

# National Parklands in Alaska

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Alaska is expansive and diverse. Its magnitude is difficult to comprehend, but its rewards are many and apparent. For climate and topography, "the Great Land" constitutes a virtual subcontinent. Fifteen National Park System areas protect representative natural, cultural, and historic features of this immense landscape. Ten of these parklands were created by the Alaska Lands Act of 1980. This folder provides an introduction and ready reference to Alaska's national parklands and national rivers administered by the National Park Service.

### Travel Tips

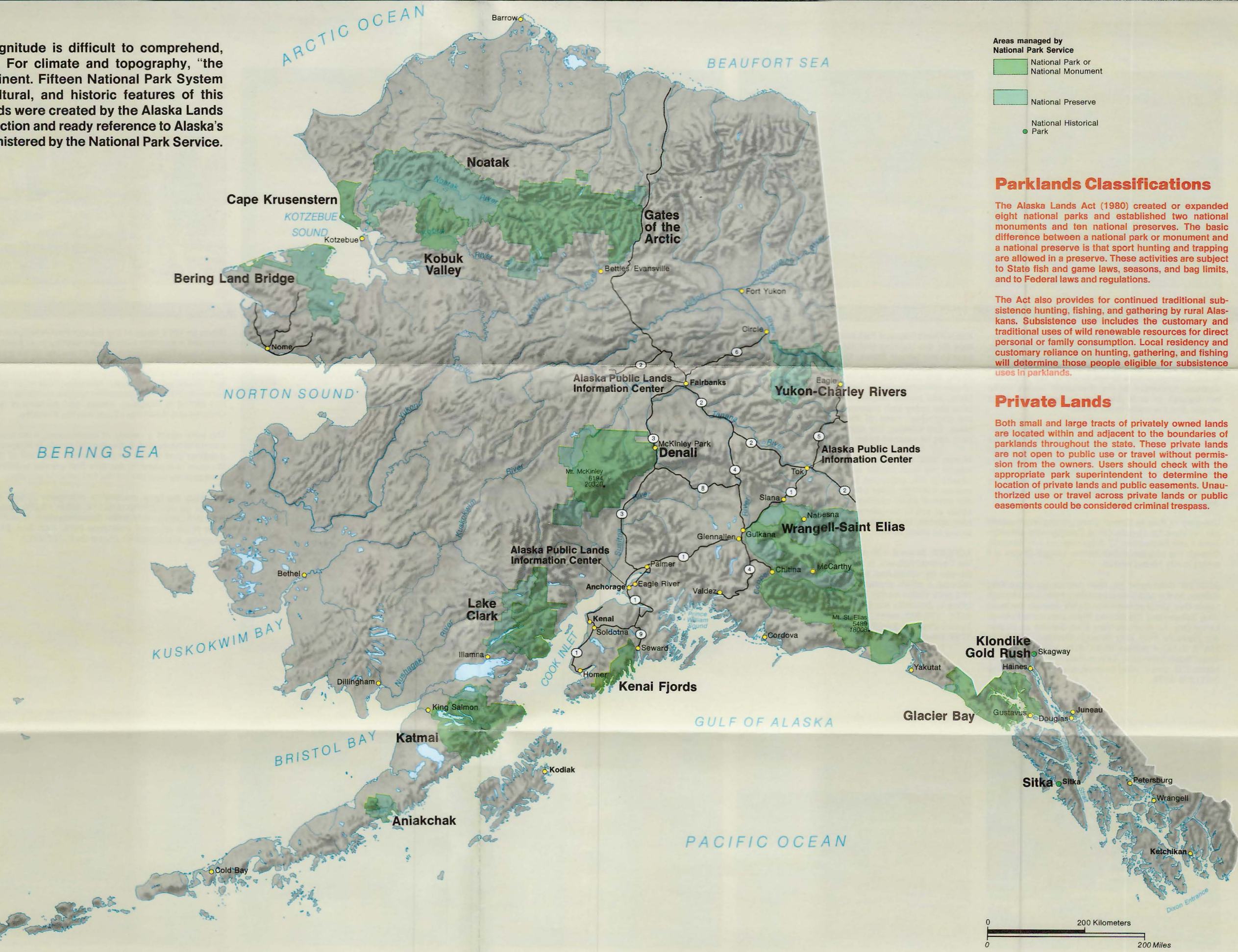
An enjoyable visit to the Alaska National Parklands requires planning. Alaska's isolation and vastness make travel to and through the state more complicated than travel in the "Lower 48." Just getting to Alaska can be an adventure. You can come by air, highway, or sea, or by a combination of these means. Commercial airlines serve Juneau, Anchorage, Fairbanks, and other cities. Cruiseships ply Alaska's southeastern waters through the Inside Passage. The state ferry system, known as the Alaska Marine Highway, transports people and vehicles from the Lower 48 to southeast points and between points in southcentral Alaska. Extending 1,500 miles from Dawson Creek, British Columbia, to Fairbanks, the Alaska Highway provides a land link with roads to the south. The Alaska Highway is paved through Alaska and most of Canada and maintained year round.

