

To Reach the Park

Taylor Head Provincial Park is located on the Eastern Shore, 0.4 kilometres east of Spry Bay, Halifax County, and 11 kilometres (6.8 miles) southwest of Sheet Harbour on Route 7, the Marine Drive.



RESERVATIONS

1-888-544-3434

9:00 am to 11:00 pm AT (7 days a week)

www.novascotiaparks.ca (24 hours)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Parks and Recreation Division
Department of Natural Resources

RR # 1, Belmont,
Colchester County,
Nova Scotia, B0M 1C0
(902) 662-3030

www.novascotiaparks.ca

Department of
Natural Resources

22835 Hwy #7, PO Box 118
Sheet Harbour, NS B0J 3B0
(902) 885-2377

Taylor Head Provincial Park
(902) 772-2218
(mid-May to mid-October)



Photos courtesy Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture and Heritage.

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Taylor Head

Provincial Park

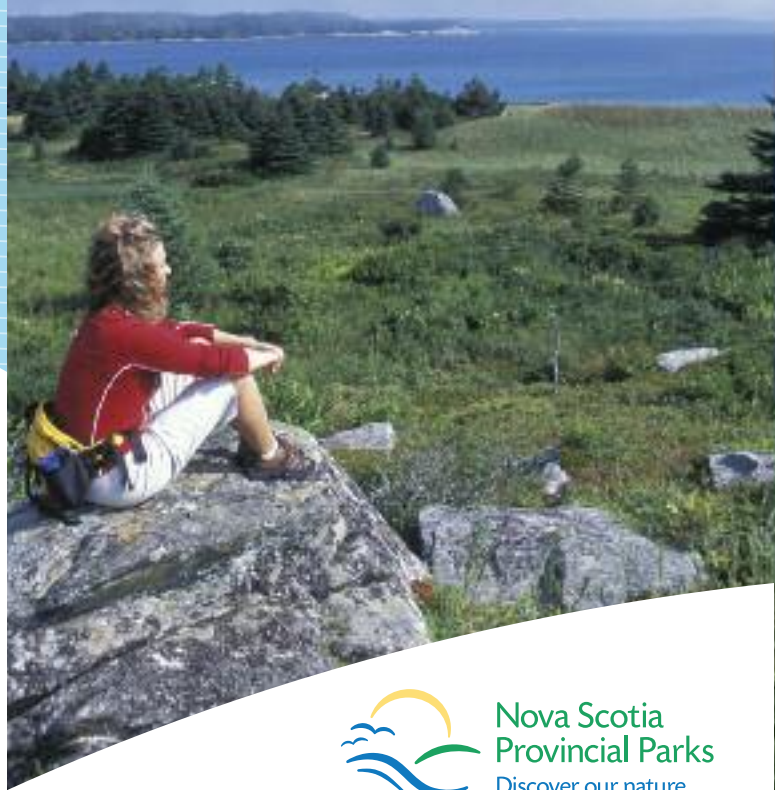
Taylor Head Provincial Park, a natural environment park, occupies a rugged wind-swept peninsula jutting six and a half kilometres (4 miles) into the Atlantic Ocean on Nova Scotia's picturesque Eastern Shore. The park provides spectacular views and offers 16 kilometres (10 miles) of unspoiled coastline. Discover the majesty of enduring rock versus the tumultuous power of the sea, all just over an hour's drive from Halifax.

Natural History Approximately 900 to 1,000 million years ago what is now Taylor Head rested near the centre of a great supercontinent. As the continent broke apart, new oceans formed along the rifts. The present rocks were formed about 500 million years ago when sand, silt and clay, were deposited in one of these new oceans to a thickness of several kilometres.

As more muds and sands were deposited, the increasing pressure squeezed water from underlying sediments, creating small volcano shaped structures. Taylor Head is one of only a few locations in Nova Scotia where sand volcanoes are found. Other special features, called flute marks, appear as ripples in the

bedrock and indicate that strong ocean currents once moved large volumes of sediment rapidly across the sea floor.

About 400 million years ago, the continents collided, squeezing these massive sediment deposits and folding them into a mountain system that would have rivaled the Alps. Over a few million years, the mountains were eroded to an almost flat surface. Huge boulders known as glacial erratics are the only remaining evidence the retreat of the glaciers. The post-glacial rise in sea levels has also affected Taylor Head. Drowned forests, eroding headlands, and salt marshes and beaches being driven inland are all evidence of a constantly evolving landscape.



