

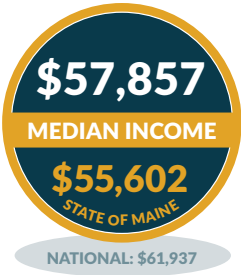
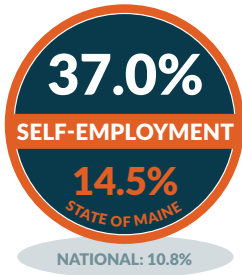
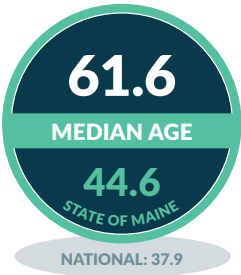
CRANBERRY ISLES

COMMUNITY PROFILE



QUICK FACTS

Cranberry Isles is made up of five islands: Great Cranberry Island, Little Cranberry Island (Islesford), Sutton Island, Baker Island, and Bear Island. There are year-round communities on Great Cranberry and Islesford. The five islands have a combined total of 2,045 acres, or about 3.2 square miles. Wild low bush cranberries grow on the islands, giving the archipelago its name.



SCHOOL SYSTEM

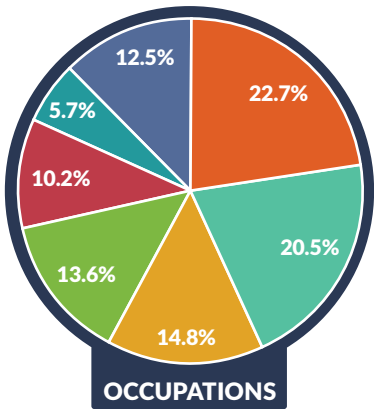
The Cranberry Isles are part of the Mount Desert Island Regional School System. There are two K-8 schools on the islands. Great Cranberry Island has the Longfellow School, and Little Cranberry Island has the Ashley Bryan School. The K-8 students from both islands combine to attend school together, alternating between the Longfellow and Ashley Bryan Schools every two years. After 8th grade, students commute daily to Mount Desert Island High School.



2019–20 SCHOOL YEAR:
2 Teachers + 10 Students

ECONOMY

Over one-quarter of Cranberry Isles residents are employed in the resource extraction industry, which includes lobster fishing. Another third of the population is involved in industries that either support individuals and businesses (professional services) or the community (public administration). The rest of the population works in the retail, education, and health industries.



NATURAL RESOURCES*	RETAIL
PROFESSIONAL	CONSTRUCTION
PUBLIC ADMIN	OTHER
EDUCATION/HEALTH	

* includes fishing, farming, forestry, and mining

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

Great Cranberry Island

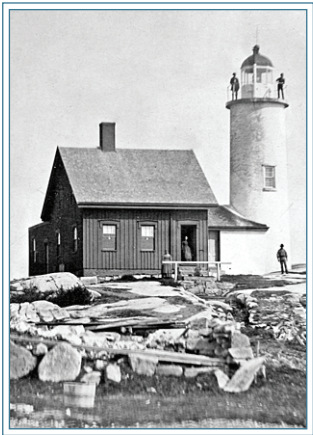
- Cranberry General Store
- Cranberry House
- Great Cranberry Community Center
- Great Cranberry Congregational Church
- Great Cranberry Historical Society
- Great Cranberry Island Library
- Longfellow School
- Preble Cove Hiking Trails

Little Cranberry Island

- Acadia National Park Museum
- Ashley Bryan Pavilion
- Ashley Bryan School
- Gilley Beach
- Islesford Boatworks
- Islesford Congregational Church
- Islesford Historical Society
- Islesford Library
- Islesford Neighborhood House
- Sand Beach

Other Islands

- Baker Island Lighthouse
- Bear Island Lighthouse



Baker Island Lighthouse, circa 1869

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES

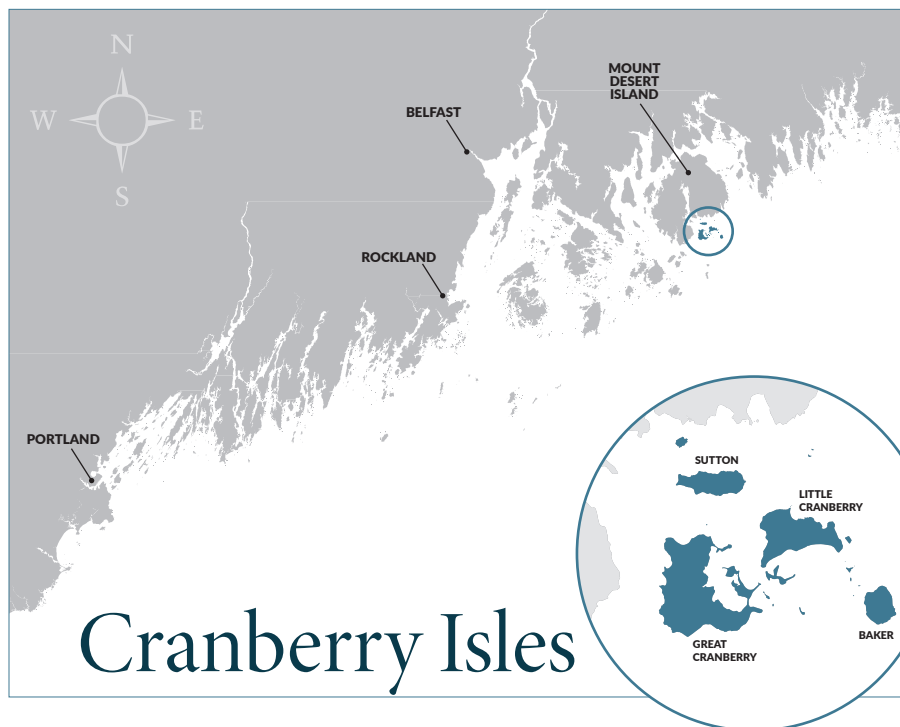
LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Cranberry Isles Community Broadband Project

Beginning in 2015, the town’s broadband working group focused on bringing universal, reliable high-speed internet infrastructure to the islands that meet national standards for connectivity. After three years of community engagement and planning, local voters authorized town funding for the project and received supporting state infrastructure funds. Infrastructure projects not being without challenges, town leaders worked through regulations and financing hurdles around utility pole attachments. The result has provided all Cranberry Isles residents with access to fiber internet infrastructure that will continue to provide reliable service for many years.

Cranberry Isles Fishermen’s Co-op’s Solar Project

As part of its ongoing environmental stewardship and efforts to manage costs, in 2019 the Cranberry Isles Fishermen’s Co-op installed solar on the roof of its bait shed and other nearby buildings. Students from the nearby College of the Atlantic assessed the site for solar in 2018, and the project was approved by co-op members. The solar array currently covers 110% of their electricity use. With the added benefit of grants from USDA and the Island Institute, the co-op will break even on the system in seven to nine years.



Cranberry Isles

HOW TO GET THERE

The Cranberry Isles are serviced by ferries out of Northeast Harbor, Southwest Harbor, and Manset, all on Mount Desert Island. The ferry from Northeast Harbor is year-round, with additional seasonal ferry service from Southwest Harbor and Manset.

The crossing takes about 20 minutes to Great Cranberry Island and then 15 more minutes to Islesford. Once on island, the communities are walkable.

FOR MORE DATA ON MAINE'S ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES, VISIT:
www.islandinstitute.org/waypoints

FOR DATA QUESTIONS, CONTACT:
info@islandinstitute.org

With gratitude to our community reviewers: James Fortune and Ingrid Gaither



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