Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge

Hiking Trails

The Corea Heath Trail is a short 0.2 mile wheelchair accessible trail surrounded by stunted trees and shrubs heading to an observation platform overlooking the heath. The trail offers a rare opportunity to view a coastal plateau bog (heath) with its unique plants. Please do not walk onto the bog, the plants are very fragile and can easily be damaged.

Trail Length: 0.4 miles round trip (30 minutes)

Directions to Petit Manan Point Trails:
Route 1 in Stueben, look for the brown Petit Manan Point Division sign. Turn onto Pigeon Hill Road (right turn coming from Ellsworth or left turn coming from Milbridge), and proceed south for 5.7 miles until you enter the refuge. Continue driving up the hill to reach the first parking lot (Birch Point Trail) or continue driving 0.4 miles on the dirt road until you reach the second parking lot (Hollingsworth Trail).

Directions to Gouldsboro Bay Division:
Coming west on Route 1 from Milbridge or east on Route 1 from Ellsworth, turn onto Chicken Mill Pond Rd in Gouldsboro (U shaped road with two entrances from Route 1). Drive about 0.9 miles coming from Milbridge or 0.4 miles coming from Ellsworth and turn onto Fletcher Wood Road. Proceed 0.2 miles, and continue straight ahead when the main road turns to the right. Parking lot is located 0.1 mile ahead.

Directions to Corea Heath Division:
Coming from Ellsworth on Route 1, turn right onto 195 south in Gouldsboro and follow 4.8 miles to Prospect Harbor. At the junction with 186, turn left, drive 0.1 mile, and turn right onto 195 (Corea Rd). Coming from Milbridge on Route 1, turn left onto 186, and then turn left onto 195 in Prospect Harbor (Corea Rd). Continue on 195 for 2.6 miles and then turn right into the refuge parking lot.

General Refuge Information:
- The refuge is open from sunrise to sunset all year.
- Pets are permitted on the mainland trails on a hand-held leash no longer than 10 feet.
- Camping, fires, and motor vehicles are prohibited on refuge lands.

Look for this trail marker to help guide you on the hiking trails.

This sign indicates the refuge boundary. “Unauthorized entry prohibited” simply means you are welcome to enter as long as you obey refuge regulations.
Birch Point Trail: This trail is a gently sloping walk through blueberry fields, and mixed forest to the salt marshes at the northeast corner of Birch Point. There are family friendly interpretive displays along the route. The trail continues to the shoreline and offers views of Dyer Bay where you may observe bald eagles, shorebirds, or wading birds.

**Trail Length:** 4 miles round trip (2 hours)

Hollingsworth Trail: This trail is a more rugged hike than the Birch Point Trail. This is a loop trail that will lead you to the eastern shore of the Point, with views of jack pine stands and cobble beaches. There are several wooden walkways to minimize disturbance to sensitive wetland plants. The trail continues to Chair Pond, where you will overlook a large sand beach and intertidal ledges. On a clear day, you can see Petit Manan Island.

**Trail Length:** 1.8 miles round trip (1 hour)

Salt Marsh Trail: This trail winds through rolling conifer forest. There are two observation platforms providing views of the saltmarsh. Several pairs of bald eagles nest nearby, and waterfowl and shorebirds can be observed in the saltmarsh. The Frenchman Bay Conservancy maintains a hiking trail that begins near our kiosk and heads north. Their 1.6 mile trail is marked with blue paint blazes on the trees.

**Trail Length:** 1.6 miles round trip (1 hour)