schoodic Beach Rd. The road ends at a gate where you can park to walk a short distance to a small beach and picnic tables on the southern tip of Donnell Pond. This provides an alternate access for the Black Mountain trails.
Black Mountain Trails: Access from Route 183/Tunk Lake Rd to Black Mountain Rd.

FRENCHMAN BAY CONSERVANCY

The Conservancy has built and maintains a system of trails for public use—look for the blue blazes! *Call 207-422-2328 or visit frenchmanbay.org*
Tucker Mountain: Access from Route 1 from informal parking on the old Route 1 road bed across and slightly to the east of the Long Cove rest area. Follow the blue (not yellow) markers. A steep trail from the old road bed leads to ledges that offer panoramic views. Trail length: 0.75-mile round trip.
Baker Hill: Access from Route 1 to Punkinville Rd to parking (just south of Long Ledges). Woodland trails circle the preserve, and ledges provide views. There are two loop options (0.75 or 1 mi).
Long Ledges: Access from Route 1 to Punkinville Rd to parking. There are several short loop trails (1 or 2 mi) winding through rock outcroppings with views to Schoodic Mountain.
Schoodic Bog: Access from Route 1 to Punkinville Rd to Schoodic Bog Rd. Follow the trails, including dirt road, to the Down East Sunrise Trail where it meets the bog with great views of Schoodic Mountain to the north. Trail length: 3-mile round trip.
Little Tunk Pond: Access from Route 1 to Route 183/Tunk Lake Rd, pass Donnell Pond Public Land sign to parking. Trail leads straight to the sandy beach with views of Black and Catherine Mountains. Trail length: 0.75-mile round trip.
Taft Point: 65-acre point jutting into Flanders Bay with panoramic views across the eastern side of Frenchman Bay and Acadia mountains. Two loops available from parking lot off Taft Point Rd in South Gouldsboro.
Bean Island: A 27-acre gem in upper Frenchman Bay between Hancock and Sullivan, accessible only by boat. Hancock Point wharf on Bay Ave is the closest launch. Enjoy the trail around the perimeter of the island with stunning views of Mount Desert Island.
Corea Heath: Access from Route 1 to West Bay Rd/Route 186, then left on Route 195/Corea Rd to parking. The wooded loop trail provides overlooks of the bog and beaver dams, lodges and tranquil water flows. Great bird watching. Trail length: 1.25-mile loop. The Corea Heath Division of the National Wildlife Refuge is just south of the Corea Heath Preserve.
Frances B. Wood: 438 acres adjacent to Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Tidal estuaries, bogs, spruce forest, and excellent bird habitat. Located off the Fletcher Wood Rd in Gouldsboro.

MAINE COASTAL ISLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge is one of the five refuges that together make up the ***Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge***. This map contains two wildlife refuge sites. ***Corea Heath*** and ***Gouldsboro Bay*** provide habitat for songbirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl, as well as opportunities for bird watching and hiking.
Gouldsboro Bay protects 623 acres, including a large tidal salt marsh and mud flat. ***The Salt Marsh Trail*** winds through rolling conifer forest. Two observation platforms provide views of the salt marsh. Several pairs of bald eagles nest nearby, and waterfowl and shorebirds can be observed in the marsh. Trail length: 1.6-mile round trip.
The 431-acre ***Corea Heath*** is considered one of the most significant peatlands in Maine. ***The Corea Heath Trail*** is a short wheelchair-accessible trail surrounded by stunted trees and shrubs heading to an observation platform overlooking the heath. Please do not walk on the bog; the plants are very fragile and can easily be damaged. Trail length: 0.4-mile round trip. *Call the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at 207- 594-0600 or visit fws.gov/refuge/maine_coastal_islands*

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

The Schoodic District of Acadia National Park offers 7 miles of hiking trails, plus hiking on 8.5 miles of off-road biking paths. These trails link the ocean shore to the mountains, and offer a variety of hiking experiences.

Photo courtesy of the MaineDOT

Schoodic Head Trail (0.6 mi), ***Anvil Trail*** (1.1 mi) and ***East Trail*** (0.5 mi) travel through spruce-fir forest to pine woodlands at the top of Schoodic Head (440 ft), the highest point on the peninsula. The easy ***Alder Trail*** (0.6 mi) provides a way to complete a loop to Schoodic Head from the Blueberry Hill parking area off the Schoodic Loop Rd.
Buck Cove Mountain Trail (3.4 mi), combined with a portion (0.8 mi) of the bike paths, traverses the Schoodic Peninsula between Schoodic Head and the Schoodic Loop Rd near the entrance to the park.
Lower Harbor Trail (1.1 mi) follows the shoreline along a quiet, narrow cove (see Winter Harbor inset map). *Call Acadia National Park at 207-288-3338 or visit nps.gov/acad*

Photo courtesy of the MaineDOT

Photo courtesy of the MaineDOT

Photo courtesy of the MaineDOT

Photo courtesy of Frenchman Bay Conservancy

Photo courtesy of Frenchman Bay Conservancy

ABOUT

Welcome to the ***Schoodic National Scenic Byway***, featuring abundant special places to hike, bike and paddle. In 2000, the Schoodic Byway became one of 120 nationally designated routes that provide unique and outstanding American experiences. This Byway is a 29-mile route that rewards those who look closely and stop frequently. The route passes through a working landscape of lobstering, clamming, logging, and home-based artisans.

