

Fundy National Park

New Brunswick



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Cover: Point Wolfe River with Point Wolfe in background

View of McLaren Pond and Bay of Fundy

Introducing a Park and an Idea

Canada covers half a continent, fronts on three oceans, and stretches from the extreme Arctic more than half-way to the equator.

There is a great variety of land forms in this immense country, and Canada's national parks have been created to preserve important examples for you and generations to come.

The National Parks Act of 1930 specifies that national parks are "dedicated to the people . . . for their benefit, education and enjoyment," and must remain "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Fundy National Park, 80 square miles in area, skirts the Bay of Fundy for eight miles and extends inland for more than nine over a rolling, forested plateau. The park preserves a superb example of the Bay of Fundy's rugged shoreline, with its steep sandstone cliffs indented by coves and inlets and lashed by some of the world's greatest tides.

The park is situated about 50 miles southwest of Moncton, New Brunswick.

The Park Environment

Each national park has its own character, its unique story as a living, outdoor museum. The Fundy story is the drama of a bold, irregular coastline, and a rolling, forested landscape cut by deep valleys and quickly flowing streams.

The Bay

Rising and falling twice each day, the Bay of Fundy's tides are the highest in the world. They are magnified by the bay's shape and size, and reach heights of up to 53 feet. Within the park they average 29 feet, and are sometimes as high as 40 feet.

No visit to Fundy National Park is complete without a stroll at low tide along the tidal flats at Alma, Point Wolfe, or Herring Cove. Here, under rocks, in small pools and among rock weed, such forms of marine life as periwinkles, limpets, barnacles, sea anemones, and sandhoppers rest and await the tide. An exhibit about the tides is located at Herring Cove.

During the spring lobster season, little boats from Alma can be seen along the shore as the fishermen raise their traps. Later, caught by the low tide, the same boats rest on the mud by the village wharf.

The Land

The park faces the sea along a line of steep cliffs that range in height from 30 to 200 feet and are divided at intervals by streams that enter the bay in deep valleys. Behind the wave-pounded cliffs, the land rises in a rolling plateau, a remnant of an ancient range of mountains. Averaging 1,000 feet above sea level, the plateau is cut by deep valleys, with steep, rocky walls and waterfalls.



A few small lakes and swampy areas are found in more level areas in the northwest section of the park.

The park's bedrock, which is exposed in roadcuts and valley walls, is composed mainly of lava and ancient sediments that have been greatly altered during their 500 million years of existence. They originated partially from the molten rock and ash spewed by ancient volcanoes, and partly from the sand, mud, and gravel deposited in old river basins.

Millions of years later, masses of molten material oozed up from deep beneath the earth's surface and later crystallized to form granite and black igneous rocks.

Two formations of Coal Age sandstone and conglomerate (material composed of various-sized rocks) lie in a narrow band along the coast between Alma and Point Wolfe. In places they contain plant fossils (petrified remains of plants that covered this area millions of years ago), and thin seams of coal.

About a million years ago the last Ice Age began another chapter in the story of Fundy National Park. The huge ice sheets which once covered most of North America scraped across the park, breaking and gouging rocks and scouring out river valleys. When the ice melted away about 10,000 years ago, the area was covered with a

blanket of rock debris called glacial till. It is from this glacial till that most of the poor, stony soils of Fundy National Park have developed.

A booklet describing the park's geology in more detail can be purchased at the park information office.

The Plants

The valleys and rounded hills of Fundy National Park are covered with a varied vegetation, dominated by a mixture of broad-leaved and evergreen trees.

Within the park are two forest zones. Along the coast, where summers are cool, yellow and white birch are scattered among red spruce and balsam fir. The warmer plateau is dominated on higher ground by stands of sugar maple, beech, and yellow birch, while red spruce, balsam fir, and red maple thrive in low, swampy areas.

Mountain and striped maple and American mountain ash are typical of the small trees found in the park, and shrubs include the alder, willow, hobblebush, and red elderberry. Distinctive wildflowers are the bunchberry, wood sorrel, violet, sarsaparilla, aster, and goldenrod. Ferns, lichens, and mushrooms are common in the park, while the black spruce, Labrador tea, pitcherplant, sundew, cottongrass, and sphagnum moss thrive in the bogs.

Signs of the area's human history are evident throughout the park. Forests are recovering from a century of logging, which took place before Fundy National Park was established, and former farmlands are now growing up with alders, balsam fir, and white and red spruce.

