

Monhegan Island...Leave us alone

Dusty footpaths meandering between gray-weathered houses are the main streets on Monhegan. No cars allowed, no banks, no paved roads and that's probably how it will stay. Just ten miles (16 km) off the coast of Maine, this tiny island of barely a square mile, strives to preserve a simpler way of life. Other than private boat, the mailboats from Port Clyde on the mainland provide the only access and help preserve the isolated and independent nature of the place.

In the summer months, however, the island's rugged, natural beauty attracts artists by the droves, whose presence is marked by a myriad of easels and canvases haphazardly positioned in every nook and cranny across the island. The resident population of about 75 hardy folk deal patiently with the throng, but appreciate the approach of Fall. The islanders clearly point out that "what makes Monhegan Island different is that it's hard to get to and hard to live on. Anything that makes it easier is probably a step in the wrong direction."

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