1931

Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park, Maine: a Scenic Wonderland of Ocean, Lakes and Mountains

Sherman Publishing Co.

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Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park, Maine

A Scenic Wonderland of Ocean, Lakes and Mountains
Bar Harbor—A magic name which conjures up a host of memories of vacation delights! Golfing over the velvet greens of the beautiful Kebo Valley Club which nestles at the foot of Kebo Mountain! Swimming in the sparkling, limpid waters of the pool at the magnificent new Bar Harbor Club! Colorful throngs of tennis enthusiasts gathered for the annual International Maritime Tournament! Sailing over the quiet reaches of the Atlantic in a powerful runabout or scudding over the seas in a sailing craft! Summer hikes along secluded trails, where the checkered shadows play hide and seek along the way! Mountain climbing on incomparable Flying Squadron or Cadillac Mountains and the others. Equestrian sports on well-kept bridle paths and horse roads from which motors are excluded! Famous New England clambakes on the beach beneath a golden moon whose reflection gleams from a thousand sparkling waves! Canoeing on one of the many tree-girt lakes, or along the shores of Frenchman’s Bay! Shore dinners at one of the many inns and hotels whose cuisines are unexcelled! Angling for the elusive trout or gamy land-locked salmon! Motoring over perfect roads through the unexcelled scenery of Acadia National Park to other island resorts — Seal Harbor, Southwest Harbor, Northeast Harbor, Somesville or Tremont. A constant round of social gaiety, dancing, teas and musicales at the beautiful Building of Arts! Brilliant social functions for those who plan to take their exercise as devotees of Terpsichore!
BAR HARBOR—The Playground of a Nation!

Nowhere in the world can be found such a veritable fairyland of mountain and lake, combined with the seashore and summer resort facilities. Thousands of tourists from far-flung corners of the world who visit Maine, the Playground of a Nation, consider their trip incomplete if they fail to visit Bar Harbor, the wonder spot of the State, and the most distinguished summer resort of all the Americas. The scenic charm of this Mecca of tourist travel has won an enviable reputation among those who have wandered the world over in search of the beauty spots of Nature.

Magnificent estates and hundreds of attractive cottages are found along the wooded shores and scattered through the beautiful hills which make up Mount Desert Island. Each turn in the winding roads brings a new vista of rare delight, a fresh vision of Nature's boundless, incomparable beauty which has been lavished on Bar Harbor in such generous prodigality as can be found nowhere else on the civilized globe. The Mount Desert area contains about one hundred square miles, well distributed as to land and water areas.

Acadia National Park, the only national park on the Atlantic seaboard, comprises about fifteen thousand acres, with several thousand acres held in trust for future expansion of the great scenic playground, but thrown open to the public, although motors are excluded from many of the horse roads and bridle paths, which enables them to retain that pristine virginity of secluded quiet which makes them beloved of the Nature lover and naturalist. Many lakes are included within the Park boundaries. Across the bay about fifteen hundred acres, on Schoodic Point, are included in the Park limits, an area of rock-bound shore, typical of Maine coastal scenery.
Motor Trips

Miles of smooth, broad roadways lure the motor enthusiast to explore the many entrancing drives centering around beautiful Bar Harbor. A climb up a gradual ascent, a sweep around a graceful curve, a glide into a winding valley with a vista of blue-grey mountains in the distance, or a leisurely idling along secluded byways in search of unusual beauty spots which the hand of man has left unchanged — what more can one ask of a vacation tour?

Mount Desert itself is a veritable network of beautiful drives where with infinite variety a meadow vista with a deer feeding quietly in the background gives place abruptly to a bold, rocky precipice, or a crescent-shaped sound where the famous Captain Kidd may have keel-hauled some mutinous seaman, or buried his pieces-of-eight.

Days may be spent in motor exploration, weeks might be used to explore the many mountain trails open to the hiker, and yet the guest would still find something new to bring to each adventure the zest of the explorer seeking after new marvels, the same broadening horizon that beckoned to Champlain when he explored the island in 1604 and gave it the name of "L'Isle des Monts Deserts."
The United States Government has during the past year completed the scenic highway to the summit of Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park. The formal opening of this magnificent road will be held early in July, 1932.

Cadillac Mountain is the highest point of land on the Atlantic Coast, rising from the sea to a majestic height of 1,525 feet. The new motor highway to its summit leaves the Acadia National Park motor road between Great Pond Hill and Jordan Pond. It traverses a distance of three and one-half miles to reach the summit. The average grade is five per cent and the maximum is seven per cent. Motor cars have no difficulty in making the ascent in high gear at slow speeds. The roadway is twenty-two feet wide. The road was begun in 1928 and the Government has expended in the neighborhood of three hundred and fifty thousand dollars on this one project in Acadia National Park.

