

Alaska's National Parks – Media Information





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Welcome to Alaska's National Parks

Welcome to Alaska and her incredible national parks!

Alaska's parks are as varied as they are vast, and each is worthy of exploration -- and a story. This press kit will help you plan a visit, tell a compelling story, find dramatic images and locate services.

The parks in Alaska are part of America's nearly 407-unit National Park System that, collectively honors and defines our heritage. In Alaska, the parks represent both the great sweep of American history and natural abundance: artifacts of the earliest North Americans; the Russian colonial period; the quest for gold; bears, salmon, caribou and eagles; and the awe-inspiring mountains and tundra.

You'll meet colorful people and find countless stories in Alaska's parks. For travel journalists, think about easy walks to a glacier at Kenai Fjords or a tour of what was once America's richest copper mine in Wrangell-St. Elias. Sporting stories might find you hooking a salmon or trout, viewing caribou, bears, wolves or moose, or kayaking in calm waters at Glacier Bay. On the news side, Alaska's parks continue to work through thorny issues, 34 years after Congress established 10 new parks and doubled the size of the America's national park system. Front page issues like wilderness management, snowmachines, roads, visitation growth, and visitor facilities are present in many parks.

We appreciate the opportunity to help you write about Alaska, smooth the logistics and provide leads to the people with whom you need to connect. Thanks for your interest in Alaska, and we hope to see you in a park.

Sincerely,

John Quinley
Associate Regional Director of Communications, Alaska Region

Media contact info –

National Park Service – Alaska Region

www.nps.gov/akso

John Quinley
240 West 5th Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 644-3512

john_quinley@nps.gov

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Alaska's National Parks Overview

Alaska's National Parks Alaska is home to 13 federally designated wild rivers, one national historic area, one national monument and preserve, one national monument, two national parks, two national historical parks, three national preserves, and six national parks and preserves. These include:

- Wild River**
- Alagnak Wild River
 - Alatna Wild River
 - Aniakchak Wild River
 - Charley Wild River
 - Chilikadrotna Wild River
 - John Wild River
 - Kobuk Wild River
 - Mulchatna Wild River
 - Noatak Wild River
 - Koyukuk Wild River (North Fork)
 - Salmon Wild River
 - Tinayguk Wild River
 - Tlikakila Wild River

National Historic Area • Aleutian World War II National Historic Area

National Monument and Preserve • Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve

National Preserves

- Bering Land Bridge National Preserve (part of the Western Arctic National Parklands)
- Noatak National Preserve (part of the Western Arctic National Parklands)
- Yukon - Charley Rivers National Preserve

National Monument • Cape Krusenstern National Monument (part of the Western Arctic National Parklands)

National Parks and Preserves

- Denali National Park and Preserve
- Gates Of The Arctic National Park and Preserve
- Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
- Katmai National Park and Preserve
- Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
- Wrangell - St Elias National Park and Preserve

National Parks

- Kenai Fjords National Park
- Kobuk Valley National Park (part of the Western Arctic National Parklands)

National Historical Parks

- Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park
- Sitka National Historical Park

Affiliated Areas

- Inupiat Heritage Center (associated with New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park in Massachusetts)
- Kenai Mountains Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area

Alaska's National Park Lands



Visitors to Alaska's National Parks

2014 saw about 2.6 million visits to Alaska's national parks, a record number.

The most visited park each year is Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Skagway, which saw more than 925,000 visitors in 2014. Also among the top five most visited national parks in Alaska are Denali, Glacier Bay, Sitka and Kenai Fjords.

The least-visited park in 2014 was the remote, beautiful Aniakchak National Monument, located on the Alaska Peninsula southwest of Katmai National Park.



- National Park Service and affiliated areas**
- National Park or National Monument
 - National Preserve
 - National Historical Park
 - Affiliated area
 - National Wild and Scenic Rivers
- 1 Alagnak
 - 2 Alatna
 - 3 Aniakchak
 - 4 Charley
 - 5 Chilikadrotna
 - 6 John
 - 7 Kobuk
 - 8 Mulchatna
 - 9 Noatak
 - 10 Koyukuk (North Fork)
 - 11 Salmon
 - 12 Tinayguk
 - 13 Titikilla





Due to Alaska's vast and unique environment, it is impossible to see and appreciate everything this great state offers. However, these 10 must-see icons are a good place to start.



1. Glacier Bay

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, located in Southeast Alaska, started as a small indent in the Grand Pacific Glacier. Today, the glacier has retreated and the bay has grown into a beautiful area popular for fishing, boat tours, kayaking, whale and glacier watching and wildlife viewing.

2. Mount McKinley

Whether you're gazing from a flightseeing tour, up close on a mountaineering expedition, or standing in awe at the side of the highway, you can't miss Mount McKinley, located in Denali National Park and Preserve. Mount McKinley, also known as Denali, stands at 20,320 feet, making it North America's tallest mountain.

3. Chilkoot Trail

The Chilkoot Trail begins in the Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park, located in the town of Skagway in Southeast Alaska. The 33-mile trail is famous for the tens of thousands of hopeful gold prospectors traveling with a year's worth of supplies from Alaska to the Yukon goldfields in hopes of making their fortune in the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897.

4. Kennecott Mine town site

The Kennecott Mine town site, located in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, thrived from 1911, when the railroad to Kennecott was completed, to 1938, when the high grade copper veins were depleted. After that, the area became a ghost town, but today thrives with many outfitters and guides that will help visitors explore the mine site and surrounding areas in the park. Many of the original mine structures still stand and are considered the best remaining example of early 20th century copper mining.

5. Yukon River

The Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve protects 115 miles of the great, 1,800-mile Yukon River. The river, which stretches from Canada and across Alaska, was a major transportation route and played a key role in the gold rushes of the late 1800s. Today, the river is popular for rafting, kayaking and canoeing.

6. Great Kobuk Sand Dunes

You may be surprised that sunscreen is on the recommended gear list for Kobuk Valley NP in Northwest Alaska. The 25-square-mile Great Kobuk Sand Dunes were created by the grinding action of ancient glaciers and stabilized by the area's vegetation. Along with the Little Kobuk and Hunt River dunes, sand dunes cover most of the southern Kobuk Valley.

7. Bering Land Bridge National Monument

When you visit Bering Land Bridge National Monument, located on the Seward Peninsula in northwest Alaska, you will be standing on the remains of the land bridge that first brought humans from Asia to the Americas more than 13,000 years ago. Once thousands of miles wide, the majority of the bridge now lies beneath the sea.

8. Harding Icefield

The 700-square-mile Harding Icefield, located in Kenai Fjords National Park in Southcentral Alaska, is one of only four remaining icefields in the U.S. It is also the largest icefield entirely within U.S. borders. Icefield crossings, which take successful mountaineers up to two weeks to complete, or the eight-mile Harding Icefield Trail, are popular options for visitors.

9. Sitka Totem Poles

Get an insightful look into Tlingit culture in Sitka National Historical Park, Alaska's oldest federally designated park. There, you can view totem poles collected from villages all over Southeast Alaska, as well as meet and watch traditional Alaska Native artists at work.

10. Bears of Katmai

More than 2,000 brown bears make their home in Katmai National Park and Preserve on the Alaska Peninsula. Many congregate in Brooks Camp, along the Brooks River, drawn there by the sockeye salmon runs. However, bears are common all along the 480-mile Katmai coast. Visitors to the park can watch while bears feed on the salmon runs and play with their young.



Whether you crave extreme adventure or are more of an armchair traveler, you will find activities to enjoy in Alaska. Here is just a snapshot of the possibilities.

1. Fish in Resurrection Bay

Hop on one of the many fishing charter boats in Seward, near Kenai Fjords National Park, and head out into the Kenai Fjords or Resurrection Bay – hotspots for Alaska’s renowned salmon, halibut, rockfish and lingcod.

2. Find “The Big Five”

Thousands of caribou, herds of dall sheep, thousand-pound moose, grizzly bears, and 9 packs of wolves make their home in Denali National Park and Preserve. Pull out your camera and see if you can capture “the big five” on your trip.

3. Hike the Chilkoot Trail

Follow in the footsteps of the tens of thousands of hopeful gold prospectors as you trek up the 33-mile Chilkoot Trail in Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park.

4. Raft the Yukon River

Load up your raft with provisions and float down the Yukon River in Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. Pack a tent, stay in one of the seven public use cabins or sleep under the stars along the way. Many visitors start at the town of Eagle and end at Circle, though longer trips can take you all the way to the Bering Sea.

5. Explore the Backcountry

If the idea of no trails, no roads and no people appeals to you, then slip on your backpack, lace up your hiking boots and start exploring Alaska’s backcountry. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve and Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve offer stunning – and challenging – terrain.

6. Kayak Glacier Bay

In your kayak, slide past the islands and glaciers of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. Admire the snow-capped mountain ranges, coastal beaches, protected coves, deep fjords and calving glaciers as you paddle among the abundant marine life, including whales, porpoises, sea lions, sea otters and harbor seals.

7. Get a Bird’s Eye View

Seeing Alaska by air is an experience not to miss. Get an “overview” of the countless glaciers, rivers, lakes, wildlife and mountain ranges by taking a flightseeing tour over Denali National Park and Preserve, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve or Kenai Fjords National Park.

8. Bike to a Ghost Town

Climb onto a mountain bike and pedal your way from the small town of McCarthy to the mining ghost town of Kennecott in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. While the going can be rough, the scenery makes it all worth it.

9. Ski to a Glacier

The falling snow is just the beginning of adventure in Alaska. Strap on your cross-country skis and head toward Exit Glacier in Kenai Fjords National Park. At the end of the day, enjoy the view as you sip a mug of hot chocolate in your own public use cabin.

10. Drive a Dog Team

Travel Alaska-style – on the back of a dog sled! Hold onto your sled while you race through the snow, pulled by a team of dogs. Popular dog sledding destinations are in Denali National Park and Preserve and Kenai Fjords National Park.



Traveling in vast, remote Alaska has its risks and challenges, but most can be avoided by planning, knowledge and common sense. Here are some tips for safe, enjoyable adventures.



- **Have proper clothing**

Always dress appropriately and be prepared for changing conditions. The key to staying warm, dry and comfortable in Alaska is layering. Consider your base layer, which keeps you dry, your middle layer, which offers insulation, and your outer layer, which protects you from wind and water. Proper footwear is also essential.

- **Stay hydrated**

Even if you're going for a short walk, be sure to take water with you. Dehydration is a major contributor to outdoor recreation injuries, so drink often and know where to find more water if you need it. And always treat water before drinking – the water source may look pristine, but may still contain contaminants.

- **Plan ahead**

Before starting out on any adventure, let a friend, family member or park ranger know where you're going and when you plan to return. Always carry some sort of survival kit, including a first aid kit, waterproof matches and extra food and water. Check conditions, such as weather, trail conditions, bear sightings and river crossings, before heading out.

- **Get permits**

In Alaska, you must have a state fishing license if you'd like to fish our waters. Plus, some parks require a permit for backcountry travel. So be sure to get the permits you need.

- **“Leave no trace”**

Follow the “leave no trace” camping etiquette to ensure our parks are healthy for future generations. Some key points – avoid walking on fragile vegetation, don't alter the landscape (cutting down trees, building structures, etc.), and pack out everything you brought with you.

- **Know bear safety**

There are bears in most parks, but encounters with them are quite rare. Following some basic safety precautions, such as keeping your distance, making noise when moving through bear country, storing food properly and making a smart campsite will help keep you safe.

- **Don't feed the animals**

Feeding wild animals can cause them to lose their natural fear of humans and suffer negative health effects. Please do not feed the animals and always dispose of trash properly.

- **Firearms**

Parks generally allow firearms, but not in facilities. Always check with the park you're visiting for specific rules.

- **Private property**

Respect private property in or around the parks.

- **Pets**

Pets are allowed in most parks, but usually must be leashed. Always check with the park you're visiting for specific rules.



Visitors peer into the treetops at one of the many species of birds in Alaska's national parks.



2015

February 27- March 1

Winterfest celebration at Denali National Park and Preserve. Special park programs and movies, winter skill teaching such as skiing, snowshoe use and dog mushing, guided trips on trails leading out of the headquarters area. Community programs in nearby Healy and McKinley Village.

Visit www.nps.gov/dena for more information.

April 18-25

National Park Week. Special programs planned at the Alaska Public Lands Information Centers, at parks and at local schools.

Visit www.nps.gov/akso for more information.

August 25

Founders Day, the National Park Service's 99th Birthday, and a Fee Free Day.

Visit www.nps.gov/akso for more information.

