

Acadia's Famous Landmarks

Landmark	Activity	Location/Parking	Expected Amount of Time Spent/When to Go
Sand Beach	Relax at Sand Beach, Acadia's only sandy beach. This half mile beach has excellent views of rocky coastline. The water is generally very cold, but refreshing.	Park at the Sand Beach Parking Lot or in the right lane of the Park Loop Road.	10 minutes to all day depending on whether you're just stopping to see the views or to hang out all day.
Thunder Hole	Witness the power of the ocean against Maine's rocky coast. Thunder Hole is a small inlet with a small cave and when waves roll into the inlet the water and air is forced out of the small cave and creates a huge splash (up to 40 feet high) and a sound like thunder, hence the name.	Park at Thunder Hole Parking Lot (about a mile after the Sand Beach Parking Lot) or in the right lane of the Park Loop Road.	We suggest spending about 15 to 30 minutes depending on the crowds. The sound of "Thunder" is loudest 2 hours before high tide when the seas are rough .
Jordan Pond House	Enjoy a delicious popover with fantastic views of Jordan Pond and the Bubbles. This is the only full-service restaurant in Acadia. They are a modern restaurant serving lunch, dinner, and afternoon tea.	Park at Jordan Pond Parking Lot. The restaurant located on the west side of the Park Loop Road.	2 hours should be enough time to have a meal and get to explore the grounds. It's projected 60% of Acadia's annual visitors go to Jordan Pond House annually so reservations are highly suggested.
Cadillac Mountain	Witness a gorgeous sunrise or sunset from the highest peak near the coast in the Eastern United States. You can reach the summit of Cadillac Mountain either by car, bicycle, bus, or hike.	Drive up the Summit Road, which starts off of the Park Loop Road, and follow 3.5 mile scenic and windy road to the parking lots near the peak.	We suggest leaving about 1 hour to 1.5 hours before sunrise or sunset from the hotel to give you a better chance of getting a good seat and not missing any of the sunrise/sunset. The sunrise is generally viewed as being more spectacular than the sunset, but both are great. Reservations are required to drive up and can be made online on Acadia's website.
Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse	See one of Maine's most iconic lighthouses. To best view the Bass Harbor Head Light follow a path from the parking lot that leads into the woods and then there is a wooden stair case that brings you to rocks to view the Lighthouse from.	Located in Bass Harbor, about 35 minutes way from Bar Harbor, the Lighthouse has a parking lot right next to the building. The parking lot often fills which requires you wait in line for spot.	30 minutes should be enough time to get to explore the area around the Lighthouse and get a few pictures. This is a very popular tourist spot so be prepared for crowds.
Park Loop Road	The Park Loop Road is known as one of the prettiest drives in the whole US. You can see rocky coastline, ocean, lakes, mountains, and forest all in one 27-mile loop. Many of the attractions we listed above are on the road. Taking the Park Loop Road is the best way to see as much of Acadia in a short period of time.	The Park Loop Road has many entrances and exits so you can either do the full 27-mile loop (which we highly suggest) or just do a smaller section of it. The road is one way for about 2/3 of the road so keep an eye out for turns or parking areas. In the sections that are one way you are allowed to park in the right lane anywhere.	The drive itself takes about an hour, but with stops and traffic can take longer. We suggest setting aside anywhere from 1-4 hours depending on how many stops you'll be making.