

Sols Cliff House
18 Sols Cliff Rd.
Bar Harbor ME 04609
www.solscliff.com

Welcome to Sols Cliff House (from the homeowners)

This vacation house has been in our family since 1915. The house was built by our step grandfather, lawyer-novelist Arthur Train. His old writing house is in the woods to the right of the terrace as you face the bay. A photograph of him is in the library. The house was restored and maintained by his stepsons Coster and James Gerard. You will see watercolors and one or two oil paintings around the house by their mother, Helen Train. Now a third and fourth generation are both helping out with the work and enjoying the place. As one of the last remaining “Summer Cottages” that were popular before Mount Desert Island’s great fire of 1947, the house still has many of its original details - so we ask that you please be gentle with it.

Bar Harbor is no longer the gilded-age “summer colony” of New Yorkers and Bostonians that it once was in the first half of the 20th Century, but the town and Mount Desert Island retain their scenic beauty and summer diversions. People come here to enjoy the many activities that Acadia National Park and Mount Desert Island have to offer. One can hike the extensive trails of the national park, swim and picnic at the beach, rent sailboats, kayaks, and mountain bikes, and enjoy Mount Desert Island’s beautiful land and seascapes. There are many restaurants to enjoy all over the island. And then one can also enjoy the house, and its views and quiet woods, as a tranquil retreat with friends and family.

Sols Cliff is also an oasis for many animals. Deer, rabbits, raccoons, chipmunks, flying squirrels, fox, and an assortment of birds including bald eagles, juncos, nuthatches, white-throated sparrows, and hummingbirds have been seen on the land.

For fun:

To swim (or picnic – the water is very cold!) we walk to Compass Cove, which is an easy walk on old carriage paths off Old Farm Road. To track the tides, you can observe the water levels on the breakwater off Bald Porcupine Island, which is the island nearest us in the bay. To reach Compass Cove from the house, drive or walk down to the end of Old Farm Road. Go right onto route 3. Turn immediately into the small gravel parking lot on the right. From here the beach is about a quarter of a mile walk down the marked gravel road. The road curves to the left and then narrows down to a path to the shore. It leads to a bluff with a beautiful view overlooking the water. There you can find a way down to the beach. Or you can walk back up the path a bit and into the woods. There you will find other paths with access points down to the water (some are easier than others) though it is best to stay on park land. The beach has rocks and a few sandy areas at low tide. For pure sand, drive to Sand Beach – great sand but the water seems even colder!

In the game house, the barn-like building located out the back door, children can play wall-tennis

and basketball. It is good for general recreation, especially on rainy days.

For hiking and activity information there are maps and pamphlets in the side table to the left as you enter the library. If you are in search of more information you can contact Acadia National Park (www.nps.gov/acad/index.htm) or the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce (<https://www.visitbarharbor.com>). Another excellent website for information about the park is Acadia Magic (https://acadiamagic.com/acadia_national_park.html). It is a good idea to check for alerts or other park rules or procedures. For more urban forms of exercise and a lap pool, there is a YMCA in town. (<https://www.mdiymca.org>).

In recent years some of us have enjoyed the schooner trips from Bar Harbor and canoe rentals and other nooks and crannies over on the west side of the island.

Restaurants and Food:

Hannaford's - <https://www.hannaford.com/> (groceries)

Thrive - <https://www.thrivebarharbor.com/>

MDI Bakery - <https://mountdessertbakery.com/>

Mt. Desert Ice Cream - <https://www.mdiic.com/>

Two Cats - <https://twocatsbarharbor.com/>

Side St Cafe - <https://www.sidestreetbarharbor.com/>

Jordan Pond House - <https://jordanpondhouse.com/>

This Way Cafe - <https://www.cafethisway.com/>

Abel's Lobster - <https://www.abelslobstermdi.com/>

Havana - <https://www.havanamaine.com/> (Fancier)

Ilesford Dock Restaurant (Little Cranberry Island)- <https://www.islesforddock.com>

Make reservations as well as reserve ferry rides in advance:

Beal and Bunker Ferry - <https://www.bealandbunkerferry.com/ferry-schedule>

Cranberry Cove Ferry - <https://downeastwindjammer.com/activities/cranberry-cove-ferry/>

Important Information about the House:

We would like to thank you for treating the house gently and with care due to its age. Note the fragility of some of the furniture (**particularly the dining room chairs**), doors, and windows as well as the fact that the hot water sometimes takes a few minutes (or 7) to arrive.