September 18-21

Denali Park Road Lottery (weather permitting).

Visit www.nps.gov/dena for more information.

October 18

Alaska Day

Visit www.nps.gov/sitk for more information





When the Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) was signed into law by President Jimmy Carter 34 years ago, it not only protected millions of acres, it also changed the management of Alaska lands forever.

For the National Park Service (NPS), ANILCA expanded three existing parks, Glacier Bay, Katmai and Denali national parks and preserves. It also established 10 new areas, including:

- Aniakchak National Monument
- Bering Land Bridge National Preserve
- Cape Krusenstern National Monument
- Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve
- Kenai Fjords National Park
- Kobuk Valley National Preserve
- Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
- Noatak National Preserve
- Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve
- Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve

The Alaska Lands Act recognized unique opportunities to manage national parks differently than in the Lower 48.

ANILCA set aside more than 100 million acres of federal lands in Alaska, doubling the size of the national park and refuge systems and tripling designated wilderness lands.

The expansions and additions established millions of acres of beautiful, valuable areas, such as the archaeological remains at Cape Krusenstern, the glaciers and icefield in Kenai Fjords, the untouched wilderness at Gates of the Arctic, bears in their natural habitat at Katmai and the old mining cabins in Yukon-Charley Rivers area, to name a few.

ANILCA's history begins in 1959 when the new state of Alaska was granted the right to select 104 million acres of land from within its borders. The state's selections stirred the Alaska Native community to action, as traditional lands were being identified by Alaska's first residents.

Those concerns eventually resulted in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), enacted in 1971. Among other things, ANCSA authorized newly created Alaska Native corporations to select 44 million acres of federal lands in Alaska.

IF YOU GO

National Park Service – Alaska Region

240 West 5th Avenue, Room 114
Anchorage Alaska, 99501
907-644-3513
www.nps.gov/akso

Alaska Public Lands Information Center

605 W. 4th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501
www.alaskacenters.gov

U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240
www.doi.gov

Alaska Travel Industry Association

800-862-5275 (consumer information)
800-327-9372 (media information)
www.travelalaska.com

For general Alaska trip-planning information, please visit
www.travelalaska.com.

ANILCA: 34 Years of Land Protection and Management

By Rachel M. Grenier



Experience Parks of “Outstanding Universal Value”

By Rachel M. Grenier

Nestled along the Canadian border with Alaska, four outstanding wild areas form the largest protected land area in the world. Together, they include the highest mountain peak in Canada; the second highest peak in the U.S.; more than 2,000 glaciers; dozens of river systems; and, abundant wildlife and marine mammals.

So outstanding is the combined land area comprised of Canada's Kluane National Park and Reserve and Tatshenshini-Alsek Park and Alaska's Wrangell-St. Elias and Glacier Bay national parks that it has been designated a World Heritage Site.

The designation comes courtesy of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which works to identify, protect and preserve sites of outstanding universal value around the world.

“It gives global recognition of the value of our cultural and natural resources so we as a planet can work to protect it,” said Smitty Parratt, chief of interpretation at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

Potential sites are nominated by their home countries, and evaluated by the World Heritage Committee. To become a site, the area must meet at least one out of ten selection criteria, such as “exceptional natural beauty” or “ongoing ecological and biological processes.”

Currently, there are 1,007 world heritage sites, with 22 sites in the U.S.

When Alaska's Wrangell-St. Elias National Monument and Kluane National Park and Reserve in the Yukon were inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 1979, it became the first bi-national world heritage site. Wrangell-St. Elias became a national park and preserve the following year.

In 1992, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, also in Alaska, was added to the site. British Columbia's Tatshenshini-Alsek Park was added in 1994, increasing the site's size to 24.3 million acres, making it the world's largest internationally protected ecosystem.

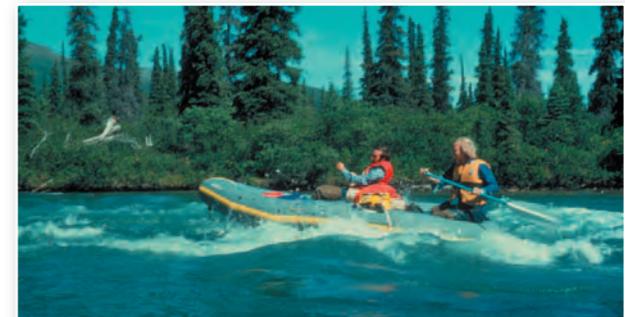
Want to experience first-hand why these parks were named a world heritage site? While it would take a lifetime to explore its 24.3 million acres, here are a few ways to get an overview of the site's “outstanding universal value.”

Raft the Alsek River

A 125-mile rafting trip down the Alsek River is one of the best, most adventurous ways to experience the site.

“It gives you a really great sampling of what the whole area has to offer,” said Barbara Kelly, director of sales for Alaska Discovery Wilderness Adventures, a guiding company that leads Alsek River trips.

The approximately 12-day trip offers views of Kluane National Park and Reserve, the St. Elias and Fairweather mountain ranges, Tweedsmuir Glacier, the Alsek-Tatshenshini river confluences and exciting class III and IV whitewater. Near the end of the journey, visitors float the iceberg-laden waters of Alsek Bay, on the outskirts of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, before arriving in Dry Bay.



A couple enjoys rafting on the Alsek River.



The Wrangell Mountains are among the most rugged in Alaska.

Soar over mountains

Mountains are a major feature in the site's landscape, boasting the 19,950-foot Mount Logan, Canada's highest peak, and the 18,008-foot Mount St. Elias, the second highest peak in the U.S.

While adventurous climbers undertake mountaineering expeditions on these peaks, less experienced visitors can have their own up-close experience from a seat of a flightseeing tour.

Dozens of local companies take to the skies above the parks, offering bird's eye views of the ranges, glaciers, rivers and wildlife below.

Get on a glacier

With more than 2,000 glaciers in the site, a glacial experience is not to be missed.

Visitors looking for adventure can go ice climbing in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, paddle a kayak through the icy waters of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, or spend several days camping, hiking and exploring the parks' backcountry glaciers.

Other visitors may choose to take a flightseeing tour that lands on a glacier, or hop aboard one of the many tour boats in Glacier Bay for a leisurely sightseeing trip.

IF YOU GO

World Heritage Centre UNESCO

7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP, France
33-1-45 68 15 71
33-1-45 68 55 70 (fax)
<http://whc.unesco.org>

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

PO Box 439
Copper Center, AK 99573-0439
907-822-5234 (headquarters)
907-822-5238 (Slana Ranger Station)
907-823-2205 (Chitina Ranger Station)
907-784-3295 (Yakutat Ranger Station)
907-822-7216 (fax)
www.nps.gov/wrst

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

P.O. Box 140
Gustavus, AK 99826-0140
907-697-2230 (headquarters)
907-784-3295 (Yakutat Ranger District)
907-784-3370 (Alsek River hotline)
907-697-2654 (fax)
www.nps.gov/glba

Kluane National Park and Preserve

P.O. Box 5495
Haines Junction, Yukon
Canada
Y0B 1L0
867-634-7250
867-634-7208 (fax)
www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/yt/kluane/index_e.asp

Tatshenshini-Alsek Park

<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/tatshen.htm>



Public Use Cabins Offer Your Own Piece of the Wilderness

By Rachel M. Grenier

Imagine – after a strenuous hike, a leisurely float down a river, or a day kayaking along the shoreline, you arrive at your own private cabin in the middle of the wilderness. No people, no sounds except for the whistling of the birds and the whispering of the breeze.

This experience could be yours by staying at one of the public use cabins in Alaska's national parks.

The National Park Service maintains several public use cabins in Alaska's Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, Kenai Fjords National Park, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

The cabins function both as recreational destinations and as shelter for travelers through the backcountry. Often they are a much-needed escape from the pace of urban life.

In the summer of 2003, Andromeda Romano-Lax, her husband and her children, aged five and eight, spent three days at the Aialik public use cabin in Kenai Fjords National Park.

“Overnighting in the Fjords allows you to soak up the atmosphere longer,” said Romano-Lax, author of several Alaska guidebooks.

After being dropped off by a water taxi, the family spent their days kayaking along the shore, fishing the waters, watching for wildlife and, when the weather was poor, playing board games in the comfortable, heated cabin.

Weather often plays a factor for cabin users. Before her successful trip in 2003, Romano-Lax had reserved the Aialik cabin but was unable to reach it due to bad weather.

“Expect variable weather,” Romano-Lax said. “Make a multi-day reservation, since you may not be able to get to – or back from – your cabin according to any pre-planned schedule.”

While weather can be an inconvenience to recreational users trying to reach a remote cabin, it is, in some cases, the very reason other cabins exist. In the more remote reaches of Yukon-Charley Rivers National Park and Preserve, for instance, several cabins

are open in the winter for any dog musher, snowmobiler or cross-country skier that may need a place to warm up and escape from a snowstorm, or temperatures that can plummet well below zero.

“When you're soaked, you can dry off and it's pretty wonderful,” said Steve Ulvi, management assistant at Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve and Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. “And the cabins can be a savior in winter.”

While cabin use is highest in the summer, when visitor activity peaks, some cabins see a buzz of activity during the winter, too. For example, Slaven's Roadhouse, in Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, is used as an unofficial checkpoint for the Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race.

And the Willow cabin, in Kenai Fjords National Park, is available only during the winter months, when users can cross country ski, dog mush, snowshoe or snowmobile to reach it.

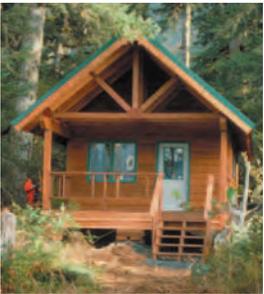
“The cabins can add to the visitor experience,” Ulvi said.

In general, the cabins' amenities are basic, but can seem luxurious after a long day in the wilderness. Although the cabins are all different, each usually offers sleeping platforms, a heat source and, most importantly, a roof overhead. Many of the cabins also have log books in which visitors can pen details about their trip and the weather they encountered, wildlife spotted or anything else, for that matter. Reading the log books is entertaining and offers an interesting perspective on the area and the history of the cabin.

In addition to providing visitor shelter, opening the cabins up to the public also helps preserve them. This is especially true in Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, where many of the public use cabins are historic mining cabins along the Yukon River.

“People using the cabins help us to preserve the cabins,” Ulvi said. While park rangers do general maintenance, such as brush cutting, minor repairs and stove upkeep, it is the users who let in the fresh air, keep the cabin clean and alert rangers of any problems.

The park just asks one thing of cabin users. “We hope you'll leave it in the same condition for others to enjoy,” Ulvi said.



IF YOU GO

Making arrangements to stay in a cabin is different at each of the parks. The highly popular cabins in Kenai Fjords National Park require reservations, charge a fee and fill up early. The more remote cabins, in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve and Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, for example, are first-come, first served.

Below are resources to help you find out more about reservations, cost, occupancy, amenities, maps and other information on public use cabins in Alaska's National Parks.

Kenai Fjords National Park

PO Box 1727
Seward, AK 99664
907-224-2132 (recorded message)
907-224-7500 (headquarters)
907-224-7505 (fax)
www.nps.gov/kefi

Seward Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 79
Seward, AK 99664
907-224-5563
www.sewardak.org

Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve

P.O. Box 167
Eagle, AK 99738
907-547-2233 (Eagle Ranger Station)
907-457-5752 (Fairbanks headquarters)
907-547-2247 (fax)
www.nps.gov/yuch

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve

P.O. Box 220
Nome, AK 99762
907-443-2522 (visitor information)
907-442-3890 (headquarters)
907-443-6139 (fax)
www.nps.gov/bela

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

PO Box 439
Copper Center, AK 99573-0439
907-822-5234 (headquarters)
907-822-7216 (fax)
www.nps.gov/wrst

Alaska Public Lands Information Center

(four locations statewide):
www.nps.gov/aplic

Anchorage
605 W 4th Avenue Suite 105
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-271-2737

Fairbanks
250 Cushman Street Suite 1A
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-456-0527

Tok
PO Box 359
Tok, AK 99780
907-883-5667

Ketchikan
50 Main Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901

For general Alaska trip-planning information, please visit www.travelalaska.com.



Uncovering History in Alaska's National Parks

By Rachel M. Grenier

In summer, the beach ridges at Cape Krusenstern National Monument in Alaska's high arctic are dotted with thousands of colorful wildflowers.

But to the more experienced eye, these beach ridges, which number more than 100 and stand up to 12 feet high, also hold the clues that explain the human history of the area.

