1960

Acadia National Park, Winter Harbor, Maine : the Gouldsboros

Conrad Hanf
dia National Park
Winter Harbor
Maine

Winter Harbor Lighthouse

The Gouldsboros
An effort has been made to compile information on Gouldsboro Peninsula and the waters around it.

This pamphlet is designed to help you find your way and learn the points of interest.

We are happy to welcome you to the Gouldsboro Peninsula.

Conrad Hanf
President of Gouldsboro and Winter Harbor Improvement Asse.
Visitors' Guide and Directory to ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

Through the courtesy of the GOULDSDORO-WINTER HARBOR IMPROVEMENT ASS'N.

(1) WEST GOULDSBORO
(2) SOUTH GOULDSBORO
(3) SUMMER HARBOR
(4) GRINDSTONE NECK
(5) WINTER HARBOR
(6) ACADIA NATIONAL PARK
(7) WONSQUEAK HARBOR
(8) BIRCH HARBOR
(9) BUNKER'S HARBOR
(10) PROSPECT HARBOR
(11) COREA
(12) GOULDSBORO

CHURCHES

WEST GOULDSBORO— Protestant Church
SOUTH GOULDSBORO— Protestant Church
WINTER HARBOR— Catholic and Protestant Churches
BIRCH HARBOR— Protestant Church
PROSPECT HARBOR— Protestant Church

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South Gouldsboro
The Gouldsboro Peninsula is like a necklace hanging from the mainland, and the towns along its shores are the jewels. The traveler is first aware of the beauty in store for him, at Sullivan, 12 miles east of Ellsworth on Route 1. Here, across eight miles of island-dotted Frenchman’s Bay is the dramatic vista in the southwest of Mount Desert Island with its ten-mile-long range of mountains rising from the sea, looking more like slumbering sea monsters than a chain of hills. The traveler catches frequent glimpses of this vista as he drives seven miles farther toward Gouldsboro Peninsula, the eastern arm of Frenchman’s Bay.

Turning right at Route 186 the traveler begins his trip around the Peninsula in the community of WEST GOUldboro, the first gem on the necklace. This is a hillside village where, in a narrow valley, Jones Cove, one small arm of Frenchman’s Bay, points across the highway to Jones Pond where there are trout and bass.

At the top of the next hill the traveler leaves West Gouldsboro, and after winding through the woods, he comes out in SOUTH GOUldboro on a ridge running parallel with the shore. From here there is an unobstructed view of the islands in the bay. It is here people come to watch the endless variety of sunsets, and where the residents remember from one outstanding burst of glory to the next. Here the traveler may digress, by taking a sharp right-hand turn, and make a tour of inspection through Snow’s Canning Factory on the shore.
Back on Route 186, the traveler taking the Shore Road will drop to the water's edge at SUMMER HARBOR, where winding roads will lead him through dense, fragrant forests to climb another Gouldsboro Hill.

In a break in the woods with a more southerly view of Mount Desert Island, is the tiny community of GERRISHVILLE on the outskirts of Winter Harbor.

At the next right-hand turn is GRINDSTONE NECK, a fashionable summer colony, bordering the town of Winter Harbor. This mile-and-a-half-long neck of land is like an emerald on the necklace, with its carefully tended golf course stretching from shore to shore, with the well-groomed lawns of the cottages on both sides of the oval drive at the crest, and the dense fir woods on the seaward half of the neck. At the highest part of the crest is the well-known Grindstone Inn.

A drive to the western shore brings the traveler close to the islands running north and south. They are Jordan; Ironbound, with its gleaming palisades; tiny Crow; Flat, where clams abound; Heron; Spectacle, with its cottage home; and mile-long Turtle, with Egg Rock Lighthouse in the center of the bay. Boat races can be seen from Grindstone Point, where, on stormy days, heavy seas break along the rugged shores. At times there can be seen off the western shore of Ned Island opposite, the phenomenon of a sea breaking over a submerged ledge, midst an otherwise calm stretch of water. This
is Roaring Bull. From the church at the crossroads a drive to the eastern shore of the neck brings one to the Yacht Club, which welcomes visitors from recognized clubs, and to the salt water swimming pool.

WINTER HARBOR

Winter Harbor, with a population of 500 is the largest community on Gouldsboro Peninsula. Beautifully situated on a rise of land against a backdrop of dense woods, the town appears to preside at the head of a two-mile sound with Winter Harbor and its three coves—Sand Cove, Inner Harbor and Henry Cove—pressing into the village.

On Main Street, which runs through the town from west to east, the traveler will find stores, an Art Gallery, garages, places for light lunches and signs directing him to overnight accommodations. The traveler should turn down Harbor Road at the fountain and visit the town wharf on Inner Harbor. Opposite, spruce clad Harbor Point provides a beautiful background and a natural wind-break for more than a score of lobster fishing boats which bring their catches to the lobster dealer in the white scow.

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

The largest and the finest gem of all hangs from the center of the necklace, Acadia National Park with 2080 acres and a shore drive of 7.2 miles. The approach is at the eastern edge of Winter Harbor through one-and-a-half miles of woodland where a rustic bridge and pink crushed Cadillac granite roads mark the entrance to
Mark and Ned Islands and Grindstone Point

the park. The drive is generally close to the sea where parking areas are provided for those who wish to picnic, climb the pink cliffs and enjoy the views.