If something does not work or there is a problem of some kind we would ask that you call the caretakers or managers straightaway. Please resist the temptation to attempt repair or to call any repair people on your own.

The house has wireless internet service. Due to the size of the house, the wireless may not reach its extremities. It is strongest in the kitchen where the router is, and gets less strong as you move to the other end of the house or to the upper floors.

Network Name: solsciff

Password: solsciff

The back door, closest to the game house, has a code lock. The code is **3141**. Please lock all other doors when leaving the property, and use this entrance to get back in. **Make sure the back screen door is secure.** This discourages raccoons and squirrels, and prevents banging in the breeze.

As with most houses of this age we suggest the use of surge protectors with electronics. There may be extra surge protectors located in the drawers in the butler's pantry between the dining room and kitchen.

Please keep food items in the kitchen wrapped up and put away in the closets or in the fridge. The house is old and large and it can be difficult to keep it completely sealed. Squirrels and chipmunks will try their best to outwit you to get into the house!! They seem to be very clever.

Extra light bulbs should be in the drawers in the butler's pantry. Please only use 25 or at the most 40-watt bulbs in the wall sconces. All (most) of the sconces have on/off switches on them. Wall switches also turn many of them on and off as well. Most bedrooms have one sconce that is connected to a wall switch and one that is not. Some back and forth may be needed before getting both lights on, especially in the living room. Please excuse the sconces that do not work. Because of their antiquity, some cannot be fixed. Two in the library and one on the third floor are broken and there may be a few others in the second floor hallway.

The view over Frenchman Bay is one of the notable features of the house. This view is created partly by Sols Cliff itself—which is **an actual cliff! There is absolutely NO beach or water access. There is no cliff trail. There is an extremely steep grade down to the edge of the cliff. Do not go toward the water from the front of the house.**

There is a dumpster in between the main house and the game house. Please take garbage (including items normally separated for recycling) to this dumpster as needed, and close the lid firmly to prevent animals from sneaking inside.

Fire Safety

Note that there are fire extinguishers near all fireplaces, next to the front door, on the bookcase on the second-floor landing, and two in the kitchen, one near the stove and one near the door into the butler's pantry. Only the one outdoor cliff-side firepit can be used for fires. Only actual firewood should be used, as bark or sticks collected outside may spark in a more dangerous way and increase the risk of fire.

Please use only toilet paper in the toilets. There are garbage receptacles provided for everything else.

House Address is:

[18 Sols Cliff Road,](#)
[Bar Harbor, ME 04609](#)

Note - Google Maps is inaccurate. It shows our driveway as Fire Rd. 102 off of Old Farm Rd.

Our driveway is indeed Fire Rd.102. However Google is wrong in that what it calls the second leg of Old Farm Rd is actually Sols Cliff Rd. Very confusing we realize but this may save you further confusion down the road so to speak. **Mapquest** shows the correct information.

Following is a list of telephone numbers for use in emergency:

Fire, Police, Ambulance: 911

Caretakers:

Three Guys Caretaking

Bob – (207) 991-8186

Kyle – (207) 521-4699

Managers:

Phil Potter - (323)828-0304

William Gerard - (908)578-2688

Charlie Gerard - (908)967-8517

If you are their clients:

Knowles Agency: (207)276-3322

Davis Agency: (207)244-3891

Maine Island Properties: (207)244-4348

Summer House Cottage Rentals: (207)276-5053

Check-out time is 9:30 am. Thank you for adhering strictly to this time because the job of cleaning the house is immense for our cleaners. New tenants arrive in the afternoon.

Please strip each bed. Leave the sheets in a pile on the bed they came from.

Finally, with the practicalities out of the way, we again bid you welcome to Sol's Cliff and Mount Desert Island!

Enjoy your stay and please sign our guestbook!