The rocky coast is often shrouded in fog which rolls in from the Atlantic.



Pitcher Plants

Natural Habitats

Taylor Head is home to a variety of natural habitats. The white spruce, balsam fir–red maple, white birch forest habitat found along the coastline is typical of Nova Scotia’s fog-bound Atlantic coast.

Fields, once farmed by early settlers, now lay abandon behind Psyche Cove and Bull Beach.

Rocky barrens covered with dwarf shrubs and lichens are found in the southern portion of the park. The most common plants are reindeer lichen and black crowberry.

Several peat-filled bogs are scattered throughout the park and a small freshwater marsh is located within the northern boundary. The beach and sand dunes at Psyche Cove were formed by sand deposits from the erosion of glacial till and bedrock. Elsewhere, the coastline is dotted with rocky and cobble shores composed of boulders and smaller stones. Several coastal fresh water marshes have also formed here.

Wildlife at Taylor Head Provincial Park are as varied as the habitats which support them. Breeding birds include gulls, Arctic and common terns, black guillemot, Leach’s petrel and common eider. Considerable numbers of waterfowl migrate through the park in spring and fall including scoters, black ducks, oldsquaw and Canada geese. Small mammals on the peninsula include red squirrel, red-backed vole, short-tailed shrew, hare and mink. White-tailed deer may be seen grazing in the old fields, while racoons and muskrats visit the various bogs.

Cultural History

Nova Scotia’s Eastern Shore was settled in the late 18th century by United Empire Loyalists fleeing the American Revolution. Discharged soldiers were also granted land in this area. Originally a seasonal home for fishermen, Taylor Head was inhabited in the early 19th century. The community, dependent on farming, fishing and lumbering, existed until the mid-20th century. A small cemetery in the park is the resting place of several Newcombs and McCarthys, who were among the original families to settle at Taylor Head.

Trails

Hikers looking to experience a variety of habitats will enjoy the **Spry Bay Trail**, a four kilometre (2.5 mile) loop that passes through a coastal forest, coastal barren, wave-swept boulder shores, coastal fresh marsh, and an inland barren. The trail provides magnificent views of Spry Bay and the rugged coastline.

Those seeking coastal views will like the **Bob Bluff** or **Bull Beach** trails. Bob Bluff is a three kilometre (1.8 mile) hike from the north end of Psyche Cove providing several enchanting vistas of Mushaboom Harbour and its many islands. The six kilometre (3.7 mile) Bull Beach Trail begins at Bob Bluff. Backed by a spruce–fir forest, it winds along the coast overlooking the harbour.

Bird watchers should try the two kilometre (1.2 mile) **Beach Walk** as it traverses the sandy shores of the **Psyche Cove Beach system**. Or for the maximum experience, take the **Headland Trail**. This eight kilometre (5 mile) trail follows the Spry Bay Trail, then heads off on a rugged, but rewarding, coastline walk to Taylor Head Point. The trail returns on the opposite side of Taylor Head where it rejoins the Spry Bay Trail. As all of the trails provide challenging conditions, sturdy footwear is recommended.

Area Attractions

Numerous local festivals and events are held throughout the summer months, including:

- July** St. Anslem’s Annual Lobster Supper & Picnic West Chezzetcook
- Aug** Sandcastle Contest Clam Harbour Beach Provincial Park.

- Smooth sandy beach at Martinique Beach Provincial Park.
- The Fisherman’s Life Museum at Jeddore Oyster Pond explores the life of inshore fishermen at the turn of the 20th century.
- At Lake Charlotte, Memory Lane Heritage Village take a nostalgic look at village life as it was in the 1940s.
- For information on these and other attractions please consult the Nova Scotia Doers and Dreamers Guide, visit a Visitor Information Centre or the website at www.novascotia.com

Fisherman’s Life Museum



A Special Message to Park Visitors

PARK SAFETY

- Help preserve and protect this beautiful park for the enjoyment of future generations. Plants, animals and rocks are an important part of its natural heritage. Please do not damage or remove them.
- Please keep pets on a leash at all times.
- Firearms are prohibited in the park.

PERSONAL SAFETY

- Beaches are unsupervised and children should be watched closely in or near the water.
- Contact park staff for further information about the park. They want to make your visit as enjoyable as possible.