From the western side of the park, bordering the sound, there is a view of the Mount Desert Mountains rising above the islands of Ned and Mark where Winter Harbor Lighthouse stands at the entrance to the harbor. A short distance from the shore, there is a small gravel turn-out and a trail leading to the Raven's Nest where the pounding seas have carved a ragged "W" into the perpendicular cliffs.

The waters of the sound are linked to two quiet coves by a short ride through the woods of a promontory, where at twilight deer may be seen feeding at the roadside. When the traveler reaches the coves he will probably find a family of sea-ducks feeding, or a rare blue heron striding cautiously through the tall marsh grasses. It is here that the traveler will want to make a left-hand turn, drive well within the woods, take a winding road to a beautiful rock headland 400 feet high called Schoodic Mountain, and see the magnificent views into the Bay of Fundy eastward and westward—views so intimate of the Frenchman's Bay island that he will feel he has only to lean over a little to touch them.

Returning to the cove, one continues on road built across the marsh leading to Big Moose Island. Here, on the east side of the island, the gates of Schoodic Radio Station face a cove,
where in a storm, great seas race in, piling beach rock higher and higher and crashing against the opposite shores of bleak and barren Little Moose Island. Driving on through a cut in the rocks, the traveler will seemingly burst out onto Schoodic Point which juts farther into the open sea than any other point of rock on our eastern coast. Here, on a terraced parking area, with the sea below often sending geysers of spray 40 feet in to the air, the traveler can eat his luncheon and enjoy the feel of open ocean and the clean fragrant air. There is no more romantic pastime than, on clear nights, counting off the lighthouses visible from the point-like Mount Desert Rock far to sea, the slowly pulsing red light of Great Duck Island and the revolving white light of Baker’s Island.

To continue through the park, we ask the traveler to retrace his tracks and, a short distance beyond the Schoodic Radio Station, turn eastward. After passing weathered fish houses on Little Moose Island, the traveler will come to Blueberry Hill, an open field below The Anvil, which is an excellent place for building fires to cook his luncheon. Across a channel is Schoodic Island, and on the horizon, Petit Manan Lighthouse. A gradual descent from Blueberry Hill carries the traveler between Rolland Island, visible through the shady points, and the hillside covered with maple, birch, cedar and spruce trees. In leaving the park one sees several clear illustrations of Maine’s famed rocky coast, where beaches have been hammered from the cliffs by the pounding seas.

**WONSQUEAK HARBOR**

Suddenly the traveler will find himself on the shores of picturesque Wonsqueak Harbor, the smallest of a series of three harbors, where the pink rocks have deepened to a red and where the waters are so narrow the lobster fishing boats are moored one behind the other.
There is a legend about this harbor. Tradition says an Indian brave became jealous of his squaw, took her out in his canoe and threw her overboard. She gave one screech and he held her head under water until she drowned. Formerly the creek was named “One Screech.”

Spruce Point separates Wonsqueak from BUNKER’S HARBOR, where the vivid pink granite shore contrasting with the dark green fir trees invites the color camera. Here travelers can enjoy a feast of boiled lobsters while sitting on the lovely shores.

Passing at the back of another dramatic point edged with cabins, the traveler will come out beside BIRCH HARBOR, the third and largest in the series. He will drive along irregular tapering shores edged with open fields and country and turn eastward into Route 186, which passes the head of the harbor.

From the top of the hill there is a dramatic view below of PROSPECT HARBOR, where across its wide entrance the ruby red light of Prospect Harbor Lighthouse flashes nightly. Below is Stinson’s Sardine Factory. For two miles along the western shore of the harbor, where many lobster fishing boats are moored, one motors by the stores, the lobster dealers, residences, a white New England church, the Village Library and the community hall.
Leaving Route 186 at the Village Postoffice and following along the edge of the water one crosses over the eastern arm of Prospect Harbor and comes to the eastern most arm of Gouldsboro Peninsula. COREA lies across two miles of heath on the seaward end of its own peninsula. This lobster fishing village is crowded onto the pink shores of a deep secure harbor with a narrow entrance. Jutting into the boat-filled harbor are picturesque fish houses and their wharves covered with lobster fishing gear, and pounds where lobsters can be purchased. It is said that all men but one in Corea earn their living doing something in connection with the lobster business.

Returning to Prospect Harbor and Route 186 the traveler, now heading in a northerly direction, will soon be leaving the Gouldsboro Peninsula over a woodland road. Here for only one of five miles, he can see Gouldsboro Bay bordering its eastern shores. At the end is the community of GOULDSDORO, where in the last house on the left, before making the turn on to Route 1, the first of the Gouldsboro Town Meetings was held in the home of Thomas Gubtail. Now in the village of Gouldsboro, where Route 186 joins Route 1 and continues eastward through the community of Gouldsboro, the traveler leaves the necklace and goes on to Steuben, Milbridge and points east.
Things To Do on Schoodic Peninsula

(1) SWIMMING — Salt water or fresh water.

(2) GOLF — 9 hole golf course.

(3) TENNIS — Single and double courts available.

(5) HIKING — In Acadia National Park.

(5) FISHING — Deep sea, streams and ponds. Trout, bass, salmon, cod, haddock and pollock.

(6) PICNICS — Acadia National Park.

(7) HUNTING — Deer during season. Pheasant and partridge during season. Sea birds and ducks in season.

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