As this incomparable scenic highway winds its way up the slopes of this majestic mountain there are unfolded to the motorist superb views of other mountains, of lakes and of the ocean. These constantly changing views are a challenge to description. On clear days one can look across Maine to the White Mountains of New Hampshire and north to Mt. Katahdin, Maine's highest peak. Hundreds of islands along the rugged coast of Maine are in the panorama from the summit. There are no views like these to be obtained in any other way except by flying over the same country in an airplane.
Mountains and Hiking

Off for the day! What a thrill we experience as we take up our knapsack and follow a trail which perhaps Champlain blazed more than three centuries ago! We can share with him the views from “Les Monts Deserts” as we follow the well-marked trails to the summit. Perhaps we feel that the blazed trails are too civilized, so we struggle upward through the underbrush, circling to avoid a bare precipice here, now skirting a maelstrom of jagged rock slide, until we sense the real achievements of blazing our own trail to the summit! How good that lunch from the knapsack tastes, as we feast our eyes on the panorama which extends before us to a far horizon! How we sleep that night with the sighing of the wind through the pines, or the never-ceasing friendly murmur of the sea crooning a lullaby!

The Appalachian Mountain Club has realized for many years the rugged beauty of Cadillac and the other mountains of the island, and members form pilgrimages each year to climb Saint Sauveur, Norumbega, Huguenot Head, Flying Squadron, and Champlain. Not a day passes but parties climb these mountains for the magnificent views which may be obtained from the tops.

TYPICAL SCENES IN ACADIA NATIONAL PARK
Social Life

For generations Bar Harbor has been known as the favorite summer playground of the wealthy and fashionable world of America. People with the whole world from which to choose have selected Bar Harbor as the most perfect summer resort, and hundreds of world travellers have chosen to return year after year to their elaborate summer homes or hotel suites in the modern, up-to-date hostelries whose every effort is expended to make their guests happy and contented.

The modern, beautiful building of the Young Women’s Christian Association has accommodations for business and professional women and their friends. Numerous homes of the permanent residents provide excellent accommodations for a host of summer friends at modest rates. There are, in addition to the larger hotels, several attractive inns and excellent rooming houses catering to transient trade.

Tennis

The Athletic Field offers opportunity for a variety of out-of-door sports. The new Bar Harbor Club, the Kebo Valley Golf Club, and the Y. M. C. A. all have fast, well-kept tennis courts. The high light of the tennis season is the annual International Maritime Championship which are played at the Bar Harbor Club each year, beginning first Monday in August.

Biological Laboratory

The Mount Desert Biological Laboratory, located in Bar Harbor, has ample opportunity for studying rare biological specimens, as well as providing a chance for exhaustive studies of the more common species.
Abbe Memorial Museum

Adjoining the Sieur de Monts Spring entrance to the Acadia National Park stands the Robert Abbe Museum, dedicated to public use and containing relics of the Stone Age period, Indian relics showing the degree of culture attained by the aborigines in this section of the country. During the summer season an archaeologist is in charge to explain and interpret the articles on exhibition.

Jackson Memorial Laboratory

An institute for the study of cancer has been established in Bar Harbor as a memorial to the late Roscoe B. Jackson of Detroit. Dr. Clarence C. Little, former president of the University of Maine, is in charge of the research, which is an organized effort to approach the eradication of this disease through experimental biology.

The Building of Arts

A regular series of fine musical concerts is held each year at the Building of Arts. Special recitals are given by world-famous musicians during the summer season, when the beautiful building becomes the musical center of Maine.

Churches

Churches are maintained in Bar Harbor by the Baptist, Catholic, Christian Science, Congregational, Episcopal, Methodist, and Unitarian denominations.

Camping

A public camp ground is maintained in the borders of Acadia National Park, about two miles from Bar Harbor Post Office. The camp ground is equipped with electric lights and running water from Eagle Lake, the source of the perfect municipal water supply of Bar Harbor.
Magnificent Driving Roads

Through the generosity of a distinguished Mount Desert Island summer resident, there has been constructed here a system of more than fifty miles of horse roads from which motors are excluded, giving opportunity for riding and driving that has no equal in America. There are several good riding schools with horses for hire.

Fishing

Fresh or salt water fishing, which shall it be? Good catches of trout and salmon, perch, pickerel and bass may be taken from the fresh water lakes, ponds and streams, while cod, haddock, and numerous other deep-sea species may be taken at will from the ocean.

