

## **Rugged North America: The Bay of Fundy and Stonehammer**

### **Global region**

North America

### **Domestic region**

Eastern Canada

### **Internationally Designated Areas**

Bay of Fundy Biosphere Reserve

2007

Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark

2015

The Bay of Fundy Biosphere Reserve, designated in 2007, lies in New Brunswick, Canada, and protects one of North America's most remarkable coastlines. This landscape blends Acadian mixed wood forests, salt marshes, tidal mudflats, and rugged cliffs with thriving terrestrial and marine biodiversity.

Famous for having the highest tides in the world, the steep river valleys of this MIDA are carved with waterfalls, gorges, and rapids, while the head of the bay opens into broad, rolling salt marshes teeming with life. Stretching northeast from St. Martins along watersheds draining into the upper Bay of Fundy, its diverse landscapes provide sanctuary to animals such as bald eagle, Canada lynx, eastern cougar, harlequin duck, and peregrine falcon.

### **Cultures of collaboration**

The reserve also encompasses the extraordinary geology and diverse ecosystems of Fundy National Park alongside the cultural landscapes of rural villages and coastal towns. Visitors to this North American MIDA are treated to endless opportunities for exploration, from wildlife watching to world-class coastal hiking along dramatic shorelines.

The cultural heritage of the region runs deep. The Mi'kmaq people lived and fished along these shores for centuries before Europeans arrived, leaving stories woven into the land and sea. Today, the mix of francophone and anglophone communities in New Brunswick reflects a spirit of collaboration, which continues to draw newcomers, businesses, and travelers to the region.

### **Another UNESCO title**

The biosphere reserve became a MIDA in 2015 with the designation of Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark, which overlaps in the southwest of the reserve.

Geologists have been drawn to the region since the nineteenth century due to the dramatic evidence of colliding continents, volcanic upheavals, ice ages, and shifting seas. Today, more than 60 fossil and rock sites, with 12 open to the public, invite visitors to walk through time, exploring landscapes that reveal the planet's dynamism at this enticing MIDA.

### **Sustainable initiatives**

To connect people with these landscapes, the Fundy Biosphere Reserve launched the Amazing Places sustainable tourism initiative in 2010. After community consultations, sites were chosen for their

geological, cultural, and ecological significance, and then shared through storytelling to highlight their wonders.

Many of these “Amazing Places” are linked by hiking trails, offering some of North America’s most breathtaking coastal walks. Carefully managed to avoid ecological harm, the program balances conservation with visitor experience. Today, it inspires sustainable tourism across five Canadian biosphere reserves.