Brightening the fields and roadways are the blooms of many foreign plants that have colonized the park. Among these are the orange and yellow hawkweed, lupine, daisy, buttercup, dandelion, and St. John's wort.

The Animals

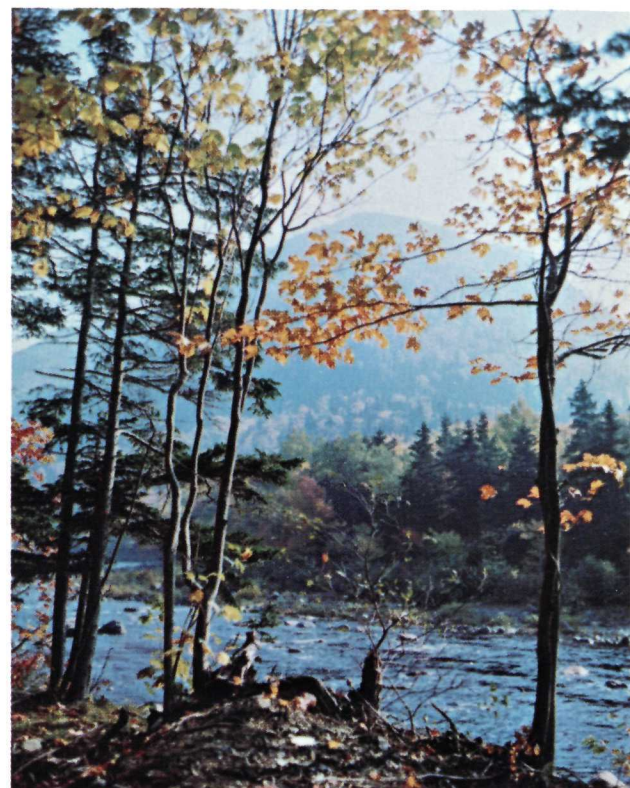
Many of the park's animals have become accustomed to man, and can be observed at close range. However, these animals are still wild, and should be viewed and photographed with caution. The best time to observe wildlife, particularly during summer, is in the evenings or early mornings, when animals are most active.

Moose prefer the higher areas of the park, while the smaller and more common white-tailed deer are seen most frequently near the coast. Campers should remember to protect their food from the raids of raccoons. The snowshoe hare, porcupine, beaver, red squirrel, chipmunk, woodchuck, mouse, and shrew are some of the most frequently seen animals in the park. Although common, the bobcat is rarely seen. A few black bear also inhabit the park.

Of the 185 species of birds recorded in Fundy, 87 are known to nest in the park. They can best be observed in the early mornings from May to the middle

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How To Enjoy The Park

Season – The park is open all year, although most visitor services are only seasonal. Most people come between May and September, but snowshoeing and cross-country skiing are popular from December through March.

Boating – Motor boats are permitted on Bay of Fundy waters, but are prohibited on all lakes and streams in the park. However, rowboats may be used on park waters, and may be rented in the park.

Snow Vehicles – These must stay on trails designated for their use. All other motorized land vehicles are restricted to regular roads.

Arts and Crafts – The Province of New Brunswick operates an arts and crafts school in the park each summer from the second week in July through the third week in August. Adults and children may participate in the program for a nominal registration fee plus the cost of materials used.

Hiking – This is the best way to explore a national park. There are more than 50 miles of hiking trails in the park, and the system connects with the Fundy Hiking Trail, which links the village of Riverview near Moncton to the park.

Fishing – Fishing in the park is by permit, available at a nominal charge from any information office or park warden.



Other Facilities

The park offers a variety of other services, including a heated saltwater swimming pool, a nine-hole golf course, tennis courts, and a lawn bowling green. Private businesses operate horseback riding and rowboat rental facilities, and restaurants, a grocery store, service station, and souvenir shop are also operated in the park.

Some Don'ts

National parks are selected areas set apart as nature sanctuaries and special care is taken to maintain them in their natural state. For this reason, all wildlife, including birds and animals, and trees, rocks, and fossils are to be left undisturbed. Even the wildflowers are not to be picked; they must be left for others to enjoy. Feeding, touching, or molesting wild animals is not permitted.

Please help protect your park for future enjoyment. It is part of your heritage.

You may bring your dog or cat, but dogs must be kept on leash. No permit or vaccination certificate is required.

Fires

Campfires may be lit only in fireplaces provided for this purpose, or in outdoor stoves. Barbecues may be used only in campgrounds or in picnic areas, and all coals must be dumped into existing park fireplaces. Fire permits



must be obtained from a park warden for any open fires during trail travel.

