



HOW TO ENJOY WINTER IN ACADIA

1-Minute Hike: Kebo Mountain in Acadia National Park

Difficulty: Easy-moderate. The 0.9-mile Kebo Mountain Trail travels along the ridge of Kebo Mountain, north to south, over rocky terrain. For the most part, the slope of the ridge is gradual, with just a few steep steps along the way. The hiking trails leading to Kebo Mountain Trail are easy, smooth and travel over relatively flat terrain. The total hike length varies from 1.2 miles to 3 miles, depending on where you park your vehicle and the route you choose to take.



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How to get there: A few different parking areas in Acadia National Park make sense if you're aiming to hike to the top of Kebo Mountain. The following are just a couple of options:

— Cross onto Mount Desert Island on Route 3 and veer left, staying on Route 3 toward Bar Harbor. After 10 miles, you'll come to an intersection with Eagle Lake Road.

— If it's May to October, turn right onto Eagle Lake Road and drive 1.1 miles, then veer right to enter the park at the Cadillac Mountain Entrance. Turn left onto a park road and drive about 0.9 miles and park in the Gorge Path parking area (on your right). Start the hike on the Gorge Path, which you can follow north to Kebo Brook Trail or south to Hemlock Trail. Both trails lead to the Kebo Mountain Trail.

— November to April, this section of the Park Loop Road is closed. During that time, one option is to park on the side of Kebo Street
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Patches of snow and ice melt on the rocky shore (top) of Mount Desert Island beside the Ocean Path in Acadia National Park. Though many of Acadia's roads close to vehicle traffic for the winter, the park's vast network of trails and roads is open for public recreation. Patches of snow and ice cover sections of trail on Kebo Mountain (above), which rises 407 feet above sea level near downtown Bar Harbor.

Park's trails, lakes and ponds open for recreation

BY AISLINN SARNACKI
BDN STAFF

Every year on Dec. 1, gates are closed in Acadia National Park. Visitor centers and restrooms are locked up tight, seasonal rangers depart and the park's off-season officially begins.

"A lot of people think the park is closed, but it's not," Acadia National Park Ranger Chris Wiebusch, one of the many rangers who work at park year-round, said.

While most of Acadia's roads are closed to vehicle traffic during the off-season, the trails, lakes and ponds remain open to the public for a wide variety of activities. Snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, fat-tire biking, ice fishing, horseback riding and dog walking are all permitted in the park during the winter, though some activities are limited to certain trails and roads.

"I find snowshoe tracks on all the trails of this park," Wiebusch said. "A lot of people like to snowshoe up the Cadillac Mountain Road to the top of Cadillac Mountain."

Celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, Acadia has long been one of Maine's top recreation destinations, and the park's popularity only seems to be growing. In 2015, Acadia had an estimated 2.81 million visits, the highest visitation in 20 years. During the summer and fall, visitors often have difficulty finding parking spots, and the park's biggest attractions typically are crowded.

During the winter, it's a different story. Park visitation drops dramatically, Wiebusch
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Homemade 'Zamboni' helps rink stay smooth

BY DON ENO
ST. JOHN VALLEY TIMES

VAN BUREN — In years past, making and maintaining ice for the local recreation department's skating rink required manually applying water and smoothing it out while subjected to freezing temperatures.

It also was a three-person job, according to Cory Searles of the town's Public Works Department, who enjoyed playing hockey as a child and is volunteering this winter to help maintain the rink.

This season, Searles and others have created a homemade ice resurfacers, or Zamboni machine, to do the job of maintaining the ice at the outdoor rink for recreational skaters and the youth hockey program. Zambonis are named for The Zamboni Co., which manufactures the large machines seen at NHL games,

gliding around the rink to smooth and polish the ice.

"Cory found some plans online and took them to the town garage," said Derek Grivois, a seasonal worker with the town's recreation department and one of the people who this winter is caring for the ice rink near the park on Champlain Street.

When the new homemade "Zamboni" made its inaugural run around the rink Jan. 20, it caught the attention of the children there, Grivois said.

"It's a work in progress," he said recently as he attached a large piece of felt to drag behind the contraption and help smooth the ice. "The ice isn't as smooth as I'd like it," he said. "But, we're working on it. It's trial and error to get it just right."

He planned to enlarge the piece of felt and to extend on one side of the machine



DON ENO | ST. JOHN VALLEY TIMES

A homemade "Zamboni" fabricated at the Van Buren Public Works garage helps to maintain a good ice surface at the community rink.

the plastic tubing that drips the water onto the ice in order to provide better coverage in the corners.

The equipment is basically two plastic 50-gallon drums on top of a metal platform distributing warm water through the plastic tubing. The gear is mounted atop a metal frame built on a back blade donated by Searles' family business, R.M. Lawn Care.

Searles' cousin, Steve Gagnon, donated the two large

barrels, and the rest of the materials were purchased by the recreation department.

After a base of ice has been created, the homemade Zamboni maintains the ice surface by applying new water, shaving the top and smoothing it out.

The previous resurfacers, also homemade, was a garden hose connected to a perforated metal pipe that was welded to a handcart.
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Poor conditions delay Greenville sled dog race

BY NICK SAMBIDES JR.
BDN STAFF

GREENVILLE — A lack of snow and too much ice have forced the postponement of the 10th annual Plum Creek Wilderness Sled Dog Race until Saturday, Feb. 27, organizers said.

Race officials who toured portions of the 70-mile course on Thursday found more snow thanks to an overnight storm Wednesday, but far too much ice to allow for the race to run on Saturday, as originally planned, said Bethany Young, Greenville's deputy town clerk and a member of the Wilderness Sled Dog Committee.

Young blamed the rain and warmer temperatures that followed the snowstorm.

"It was not safe for our mushers or our dogs," Young said Thursday. "A lot of the

trail had turned to ice."

The Plum Creek Wilderness Sled Dog Race is put on by the Wilderness Sled Dog Racing Association and attracts teams from throughout the Northeast and Canada. The race is considered one of the Moosehead region's premiere winter sporting events and typically draws several hundred spectators, organizers have said.

Organizers said that they doubt that attendance or participation will be affected much by the delay.

The race will start at the Leisure Life Resort and proceed over as many as 70 miles of forested mountain trails in the region. Mushers interested in participating in the race have time to register to compete for the \$10,000 70-mile race purse or the \$3,000 30-mile race purse. For information, visit www.100MileWildernessRace.org, or call 695-2421.