"It's a pretty significant place," said Robert Gal, archeologist for the Western Arctic National Parklands. "It's the place we were able to work out the pre-history of Northwest Alaska in good detail."

J. Louis Giddings began exploration in the area in 1958. Giddings, an Arctic archaeologist, was drawn to the area by the unique series of beach ridges, created by the changing shorelines of the Chukchi Sea over thousands of years. He reasoned each ridge would hold traces of the culture and people who lived there when it was a shoreline, and the oldest remains would be furthest from the current shoreline.

He was right, and the work he completed with his students between 1958 and 1960 uncovered hundreds of houses, campsites and artifacts.

"His work was the foundation. From that, we were able to outline more than 4,000 years of pre-history," Gal said.



The beach ridges at Cape Krusenstern National Monument contain thousands of years of human history.

Since the area became a national monument in 1978, the National Park Service (NPS) has undertaken several projects with partners including Brown University and the University of California, Davis. Next summer, NPS staff will begin an extensive surveying and mapping project of the area.

"The Park Service is in the business of stewardship," Gal said. "Most of our actions are evaluating and locating sites, so we can keep an eye on them. We provide the framework for future researchers."

The Cape Krusenstern beach ridges are just one example of the many important archaeological areas in Alaska's national parks. At Katmai National Park and Preserve, located on the Alaska Peninsula in Southwest Alaska, archaeologists are also piecing together the human history of the area.

The park is home to many prehistoric sites, which include villages, camps, artifacts, hunting blinds, stone rings and graves, dating from 9,000 years ago up to 1820, when Russian explorers arrived in the area.

The historic sites, including hunting and trapping cabins, mining camps, reindeer corrals, canneries, shipwrecks, trading posts and early lodges, paint a picture of more recent human activity in the park.

Two significant areas are Brooks River and Amalik Bay, which are both designated as archaeological districts and national historic landmarks on the National Register of Historic Places.

The sites in these areas hold long and detailed records of hunting, fishing and marine cultures present here since the close of the last ice age. Brooks River National Historic Landmark contains North America's highest concentration of prehistoric dwellings spanning the last 4,500 years.



And sites at Amalik Bay provide information on the maritime hunters who lived there over the last 7,600 years. There, Park Service efforts have uncovered human bones, stone tools, remains of houses, and evidence of all kinds of food, including clams, fish, birds and maybe even a polar bear foot.

Archaeologists from the University of the Oregon began explorations in the area in 1953. Today, archaeologists, cultural anthropologists, historians and museum curators in the park's cultural resources program continue to conduct research.

Preservation efforts – required because of looters or environmental factors – are also an important part of the job.

“If we don't protect them then the information preserved in them will be lost,” said Dale Vinson, historic preservation coordinator for Lake Clark and Katmai national parks and preserves.



An Alaska Native visits a historic site where a traditional dwelling once stood.

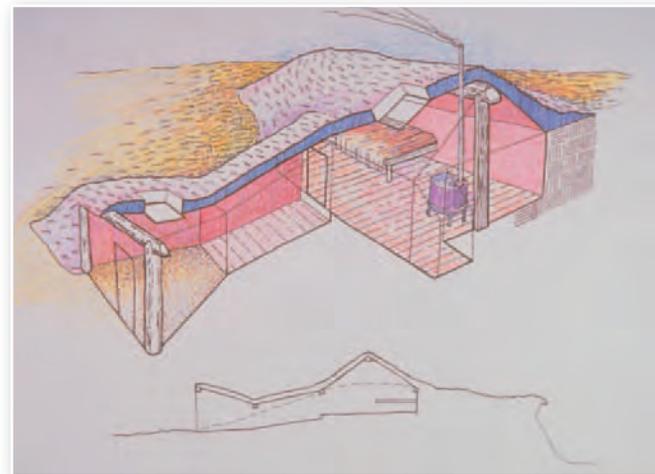
IF YOU GO

Cape Krusenstern National Monument

P.O. Box 1029
Kotzebue, AK 99752
907-442-3890 (headquarters)
907-442-3890 (visitor information)
907-442-8316 (fax)
www.nps.gov/cakr

Katmai National Park and Preserve

P.O. Box 7
King Salmon, AK 99613
907-246-3305 (visitor information)
907-246-2116 (fax)
www.nps.gov/katm



This diagram shows how historic dwellings were originally constructed partially underground.



Affiliated Attractions: Aleutian World War II National Historic Area 16

On June 3, 1942, six months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese aircraft bombed Dutch Harbor in the Aleutian Island Chain, starting the Aleutian Campaign.

During the campaign, the Japanese invaded and occupied Attu and Kiska islands. Aleuts, the indigenous residents of the Aleutian Islands, were evacuated from their homes and housed in Southeast Alaska “duration villages.” The Battle of Attu was fought in May 1943, and the Allies invaded Kiska on August 15, 1943.

The Aleutian World War II National Historic Area was designated in 1996 to honor the troops who served there, recognize the Aleuts who lost their homes and share the history of an area critical to the defense of the U.S. during World War II.

The area includes the remains of Fort Schwatka, a now-shuttered U.S. Army base that was one of four coastal defense posts built to protect Dutch Harbor during World War II. More than one hundred buildings were constructed at Fort Schwatka, and many of the structures were built to withstand earthquakes and 100 mile-per-hour winds.

Today, many of the fort’s structures have collapsed, but the gun mounts and lookouts are some of the most intact in the country. In fact, the area has been called one of the 10 best places in the U.S. to experience World War II history.

The Aerology Building Visitor Center, located at the Unalaska airport, is another place to experience the region’s military history. The building, which served as the central weather monitoring station, is one of the most intact and architecturally significant World War II buildings in the Aleutian Islands. Today, the visitor center features World War II exhibits, films and a reconstructed radio room.

The Aleutian World War II National Historic Area is located in Unalaska, on Amaknak Island in the Aleutian Island Chain. Unalaska is accessible by plane from Anchorage or by the Alaska Marine Highway System.

The facilities are owned and managed by the Ounalashka Corporation, with technical assistance from the National Park Service. A land use permit must be purchased from either the visitor center or Ounalashka Corporation office prior to visiting Fort Schwatka.

IF YOU GO

Ounalashka Corporation

P.O. Box 149
400 Salmon Way
Unalaska, AK 99685
907-581-1276
www.ounalashka.com

National Park Service – Aleutian World War II National Historic Area

www.nps.gov/aleu

Unalaska/Port of Dutch Harbor Convention and Visitors Bureau

P.O. Box 545
Unalaska, Alaska 99685
907-581-2612
877-581-2612
www.unalaska.info



Up Close with Alaska's National Parks: Kenai Fjords National Park

Size and Location: Kenai Fjords National Park is comprised of 669,983 acres on the southeast coast of Kenai Peninsula, near the town of Seward in Southcentral Alaska.

Accessibility: Seward is accessible by the Seward Highway, Alaska Railroad service, Alaska Marine Highway ferries and charter air flights.

History: Kenai Fjords National Park was established as a national monument in 1978. It became a national park in 1980 to preserve the fjord and rainforest ecosystems, Harding Icefield, abundant wildlife and historical and archeological remains, as well as providing visitor access.

Unique features: Kenai Fjords National Park includes three main areas – Exit Glacier, Harding Icefield and the coast. Exit Glacier, a half-mile wide river of ice, is the easiest section of the park to access. The 700-square-mile Harding Ice Field is one of only four remaining ice fields in U.S. It is also the largest ice field entirely within U.S. borders. The park's rugged coastline includes beautiful tidewater glaciers and abundant marine wildlife.

Visitor count: 270,666 visitors in 2014

Temperature: Summer temperatures range from the mid 40s to the low 70s. Winter temperatures range from the low 30s to 20 below zero.

Activities and attractions: Both the roadside and backcountry visitor can find enjoyable activities in Kenai Fjords National Park. Activities include kayaking, camping, public use cabins, fishing, beach combing, bicycling, hiking, cross-country skiing, snow mobiling, dog sledding, boat tours, ranger programs, flight seeing and mountaineering.

Fees: There are no fees for entrance to Kenai Fjords National Park.

FACILITIES:

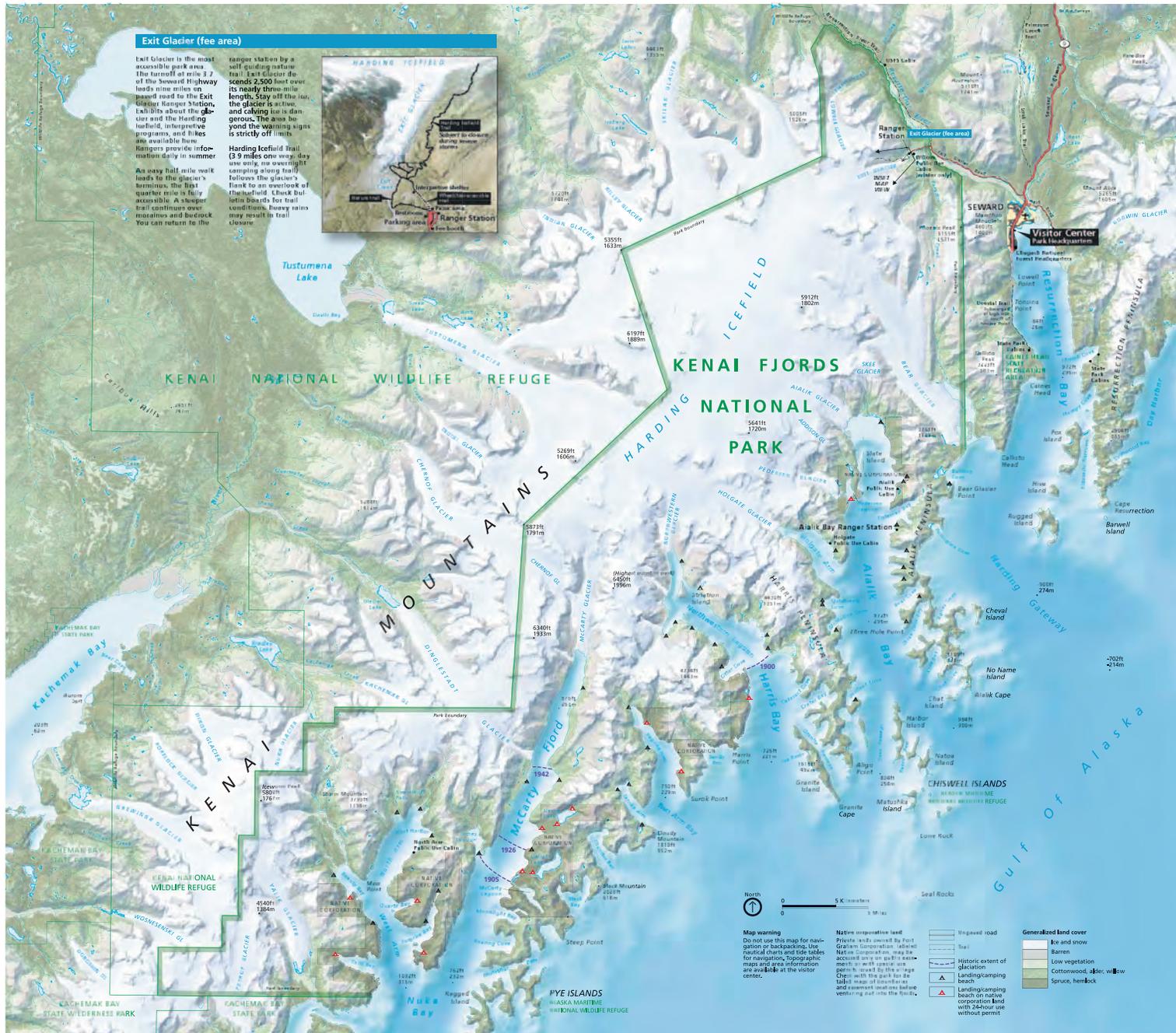
Seward Information Center
Located on Seward's small boat harbor

Exit Glacier Nature Center
Located nine miles down
Exit Glacier Road

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Kenai Fjords National Park
PO Box 1727
Seward, AK 99664
907-224-2132 (recorded message)
907-422-0500 (heartquarters)
907-422-0571 (fax)
www.nps.gov/kefj

Seward Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 79
Seward, AK 99664
907-224-5563
www.sewardak.org





Size and Location: The nation's largest national park, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is made up of 13 million acres in the eastern portion of Interior Alaska, along the Canadian border. Nearby communities include Glennallen, McCarthy, Copper Center and Chitina.

