

# Acadia National Park

## Shuttle Guide

### Editor's Note

The free **Island Explorer** shuttle bus has multiple routes servicing most of Mount Desert Island and the Schoodic Peninsula, including many areas inside the national park and many of the towns outside the park. Taking the shuttle is not mandatory, but if you'd rather not drive or if you get a later start, it's a great option.

The itinerary is timed for you to drive, as you can get into the park before the first shuttle. However, the parking lots in the park are small and if you get a later start, they will almost certainly be full, so I strongly recommend taking the shuttle instead in that case.

*James*

**James Ian**  
Founder



**Parks Collecting**



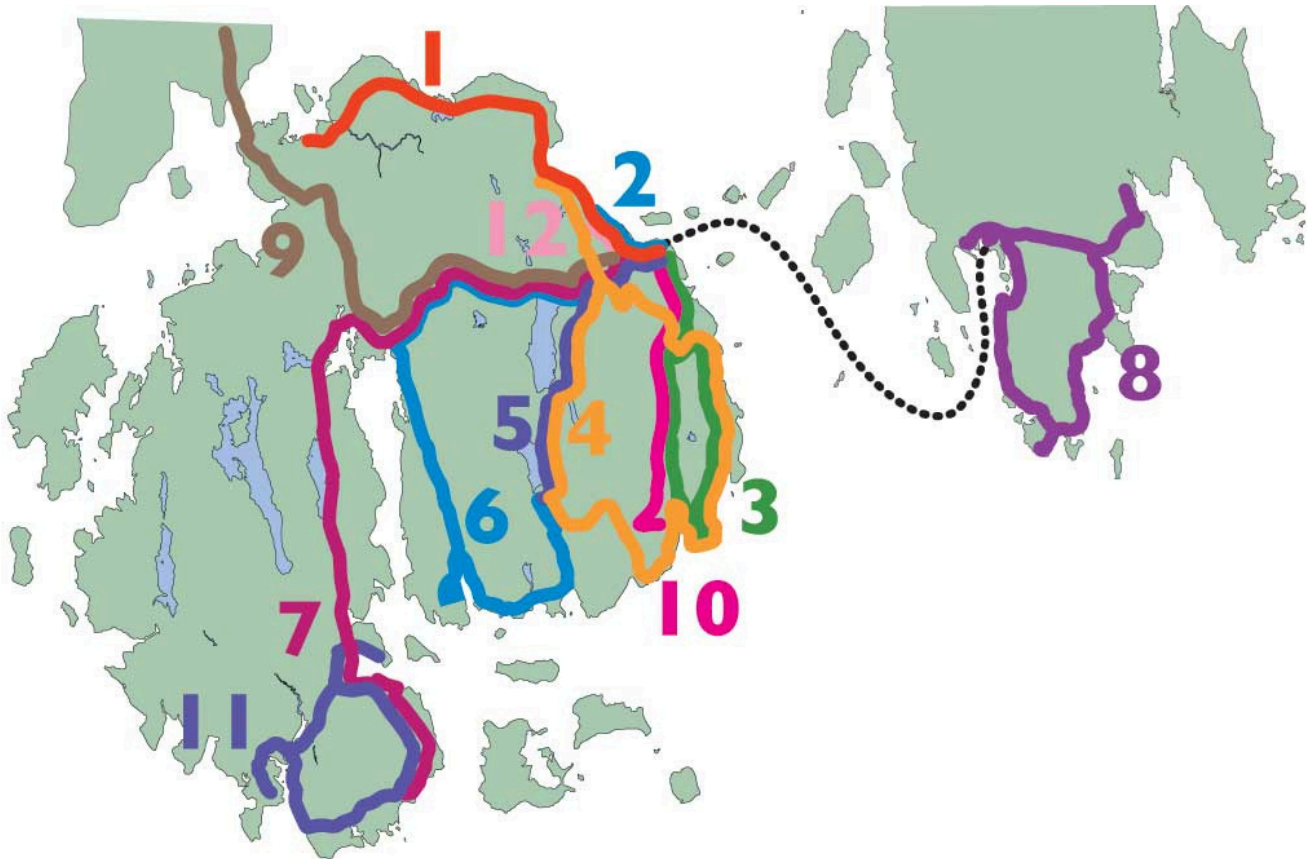
# ACADIA SHUTTLE GUIDE

## When does the shuttle run?

The Island Explorer runs in season only. The **summer** season, with full service, runs from late June to the end of August. The **fall** season, with more limited service, runs from the beginning of September to mid-October. There is also a one-month **spring** season on the Schoodic Peninsula only from late May to late June.

There are **11 routes**. For detailed schedules for each route, check the [Island Explorer website](#).

You can also track where your bus is in real time on the [live online bus tracker](#).



## Where can I catch the shuttle?

The main stop in Bar Harbor is the **Village Green** in the center of town. There are several routes in Bar Harbor. If you're staying in town, it's usually easier to leave your vehicle parked at your accommodation and walk to the Village Green or the nearest stop.



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## Where can I catch the shuttle?

If you're staying somewhere else, you might be able to take a different line and connect with the line taking you to your destination.

