

To Reach the Park

Rissers Beach Provincial Park is located on Nova Scotia's South Shore approximately 26 kilometres (16 miles) south of Bridgewater. From Highway 103, take Exit 15 and follow Route 331 approximately 14 kilometres (9 miles) south to Petite Riviere.



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

99 High Street,
Bridgewater
Nova Scotia B4V 1V8
(902) 543-8167

Rissers Beach
Provincial Park
(902) 688-2034
(mid-May to October)



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

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Rissers Beach

Provincial Park



Beach Grasses

***Rissers Beach Provincial Park** set along Nova Scotia's scenic South Shore, bordering the Atlantic Ocean, Rissers Beach Provincial Park offers every kind of recreational opportunity available at the seaside. The park is renown for its clear sparkling water lapping along a white sandy beach that stretches for more than 1000 metres (3300 feet). Whether you want to swim, search for seashells, or just spend a day relaxing, the park's variety of habitats – forest, river, sand dune – allow you to indulge in your pursuits. There's even a salt marsh trail transected by an elevated boardwalk providing a first-hand look at the complex and fragile life in this important habitat.*

A Distinctive Landscape Rissers Beach is found on the exposed southwest coast of Nova Scotia. The area is generally underlain with slate bedrock, but you'll also find several different types of rock and minerals exposed – a delight for nature lovers. Varying rates of erosion between the slates and other rocks have created a ridge and valley effect, making for a distinctive landscape.

The landscape of this coast was greatly modified by massive ice sheets during the last glacial period. For several miles on either side of Rissers Beach, the landscape is dotted with egg-shaped hills, known as drumlins, which were formed by the retreating glaciers. The hill situated on the west side of Petite Riviere, opposite the western end of the beach, is a drumlin.

Glacial action was also responsible for depositing huge quantities of sand and silt offshore. Following the retreat of the glaciers 11,000 years ago, some of the sediment was carried toward land by the wind and waves. At Rissers Beach these sediments gradually formed a beach and a fragile dune system.

On the primary, or most seaward dune, is found an abundance of American beach grass, along with other pioneering beach plants such as sea rocket, sandwort, and orach. These plants hold and

stabilize the loose sand, thus helping to build the dune system. Older, more stable sand dunes located further inland support a forest cover made up of white pine, white spruce, red oak and maples while an understory of marram grass, bayberry and moss flourishes below.

Natural Haven The formation of the beach and dune system enabled a salt marsh to develop on the sheltered side of the beach. The marsh habitat is a haven for a wide range of plants and animals. Glistening spiders' webs weave together blades of marsh grass, and beneath the grass live blue mussels, white clams, and small pink crabs. A large colourful variety of insects animate the marsh, attracting many types of birds. Meadow larks flush from the grass, while myrtle warblers sing from the bayberry bordering the marsh. Sharp-tailed sparrows rustle through the grass, imitating the white-footed mouse. Overhead, dragonflies cruise the pools and shoreline in search of insects. You may even spot a raccoon, busily searching for shellfish. The Petite Riviere, flowing northwest into the salt marsh, is one of only two rivers in the world where the Atlantic whitefish is found.



The white sands at Rissers are a perfect playground.



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.
- The fragile dune system is an important part of the area's ecology. Help protect the dunes by using the boardwalks.
- Please keep pets on a leash at all times.
- Firearms are prohibited within the park.

PERSONAL SAFETY

- Please obey lifeguards' directions and observe posted swimming regulations.
- Contact park staff for further information about the park. They will be pleased to make your visit as enjoyable as possible.



Area Attractions

Numerous local festivals and community fairs are held throughout the South Shore during the summer including:

June Privateer Days, Liverpool

July Craft Festival, Lunenburg
South Shore Exhibition, Bridgewater

Aug Folk Harbour Festival, Lunenburg
Community Fair, New Ross



- Provincial museum sites such as the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic in Lunenburg, Ross Farm in New Ross, and the Wile Carding Mill in Bridgewater offer a look at life in the past.
- The importance of the region's natural resources comes to life on a guided tour of the Bowater Mersey paper mill in Brooklyn.
- Farmers' Markets held in Lunenburg, Bridgewater and Liverpool showcase the best fresh produce and local crafts.
- 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

Rissers Provincial Park

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| Parking | Interpretive Panels |
| Park Office | Lifeguard |
| Washrooms and Showers | Swimming |
| Vault Toilets | Campground (92 sites) |
| Shower | Group Campsite |
| Playground | Firewood |
| Picnic Area | Dumping Station |
| Change Rooms | Park Boundary |
| Canteen | |
| Walking Trail | |