Accessibility: The park headquarters and visitor center in Copper Center is about a four-hour drive from Anchorage. Two gravel roads provide access to this massive park. The 42-mile Nabesna Road reaches the northern portion of the park, and the 60-mile McCarthy Road leads directly into the heart of the park. Local air taxis and flightseeing tours can also provide transportation in the park.

History: Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve was proclaimed a national monument in 1978 and a world heritage site in 1979. In 1980, it was established as a national park and preserve.

The area was once an important center for copper mining. The first copper discovery was in 1899, though the mines did not go into full production until the railroad line to Kennecott was completed in 1911. The Kennecott Mine town site thrived until 1938, when the high-grade copper veins were depleted. After that, the area became a ghost town, though people still live in nearby McCarthy year-round.

Gold was also discovered in 1899, and Alaska's last big gold rush was stimulated by finds in the area in 1913.

Unique features: Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is often called the "mountain kingdom of North America," as the Chugach, Wrangell and St. Elias ranges converge here. The park's Mount St. Elias, standing at 18,008 feet, is the second highest peak in the United States.

Another noteworthy park feature is the Kennecott Mine town site, a national historic landmark. With several structures still standing, the area is considered the best remaining example of early 20th century copper mining. Visitors can get an up-close look at the mines by taking a guided tour from the Kennecott Visitor Center, located at the national historic site.

Visitor count: 74,722 visitors in 2014

FACILITIES:

Chitina Ranger Station

Located at mile 33 Edgerton
Highway in Chitina

Slana Ranger Station

Located at mile .5 Nabesna Road
in Slana

Kennecott Visitor Center

Located in the Kennecott
National Historic Site

Wrangell-St. Elias Visitor Center

Located at mile 106.8 Richardson
Highway

Temperature: Summer temperatures can reach nearly 80 degrees Fahrenheit, while winter temperatures can range anywhere from 10 degrees above zero to 50 below.

Activities and attractions: Popular activities in the park include exploring the old mining town of Kennecott, taking a scenic drive along the Nabesna and McCarthy roads, mountain biking, bird and wildlife viewing, rock climbing, ice climbing, fishing, horseback riding, hiking, camping and river rafting. Winter visitors can enjoy cross country skiing, snowmobiling, dog mushing and snowshoeing.

Fees: There are no entrance fees in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.



A ranger addresses a group of visitors to Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

IF YOU GO

National Park Service – Alaska Region

240 West 5th Avenue, Room 114

Anchorage Alaska, 99501

907-644-3513

www.nps.gov/akso

Alaska Public Lands Information Center

605 W. 4th Avenue

Anchorage, AK 99501

www.alaskacenters.gov

Big Fun in the Nation's Biggest Park

By Rachel M. Grenier



It makes sense that the largest national park would offer a large range of recreational opportunities. And that's exactly what visitors will find in Alaska's Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

"This park is such a special place," said Wayne Marrs, owner of St. Elias Alpine Guides, a guiding service located in McCarthy, one of the communities in the park. "It's huge, enormous, magnificent. We've been trudging around this place for 26 years."

Within the park's 13.2 million acres lies an incredibly diverse landscape, with the continent's largest collection of glaciers, three mountain ranges, wild rivers, coastal shores and historical landmarks.

Visitors can splash down the rivers in a raft. Kayak through calm bay waters. Soar over millions of acres of wilderness on a flightseeing trip. Scale cliffs of ice and mountain peaks. Make long backcountry treks. Appreciate the scenery from the saddle of a horse or a mountain bike. And even ride the ocean waves!

Touring the now-deserted Kennecott Mine town site, a national historic landmark, is also a popular activity. The town site, located in the central part of the park near the community of McCarthy, includes the remains of an important, early 20th century copper mine.

Flightseeing is one of the park's must-do activities.

"Flightseeing is pretty much the only way to get an idea of how big the park is," said Natalie Bay, of Wrangell Mountain Air, a charter air and flightseeing company located in McCarthy. "You have to get up high to see how big it is."

On the other hand, backpacking is one activity overlooked by many visitors. Well marked and maintained trails offer hikers the opportunity to get deeper into the park and see more of the untouched landscape.

"A lot of people are intimidated by the Alaskan backcountry," Marrs said. "You should be cautious and safe, but I'd like to see more faces out there."

The activities in the southern park of the park, near the community of Yakutat, are more water-focused, due to its location on the Gulf of Alaska.

Kayaking in Icy Bay, rafting and fishing the many rivers – even surfing the waves – are popular options.

Surfing in Alaska sounds impossible to many people, but the Yakutat area actually boasts about 90 miles of sandy beaches and waves of six to 12 feet. And with a dry suit, dedicated surfers can ride year-round. In fact, Outside Magazine recently named Yakutat as one of the U.S.'s top five surfing destinations.

"Our sand has been compared to beaches in Oregon and California," said Amanda Bremner, visitor use assistant at the Yakutat ranger station.

Yakutat is also the jumping off point for mountaineering expeditions of Mount St. Elias, which stands at 18,008 feet and is the second highest peak in the United States.

Compared to other parks, Wrangell-St. Elias sees a small number of visitors. For example, 530,000 visitors made their way to Denali National Park and Preserve last year, while only 70,000 visited Wrangell-St. Elias.

“I think it is definitely overlooked,” Marris said.

Bay believes location and access are the reasons for lower visitor numbers. The central area of the park is served by two long, unpaved roads. The southern area of the park is accessible primarily by air or water.

“It’s not that easy to get to,” she said. “Unless you’ve got the time, most people don’t come visit.”

However, the solitude can be an added benefit for those visitors willing to put in the extra effort.

“It’s kind of nice to be the hidden gem,” Marris said. “It definitely feels like Alaskan wilderness.”



The historic Kennecott Mill remains a landmark in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

IF YOU GO

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

PO Box 439

Copper Center, AK 99573-0439

907-822-5234 (headquarters)

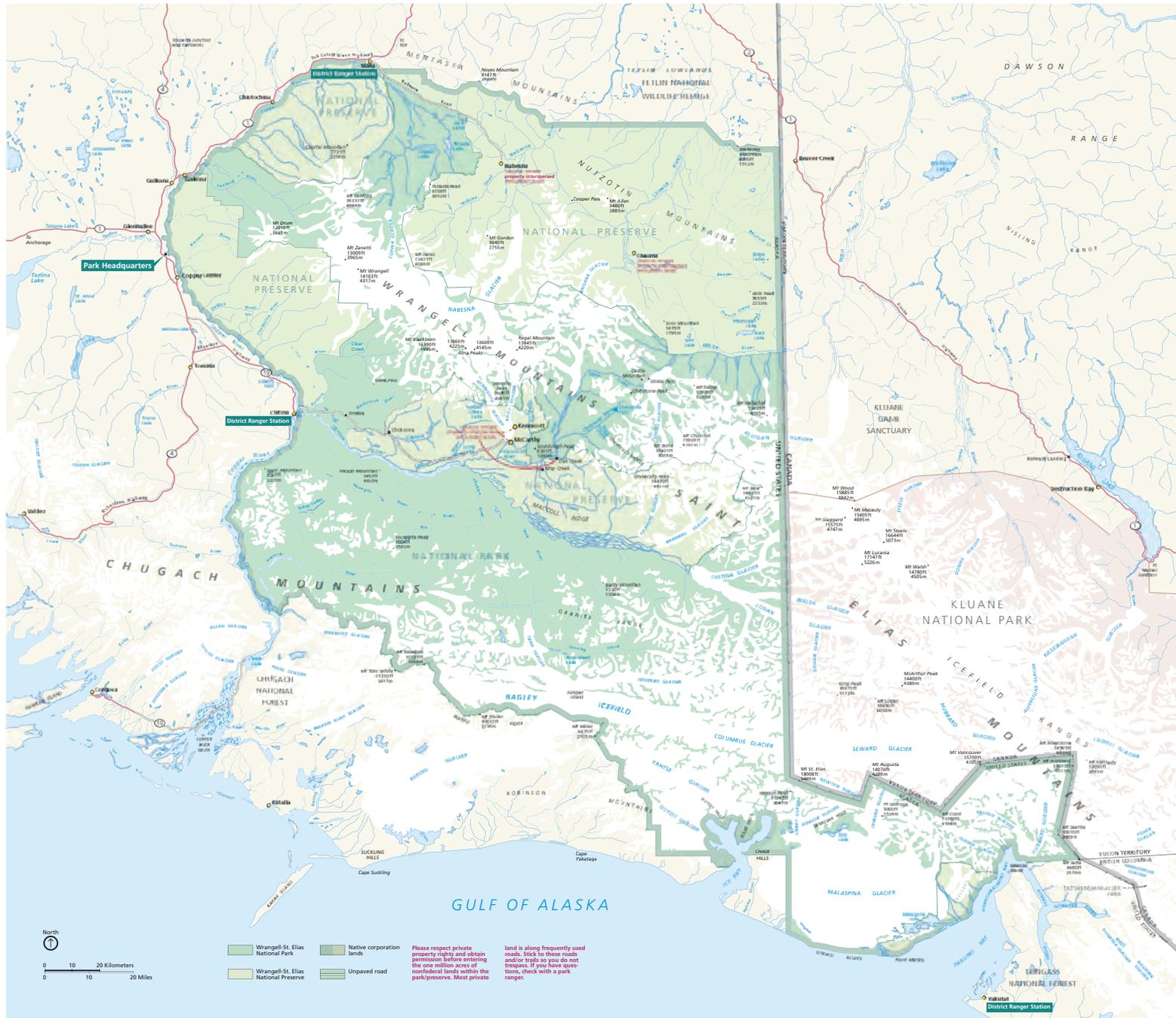
907-822-5238 (Slana Ranger Station)

907-823-2205 (Chitina Ranger Station)

907-784-3295 (Yakutat Ranger Station)

907-822-7216 (fax)

www.nps.gov/wrst





FACILITIES:

Visitor Information Station

Located at the foot of the public-use dock in Bartlett Cove

Size and Location: Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve is comprised of 3.3 million acres in Southeast Alaska, near the community of Gustavus.

Accessibility: Gustavus is accessible by air or passenger ferry. The only road in the park links Gustavus with Bartlett Cove, the main access point for park exploration. Boats are the primary mode of transportation in the park. Tour boats, pleasure boats and kayaks are popular options.

History: In 1794, a survey crew described what is now called Glacier Bay as a five-mile indent in a glacier that stretched “as far as the eye could distinguish.” In 1879, when scientist/naturalist John Muir visited the area, he found the ice had retreated more than 30 miles, creating an actual bay. The glacier has continued to recede at a rapid rate.

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve was named a national monument in 1925. In 1980, the area became a national park and preserve, and 2.7 million acres received wilderness designation. In 1986, the park became a biosphere reserve, and the area was named a world heritage site in 1992.

Unique features: Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve is an example of one of the most rapid glacial retreats, offering an intriguing natural laboratory for scientists and a stunning area for visitor exploration.

No matter where you are in the park, you are no more than 30 miles from the coast. As marine waters make up nearly one-fifth of the park, Glacier Bay is rich with marine life, including the endangered humpback whale, threatened Stellar sea lion, harbor seals, sea otters and porpoises.

The park also boasts snow-capped mountain ranges towering 15,000 feet, coastal beaches and freshwater lakes.

Visitor count: 500,727 visitors in 2014

Temperature: Summer in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve offers highs between 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit, and winter temperatures range from 25 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

Glacier Bay Visitor Center

Located on the second floor of Glacier Bay Lodge in Bartlett Cove

Activities and attractions: Most of the activities in the park are water-focused. Boat tours, kayaking, river rafting, fishing, glacier exploration and whalewatching are popular options. Although there are limited trails in the park, there are opportunities for hiking, backpacking, bird watching, mountaineering, and ranger-led nature walks in the woods or along the coast.

Fees: There is no entrance fee in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve.

IF YOU GO

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

P.O. Box 140

Gustavus, AK 99826-0140

907-697-2230 (headquarters)

907-784-3295 (Yakutat Ranger District)

907-697-2651 (after-hours emergency)

907-784-3370 (Alsek River hotline)

907-697-2627 (recreational boater information)

907-697-2654 (fax)

www.nps.gov/glba

Alaska Travel Industry Association

800-862-5275 (consumer information)

800-327-9372 (media information)

www.travelalaska.com

Gustavus Visitors Association

P.O. Box 167

Gustavus, AK 99826

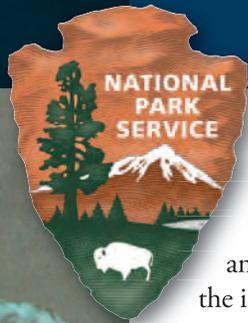
www.gustavusak.com



An iceberg from a tidewater glacier floats in the tranquil waters of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve.