Otherwise, your best bet is to park at the **Hulls Cove Visitor Center**, which connects with a couple of routes, including the most useful, the #4 Loop Road route.

**Parking** at the Hulls Cove Visitor Center will often be full by 9:00AM at peak times, especially summer weekends. Get there a little early and take the first shuttle of the day if you can.

## Things to Know

- At the busiest times of year, there are lines to get on the shuttles. Be prepared to wait more than 30 minutes if you get a later start to the day. Try to **get an early start** if at all possible.
- There are official stops, but if you want to **get on or off somewhere else along the route**, you can. Ask the bus driver when you board the bus, and they will stop for you at the nearest safe place. You can also flag a shuttle down along the route. Choose a spot with a good shoulder and good sight lines and flag the bus with two hands.
- There are spaces for either 4 or 6 **bicycles** on the front of each bus, depending on the bus. E-bikes are not allowed, however.
- The buses are **wheelchair accessible**.
- **No food or drink** (except water) is permitted on the shuttles
- Well-behaved leashed or crated **pets are welcome** on buses, but not on the seats, and not on your lap.
- Moderately sized collapsible **strollers are allowed** on the buses.

## Routes

There are **eleven routes** that travel all over the area.

However, there is **no shuttle up Cadillac Mountain** and none that goes all the way to Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse (although there is a stop a short walk away).



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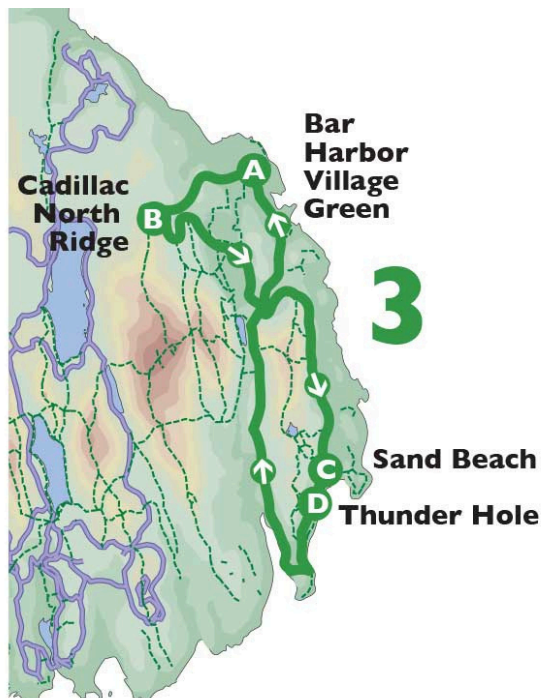
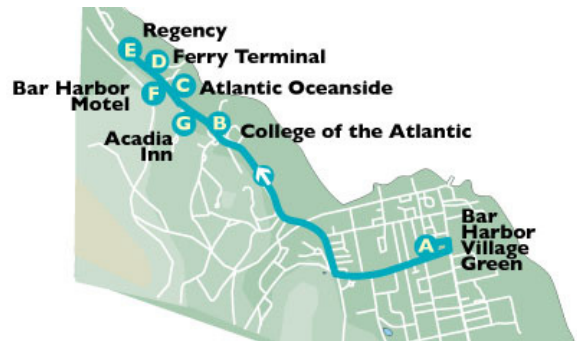
## #1 Bar Harbor Road