Jordan Pond, Bubble Pond, Eagle Lake, Long Pond, and Echo Lake are well stocked with salmon and trout from various government fish hatcheries. Mount Desert and the near-by mainland form a paradise for the disciples of Izaak Walton. Black flies, those pests of the fisherman, are unknown on the island.

Sieur de Monts Spring

Sieur de Monts Spring, housed beneath a beautiful canopy, stands sentinel at one of the entrances to Acadia National Park. From this point the climb of Flying Squadron is made, and a drink of its clear, refreshing waters, which bubble through white sands from subterranean sources, is most refreshing before and after the climb.
Golf

The Kebo Valley Club is one of the oldest and most widely known golf clubs in America. Its eighteen-hole course has been constructed over some of the most naturally ideal golf terrain in this country. Placed in a scenic setting unsurpassable, the Kebo course holds a perennial pleasure for the professional who can go around the eighteen holes in par, or for the man who has never broken a hundred.

Climate and Water Supply

No other location in the north temperate zone surpasses Bar Harbor for evenness of climate. The climate of the island is usually mild, with an average July temperature of sixty-five degrees, a January average of twenty-four degrees, and an average annual temperature of forty-three degrees. The annual precipitation is forty-three inches, evenly distributed throughout the several seasons.

Eagle Lake provides an inexhaustible supply of pure water. The tonic effects of this spring-fed water supply, combined with the health-building climate, annually lure thousands of summer visitors to Bar Harbor, the Queen of American Summer Resorts.

The Flower Show

The Garden Club of Mount Desert has an annual flower show which attracts flower enthusiasts from all over the country. Many rare blooms are exhibited and competition is keen for the awards offered in the various classes.

Beautiful formal gardens, rock gardens, and greenhouses contain rare and costly species of plants from every clime. Native flowers and herbs make the island a paradise for the naturalist seeking recreation along his favorite theme.
Upper Left — A STRIKING FORMAL GARDEN
Upper Right — THE BOWL ON CHAMPLAIN MOUNTAIN
Center — NOT BAD FOR ONE TRIP (Courtesy William B. Campbell)
Lower — YACHTS IN BAR HARBOR
How to Reach Bar Harbor

The train service to Bar Harbor during the summer season is of the very best. The Bar Harbor Express leaves Washington at noon, Philadelphia in mid-afternoon and New York after office hours daily except Sunday, arriving at Bar Harbor for breakfast after an overnight run. Through Pullman service from these cities to Bar Harbor is maintained for some time prior to and following the period during which the Bar Harbor Express runs. The service between Boston and Bar Harbor is excellent throughout the year. The trains discharge their passengers at Ellsworth, the county seat twenty miles from Bar Harbor, at which point passengers are met either by private motors or by the deluxe passenger coaches operated by the Maine Central Railroad Company. For those who prefer the water routes, the steamers of the Eastern Steamship Lines make daily trips between Bar Harbor and Rockland, maintaining connections with their New York-Boston lines. Information bureaus in metropolitan railroad and steamship offices will always have the best information regarding service to and from Bar Harbor.

Motorists' Route to Bar Harbor

The shore road from Portland seems to be the most popular route for the tourist traffic to Bar Harbor, especially during the summer months. Road signs have been placed along this route by the Bar Harbor Publicity Bureau to aid the visiting motorist in determining the shortest and best road. This route is marked U. S. No. 1 until the town of Stockton Springs is reached. Shortly after leaving Stockton Springs, the motorist crosses the Penobscot River on the beautiful new bridge, to the town of Bucksport, which is but thirty-five miles from Bar Harbor. Coming through Ellsworth, the county seat, the motorist approaches Mount Desert Island across the steel and concrete bridge which is a memorial to the men of Hancock County who gave their lives in the World War.

Air Routes to Bar Harbor

For those who prefer the air routes, it is probable that the Boston and Maine and Maine Central Railroad Companies will maintain the same daily service between Boston and Bar Harbor via Rockland as in 1931. There will be maintained this season a daily service between Rockland and Bar Harbor. There are adequate facilities here for landing and servicing of amphibians and seaplanes. The nearest landing field is at Bangor, fifty miles from Bar Harbor.

Information

Any information regarding Bar Harbor, hotels, summer attractions, etc., will be supplied promptly upon application to the Publicity Office, 339 Main Street, Bar Harbor, Maine.
Bar Harbor to Seal Harbor, 8 miles; Bar Harbor to Northeast Harbor, 12 miles; Bar Harbor to Southwest Harbor, 16 miles; Bar Harbor to Ellsworth, 19 miles