Visitors to Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve enjoy views of the dramatic landscape





Long before today's visitors began plying the waters of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve on cruise ships and in kayaks, explorers and indigenous peoples appreciated the intense beauty and bountiful wildlife found there.

Since before the Western calendar tracked the passage of time, two Alaska Native groups – the Huna Káawu and the Gunaaxhoo Kwaan Tlingit – lived near the bay, fishing its waters and hunting the surrounding land.

“Their identity as a people is tied historically and spiritually to the rivers, coasts, mountains and animals of these homelands,” said Wayne Howell, management assistant at the park.

The year 1794 brought the first Europeans into Glacier Bay, though the surrounding area had been explored extensively in previous years. Archibald Menzies, one of the members of an expedition captained by George Vancouver, described Glacier Bay as “a large bay choaked (sic) up with ice and backed by a considerable tract of country presenting a prospect the most bleak and barren that can possibly be conceived.”

The crew surveyed the area, noting Glacier Bay as not much of a bay at all. Rather, a mere five-mile indent in a massive sheet of ice punched into what would later become Glacier Bay.

When famed naturalist John Muir first laid eyes upon the area in 1879, he was shocked to see the five-mile indent he had read about in the logs of the Vancouver expedition had extended back 30 miles, creating a true bay.

Traveling in dugout canoes and led by Tlingit guides, Muir found Glacier Bay much more navigable than Vancouver's crew did.

Muir was intrigued with the then-fledgling science of glaciology, and saw Glacier Bay, with its rapid glacial retreat, as an excellent place to further his research. He also appreciated the beauty of the area, and wrote extensively and enthusiastically about it in articles, letters and books including “Travels in Alaska.”

Due to his acclaim of Glacier Bay, Muir was credited as its discoverer, though many had visited – and lived – in the area before him.

“It was his recognition of its scientific value and his enthusiasm which brought others to the bay to study and visit, and which set the course for what would eventually become a national park,” Howell said.

Muir was born in 1838 in Scotland, and emigrated to the U.S. with his family in 1849. His wanderlust can be seen in the diversity of his careers, which ranged from farmer and inventor to sheep-herder, naturalist, writer and conservationist.

With his wide-ranging enthusiasm for the outdoors, Muir is often referred to as the father of the U.S.'s national parks system and his efforts contributed to the creation of Yosemite, Sequoia, Mount Rainier and Grand Canyon national parks.

Muir started a flow of geologists, glaciologists, botanists and other scientists in to the Glacier Bay area, which continues to be a living laboratory for scientists and researchers today.

“The scientific tradition established by Muir has had a profound effect on Glacier (Bay),” Howell said.

Rediscovering Glacier Bay

By Rachel M. Grenier

In fact, it was the effort of one scientist, ecologist William Cooper, and a campaign by the Ecological Society of America, which resulted in the designation of Glacier Bay as a national monument in 1925.

The increase in traffic to Glacier Bay extended beyond scientists. Soon, there were commercial salmon canning operations, trappers, prospectors, loggers, fox farmers and agricultural homesteaders flocking to the area. For the most part, these industries have subsided, with the exception of commercial fishing.

The homesteaders also had a profound impact on the area. In fact, the community of Gustavus, now the gateway to the park, grew from several successful homesteads.



John Muir aboard the steamer Cassiar, 1879.

The area was established as a national park and preserve in 1980 with the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. Today, more than 450,000 visitors rediscover Glacier Bay each year, experiencing first-hand the landscape that so enthralled and inspired Muir more than 125 years ago.



John Burroughs, right, John Muir, members of the Harriman Alaska Expedition in 1889.

IF YOU GO

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

P.O. Box 140

Gustavus, AK 99826-0140

907-697-2230 (headquarters)

907-784-3295 (Yakutat Ranger District)

907-697-2651 (after-hours emergency)

907-784-3370 (Alsek River hotline)

907-697-2627 (recreational boater

information)

907-697-2654 (fax)

www.nps.gov/glba

Alaska Travel Industry Association

800-862-5275 (consumer information)

800-327-9372 (media information)

www.travelalaska.com

Gustavus Visitors Association

P.O. Box 167

Gustavus, AK 99826

www.gustavusak.com

For general Alaska trip-planning information, please visit www.travelalaska.com.



Size and Location: The 13,191 acres of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park stretch from the Southeast Alaska community of Skagway north along the Canadian border.

Accessibility: Skagway is accessible by plane, the South Klondike Highway and Alaska Marine Highway System ferries.

History: The park commemorates the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897 – 1898, when tens of thousands of gold prospectors made their journey over the Chilkoot Pass to Canada's Yukon goldfields in hopes of making their fortune. The miners were required to have a year's worth of supplies, causing them to make several trips over the rugged, 33-mile trail.

The downtown Skagway Historic District became a national landmark in 1962 and joined the national register in 1966. The Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park joined the national register in 1976 and the Chilkoot Trail became a national landmark in 1978. The park was designated as an international historical park by presidential proclamation in 1998.

Unique features: There are 15 restored, Gold Rush-era buildings in the Skagway Historic District, including the Mascot Saloon, White Pass and Yukon Route Railroad Depot and Moore House, which was the first structure built in Skagway. Nearby, the infamous 33-mile Chilkoot Trail begins at Dyea, a now-deserted town site that thrived from 1897 to 1898. A portion of the White Pass Trail, another popular gold rush route, is also in the park.

Visitor count: 1,085,202 visitors in 2014, making it the most visited national park in Alaska that year.

Temperature: Summer temperatures in Skagway are regularly above 60 degrees Fahrenheit, while wintertime temperatures dip into the teens. Conditions vary in other areas of the park, such as the Chilkoot Trail, where elevation and greater snowfall create more extreme conditions.

Activities and attractions: The Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park offers a balance of history and outdoor adventure. Take a ranger-led walking tour of the Skagway Historic District and old Dyea town site. Explore the Moore House and watch the 30-minute film, "Days of Adventure, Dreams of Gold" at the visitor center. Then, go on a day hike and make camp at the Dyea Campground. Or make plans for a multi-day journey on the Chilkoot Trail.

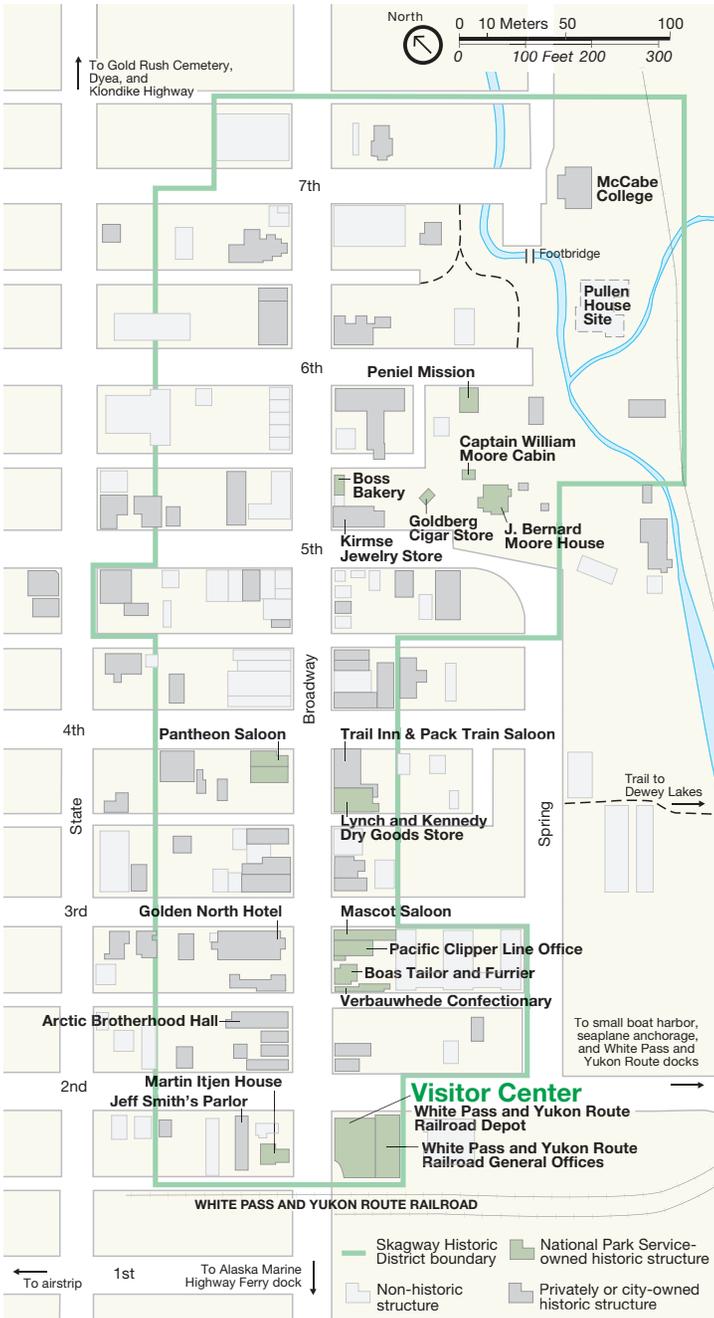
FACILITIES:

**Klondike Gold Rush National
Historical Park Visitor Center**
Located at Second and Broadway
in downtown Skagway



An entertainer takes a break outside of the Red Onion Saloon in Skagway.

Fees: There are no entrance fees for Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park. However, permits are required for hiking the Chilkoot Trail and camping in the Dyea Campground.



Map of the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park



Part of the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, the Mascot Saloon is home to a historic gold rush exhibit.

IF YOU GO

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park

P. O. Box 517
 Skagway, 99840
 907-983-2921 (headquarters)
 907-983-2921 (visitor information)
 907-983-9249 (fax)
www.nps.gov/klgo

Alaska Travel Industry Association

800-862-5275 (consumer information)
 800-327-9372 (media information)
www.travelalaska.com

Skagway Convention and Visitors Bureau

P.O. Box 1029
 Skagway, Alaska 99840
 907-983-2854
www.skagway.com



Size and Location: Lake Clark National Park and Preserve includes more than four million acres stretching from the shores of Cook Inlet in Southcentral Alaska, across the Chigmit mountain range and into Alaska's western Interior.

Accessibility: While much of the park is remote wilderness, the southern end of the park is accessible from the community of Port Alsworth, which can be reached via charter flight from Anchorage. The park's most popular trail, the Tanalian Falls trail, begins in Port Alsworth. There are no roads in the park, and access is primarily by foot or air taxi.

History: Lake Clark National Park and Preserve was established to protect the area's scenery, fish, wildlife and the traditional lifestyles of local residents. To accomplish these goals, the area was named a national monument in 1978. In 1980, it received a wilderness designation and became a national park and preserve.

Unique features: Lake Clark National Park and Preserve is home to two active volcanoes, Mount Redoubt and Mount Iliamna. The 40-mile Lake Clark and the park's many other rivers and lakes are critical salmon habitat areas for the Bristol Bay watershed, one of the world's largest salmon fishing grounds. And the park's diverse landscape includes four of the five biotic zones found in Alaska, including tundra, riparian, coastal and forest zones.

Visitor count: 16,100 visitors in 2014

Temperature: Summer temperatures range from the mid 40s to the mid 60s. Winter temperatures range from zero degrees Fahrenheit to the low 20s.

Activities and attractions: Due to the park's remote location, visitors must put in a little extra effort to enjoy it. However, those visitors will be rewarded with an incredible wilderness experience, including activities like fishing, wildlife viewing, backcountry hiking, camping, flightseeing, kayaking and rafting.

Fees: There are no entrance fees in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.

FACILITIES:

Port Alsworth Visitor Center

Located at 1 Park Place
in Port Alsworth



IF YOU GO

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

1 Park Place

Port Alsworth, AK 99653

907-271-3751 (headquarters)

907-781-2218 (visitor information)

907-781-2119 (fax)

www.nps.gov/lacl

Alaska Travel Industry Association

800-862-5275 (consumer information)

800-327-9372 (media information)

www.travelalaska.com



Lake Clark offers wonderful fishing and wildlife viewing.



A hiker stops to enjoy the scenic view of Lake Clark



Student Crews Commute by Canoe in Lake Clark National Park

By Rachel M. Grenier

The commute to work will be unlike any other for the Student Conservation Association (SCA) conservation crew working in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve this summer. Each morning, the crew will paddle their canoes across a lake, then hike to their work site. After the day is done, they'll hike and paddle back to their campsite – also known as “home” for 30 days.