Runs along the northern edge of Mount Desert Island from Mt Desert Narrows to Village Green, stopping at Hadley Point, Bar Harbor Campground and Hulls Cove Visitor Center. **Useful** if you are staying in that area.



## #2 Eden Street

Runs in a loop along this major street in Bar Harbor between Village Green and Regency, stopping at College of the Atlantic, Atlantic Oceanside and the Ferry Terminal (northbound), and Bar Harbor Motel and Acadia Inn (southbound). **Useful** if you're staying near the route to get a connecting bus at Village Green.

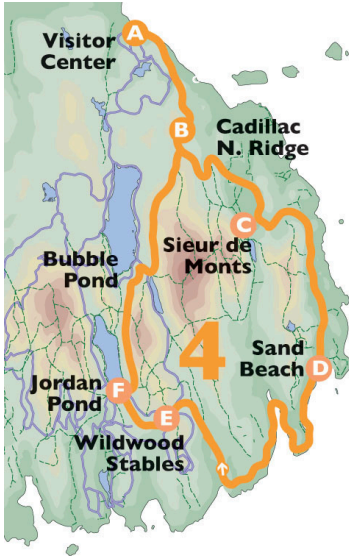


## #3 Sand Beach

Runs from Village Green along the southeastern coast of Mount Desert Island to Sand Beach and Thunder Hole before leaving the Loop Road and cutting straight back to Bar Harbor. **Useful** for Sand Beach, Beehive/ Bowl Trails, Thunder Hole, Otter Cliff, Ocean Path. Does not start or stop at the Hulls Cove Visitor Center.

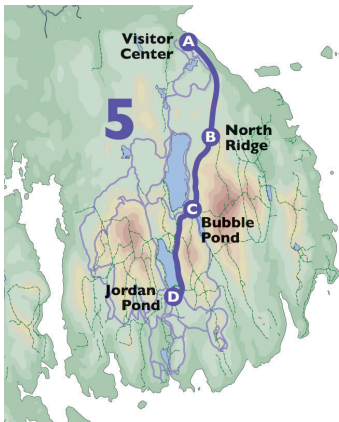


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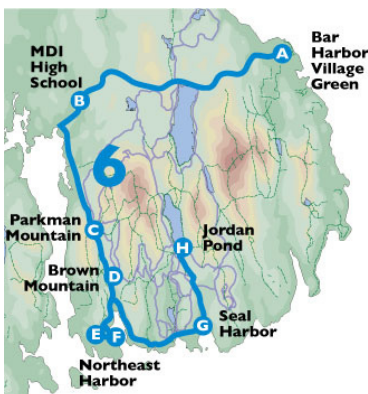
## #4 Loop Road

This is the main route through the national park, starting at Hulls Cove Visitor Center, stopping at Village Green, then heading around the full Loop Road. **Useful** for Sand Beach, Beehive/ Bowl Trails, Thunder Hole, Otter Cliff, Ocean Path, Jordan Pond.



## #5 Jordan Pond

Runs from the Hulls Cove Visitor Center to Jordan Pond, via North Ridge and Bubble Pond. **Useful** for Jordan Pond. Does not go to the Village Green.

