

# Visit the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum and nearby aquarium

By **Samantha Emrich**

A 6-year-old scours the tidal pools barefoot for mussels and crabs. An older couple embraces in a stroll along the rocky coastline. A family of five eats a picnic lunch on the grass with their golden retriever. Regardless of age, preferred activity or even species, Beavertail State Park is the place to be. "It's a nice walk for an older group and the water is great for young kids," said Beavertail park naturalist Jillian Hesse. "Really, there's something here that everyone can relate to."

Located on Beavertail Road in Jamestown, the 153 acres of scenic beauty that is Beavertail State Park provide a multitude of activities for both local and distant visitors.

Beavertail welcomes visitors to its park, museum, lighthouse and aquarium free of charge.

## State Park

The park is open year-round from sunrise to sunset. There are picnic areas and four scenic ocean overlooks. On a clear day, marine life such as seals and whales can be seen from a concrete overlook that was once the foundation of the old lighthouse. Visitors are also encouraged to sight-

see from a vehicle or explore the rocky shoreline on foot.

"A lot of people that come here just want to see the views," said Hesse. "You can see Newport and Block Island from Beavertail."


Portable restrooms are available year round and public phones are available seasonally. Beavertail provides free parking and handicapped parking. Visitors can participate in a variety of physical activities in the park such as hiking, bike-riding, saltwater fishing and naturalist programs. Reservations can be made for planned large outings, picnics, group activities and weddings at the scenic escape.

## Lighthouse and Museum

Beavertail is home to the third oldest lighthouse on the east coast. A museum exhibiting the artifacts and information regarding the historical significance of this lighthouse is available for visitors along with a museum gift shop.

The restoration of the lighthouse at Beavertail began in 1983 and was opened as a museum six years later in 1989. The volunteers of the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association currently main-

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