

Sears Island Trail Guide

Please note: All trail distances are approximate.

Jetty Road - About 1.5 miles on a mostly paved road that leads to a jetty on the western shore. For a lovely view down the bay, walk up the rise on the left at the end of the road to a clearing next to some birches. The paved Jetty Road's gentle incline makes it a favorite for those who have difficulty navigating the shoreline or forest trails.

Cell Tower Road - This gravel road branches left off the Jetty Road and leads to a cell tower at the south end of the island. It is about 2 miles from the gate to the cell tower.

Homestead Trail - About 0.7 miles in length, with some roots, rocks and bog bridges, this trail begins at the apple tree on the northeast beach. There is a connector from the Jetty Road if the tide is too high at the beach. Note the stone walls and some very large "legacy" trees along the way. Just before a field opens ahead, look to the left for the remains of the old farmhouse cellar. After reaching the bench in the field, follow the trail out to Cell Tower Road.

Western Shore Trail (formerly Green Trail) – About 0.6 miles from the gate on the Jetty Road, this trail heads to the western shore, crossing a stream onto the Transportation Parcel. If you continue to the west shore, the additional trail is about 0.6 miles total. Walking back to the gate along the shore is possible at half tide or lower.

Eastern Ledges Trail - From the gate, walk up Jetty Road and turn left on Cell Tower Road. Turn east (left) off Cell Tower Rd about a mile from the gate. It's a beautiful 0.4 mile walk through the forest and a few fern fields from Cell Tower Road to the ledges on the eastern shore. Follow the trail north above the shore about 0.35 miles to reach the shore, where you can continue walking a little less than a mile north back to the gate. Caution: Be careful of steep drop-offs at the ledges and along the trail, and watch the tide if you plan to walk the beach.

Loop Trail - About 0.4 miles, the Loop Trail is flat and begins and ends at Cell Tower Road. Balsam fir branches arching overhead are charming in winter snow and peaceful any time of year. **Southern Shore Trail** (formerly Blue Trail) - About 0.35 miles, the trail begins beyond Loop Trail off Cell Tower Rd. and leads down to a mostly rocky beach that makes a nice picnic spot for lunch with views to the east.

Sears Summer Homestead Loop – Just past the Southern Shore Trail on Cell Tower Road is a short loop trail on the right that takes you past the site where the Sears family had their summer homestead. You will find rough piles of foundation stones where the summer home and outbuildings used to be. Caution: Be careful around the open well.

Scenic Lookout Trail – Just before you reach the cell tower, turn left onto this .25-mile easy trail to the southernmost tip of Sears Island, where you will enjoy an expansive view of Penobscot Bay from about 50' above the shore. There is no access to the shore here.

Shoreline Trail - To walk the shore around the entire island is about 5 miles. Some places are impassable when the tide is high because of steep banks. Caution: check the tide charts before you start.

Explore Sears Island's trails at your own risk and please follow these guidelines to keep the land safe and enjoyable for all.

- Fires are not permitted anywhere on Sears Island.
- Control your pets. Pick up animal waste and dispose of it in the trash container near the entrance.
- Ride horses only on paved and unpaved roads. Remove waste from roads.
- Leave no trace from your visit, including carrying out any trash.
- Use only non-motorized vehicles.
- Camping and overnight parking are not allowed.

Note: Hunting is permitted on Sears Island October 1-December 31. Please be mindful of this and wear blaze orange on the trails.

Friends of Sears Island, PO Box 348, Searsport, ME 04974

FriendsOfSearsIsland.org

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Trail Map & Guide

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