“It’s a long adventure,” said Sarah Zablocki, program manager for the National High School Program, just one of SCA’s offerings.

SCA, a national resource conservation organization, provides service opportunities, internships, outdoor skills and leadership training in national parks and other public lands to thousands of young people each year.

This will be the third summer Lake Clark has hosted a conservation crew, made up of six high school volunteers and two adult crew leaders. Each year, crews have maintained and improved different sections of the Tanalian Falls trail, the park’s only maintained trail.

“For many visitors to Lake Clark, the Tanalian trail system is the only opportunity they have to directly experience the park,” said Jennifer Shaw, Lake Clark park ranger and SCA coordinator.

This year, the crew will brush current trail and cut a new section of trail. They will be in the park July 7 to August 5.

The SCA programs offer a real benefit for national parks, whose budgets have seen drastic cuts in recent years.

“There’s lots of great work going undone,” Zablocki said.

Plus, from 1980 to 2013, total visits to Alaska national parks increased by more than 400 percent, putting increased pressure on the land.

“The work provided by the SCA crew helps us fulfill the mission of the National Park Service by providing meaningful opportunities for recreation, while minimizing impact on the land,” Shaw said.

Lake Clark is just one of several public-land areas in Alaska to benefit from SCA crews this summer. There will also be crews in Denali National Park and Preserve, White Mountains National Recreation Area, Kenai Fjords National Park, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.



An SCA crew poses for a photo in front of scenic Lake Clark

“We have a pretty big Alaska year,” said Zablocki, who started her SCA career as an intern and a crew leader.

However, finding enough people to fill the Alaska spots is not difficult.

“It’s a balance deciding what crew leaders go to Alaska and Hawaii,” Zablocki said. “They all want to.”

While this year’s Lake Clark crew comes from all over the country, crew leader Jillian Morrissey makes her home in Anchorage, Alaska.

“I live in Alaska and I love it,” said Morrissey, who is in her sixth year as an SCA crew leader. “The chance to go to Lake Clark is exciting. So many people never get a chance to go to the other side of Cook Inlet.”

While it is exciting, the experience is far from easy. In Lake Clark, for example, the crew makes a strenuous commute, spends eight hours working, then heads back to camp to cook, clean and rest up. SCA and the crew leaders try to express the challenges to the volunteers prior to leaving on the trip.

“Living outside 24 hours a day, seven days a week is a major switch,” Morrissey said. “It takes some getting used to going from the inside world of convenience to the outside world of challenges.”

The experience has a profound effect on many of the volunteers.

“Many have a life changing experience,” Zablocki said. “They go in a whole different direction.”

And many of the high school volunteers have such a good experience, they return as crew leaders.



There are no roads to Lake Clark and access is primarily by foot or air taxi



The SCA crew spends eight hours working, then heads back to camp to cook, clean and rest up



SCA crew members become fast friends over the 30 day period that they live and work together.

IF YOU GO

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

1 Park Place

Port Alsworth, AK 99653

907-271-3751 (headquarters)

907-781-2218 (visitor information)

907-781-2119 (fax)

www.nps.gov/lacl

Student Conservation Association

689 River Road

Charlestown, New Hampshire 03603-0550

603-543-1700

603-543-1828 (fax)

www.sca-inc.org

Alaska Travel Industry Association

800-862-5275 (consumer information)

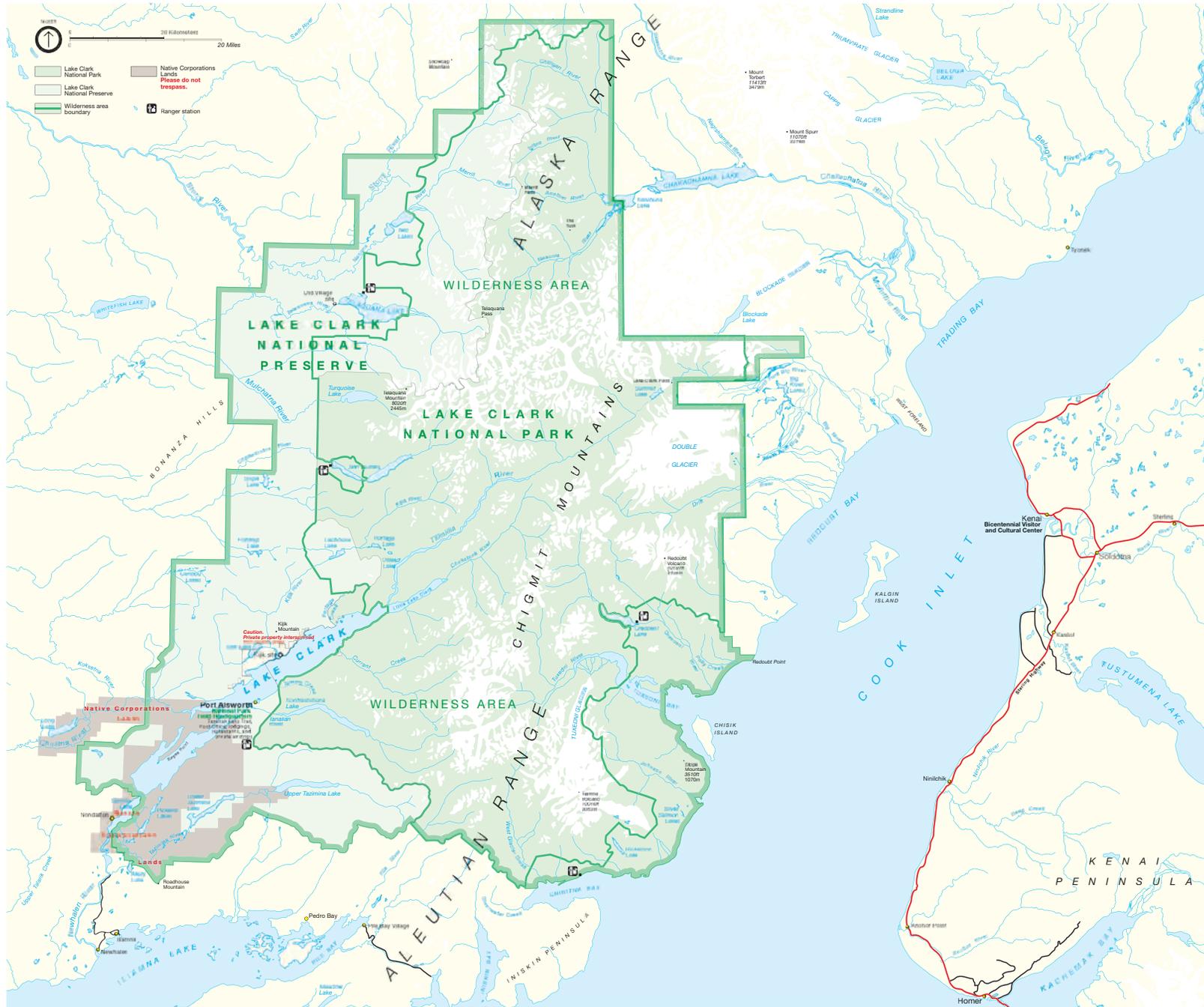
800-327-9372 (media information)

www.travelalaska.com

For general Alaska trip-planning information, please visit www.travelalaska.com.



Each year, crews have maintained and improved different sections of the Tanalian Falls trail, the park’s only maintained trail.





Size and Location: The 113-acre Sitka National Historical Park is in the community of Sitka on Baranof Island in Alaska's Inside Passage.

Accessibility: Sitka is accessible by plane or boat. There is commercial airline service to Sitka through Alaska Airlines and several smaller operators, and it is also a port of call for Alaska Marine Highway System ferries and cruise ships. The park is within walking distance of downtown Sitka.

History: The area was established as a public park in 1890, making it Alaska's oldest federally designated park. It became a national monument in 1910 to commemorate the 1804 Battle of Sitka, which was the last major conflict between the indigenous Tlingit Indians and the Russians. It was designated a national historical park in 1972.

Unique features: One of the park's most well known features is the two-mile Totem Loop Trail, which features a collection of Northwest Coast totem poles. These totem poles were donated by villages throughout Southeast Alaska, and brought to Sitka in 1905 by Alaska's District Governor John Brady.

Also in the park is the Russian Bishop's House, which is one of only three surviving examples of Russian colonial architecture in North America. The Visitor Center/Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center offers visitors the opportunity to watch Tlingit artisans at work.

Visitor count: 157,297 visitors in 2014

Temperature: Summer temperatures range from the high 50s to high 60s. Winter temperatures range from the high teens to 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

Activities and attractions: There are plenty of opportunities to soak up history in this park, with attractions such as the Tlingit fort and battlefield and the Memorial to the Russian Midshipmen. Tours are available of the Russian Bishop's House, and visitors can observe, interact and learn from the artisans at the Visitor Center/Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center. A stroll along the scenic Totem Loop Trail offers an up-close look at the striking designs and colors of traditional Tlingit totem poles.

FACILITIES:

Russian Bishop's House

Located at 501 Lincoln Street
in downtown Sitka

Visitor Center/Southeast Alaska

Located at the south end of
Lincoln Street, approximately
one-fourth mile from
downtown Sitka.



Fees:

Sitka NHP charges a \$4 per person fee for ranger-led tours of the second floor of the Russian Bishop's House on Lincoln Street. The fee applies to the summer season (mid-May to September) for adults and children 16 years and older. Fees are not collected during the winter.



A restorationist works on a painting in the Russian Bishop's House, which is part of Sitka National Historical Park.

IF YOU GO

Sitka National Historical Park

103 Monastery Street
Sitka, AK 99835
907-747-0110 (visitor center)
907-747-5938 (fax)
www.nps.gov/sitk

**Sitka Convention and
Visitors Bureau**

P.O. Box 1226
Sitka, AK 99835
907-747-5940
www.sitka.org



Sitka's Totem Poles Share Past and Present Stories

By Rachel M. Grenier

Alaska is still a wild, exotic and mysterious place for many people. However, it's much more well-known and understood today than it was about 100 years ago, when Alaska District Governor John Brady took a collection of Southeast Alaska totem poles to fairs in St. Louis and Portland.

“He saw the future of Alaska as drawing attention to Alaska and having settlers come here. So he wanted to have an exhibit that was exciting and show people what Alaska had to offer,” said Kristen Griffin, historian at Sitka National Historical Park.

This year marks the centennial anniversary of “Governor Brady’s” totem poles in Alaska’s oldest national park.

Between 1902 and 1904, Brady toured Southeast Alaska’s Tlingit and Haida villages, asking leaders to donate totem poles and other objects for the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis. Ultimately, village leaders donated 15 poles, house posts and a canoe to Brady’s efforts.

“He promised they would come back to Alaska and be preserved and cared for,” Griffin said. “The leaders were interested in having the history of their people preserved and proclaimed in the new government.”

After St. Louis and an appearance at a Portland exposition, the poles were placed in the park. The park, in partnership with the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center, continues to uphold the promise to care for the poles.



An artist carves a traditional totem pole

The park and the Cultural Center have a unique partnership. Since the Cultural Center’s establishment in 1969, the two organizations have provided opportunities for visitors to learn about Southeast Alaska’s native culture. The center is also a place for Tlingits to learn more about their own culture.

Among other exhibits, the Cultural Center has studios where visitors can observe and interact with artists, and students can learn the craft. Several of these artists have assisted in caring for the park’s poles.

From the efforts made by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s to the work of modern day carvers and wood conservators, many of “Governor Brady’s” poles have been shaved, patched and even replicated.

“Most of the totem poles were already quite old when they arrived in the park,” said Gene Griffin, chief of cultural resources at the park. And over the years, age, weather and other factors have resulted in the need for restoration and replication. While most of the poles are replications today, some of the originals can be seen in indoor exhibit areas.

Preserving and replicating totem poles was not a traditional activity.

“Traditionally, they did lay (the poles) down and let them return to nature,” Gene Griffin said. “Today, we recognize these are irreplaceable.”



The Southeast Alaska Indian Arts Cultural Center works to preserve existing totem poles while encouraging artists to work on new projects as well.

Tommy Joseph, head wood carver at the Cultural Center, has worked on several replication projects at the park.

“It’s a big part of Southeast Alaska history,” said Joseph, who is in his 15th season at the Cultural Center. “It’s a way of recording history.”

Joseph uses a combination of traditional and contemporary techniques in his art today. For example, many of the tools he uses today are similar to those used by yesterday’s carvers.

“We have a lot of modern tools, but the traditional tools work best for what we’re doing,” Joseph said.

Preservation techniques have changed over the years, however. Today, Joseph hollows out the back of the poles to avoid cracking.