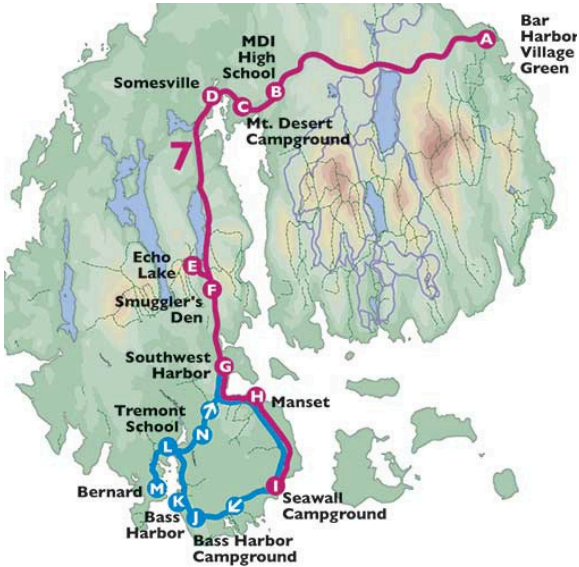


## #6 Northeast Harbor

Runs from Village Green to Northeast Harbor and continues on to Jordan Pond. **Useful** if you're staying along the route. Does not go to the Hulls Cove Visitor Center.



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## #7 Southwest Harbor (A-I)

Runs from the Village Green to Seawall Campground, going via Echo Lake. Connects with Route 11 (Tremont) at Southwest Harbor, Manset and Seawall Campground. **Useful** if you're staying along the route. If your itinerary includes the Quiet Side, I recommend driving there, but you could use this route to go to Echo Lake and Acadia Mountain Trail and to connect to Route 11.

## #11 Tremont (G-N)

Runs in a loop from Southwest Harbor, Seawall Campground, Bass Harbor Campground and Bass Harbor. Connects with Route 1 (Southwest Harbor) at Southwest Harbor, Manset, and Seawall Campground. **Useful** if you're staying along the route. If your itinerary includes the Quiet Side, I recommend driving there, but you could use this route to go to Ship Harbor and Wonderland Trails and Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse (a short walk from the route).



## #8 Schoodic

Runs in a loop from Winter Harbor and the Ferry Terminal around the Schoodic Peninsula. Some trips also go to Prospect Harbor. This **connects with** the ferry between Bar Harbor and Winter Harbor. The ferry operator is **Downeast Windjammer Cruise Lines**. **Useful** for Schoodic Peninsula, especially if you have an RV because of the restrictions on RVs on the Schoodic Peninsula roads/ parking.



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## #9 Trenton

Runs from Trenton on the mainland, over to Mount Desert Island, ending at Village Green. Stops at the airport and Bar Harbor KOA campground. **Useful** if you're staying along the route or from the airport. Does not go to the Hulls Cove Visitor Center.

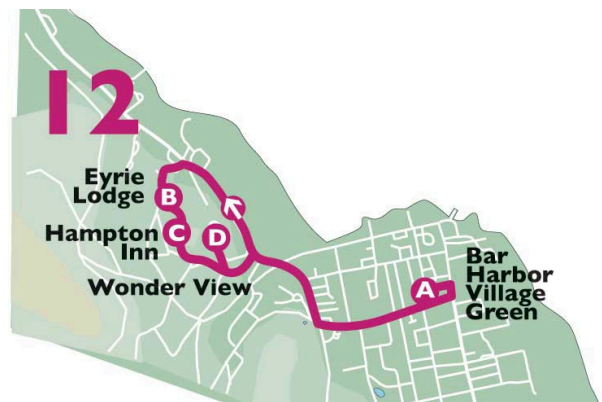


## #10 Blackwoods

Runs between Blackwoods Campground and Village Green, via Sieur de Monts. **Useful** if you're staying at Blackwoods. Does not go to the Hulls Cove Visitor Center.

## #12 Highbrook

Runs in a lollipop loop from Village Green around part of Bar Harbor, with stops at Eyrie Lodge, Hampton Inn and Wonder View. **Useful** if you're staying along or near the route. Doesn't go to Hulls Cove Visitor Center.



## Bicycle Express

Although bicycles can be put on the front of any bus, there are several specific bicycle express buses that can be handy if you have a bike.