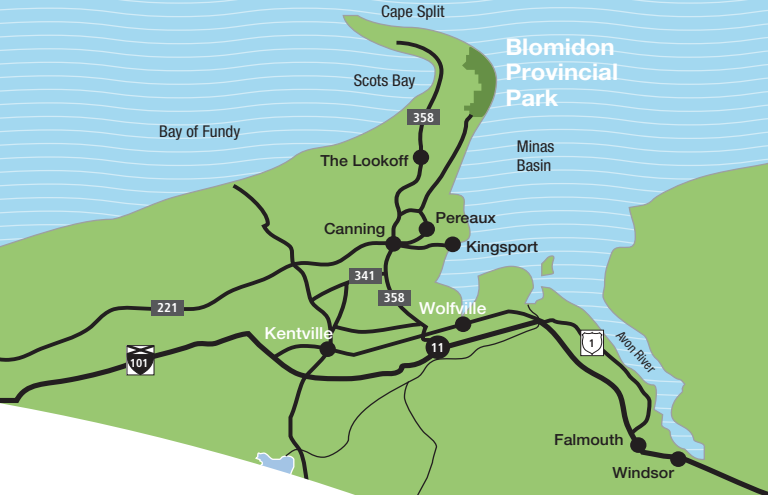


To Reach the Park Blomidon Provincial Park is located on Nova Scotia's Fundy Coast, 25 kilometres (15 miles) north of Highway 101, Exit 11. From Exit 11, follow Route 358 to Canning. Proceed through Canning and then follow Pereaux Road to the park.

GPS N45 15.385, W64 21.101



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**

136 Exhibition Street,
Kentville, Kings County
Nova Scotia B4N 4E5
(902) 679-6097

Blomidon Provincial Park

3138 Pereau Road
(902) 582-7319
(mid-May to early-September)



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

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Blomidon Provincial Park



Blomidon Provincial Park, sprawls atop the rugged promontory of Cape Blomidon, a striking and naturally dynamic post from which to observe the twice-daily drama of the Bay of Fundy tides. Here, 759 hectares (1875 acres) of woodland, wetland and ocean habitat are hemmed in by 183-metre (600-foot) cliffs. Large and small mammals make their home in the hardwoods, and undiscovered treasures are bared and buried by the tide. For picnickers, hikers and campers, photographers, birdwatchers and rock-hounds, Blomidon is a window onto Nova Scotia's natural wonders.

Folklore and History

The Cape Blomidon area is home to Glooscap, the Mi'kmaq's great man-God. Its rugged coastline and steep slopes deterred settlement until the 1770s, when New England immigrants established homesteads in the present park site.

