



Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve



*Punch your way
around Great Bay*

ADAMS POINT

Habitat Sampler

Welcome to Adams Point, the gateway to Great Bay! For hundreds of years, people have accessed the bounty of the Piscataqua Region from this strategic point of land dividing Great and Little Bay. On this 82-acre peninsula, once an island called Mathes Neck, you will find a variety of upland and estuarine habitats to explore. A well-worn trail through fields, forests, tidal marshes and rocky shores provides spectacular views of the estuary. Named after the famous Adams family, this land carries a rich cultural and natural heritage legacy that will unfold before you.

EXPLORATION LOGISTICS

Directions: From Route 108 in Newmarket, take Bay Road, 3.8 miles to Adams Point Road/Jackson Estuarine Laboratory. Follow Adams Point Road .9 miles to parking area on left. From Route 108 in Durham, take Durham Point Road, 3.6 miles to Adams Point Road/Jackson Estuarine Laboratory. Follow Adams Point Road .9 miles to parking area on left.

Terrain Rating: Easy to moderate hike. Avoid areas adjacent to steep drop-offs along the western edge of the peninsula.

Exploration Time: Allow one to two hours.

NAVIGATING THE LANDSCAPE

To experience the full range of habitats on Adams Point, begin your exploration from the parking lot adjacent the New Hampshire Fish and Game boat access site. Follow the paved road up the hill toward the Jackson Estuarine Laboratory and take a left onto the Evelyn Browne Trail. As you approach the shoreline, you will notice a classic "shingle beach" with rocky outcroppings. Strong tides and currents dictate what species of plants and animals can survive here. Loop back onto the road and stop at the kiosk near Jackson Lab. Pick up a copy of the Evelyn Browne Trail brochure to discover a detailed description of Adams Point.



bald eagle

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Make your way toward Great Bay through open fields edged by sumac and dotted with aging apple trees and shrubs. Furber Strait, the deepest part of the Estuary, divides Great and Little Bay to your left. Anglers on shore or in boats often catch striped bass and bluefish from this 58-foot-deep channel. A trail encircles the perimeter of the point, passing the Footman Islands to your left, and leads to an Appalachian oak/pine forest. Stop at a spectacular vantage point on a rocky outcropping for vistas of Great Bay to the south and Crommet Creek to the north. An expansive salt marsh to your left leads you back to your car. Look for waterfowl, secretive songbirds, bald eagles and ospreys along the way.

WHILE YOU ARE HERE:

- In winter, watch for bald eagles flying and perching on trees that line Furber Strait.
- Look for Native American shell middens tucked into the hillside along the Bay.
- Try your hand at oystering Great Bay (N.H. residents only; license required; season closed July and August. See N.H. Saltwater Digest at www.FishNH.com).
- Kayak from the launch around the point and up Crommet Creek.

WHAT I SAW:

GEOCACHE: Have to Have a Habitat!

COORDINATES:

N43° 05 37.3292 W70° 51 51.9553