Once in Alaska you may again have several options for travel to the parklands. Unlike most National Park Service areas in the Lower 48, most of these Alaska areas are not accessible by road. Scheduled jet services to cities near some parklands can put you within air taxi distance of these areas. To see and experience the more remote reaches of Alaska generally requires significant added commitment, time, effort, and money, involving air and boat charters, rafts, kayaks, hiking, or combinations thereof. The back of this folder provides information about access to individual national parklands in Alaska.

### For More Information

Information about individual areas can also be obtained by writing to the address listed below each area description on the back of this folder. Further information about Alaska public lands is available at the Alaska Public Lands Information Centers located in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Tok. (Another Information Center is due to open in Ketchikan in 1993.) At these centers, Alaska residents and visitors to the state can receive trip-planning assistance, view exhibits and audiovisual programs, and learn more about how to have a safe and enjoyable visit to Alaska public lands. The addresses are: Anchorage Alaska Public Lands Information Center, 605 West Fourth Avenue, Anchorage Alaska 99501, phone (907) 271-2737; Fairbanks Alaska Public Lands Information Center, 250 Cushman Street, Suite 1A, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701, phone (907) 451-7352; and Tok Alaska Public Lands Information Center, Box 359, Tok, Alaska 99780, phone (907) 883-5667.

Tourist information is available from the Alaska Division of Tourism, Department of Commerce and Economic Development, P.O. Box E, Juneau, Alaska 99811. For information about ferry or railroad travel in Alaska, write to: Alaska Marine Highway System, P.O. Box R, Juneau, Alaska, 99811, and Alaska Railroad Corp. Passenger Services, P.O. Box 107500, Anchorage, Alaska 99510-7500, phone (800) 544-0552.



### Parklands Classifications

The Alaska Lands Act (1980) created or expanded eight national parks and established two national monuments and ten national preserves. The basic difference between a national park or monument and a national preserve is that sport hunting and trapping are allowed in a preserve. These activities are subject to State fish and game laws, seasons, and bag limits, and to Federal laws and regulations.

The Act also provides for continued traditional subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering by rural Alaskans. Subsistence use includes the customary and traditional uses of wild renewable resources for direct personal or family consumption. Local residency and customary reliance on hunting, gathering, and fishing will determine those people eligible for subsistence uses in parklands.

### Private Lands

Both small and large tracts of privately owned lands are located within and adjacent to the boundaries of parklands throughout the state. These private lands are not open to public use or travel without permission from the owners. Users should check with the appropriate park superintendent to determine the location of private lands and public easements. Unauthorized use or travel across private lands or public easements could be considered criminal trespass.

## Our Lasting Frontier

Entering the American scene in 1867 as "Seward's Folly" did little to reveal the awesome character of a place early people called *Alyeshka*—The Great Land. The rush for gold that followed created its own colorful images of derring-do and fortunes won and lost by scalawags. But the haunting beauty of the Far North at times overshadowed the miner's quest for gold. Dreams of quick riches often gave way to making peace with the land and settling in.

