

Beaches, Beachcombing Spots on Grand Manan and White Head Islands.

1. PETTES COVE - A number of small rocky, cobble beaches mixed with sand can be found in this cove in North Head, close to the ferry terminal and bordered on the north by Swallow Tail and by Net Point on the south. These beaches are great spots to find beach glass. A trail to the right of the largest beach will take you to Net Point and back with spectacular scenes along the way. Seals and whales can sometimes be seen from shore. The "Cora Belle" and "Intruder" weirs can also be viewed.



2. WHALE COVE –Driftwood is in abundance along this long, curved cobble beach located in North Head. Access is off Route 776 from both Cemetery Lane and Whale Cove Road. The Meredith Houseworth Memorial Shoreline (a Nature New Brunswick Nature Preserve) encompasses the fresh water pond just beyond the cobble beach. Hiking trails lead off from both ends of the beach to either Hole-in-the-Wall or Seven Days Work, Ashburton Head, the Bishop and eventually Long Eddy Point. A number of herring weirs are located in Whale Cove. Dorries and skiffs used to check the weirs are tied up on the concrete slip



way. It is not unusual to sometimes spot whales offshore.



3. STANLEY'S BEACH - Reached from a road across from the hospital or hiking at low water from the Fishermen's Wharf in North Head, this sand beach is ideal for, albeit chilly, swimming. Sand dollars can be found at low tide but please be considerate. Dark coloured sand dollars are still alive; white sand dollars are dead.
4. LONG EDDY – A rocky shoreline accessed at the end of the Whistle Road, an incredible tide rip extends from this point on both the flood and ebb. Seabirds, whales, porpoises and seals feed on the concentrated prey in the rip. Driftwood also collects in abundance along the natural rock seawall formed by the tides, but don't be fooled, the water is deep in the inside at high water but drains out through the rocks at low water. Abundant seaweeds can be found on the rocks, exposed at low tide, including dulse, nori and various kelps. Periwinkles are also picked on this point.
5. CASTALIA MARSH - This picnic area, salt marsh and narrow sand beach is an excellent location for viewing birds of many kinds. Below the high tide mark you may find very old tree stumps, remains of an ancient sunken forest, peat deposits, and scallops shells that have been dumped to help stabilize the beach. Further into the intertidal, many tide pools are found. Sweet grass was collected from the marsh by natives to be used in their ceremonies and baskets. Seals may also be viewed swimming just off the beach at high tide, or hauled out onto rocks at low tide. Also watch for bald eagles, harriers, great blue herons, gulls and shorebirds (during migration). The largest salt marsh on the island, it fills from an opening in the sea wall at the southern end.
6. DARK HARBOUR – a natural salt water pond formed from the tide creating a rock seawall, this is the start and end of many dulse collecting trips along the western side of Grand Manan. If you can get across to the seawall, driftwood is in abundance and you will also see the slipways created in the seawall to allow dories to be run up and over. The Pond has been used for many things including



herring weirs and salmon aquaculture. Towering cliffs frame Dark Harbour on both sides with an opening in the seawall on the northern end. Dark Harbour Brook is found on the southern side and may pose a barrier to cross when water levels in the brook are high.



7. THE THOROUGHFARE – The Thoroughfare can be accessed from Woodward's Cove (Pound Road) or Grand Harbour (Thoroughfare Road). The roads take you



to a narrow passage that separates Ross Island from Grand Manan. This muddy shore is high and dry at low water and allows access between the two islands on foot or all-terrain vehicle for two hours on either side of low water. If you do cross to Ross Island, do not attempt to cross back if you miss the window of opportunity, but wait for the next low tide. The current is very strong and can wash you or your vehicle away. A number of lobster pounds and pound houses (building holding lobsters in tanks) are found here. A variety of seaweeds, a small sand beach and numerous soft shell clam shells are common. Many seabirds and waterfowl use this area and during migration, shorebirds feed in the intertidal zone on the Grand Harbour side, for the most part.

8. ANCHORAGE PROVINCIAL PARK – Between Grand Harbour and Seal Cove, there is a turnoff to the Anchorage Provincial Park. Take the left branch of the road at the Anchorage sign which will lead you to the beach and a choice to go left or right. You can park to the right or drive the road to the left which leads to a number of trails, picnic spots and additional parking. You can also go by foot, either on the beach itself or along the road and the several trails. A trail along the beach takes you past Long Pond and Big (or Great) Pond to Ox Head. Blinds are also found at Long Pond and Big (or Great) Pond for viewing birds. Beach combing and shell collecting are fun to do on this lovely, quiet sand beach with wonderful sand dunes. The vegetation is also interesting with some plants only found here such as false arnica.
9. SEAL COVE SAND BEACH – In Seal Cove, the road takes a sharp right turn just before the water (the "Crick"). If instead you turn left and cross a bridge, you can follow along a road through a maze of smokehouses, continuing to an old breakwater and the Sand Beach. This is a great place to spend a sunny day if you have small children. Wander around and you may find fishermen building lobster traps or working on their boats and equipment. This is one of the most-photographed areas on the island.
10. DEEP COVE BEACH - Deep Cove is the most popular sand beach on the island and is located off Route 776 towards the southern end of the island. It is a "must" if you have children, or are young at heart. The sand is excellent for sand castles, or writing your initials, or for a stroll along the surf's edge. The sea here is great for a cool but refreshing plunge but small children should be watched as there is an undertow and the waves can be quite high after a storm. Access is by foot only.
11. SOUTHERN HEAD BEACH – As you head toward the very southern end of Grand Manan, you will come to Southern Head Beach Road. A trail to the left leads to the upper and lower "Flock of Sheep", a glacial deposit of rows of granitic boulders perched on exposed crystalline basalt. The trail to the right leads along the cliffs to the Southwest Head Light. The Beach is directly ahead and is a great spot to watch seabirds feeding and moving from one area to another. The puddles in the road often are full of dragonflies.
12. WHITE HEAD: SAND BEACH – A short 30 minute ferry ride will take you to White Head Island from Ingalls Head. A right turn off the wharf will take you to a monument to fishermen from White Head who were lost when their herring seiner was struck by a ship and sunk off Newfoundland. Along the way there is a



narrow sand beach beside the road that has some of the best sand but is seldom used.