And a support pole is inserted and buried into the ground, rather than the base of the actual totem pole.

“Getting rid of the core gets rid of the rot,” Joseph said.

Though preservation of the totem pole collection is important, new projects have their place as well.

“We can’t let the cultural art of the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimpsian peoples die off. We have to teach it, demonstrate it, create it,” said Gail Johansen Peterson, the Cultural Center executive director.

Some of the new projects include a 35-foot, multi-clan history pole carved in 1996 to commemorate the Tlingit clans who lived in the area before the arrival of the Russians. And Joseph completed a 20-foot totem pole project with local high school students in April.

“There are new stories to tell and we’re making new poles to tell those,” Joseph said. “But the old poles are just as important.”

IF YOU GO

Sitka National Historical Park

103 Monastery Street
Sitka, AK 99835
907-747-0110 (visitor center)
907-747-5938 (fax)
www.nps.gov/sitk

Sitka Convention and Visitors Bureau

P.O. Box 1226
Sitka, AK 99835
907-747-5940
www.sitka.org

Alaska Travel Industry Association

800-862-5275
(consumer information)
800-327-9372
(media information)
www.travelalaska.com

For general Alaska trip-planning information, please visit www.travelalaska.com.





Size and Location: Denali National Park and Preserve covers more than six million acres in Interior Alaska, near the communities of Healy and Cantwell. It is 240 miles north of Anchorage and 125 miles south of Fairbanks.

Accessibility: The park is accessible by automobile on the George Parks Highway, by rail on the Alaska Railroad or by small aircraft.

History: The area was first established as Mount McKinley National Park in 1917. It was designated an international biosphere reserve in 1976, and the park was expanded and became Denali National Park and Preserve in 1980.

Unique features: Denali National Park and Preserve is the well-known home of Mount McKinley, also known as Denali, which stands at 20,320 feet and is North America's tallest mountain. However, the park is also the largest protected ecosystem in the world, with 750 species of flowering plants, 39 mammal species, 165 bird species, and 10 species of fish.

Visitor count: 531,315 visitors in 2014

Temperature: Average summer temperatures range from 33 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit. Winter temperatures range from 40 degrees below zero to the high 20s.

Activities and attractions: The activities in this expansive park are nearly endless. Denali draws hopeful mountaineers from around the world. Visitors take bus tours, bicycle rides or long walks down the 90-mile Denali Park Road, which is closed to private vehicles after Mile 15. Hiking, camping, rafting, backcountry travel, fishing, wildlife viewing and flightseeing are also popular activities. Winter options include dog mushing, cross country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling.

Fees:

Entrance fee: \$10.00 per individual, good for 7 days. Age 15 and younger free.

Camping, bus transportation and mountaineering permits are additional.

FACILITIES:

Denali Visitor Center

Located at mile 1.2
of the Denali Park Road

**Murie Science and
Learning Center**

Located in Denali Visitor Center

Talkeetna Ranger Station

Located on B Street in
downtown Talkeetna

IF YOU GO

Denali National Park and Preserve

P.O. Box 9
Denali Park, AK 99755-0009
907-683-2294 (headquarters)
907-733-2231 (Talkeetna Ranger Station)
907-683-9617 (fax)
www.nps.gov/dena

Greater Healy/Denali Chamber of Commerce

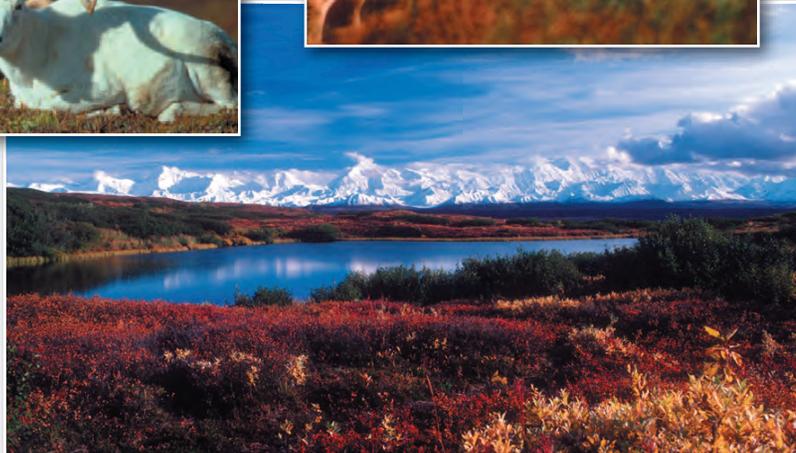
P.O. Box 437
Healy, AK 99743
1-907-683-4636
www.denalichamber.com

Talkeetna Chamber of Commerce

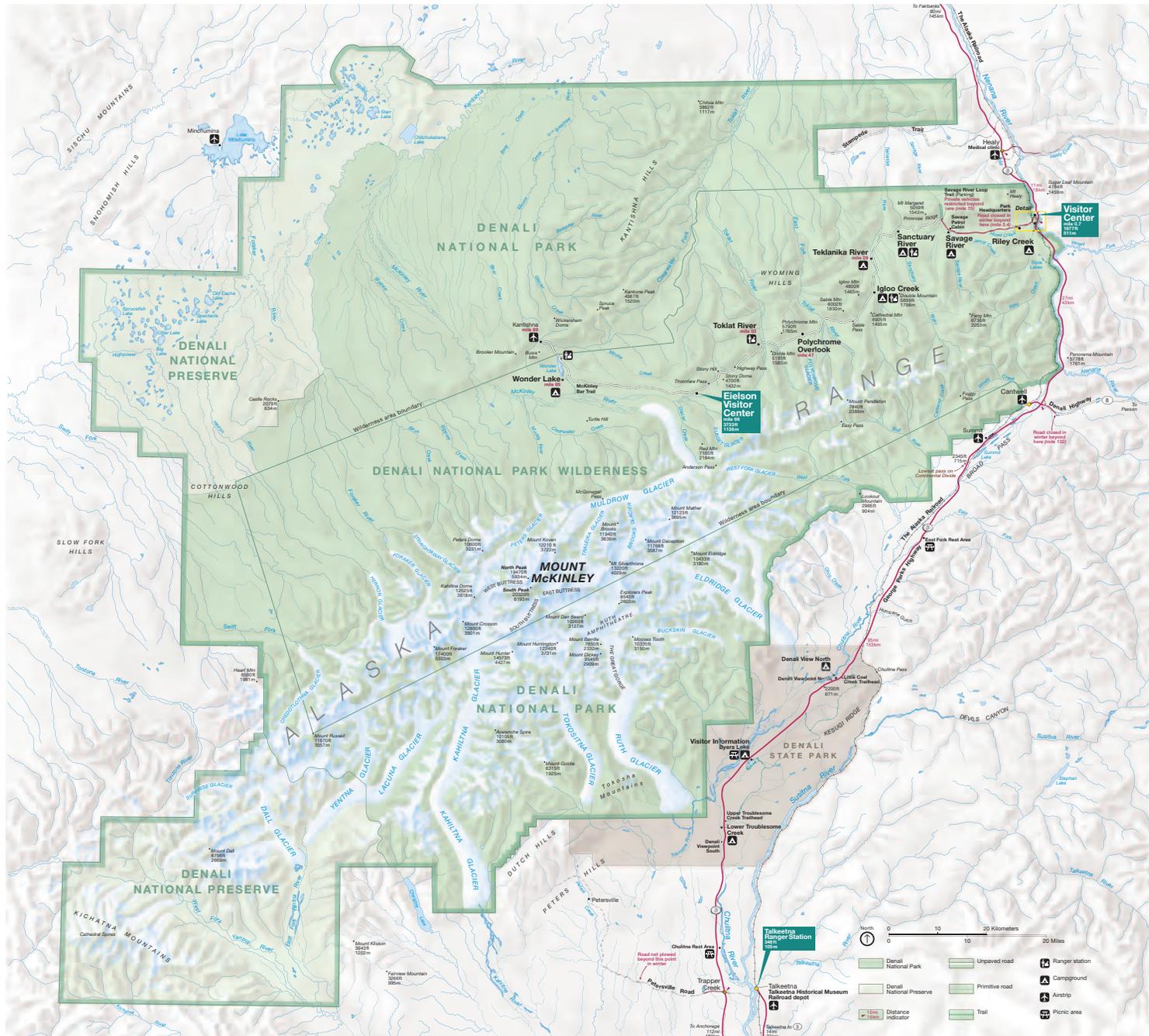
PO Box 334
Talkeetna, AK 99676
907-733-2330
www.talkeetnachamber.org

Alaska Travel Industry Association

800-862-5275 (consumer information)
800-327-9372 (media information)
www.travelalaska.com



Offering breathtaking views, Denali National Park and Preserve is a haven for wildlife.





Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve

Size and Location: Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve is made up of 8.2 million acres in the Brooks Range, the northernmost mountain range in the country.

Accessibility: This remote park is primarily accessible by air taxi from Fairbanks. The Dalton Highway comes within five miles of the park, and some visitors choose to hike from there. The Arctic Interagency Visitor Center, which provides information about the park, is located in Coldfoot along the Dalton Highway. There are no roads or facilities in the park itself.

History: The area was established as a national monument in 1978. It was named a wilderness area, and a national park and preserve, in 1980. The park was designated as a biosphere reserve in 1984.

Unique features: Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve is home to a designated wilderness area, six wild rivers, two national natural landmarks, and the Noatak Biosphere Reserve. There are also 10 small communities in or near the park and many of the approximately 1,500 residents depend on park resources to maintain their subsistence lifestyle as well as their cultural traditions.

Visitor count: 12,669 visitors in 2014

Temperature: Summer temperatures range from the mid-40s up to 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Average winter temperatures range from 10 to 30 degrees below zero.

Activities and attractions: The expansive, remote park mainly draws adventurous backcountry travelers, who enjoy float trips, hiking, camping, climbing and fishing. Although winter visitors are few, dog mushing, cross country skiing, northern lights viewing and snowshoeing are winter options. The diverse landscape, including lakes, rivers, forests, glaciers and tundra, also makes the park an active research area for scientists.

Fees: There are no entrance fees in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

FACILITIES:

Anaktuvuk Pass Ranger Station

Located in Anaktuvuk Pass

Call for current hours.
907-661-3520

Bettles Ranger Station / Visitor Center

Open year-round.
Call for current hours.
907-692-5494

Arctic Interagency Visitor Center

Located in Coldfoot



Gates of the Arctic National Park is defined by the Brooks Range, the United States' farthest north mountain range.

IF YOU GO

Bettles Ranger Station

P.O. Box 26030
Bettles, AK 99726

907-692-5494

(Bettles visitor information)

907-457-5752

(Fairbanks headquarters)

907-661-3520

(Anaktuvuk Pass visitor information)

907-678-5209

(Coldfoot visitor information)

www.nps.gov/gaar

Alaska Travel Industry Association

800-862-5275 (consumer information)