Photo courtesy of Frenchman Bay Conservancy

Much of the ***Schoodic Peninsula*** is part of ***Acadia National Park***, including the Schoodic Woods Campground with ample day-use parking, restrooms, and a seasonally staffed ranger station. A picnic area and restrooms are available at Frazer Point. Please note that RVs are not permitted on the Schoodic Loop Rd south of Schoodic Woods. ***Schoodic Institute***, a nonprofit organization that advances ecosystem science and learning for all ages, manages the ***Schoodic Education and Research Center*** at the southern end of the park's peninsula. Be very careful walking at Schoodic Point where the footing is uneven and can be slippery, and the waves can be erratic. *Call 207-288-3338 or visit nps.gov/acad*

Biking

ON-ROAD BIKING

Every part of the ***Schoodic Byway*** offers opportunities for biking including ***U.S. Route 1*** which is a designated bike route along the eastern U.S. coast. All of ***Route 186*** (19 mi) is a bike route with a side route on ***Summer Harbor Rd*** (6 mi loop). Another route (9 mi) follows the ***Schoodic Loop Rd*** in Acadia National Park and ***East Schoodic Dr*** in Gouldsboro.

This map does not show a bike route from ***Prospect Harbor to Corea*** (Routes 186 and 195), but experienced riders may want to give this charming and scenic ride a try. Traffic is light, but there are no paved shoulders.

OFF-ROAD BIKING

Acadia National Park offers 8.5 miles of non-motorized, gravel bike paths that wind through the hills of the the ***Schoodic Peninsula***. For a family-friendly bike loop start from the ***Schoodic Woods*** day-use parking area to follow off-road gravel bike paths and the one-way section of the ***Schoodic Loop Rd*** to complete an 8-mile loop.

The Down East Sunrise Trail is the longest off-road section of the ***East Coast Greenway***, a trail from Key West, Florida to Calais, Maine. The Down East Sunrise Trail parallels Route 1, following the Calais Branch rail line beginning in downtown Ellsworth and heading 85 miles east towards Eastport. This unpaved trail is managed for bicyclists, walkers, ATV and snow machine-riders, cross-country skiers, and horseback riders. Cyclists will want to use bikes suited for rough gravel surfaces.

For more riding options, integrate the ***Island Explorer*** into your itinerary by riding from point A to point B and then taking the bus with bike racks back to the start of your ride. See "More to Explore" section.

Paddling

Paddling opportunities abound! This area is blessed with a dramatic shoreline dotted with islands as well as some beautiful lakes and ponds. Look for the boat access icons on the map.

WARNING! Changing tides, high winds, swift tidal currents and large waves create unpredictable and challenging conditions making ocean kayaking very dangerous. The unpredictable nature of these hazards, combined with Maine's cold waters, can lead to hypothermia and death if you are not prepared to deal with an overturned boat. Make sure you have the proper equipment and experience for coastal Maine kayaking.
No matter where you paddle—always wear your life jacket!

FRESHWATER PADDLING

Launch your boat into the larger water bodies of ***Donnell Pond*** or ***Tunk Lake,*** or explore the smaller ***Little Tunk Pond, Jones Pond,*** and ***Flanders Pond***. There are primitive, public campsites on the shores of Donnell Pond and Tunk Lake.

SALTWATER PADDLING

There are numerous places to park and paddle in the bays and open ocean. Please be extra cautious when kayaking or canoeing in the ocean! Stay very close to shore and go in fair weather if you are not fully prepared to manage the significant tides, currents, rain, fog, wind and waves. Land and islands that are open to public use are shown in green. ***Schoodic Island*** and ***Rolling Island*** off Schoodic Point, located in Acadia National Park, are closed from February 15 through August 31 to protect nesting birds. ***Maine Coast Heritage Trust's*** preserves on ***Ned, Flat, and Stave Islands*** are great for picnicking, swimming and exploring. A campsite on the southeast end of Stave Island is open for use. *Call 207-729-7366 or visit mcht.org*

MORE TO EXPLORE

Kids Quest: Look for "Kids Quest" sites along the Schoodic National Scenic Byway. Each of the 7 beautiful outdoor locations will engage children and their parents in the region's history, ecology and culture. Whether kids climb aboard the small-scale lobster boat in Prospect Harbor, learn about tides at Tidal Falls in Hancock, or explore the shore in Winter Harbor, it's sure to be fun.

A Bird Watching Hot Spot: The National Audubon Society lists Acadia National Park, including the Schoodic Peninsula, as one of Maine's birding hot spots with a list of more than 230 species ranging from the winter wren of deep forest to the osprey nesting on the coast.

The Ferry: Private passenger ferries operate seasonally between Bar Harbor and Winter Harbor. The Island Explorer provides ground transportation from the ferries to Acadia National Park and local communities on both sides. The ferries and Island Explorer can carry a limited number of bicycles.
The Bar Harbor Ferry: Call 207-288-2984 or visit downeastwindjammer.com
The Schoodic Ferry: Call 207-944-7379 or visit frenchmanbayresearchboating.org

The Island Explorer: This fare-free, propane-powered bus system serves the park and the villages of Prospect Harbor and Winter Harbor between May 25 and Columbus Day.
Call 207-288-4573 or visit exploreacadia.com

This brochure is a project of the Schoodic National Scenic Byway Committee. Consult the members' websites for up-to-date information: Downeast and Acadia Regional Tourism, Hancock County Planning Commission, Frenchman Bay Conservancy, Friends of Taunton Bay, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Maine Department of Transportation, National Park Service, Schoodic Area Chamber of Commerce, the towns of Gouldsboro, Hancock, Sullivan and Winter Harbor, and local businesses and citizens.

For information about lodging, shopping, camping, golfing, etc., please consult the Schoodic Area Chamber of Commerce website at acadia-schoodic.org. For more information on the Schoodic National Scenic Byway, visit schoodicbyway.org and "Schoodic National Scenic Byway" on Facebook.