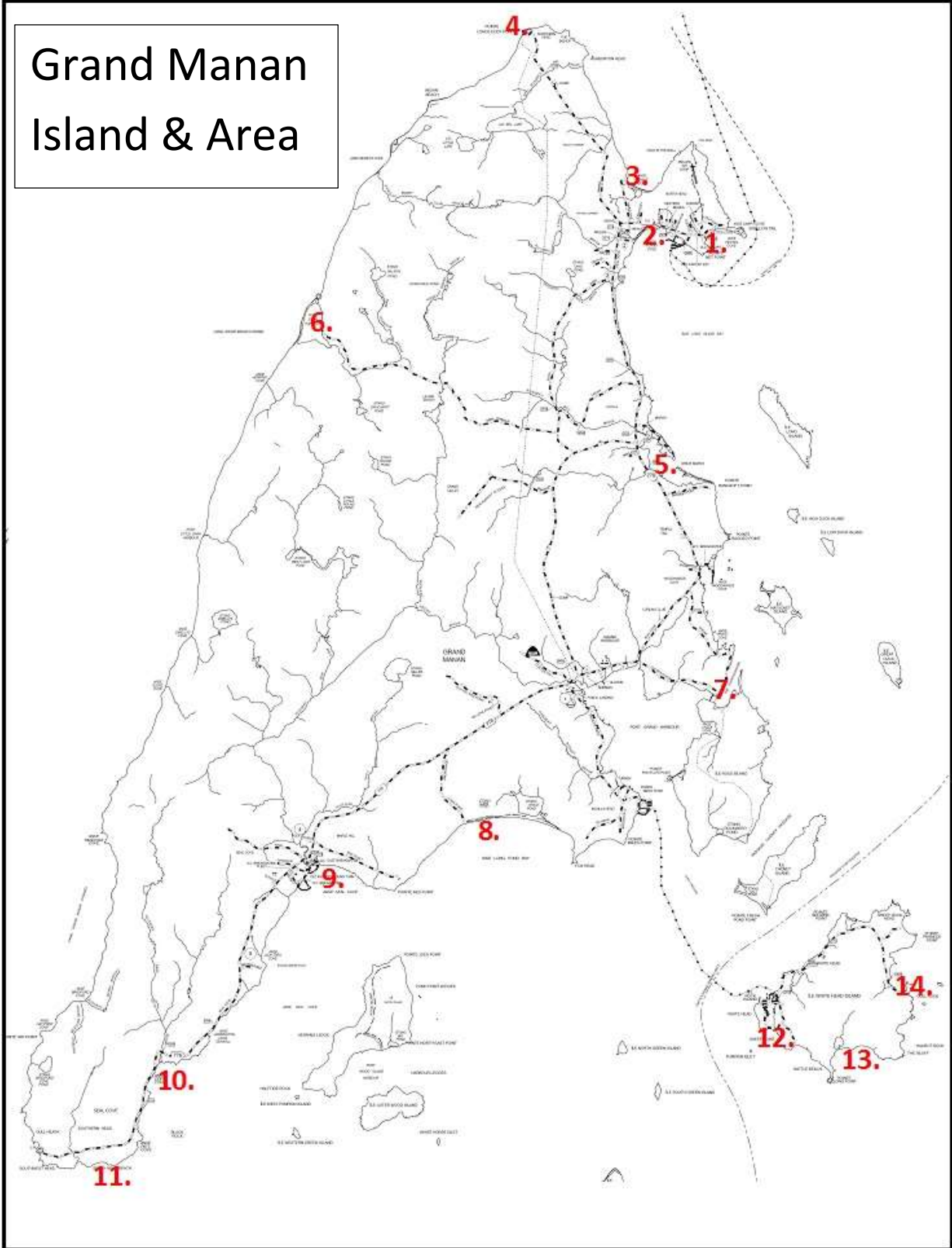
13. WHITE HEAD: SANDY COVE – From the ferry, White Head Road to the right will take you to Long Point Light. The road out to the lighthouse is often washed out by winter storms, and is usually impassable for passenger cars but is an easy walk. Proceed a bit further and you come to Sandy Cove Beach, a magnificent curved beach of fine sand with a trout pond behind it. In this freshwater pond, many gulls come to wash the salt from their feathers, in the process creating quite a display.



14. WHITE HEAD: PEBBLE BEACH – Located in Gull Cove on White Head Island, this beach is known for the multitude of different colours of pebbles. James Audubon walked this shore when he stayed with William Frankland in 1833. His goal was to paint the juvenile herring (or silver) gull, difficult to find elsewhere because settlers over-collected herring gull eggs during nesting season and the species was heading toward extinction. Audubon was successful in his quest and went on to ensure herring gulls were protected. Their recovery occurred while other seabirds were still being exploited and resulted in an imbalance, herring gulls benefitting from the lack of other seabirds still being exploited.

Have a Question? E-Mail us at: info@grandmanannb.com

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Popular Beaches and Beachcombing Areas.