

Kejimkujik: Two worlds in one



Kejimkujik National Park in western Nova Scotia epitomizes the best of the province's two worlds – a glorious coastline and a backcountry blanketed with forests and dotted with lakes.

Kejimkujik National Park is actually two worlds in one. Divided into two separate and distinct blocks of land, it includes both a vast inland area of beautiful Acadian mixed forest, and a smaller region that hugs the rugged shoreline of the Atlantic coast. Visitors to the park, located a little over 160 kilometres west of Halifax, are enchanted by the unusual concept.

The coastal region, known as the Seaside Adjunct, is one of the few places in the province having a protected coastline. Elsewhere in Nova Scotia, ocean-side lands are rarely in the public domain, but the seashore is still accessible in this part of Kejimkujik.

Visitors can explore the Seaside Adjunct's rich habitat via a self-guided 5.5-kilometre trail that's marked with interpretive panels. The trail meanders through dense, two-metre-high shrubbery that gradually gives way to peat bogs and barrens.

All along the shore, rocky headlands march into the rough waters of the Atlantic and waves crash against the craggy coast. Small beaches and turquoise-hued inlets are tucked among the headlands. The wind blows constantly and stunted spruce trees and other vegetation cling to life tenaciously.

Exploring the area, you may very well spot a river otter or mink busily searching for crabs and other shellfish. Harbour seals, gathered in immense groups, are also among the park's regular visitors. But sightings of the piping plover, an endangered shorebird, are rare.

Lakes and Forests

The inland portion of the park, about 100 kilometres north of the Adjunct, presents a very different picture. It is a landscape of forests that's paradise on earth for campers. Dotted with lakes and laced with rivers, the park is also the perfect setting for canoeing, kayaking and other water sports. Canoe camping around Kejimkujik Lake is very popular: you're even allowed to pitch tents on small, isolated islands.



There's plenty to please walkers, too. The park boasts 15 day-walking trails, each markedly different from the other. One of them, called Hemlocks and Hardwoods, leads through a grove of some of eastern Canada's oldest hemlock trees, including gigantic specimens that are more than 300 years old.

Kejimkujik is also the richest area for turtles in Atlantic Canada. It is home to three species, including the eastern painted turtle, the most common and most often sighted. The snapping turtle, which can weigh up to five kilos, typically only leaves the water during nesting season in late June and early July. The Blanding's turtle is rarer still. There are fewer than 200 in Nova Scotia, with an estimated 75 of them living in the park. Their survival is so precarious that their movements are tracked via radio telemetry.

You're most likely to spot turtles while canoeing or kayaking. Like humans, turtles adore the warm rays of the sun, and they can spend hours basking on rocks or old logs. They may be cold-blooded, but they still know a thing or two about living the good life.

Match these words with the definitions below, which are in the same order as they appear in the text.

Acadian barren blanketed bog craggy dotted epitomize
grove headland hue inlet interpretive laced meander peat
rough rugged shrubbery stunted telemetry trail tucked

1. be a perfect example of:
2. covered:
3. having many of those things scattered over its surface:
4. native inhabitant of Nova Scotia:
5. having a broken, rocky, and uneven surface:
6. a marked or established path or route especially through a forest or mountainous region:
7. offering guidance:
8. follow a winding course:
9. an area planted with shrubs. (woody plants which are smaller than a tree):
10. partly decayed plant matter, used to improve garden dirt or as fuel:
11. an area of wet muddy ground that is too soft to support a heavy body:
12. tract of land with little vegetation:
13. a narrow piece of land that projects from a coastline into the sea:
14. having strong winds or big waves:
15. rugged and uneven:
16. a colour or shade of colour:
17. a small arm of the sea, a lake, or a river:
18. in a concealing or isolating place:
19. prevented from growing or developing to the usual size:
20. adorned with:
21. a small wood or other group of trees:
22. the process of recording and transmitting the readings of an instrument:

Complete these sentences

1. Kejimkujik National Park is divided
2. The park is located
3. Visitors can explore the Seaside Adjunct's
4. The park's wildlife includes
5. The inland portion is dotted
6. It is perfect for
7. The Hemlocks and Hardwoods trail
8. Kejimkujik is also the richest area for

