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Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park, Maine

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BAR HARBOR and ACADIA NATIONAL PARK, MAINE

Mt. Desert Island, called by the Indians Pemetic, was included in the grant known as Acadia given to Sieur de Monts in 1603. He and Champlain arrived in 1604; Champlain naming it the Island of Desert Mountains.

Later Jesuits seeking shelter from a storm landed on the island and induced by the Indians under Asticou founded the Saint Sauveur Mission. The French Acadia and the English Virginia comprised much the same territory. Samuel Argall of Virginia, bearing a commission to expel Frenchmen from the Territory of King James, destroyed the Jesuit Mission.

The French in 1688 granted Mt. Desert to Sieur de la Monts Cadillac.

The French-English cross granting ended with Wolfe's victory on the Plains of Abraham and the Northeastern seacoast was open for English settlement. In 1762 Massachusetts granted to Governor Bernard the western half of the island and in 1786 the remainder to De Gregoir and his wife the granddaughter of Cadillac.

Summer visitors came in 1858, and a few homes were reluctantly opened to boarders, then came boarding houses, better transportation and hotels. The first summer cottage was built at Birch Point. Gradually other cottagers acquired the desirable shore sites and the boarders were crowded out.

In 1903 "The Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations" was formed and as Dr. Eliot stated, their purpose was to urge the preservation of natural scenic beauties and the beautifying of town properties. This organization, through gifts and purchases of land with money contributed by summer residents, had by 1913 acquired five or six thousand acres. This they offered to the National Government.

In 1916 a large portion of this was accepted as a Federal Reservation and named Sieur de Monts National Monument. Two years later this was changed to Lafayette National Park. The hills were renamed to commemorate historic characters connected with Mt. Desert.

In 1928 Lafayette National Park became Acadia National Park, thus it acquired the name of the original grant of land to Sieur de Monts. This measure also provided for the acceptance of other properties within Hancock county and some islands to the East of the main ship channel through Penobscot Bay.

Mt. Desert's distinctive charms are its natural beauties, cool summers, facilities for sheltered or open sea sailing and fishing; and the lure of its wild rocky hills, the highest on the Atlantic coast, which are deeply cut by streams, picturesque valleys, and ponds.
THE BAR HARBOR MOUNTAINS
DEEP CUT ON THE SUMMIT ROAD  CADILLAC MOUNTAIN
LOOKING DOWN TO BAR HARBOR, FRENCHMAN'S BAY AND THE PORCUPINES FROM THE SUMMIT ROAD ON CADILLAC MOUNTAIN
BALANCE ROCK  THE SHORE WALK
BUBBLE POND
JORDAN POND AND THE BUBBLES FROM STEPPING STONES
SIEUR DE MONTS SPRING
GREAT HEAD—HIGHEST HEADLAND ON THE ATLANTIC COAST
FROM THE ST. LAWRENCE TO THE AMAZON
A SURF SCENE ON THE OCEAN DRIVE
CADILLAC AND FLYING SQUADRON MOUNTAINS FROM THE OTTER CREEK BRIDGE
THE CHAMPLAIN MONUMENT ON MOUNT DESERT ISLAND

THIS COMMEMORATES THE EXPLORER'S DISCOVERY OF THE ISLAND IN A 1604 VOYAGE ALONG THE COAST.
SOMES SOUND FROM SARGENT DRIVE