Natural History

Landscape

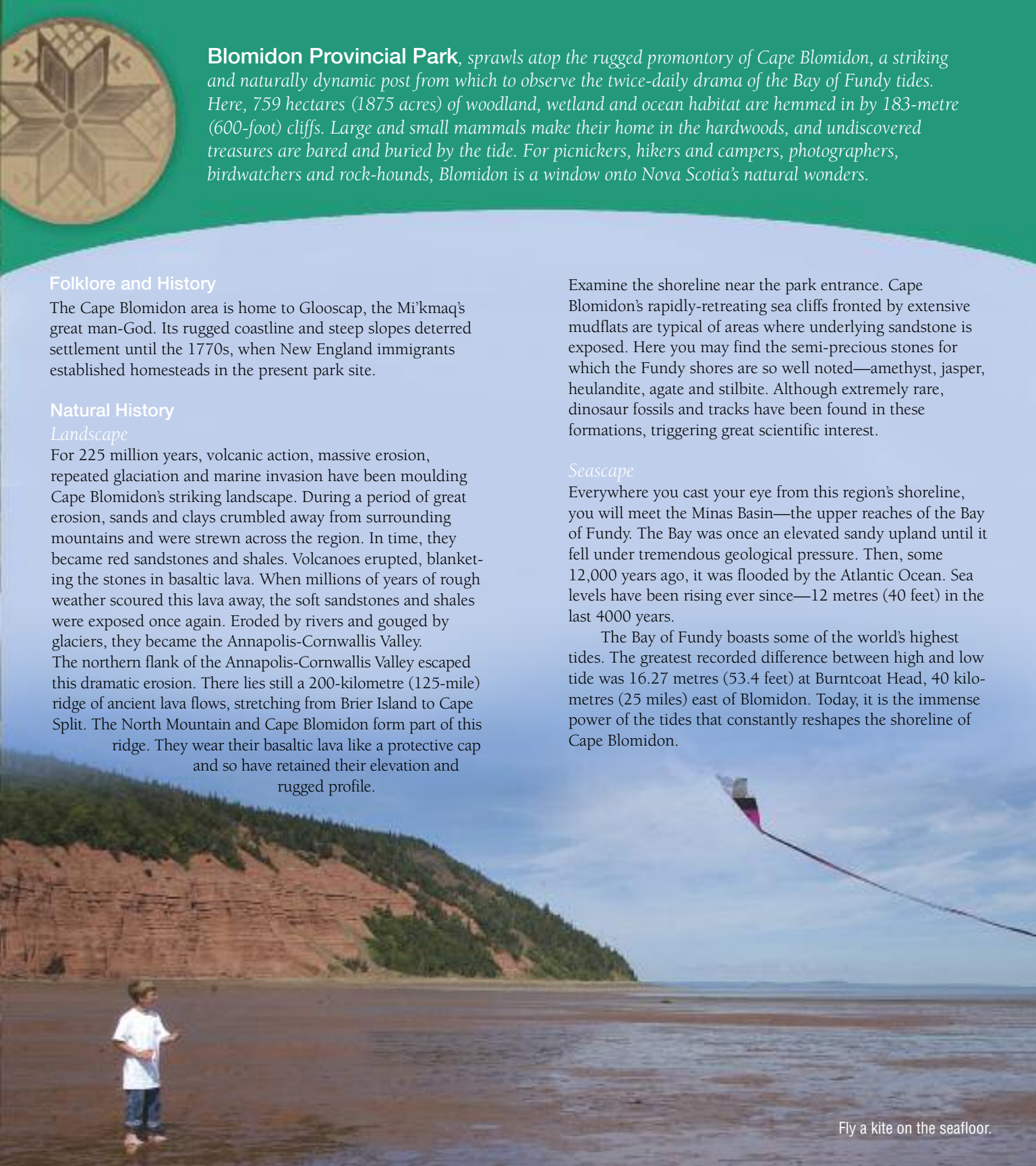
For 225 million years, volcanic action, massive erosion, repeated glaciation and marine invasion have been moulding Cape Blomidon's striking landscape. During a period of great erosion, sands and clays crumbled away from surrounding mountains and were strewn across the region. In time, they became red sandstones and shales. Volcanoes erupted, blanketing the stones in basaltic lava. When millions of years of rough weather scoured this lava away, the soft sandstones and shales were exposed once again. Eroded by rivers and gouged by glaciers, they became the Annapolis-Cornwallis Valley. The northern flank of the Annapolis-Cornwallis Valley escaped this dramatic erosion. There lies still a 200-kilometre (125-mile) ridge of ancient lava flows, stretching from Brier Island to Cape Split. The North Mountain and Cape Blomidon form part of this ridge. They wear their basaltic lava like a protective cap and so have retained their elevation and rugged profile.

Examine the shoreline near the park entrance. Cape Blomidon's rapidly-retreating sea cliffs fronted by extensive mudflats are typical of areas where underlying sandstone is exposed. Here you may find the semi-precious stones for which the Fundy shores are so well noted—amethyst, jasper, heulandite, agate and stilbite. Although extremely rare, dinosaur fossils and tracks have been found in these formations, triggering great scientific interest.

Seascape

Everywhere you cast your eye from this region's shoreline, you will meet the Minas Basin—the upper reaches of the Bay of Fundy. The Bay was once an elevated sandy upland until it fell under tremendous geological pressure. Then, some 12,000 years ago, it was flooded by the Atlantic Ocean. Sea levels have been rising ever since—12 metres (40 feet) in the last 4000 years.

The Bay of Fundy boasts some of the world's highest tides. The greatest recorded difference between high and low tide was 16.27 metres (53.4 feet) at Burntcoat Head, 40 kilometres (25 miles) east of Blomidon. Today, it is the immense power of the tides that constantly reshapes the shoreline of Cape Blomidon.



