How to Get to Head Harbour Lightstation—

Follow US Route 1 to Whiting, Maine, and turn onto Maine Route 189, following it to Lubec. In Lubec, cross the Roosevelt Memorial Bridge to Campobello Island. Note: You must have a passport to reenter the US. Continue on the same road (now New Brunswick Route 774) to the end (about 16 km/10 mi) at the Lightstation headland. The Lightstation island is currently accessible to visitors only during the 4 hours surrounding low tide, so check the tidal schedule. The Lightstation can be seen from the headland at any time, but for the total experience, you’ll want to be there to walk over at low tide. Be prepared to walk over rocky seaside terrain and to climb stairs and ladders.

Seasonal ferry service to Campobello is also available from Eastport, Maine, and St. George, New Brunswick, via Deer Island, New Brunswick. From St. George or Deer Island, no entry to the U.S. is required.

A century ago, the Lightstation was painstakingly maintained by a full-time resident lightkeeper employed by the government. Today the Lightstation is owned by the Friends of the Head Harbour Lightstation, Inc., a Canadian registered charity, which bears all the costs of maintenance and restoration. Dedicated to “preserve, protect, and promote the unique heritage of the Head Harbour Lightstation for the enjoyment and education of all,” the Friends apply all cross-over and tour fees to their restoration and maintenance activities.

We invite you to join the Friends in this important work. Members of the Friends cross over to the island for free and are entitled to discounts on the interior tour and souvenir items. Family membership costs $35 and individual membership costs $20.

Please send membership requests or donations to:

Friends of the Head Harbour Lightstation

210 Lighthouse Road
Wilson’s Beach, NB E5E 1M2
Canada

Imagine yourself on a small fishing vessel in the turbulent waters of the Bay of Fundy, surrounded by the gray fog and mist of early morning, tossed on the foaming waves, and headed for the treacherous shoals and jagged granite you know are hidden just below the surface. Gradually the fog begins to dissipate and you glimpse the glow of the Head Harbour Light, then the familiar St. George cross daymark comes slowly into view!
Located on the outermost of a group of small islands at the northeastern tip of beautiful Campobello Island, the Head Harbour Lightstation is the oldest surviving lighthouse in New Brunswick and one of the oldest in Canada.

Also known as the East Quoddy Light (to differentiate it from the nearby West Quoddy Light in Lubec, Maine), the 51-foot high all-wood lighthouse was built in 1829, with the distinctive St. George red cross daymark added before the end of that century.

On your visit to the Lightstation, be sure to give yourself time to tour the keeper’s house and the tower interior, including the magnificent tower light. The Lightstation complex includes the light tower itself (1829), the adjoining keepers dwelling (est. 1840), the fog alarm building and storage building (both 1914-1915), and the boat house (1947). After your tour, you’ll want to wander the Lightstation grounds, as you savor the incomparable scenery of Head Harbour Passage, with its dramatic high tides, craggy seashore and rocky cliffs, and abundance of aquatic birds and marine mammals. Finbacks, humpbacks, and right whales may be seen feeding from the lightstation, and you may spot some of the porpoises frolicking in the surrounding waters.

For nearly 200 years, the Head Harbour Light has guided ships entering the Bay through Head Harbour Passage. Tended by a stationkeeper for well over a century, the Head Harbour tower light and fog horn are operated today without human assistance. In 1885, a second lighthouse was built on Campobello, at Mulholland Point, to aid ships entering the Passamaquoddy through the Lubec narrows. From the first, these lighthouses have been essential aids to navigation through the dense fogs, high tides, and treacherous rocks and shoals in the Bay, and they remain important aids today.

The interior of the tower and keeper’s house are being restored with period furnishings and structural repairs continue, along with work to make the site more accessible. Plans also include exhibits and rental space in the keeper’s house.