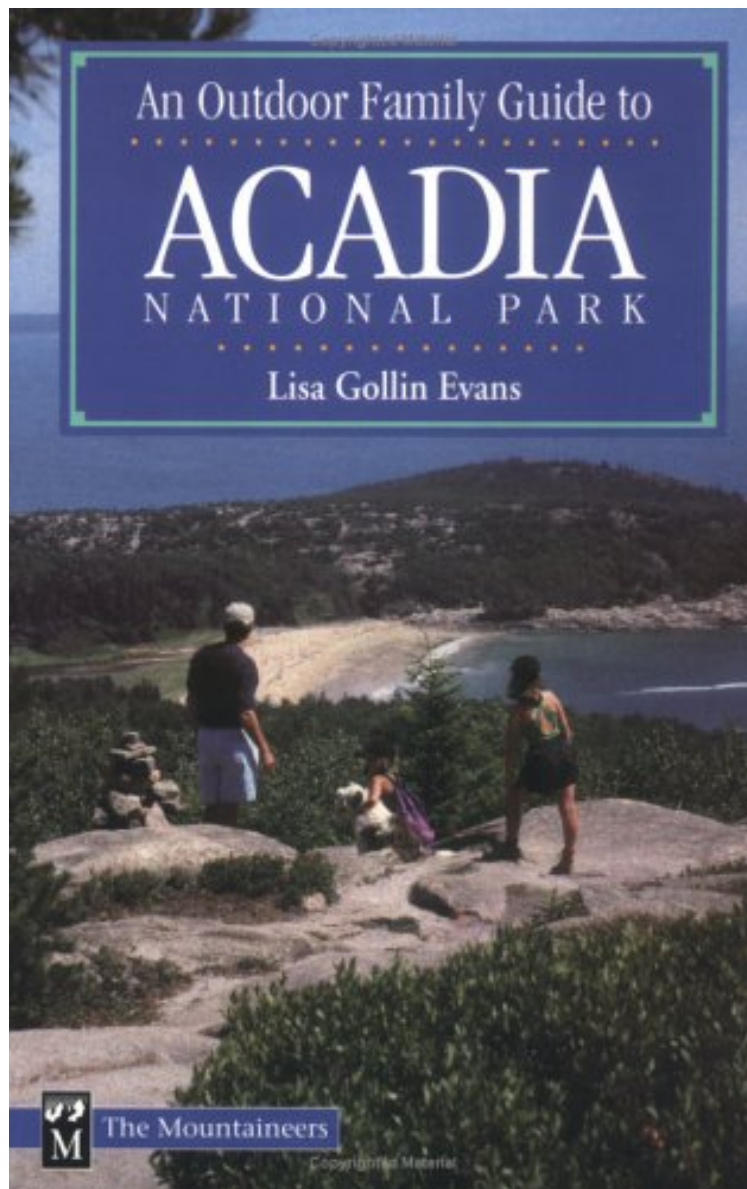


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An Outdoor Family Guide to Acadia National Park (Outdoor Family Guides)

Lisa Gollin Evans

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Lisa Gollin Evans : An Outdoor Family Guide to Acadia National Park (Outdoor Family Guides) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An Outdoor Family Guide to Acadia National Park (Outdoor Family Guides):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great for planning, should be supplemented with a road map
By Jennie H. We used this book on 2 separate trips to Acadia, one two years ago with four kids ranging in age from 5-9, and one this summer with five kids ranging in age from 4-11. We found it to be an excellent book for planning hikes that would suit the varying abilities of our group, the only negative (which was noted by a reviewer of one of the author's other books as well) is that we sometimes had a bit of difficulty finding "Start". Once the trail was found we felt that the ratings and descriptions were very accurate, and the fact that many of the recommended hikes were combinations or portions of different trails made it easy to plan as much or as little of the hike as we felt was appropriate. There is also quite a bit of information on the area in general and non-outdoors activities for rainy or otherwise days, as well as places to stay and "philosophy" of outdoor ventures with kids to help everyone enjoy the experience. The book also contains recommendations for biking and paddling, but we didn't use these sections enough that I feel I can comment on them. An example of how we used the book, given because the number of options was common in many of the recommended routes: Hike #4, Gorham Mtn and the Bowl Loop is described as a 4.5 mile round trip of Moderate difficulty. If we had only looked at this description in the chart at the back we wouldn't have attempted it with a 4 year old, but based on the detailed text description we were able to identify that we could do the Gorham Mtn hike ("reach the summit about .9 miles from the trailhead"), planning to send the younger group with one grownup up the less challenging trail and the older group up the more challenging trail with the other grownup if they preferred it (.2 miles from the trailhead is a fork; "From this fork both trails lead to the summit and reach it in .7 miles. The trail to the left ... travels pleasantly atop an open ridge. The trail to the right runs along the shady base of Cadillac Cliffs ... [this] trail is less beautiful, it is a more challenging and exciting route for youngsters"). We planned to eat at the summit, then send the 4-year old and anyone else who wanted back down to the base of the trail we had come for a total hike of 1.8 miles while the others continued on with the remainder of the loop, with the potential to cut off the last mile of the hike (down to a total of 4 miles) if the 7 and 8 year olds continued on with the loop or alternately do all 5 miles if only the older kids went on. In execution this worked almost perfectly; the 4 and 8 year old were easily able to manage the left fork; the right was later reported as having some "short steep scrambles" that were manageable but challenging for the 7 year old. After picnicking at the top, the 4 and 8 year old returned down the mountain with me; the rest continued on, cutting out an additional unplanned .4 mile section of the trail because the 7 year old was flagging, and returning to be picked up by the first group after a total of about 3.5 miles. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Matthew A. Siegler Completely fantastic. It entirely guided our adventure in Acadia and without it we'd have made many wrong choices.

Comprehensive guides to family-friendly outings.