

Collector's Journal

A Service of Collectors Alliance

2012 Acadia National Park Quarter - Maine

Thirteenth in the America the Beautiful Quarters Collection

The Acadia National Park Quarter is the third America the Beautiful Quarter issued in 2012. It followed the coins for El Yunque National Forest in Puerto Rico and Chaco Culture National Historical Park in New Mexico, and it will be followed by Hawaii Volcanoes National Park in Hawaii and Denali National Park in Alaska to complete the set of five 2012 coins.

The America the Beautiful Quarters series started in 2010 and will eventually honor a National Park or another site of "natural or historic significance" in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five overseas U.S. territories. Five coins are issued each year, and each coin is limited to a mintage of only about 10 weeks.

A portrait of George Washington appears on the obverse of each coin. The portrait was created by sculptor John Flanagan and has appeared on all Quarters since 1932. The small "P" or "D" under "In God We Trust" identifies the U.S. Mint that struck the coin: Philadelphia or Denver, respectively. The reverse is a one-time-only design that honors the featured site. All designs are selected by the Secretary of the Treasury after consultation with two advisory boards.

Acadia National Park was established in 1919 as the first National Park east of the Mississippi River. Situated on the coast of Maine, most of the park is on Mount Desert Island – although it also extends to other smaller islands and part of the mainland on picturesque Schoodic Peninsula. The total area is more than 47,000 acres, making it one of the nation's smallest National Parks.

Mount Desert Island was once a popular summer retreat for many of America's wealthiest families. In order to preserve the island's beauty, they donated much of the land to form the National Park. Among the highlights of the park are Cadillac



Mountain (the highest point on the east coast of the United States), more than 120 miles of hiking trails, spectacular cliffs on Isle au Haut, and stunning ocean views that epitomize the beauty of the park and the surrounding region.

The central image on the Acadia National Park Quarter is Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse, which sits on the southern tip of Mount Desert Island and is one of the park's most famous attractions. The 32-foot-tall cylindrical brick lighthouse was built in 1858 at a cost of \$5,000. It marks the entrance to Bass Harbor and is accessible by trails that offer spectacular views of the island and the ocean. The design also shows the ocean and the rocky coastline, as well as pine trees in the background.

A total of five prospective designs were prepared by the U.S. Mint for the Acadia National Park Quarter. One of the rejected designs also showed Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse, but without the adjacent landscape, while another featured Brown Mountain Gate Lodge, which was financed by philanthropist John D. Rockefeller Jr. The final two designs highlighted the park's natural beauty.

The Acadia National Park Quarter was released by the U.S. Mint in June 2012.

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