Fly a kite on the seafloor.

Plants and Animals

The flat-topped uplands and rolling hills of Blomidon Provincial Park are blanketed in lush hardwood forests of sugar maple, yellow birch and beech. Pure stands of white spruce colonize abandoned farmland and pepper the coastline, blending with fir, maple and birch on the coastal bluffs and headlands of the Bay of Fundy. White-tailed deer may be seen grazing in open areas, and a variety of other large and small mammals make their homes in the shelter of the hardwoods.

In the fall, hawks, owls and other migratory birds stream through the air over the North Mountain ridge, which has a funneling effect on their movements as they journey westward to Brier Island. This funneling may also influence migratory bats, which cross the Bay of Fundy en route to wintering areas further west.

Where winds sweep the face of 183-metre (600-foot) cliffs, bald eagles soar in the updraft. Arctic-alpine plants, such as maidenhair spleenwort and rose root, cling to the sheer face, and mosses, liverworts and lichens thrive in sheltered crevices. Twice daily, vast mud flats and an occasional jutting rock ledge form a picturesque border around the Minas Basin during low tide. Marine creatures, such as clams, slipper limpets, mussels and barnacles, drape themselves on the ledges and bury themselves in the flats, making this a popular spot for hungry raccoons and fish, such as winter flounder which drift in and out with the tide. Migratory shorebirds come here too, especially

Shore birds

in the fall, when semi-palmated sandpipers, greater yellowlegs and black-bellied plovers choose these mud flats as a key staging and feeding area.



Area Attractions

- Provincial museum sites, such as **Prescott House** in Starrs Point and **Haliburton House** and **Shand House** in Windsor, celebrate Nova Scotia's rich historical legacy.
- Parks Canada operates two national historic sites in the area: **Grand Pré National Historic Park**, which commemorates the expulsion of the Acadians from Nova Scotia in 1755; and **Fort Edward Blockhouse** in Windsor, which was constructed in 1750 and is now the oldest such original structure in Canada.
- Nova Scotia's only **zoo** is found in the village of Aylesford.

Trails

The park's four main trails are interconnected and provide easy access to 13.4 kilometres (8.5 miles) of dynamic habitat and scenic lookoffs.

A short interpretive trail describes the hardwood and softwood forests of Nova Scotia and is wheelchair accessible. If you plan to hike the trails, consider wearing sturdy footwear. The **Jodrey Trail** (5.6 km [3.5-mile]) skirts the 183-metre (600-foot) cliffs of the Minas Basin in the upper reaches of the Bay of Fundy. Follow the path through a sugar maple, yellow birch and beech forest to Indian Springs Brook, where a cairn commemorates the gift of 162 hectares (400 acres) to the park by the late Roy Jodrey. Enjoy pretty ocean views along this, and the **Look-off Trail** (0.9 km [0.6 mile]) and explore a forest peppered with sugar maple, yellow birch, beech, white spruce and balsam fir via the **Woodland Trail** (2.2 km [1.4 miles]). The **Borden Trail** (3.5 km [2.2 mile]) reveals a series of pretty waterfalls amid a predominantly white spruce forest.

Exhibits at the Grand Pré National Historic Park depict the story of the Acadians in the region and the tragic events of 1755.

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

- May** Annapolis Valley Apple Blossom Festival
- Aug** Sam Slick Days, Windsor Acadian Days, Grand Pré Mud Creek Days, Wolfville

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



Blomidon Provincial Park

- Parking
- Park Office
- Washrooms and Showers
- Vault Toilets
- Playground
- Picnic Area
- Walking Trail
- Beach Access
- Lookoff
- Waterfalls
- Campground (70 sites)
- Group Campsite (includes kitchen shelter and fire grills; site available by reservation)
- Water
- Firewood
- Dumping Station
- Park Boundary
- Walking Trails

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 within the park.

PERSONAL SAFETY

- The cliff line is constantly eroding and may be unstable. Approach cliffs at designated viewing stations only and remain behind the security fence at all times.
- Use caution when venturing near the mud flats. The incoming tide rises very quickly, and at high tide the waters may be 12 metres (40 feet) higher than at low tide.
- Please practice safe swimming as the beach is unsupervised.
- Contact park staff for further information about the park. They want to make your visit as enjoyable as possible.