800-327-9372 (media information)

www.travelalaska.com



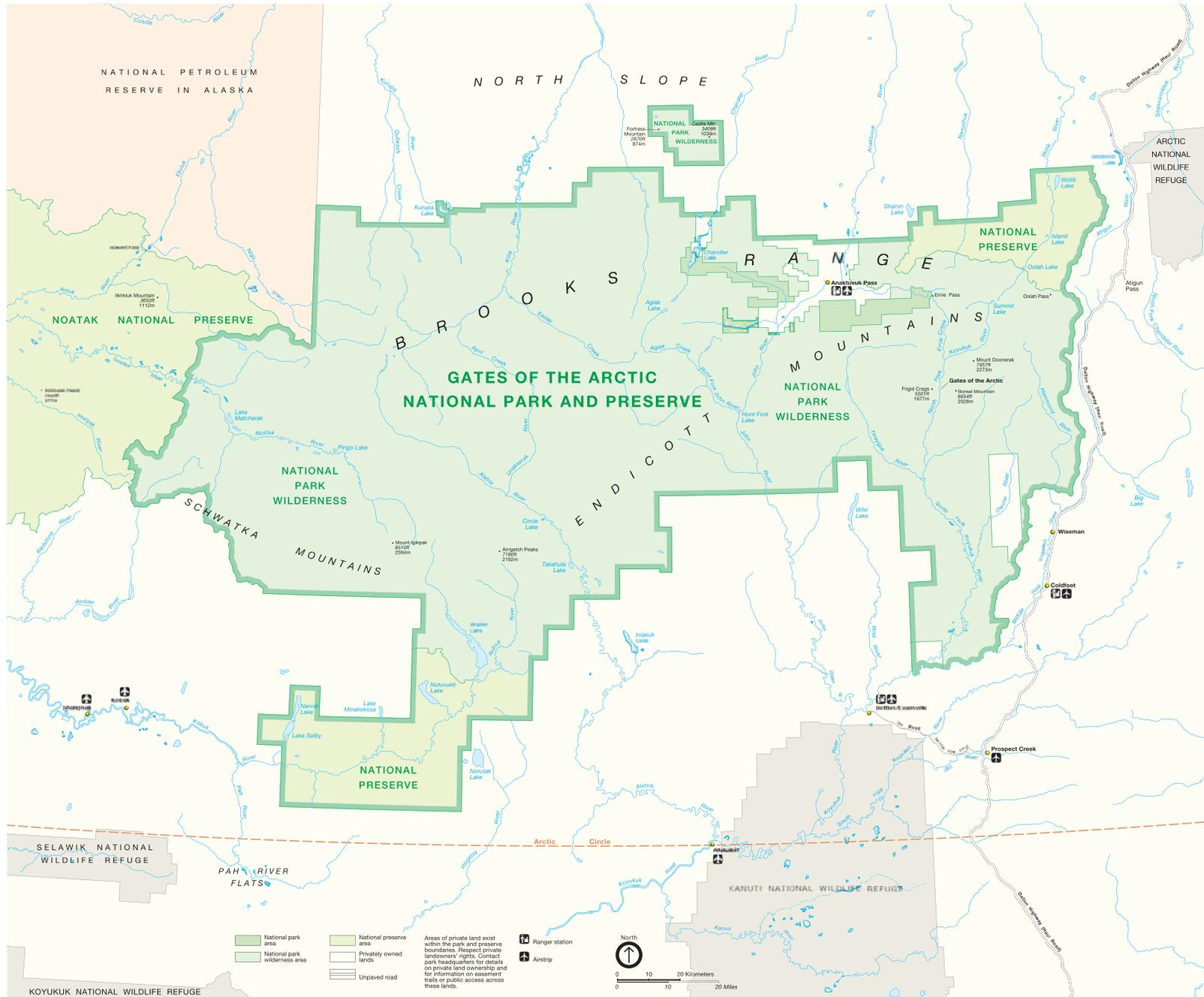
Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve is primarily accessible by air taxi from Fairbanks.



A picture-perfect rainbow in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve



An Alaska Native dressed in a traditional parka.





Size and Location: Katmai National Park and Preserve includes 4.7 million acres on the Alaska Peninsula, across from Kodiak Island, in Southwestern Alaska.

Accessibility: Park headquarters is in King Salmon, which can be reached by commercial airline. Brooks Camp, located approximately 30 air miles from King Salmon, is the main access point for the park. Brooks Camp is only accessible by small floatplane or boat. Bear viewing and flightseeing tours of the park can also be arranged from Kodiak, Homer and Anchorage.

History: The area was established as a national monument in 1918 to preserve the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes, a 40-square-mile, 100 to 700-foot deep, pyroclastic ash flow deposited by the Novarupta Volcano in 1912. Over the years, protection of the area's brown bears became equally important, and Katmai was designated a national park and preserve in 1980.

Unique features: Katmai National Park and Preserve is an area rich with history and wildlife. It is the site of the Brooks River National Historic Landmark, with North America's highest concentration of prehistoric human dwellings. Fourteen active volcanoes lie within the park, and the Alaska Volcano Observatory operates 19 monitoring stations there. Plus, more than 2,000 brown bears make their home in Katmai.

Visitor count: 30,000 visitors in 2014

Temperature: In Brooks Camp, summer temperatures range from 44 to 63 degrees Fahrenheit and in winter, temperatures range from just below zero to nearly 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

Activities and attractions: Viewing bears in their natural habitat is the most well known activity in the park, and bus tours through the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes are also popular. However, this expansive park also offers limitless opportunity for fishing, boating, and backcountry hiking and camping.

FACILITIES:

Brooks Camp Visitor Center

Located on Naknek Lake, near the mouth of Brooks River

King Salmon Visitor Center

Located next to the King Salmon airport terminal

Three Forks Visitor Contact Station

Located 23 miles from Brooks Camp on the park's only road



Visitors to Katmai National Park have the opportunity to view bears in their natural habitat.

Also in the area:**Alagnak Wild River**

The Alagnak River was designated a wild river in 1980, preserving the upper 56 miles in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment and benefit of both current and future users.

The river is home to all five species of pacific salmon, making it an important area for Bristol Bay, one of the world's largest salmon fishing grounds. With its other fish populations, including rainbow trout, arctic char, arctic grayling and northern pike, the Alagnak Wild River is one of the most popular fishing destinations in Southwest Alaska.

Rafting, hiking, camping and wildlife viewing are also popular activities.

The river, located in Katmai National Park and Preserve, is accessible by boat or charter flight from Anchorage or King Salmon.

Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve

A 7,000-foot mountain used to stand where the Aniakchak Caldera sits today. A series of eruptions, the most recent in 1931, caused the eventual collapse of the mountain and the creation of the largest caldera on the Alaska Peninsula.

The caldera, nearly six miles wide and 2,000 feet deep, now holds Surprise Lake, which is the source of the 27-mile Aniakchak Wild River.

The area, designated a national monument in 1978, and a national wild river and national preserve in 1980, is located in Katmai National Park and Preserve. It is accessible by boat or charter flight from Anchorage or King Salmon. Activities in the area include rafting, fishing, hiking, camping and wildlife viewing.

**IF YOU GO****Katmai National Park and Preserve**

P.O. Box 7

King Salmon, AK 99613

907-246-3305 (visitor information)

907-246-2116 (fax)

www.nps.gov/katm

**Kodiak Island Convention
and Visitors Bureau**

100 Marine Way, Suite 200

Kodiak, Alaska 99615

907-486-4782

www.kodiak.org/cvb

**Anchorage Convention
and Visitors Bureau**

524 W. Fourth Avenue

Anchorage, AK 99501-2212

907-276-4118

www.anchorage.net

Alaska Travel Industry Association

800-862-5275 (consumer information)

800-327-9372 (media information)

www.travelalaska.com



Fees: There are no entrance fees in Katmai National Park and Preserve. However, there is an \$12 per person/per night fee for camping in the Brooks Camp Campground, with lower shoulder season fees.

What's new:

- The bears of Katmai can be seen on live streaming video through much of the year, www.nps.gov/katm/photosmultimedia/webcams.htm



The Aniakchak Caldera was formed after a series of volcanic eruptions in 1931.



Four wild, remote parks in Northwest Alaska make up the Western Arctic National Parklands. Together, **Cape Krusenstern National Monument**, **Kobuk Valley National Park**, **Noatak National Preserve** and **Bering Land Bridge National Preserve** include more than 11.5 million acres of parkland.

Cape Krusenstern National Monument

Cape Krusenstern National Monument, established in 1978, is a coastal plain bordering the Chukchi Sea in Northwestern Alaska. Its landscape is decorated with lagoons, rolling hills, bluffs and 114 beach ridges, created by the changing shorelines of the Chukchi Sea over thousands of years.

Archeological sites in the monument provide detailed evidence of an estimated 9,000 years of prehistoric human existence. And some of these sites date back further than some well-known remains of ancient Greek civilizations.

Activities in the area include hiking, kayaking, fishing, flightseeing and wildlife viewing.

Access to the monument is from Kotzebue, which is served by commercial airlines out of Fairbanks and Anchorage. The visitor center is also located in Kotzebue. In the summer, visitors may access the park by charter flight or boat. In the winter, access is by plane, snowmobile or dogsled.

Kobuk Valley National Park

Kobuk Valley National Park, established as a national monument in 1978 and a national park in 1980, is located in Northwest Alaska. The park, surrounded by the Baird and Waring mountain ranges, protects several unique features including the Great Kobuk, Little Kobuk and Hunt River sand dunes.

The 25-square-mile Great Kobuk Sand Dunes were created by the grinding action of ancient glaciers and stabilized by the area's vegetation. Along with the Little Kobuk and Hunt River dunes, sand dunes cover most of the southern Kobuk Valley.

A section of the Kobuk River also runs through the park. Its bluffs, some of which stand more than 150 feet high, hold permafrost ice wedges and Ice Age mammal fossils.

Activities in the park include hiking, camping, boating, fishing, flightseeing and wildlife viewing.

Access to the park is from Nome or Kotzebue, both of which are served by commercial airlines. The visitor center is located in Kotzebue. In the summer, visitors may access the park by charter flight or boat. In the winter, access is by plane, snowmobile or dogsled.



The Great Kobuk Sand Dunes.



Noatak National Preserve

Noatak National Preserve, located in Northwest Alaska, is one of North America's largest mountain-ringed river basins. It is also home to the Noatak River, a national wild and scenic river, and features a wide variety of Arctic flora and fauna.

The area was designated as a biosphere reserve in 1976, a national monument in 1978, and a national preserve in 1980.

One of the preserve's most popular activities is floating the Noatak River from the mountains of the Brooks Range to the waters of the Chukchi Sea. Other activities include hiking, camping, fishing, flightseeing and wildlife viewing.

Access to the preserve is from Nome or Kotzebue, both of which are served by commercial airlines. The visitor center is located in Kotzebue. In the summer, visitors may access the park by charter flight or boat. In the winter, access is by plane, snowmobile or dogsled.

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve

When you step onto the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, located on the Seward Peninsula in Northwest Alaska, you will be standing on the land bridge that first brought humans from Asia to the Americas more than 13,000 years ago. Once thousands of miles wide, the majority of the bridge now lies beneath the Chukchi Sea.

The preserve, which is one of the most remote national park areas in the country, was established as a national monument in 1978 and a national preserve in 1980.

Activities include camping, hiking, boating, wildlife viewing, snowmobiling, dog mushing, cross country skiing and fishing. There are also several public use cabins in the area, including one at Serpentine Hot Springs, where visitors can soak in the natural warmth of the hot springs.

Access to the preserve is from Nome, which is served by commercial airlines. The visitor center is also located in Nome. In the summer, visitors may access the park by charter flight or boat. In the winter, access is by plane, snowmobile or dogsled.



IF YOU GO

Western Arctic National Parklands

PO Box 1029
Kotzebue, AK 99752
907-442-3890 (headquarters)
907-442-3760 (visitor information)
907-442-8316 (fax)
www.nps.gov/nwak

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve – Nome Visitor Center

P.O. Box 220
Nome, AK 99762
907-443-2522

Alaska Travel Industry Association

800-862-5275 (consumer information)
800-327-9372 (media information)
www.travelalaska.com

Nome Convention and Visitors Bureau

P.O. Box 240 H-P
Nome, AK 99762
907-443-6624
www.nomealaska.org/vc/



FACILITIES:

**Eagle Field Office
Visitor Center**
Located in Eagle

Size and Location: Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve includes 2.5 million acres in Interior Alaska, along the Canadian border, near the communities of Eagle and Circle.

Accessibility: The preserve can be reached from Eagle or Circle, both of which are accessible by air taxi from Fairbanks. Eagle may also be reached on the Taylor Highway during the summer months. Circle is at the end of the 161-mile Steese Highway. The Yukon River is the primary method of travel in the park, as there are no roads or facilities.

History: The area was established as a national monument in 1978, and became a national preserve in 1980. The preserve protects 115 miles of the 1,800-mile Yukon River and the entire length of the 100-mile Charley Wild River.

Unique features: Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve is probably best known for its rich Gold Rush history, when thousands of hopeful miners floated the Yukon, staked their claims and prayed for gold. Today, old mining cabins and roadhouses still stand as crumbling remnants of the miners' optimism. Several of these structures are available for overnight stays.

In addition to history, the preserve also boasts abundant wildlife, important archeological sites and the Charley Wild River, which has been called one of the most spectacular rivers in Alaska.

Visitor count: 2,329 visitors in 2014

Temperature: Summer temperatures reach into the 80s, while winter temperatures can dip well below 50 degrees below zero.

Activities and attractions: Boating the Yukon or Charley rivers is one of the most popular activities in the preserve. Camping, hiking, fishing, wildlife viewing and exploring historic sites are also popular options. Winter activities include dog mushing, cross country skiing and snowmobiling. The 1,000-mile Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race traverses the frozen landscape, bringing racers, veterinarians and race enthusiasts in the middle of the otherwise quiet winter.

Fees: There are no entrance fees in Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.





Fish hang to dry in the midnight sun.

IF YOU GO

Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve

P.O. Box 167
Eagle, AK 99738

907-547-2233
(visitor information)

907-457-5752
(Fairbanks headquarters)