Anyone finding an unattended fire should try to extinguish it, or if it is beyond his control, report it to the nearest park employee. Fire in a national park can cause damage that cannot be repaired in 100 years.

Where To Stay

Camping brings you into the closest contact with the natural environment of the park. Camping facilities are provided at three campgrounds, located at Chignecto, Point Wolfe, and the park headquarters.

Daily fees vary depending on whether the site is unserviced or equipped with electrical, water, and sewage connections. Camping space is allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, and the maximum allowable stay in a campground is two weeks. Campgrounds open about the third week in May and close the first week in October, depending on the weather. It is not permissible to camp at picnic areas or along roadways. Visitors on overnight trail trips may camp en route, provided they register with a park warden before and after each trip, and obtain a campfire permit.

A variety of commercial accommodation is offered in the park and at the village of Alma, just outside the park's eastern gate.

How To Get The Most Out Of Your Visit

To help you understand and appreciate the park's complex natural environment, you are urged to take advantage of the free interpretive program, conducted by a professional naturalist and his staff. It will provide you with an insight into how climate, land formations, plants, and animals are interrelated, and your stay will be more rewarding.

During the day there are guided hikes along the shore and in the woods; in the evening there are films and illustrated talks.

Self-guiding trails, exhibits, interpretive signs, viewpoints, and free pamphlets also explain the park's natural features.

Information on the interpretive program is available from bulletin boards, information centres, and park staff.

Where To Get Information

Detailed information may be obtained at the information centre at the Wolfe Lake entrance and at park headquarters at the Alma entrance. Uniformed staff will answer questions, provide maps, outline travel routes, and refer visitors to various areas and facilities in the park. Special events are posted on bulletin boards.

Park wardens, though not primarily responsible for general information, will help visitors whenever possible.

Additional information on Fundy National Park is available from the Superintendent, Fundy National Park, Alma, New Brunswick. For information on other national parks, write the Director, National and Historic Parks Branch, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Ottawa.

of July, when breeding males sing conspicuously from perches. Nesting birds include the slate-coloured junco, white-throated sparrow, Swainson's thrush, winter wren, boreal chickadee, yellow-bellied sapsucker, evening grosbeak, and 18 species of warblers. The gray (Canada) jay will be a frequent companion at your picnic table. On saltwater, the common eider and occasional common or redthroated loon can be seen. The Bay of Fundy's shoreline is a migration route, and in the spring and fall large numbers of migrating species light down in the park.

A bird check-list is available from park information centres.

Speckled trout populate practically all the park's streams and lakes, and about the end of August Atlantic salmon begin their spawning run up the Upper Salmon River.

A Brief Park History

The Bay of Fundy is associated with some of Canada's earliest history. French and Portuguese fishermen visited the area in the 16th Century, and it is believed that Fundy's modern name derived from the Portuguese "Fondo Rio", meaning deep river.

In 1604 Samuel de Champlain visited the bay, claiming it as part of the French colony of Acadia, which was later to become Nova Scotia under British rule. In 1784, the colony of New Brunswick was separated from Nova Scotia.

The first colonist settled at the present site of the village of Alma in 1825, and was followed soon after by large numbers of Irish and English immigrants.

Lumbering soon became an important industry in the park area, and sawmills were established at Alma, Point Wolfe and many other centres. The lumbering industry, which reached its peak early in the 20th century, generated a great deal of shipping activity. Three- and four-masted schooners, and later steam-powered vessels, sailed up the bay to load lumber at Point Wolfe and Alma. During the same period a ship-building industry flourished at Alma. It continued until World War II.

For 100 years farmers labouriously tilled the stony, glacial soil, supplementing their incomes with lumbering, fishing, and hunting. By the time Fundy National Park was established in 1948, the heyday of lumbering had passed, and many settlements and farms had been abandoned.

How To Get There

Fundy National Park is accessible by car from Saint John (80 miles to the southwest) via Highways 1, 2, and 114, and from Moncton via Highway 114.

The only public transportation is a once-a-day bus service from Moncton to Alma, just outside the park's eastern entrance. However, this service is not provided on Sundays and holidays.



Fundy National Park

- Highway
- Secondary Road
- ⋯ Walking or Hiking Trail
- Lake, River, Creek
- 🏠 Warden's Cabin
- ⌛ Picnic Area
- 🏠 Accommodation
- 🏕 Campground
- 🌿 Nature Trail
- 🔥 Fire Lookout
- 👁 Viewpoint

