

# Joggins Fossil Cliffs

UNESCO World Heritage Site

Joggins, Nova Scotia



**Coordinates:** N45° 41.756 W064° 27.029

**Geocaching.com code:** GCN186

**Type of Cache:** Earthcache\*



**Please use caution and pay attention to the tides!**

**Predicted tide times and heights:** <http://www.waterlevels.gc.ca/eng/station?sid=215>

The Joggins Fossil Cliffs are a world-class palaeontological site stretching approximately 15 kilometres (10 miles) along the shoreline of the Bay of Fundy near the town of Joggins. The cliffs reveal the most comprehensive sampling, or fossil record, of terrestrial life from the Carboniferous Period, some 300 million years ago. The constant erosion from the Bay of Fundy's tides continually exposes new fossils making the cliffs one of the easiest places in the world to find fossils. To date, nearly 200 different species of plants, amphibians and reptiles have been identified from the fossils found here.

The area also has a long history of coal mining, with coal seams exploited as early as 1686 by local Acadian settlers. Coal mining played an important role in the history of the region until the 1950s when the mines were eventually closed.

Due to the global significance of this site, the cliffs were designated a Special Place under the Province of Nova Scotia's Special Places Protection Act in 1989. In 2008, the cliffs were also officially inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. To protect the site for scientific research, take only pictures and leave only footprints. In Nova Scotia, the law only lets you collect fossils if you have a *Heritage Research Permit* from the provincial government.

The Joggins Fossil Centre (open April through October) was built on a brownfield site reclaimed from the mining industry. The building itself was designed to mimic the formations of the cliffs, and the shape of the building is reminiscent of the old Joggins No. 7 mine that once stood at the site. To respect the natural value of the area, and to minimize the building's footprint, the Centre incorporates many sustainable and green building features including: a wind turbine generator; a solar hot water heating system; passive solar heat and light collection; a green roof; and washroom fixtures that reduce water consumption. The cliffs are accessible to the public and guided tours of the site are provided by staff from the Centre.



Joggins Fossil Institute

## Learn more about this area:

[jogginsfossilcliffs.net/](http://jogginsfossilcliffs.net/)  
[whc.unesco.org/en/list/1285/](http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1285/)

**Thank you to:** Maritime Geocaching Association (cache owner), The Joggins Fossil Institute

## Passport Question:

- Abraham Gesner (in 1836) said that "something" turned to stone.....what was that?
- Bonus: In the "evolutionary maze" in the play space at the Joggins Fossil Centre we learn about causes of extinction. How does the maze communicate the extinction of Saber-tooth tigers?

**\*Please note:** To log this Earthcache, please visit Geocaching.com for additional tasks or questions to be completed.

**The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment's (GOMC) 2012-2017 Action Plan** identifies goals for three broad issues that benefit significantly from regional collaboration:

1. Restore and conserve habitat
2. Environmental and human health
3. Sustainable communities

More information on the GOMC, its partners and its activities can be found at [www.gulfofmaine.org](http://www.gulfofmaine.org)