The chronicles of explorers and naturalists are a strangely appealing mix of impressions: A barren arctic wasteland teeming with herds of caribou. Uninhabitable terrain that proved to be the ancestral homeland of cultures harkening back to the end of the Ice Age. And winters of deadening cold giving way to balmy summers that warm vast nurseries for migratory birds destined for every state and all continents of the world. Alaska has the biggest moose, the biggest bears, the tallest spruce, rivers thick with salmon, yet it is the most fragile environment in our Nation. Could all these descriptions come from one state? The illusive character of Alaska is an important part of its appeal. Alaska recalls an earlier time during our westward expansion when uncharted frontiers helped shape the American image. It calls to our sense of adventure and hardiness. And, in responding to this call, progress and change have moved northward. Statehood in 1959 brought an entitlement to the State of 106 million acres of public lands potentially rich in oil and gas, minerals, and coal. The largest oil strike in U.S. history at Prudhoe Bay underscores the State's promising future and its vital role in our Nation's economy.

Claims to land by Alaska's native people were similarly settled by Congress in 1971. Nearly 44 million acres of Federal land and more than \$962 million were awarded in final settlement of all native claims to land. Amid such rapid change our last frontier could easily slip away, as did our first. But the national interests in Alaska go beyond raw materials for industry and settlements of land claims. Vast unblemished landscapes and tumbling rivers fresh as creation are also treasures of our collective heritage. Ancient hearths, gravesites, and delicate stone tools of chert and jade tell of early American peoples and their survival at the outer edge of human habitat. We, like the pioneer travelers, find the abundant fish, wildlife, matchless scenery, unnamed mountains, and numberless valleys beyond our wildest expectations.

Alaska abounds with the inspiring landscapes that fired our ancestors' spirits through risk and hardship on their westward trek. It also offers further test to a uniquely American idea, born at Yellowstone in 1872, that certain places are special, above the marketplace, and worthy of lasting protection. The first national park unit in Alaska was established in 1910 at Sitka in commemoration of the Tlingit culture and early European settlers of Russian America. By the time Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park was established in 1976, such well-known landmarks as Mt. McKinley (1917), Katmai (1918), and Glacier Bay (1925) had entered the rolls. Yet even these superlative parklands fell short of adequately sampling a landmass constituting one-fifth the size of the continental United States.

After nine years of planning, research, and refinements, Congress passed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (P.L. 96-487). It established ten new units of the National Park System and expanded Glacier Bay, Katmai, and Mt. McKinley (renamed "Denali"). This singular Act of Congress more than doubled the size of the National Park System. The system in Alaska now contains more than 51 million acres, or 13 percent of the state's 375 million acres.

The new parklands also reflect a special Alaskan characteristic. In recognition of longstanding dependence on wildlife, fish, and plant staples, the law provides for continued use of traditional subsistence resources vital to rural Alaskans. Besides parks and monuments, the act also establishes several areas as preserves in which sport hunting will continue. Boundaries were drawn to encompass, where possible, complete and self-sustaining ecosystems and to avoid conflict with areas of high mineral, coal, or oil and gas potential.

Each of the units represents qualities until now not included in our National Park System. The areas are large where biotic systems are thin and frail, as in arctic latitudes where more than 100 square miles are needed to sustain a single grizzly bear. For recreation, scientific edification, and as an adventuring ground for present and future generations, these lands and waterways comprise the finest natural and cultural resources remaining in public ownership—an enduring frontier.



# National Parklands in Alaska

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1  
**Aniakchak**

The central feature of the Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve is the volcanic Aniakchak Caldera created by the collapse of the central part of a volcano. It covers 30 square miles and is 6 miles wide. This collapse took place sometime after the last glaciation. Later activity built a cone, Vent Mountain, inside the caldera. Aniakchak last erupted in 1931. The caldera's Surprise Lake, heated by hot springs, cascades through a 1,500-foot rift in the crater wall. Such volcanic features as lava flows, cinder cones, and explosion pits can be seen here, along with hardy pioneer plant communities inching life into a silent moonscape.

Wildlife include occasional caribou, grizzly bears, and eagles. Sockeye salmon spawn in Surprise Lake and the Aniakchak River, which originates from the lake. Fish from this watershed are recognizable by the flavor of soda and iron characteristic of the caldera's mineral-laden outflow.

ACCESS: This is one of the most remote of Alaska's national park areas, and weather on the Alaska Peninsula can be severe at all seasons. Scheduled air service puts you within charter flight distance via King Salmon, or Fort Heiden. Floatplanes can land on Surprise Lake. APPROXIMATE SIZE: 600,000 acres. FOR INFORMATION, write: Superintendent, Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve, P.O. Box 7, King Salmon, Alaska 99613, phone (907) 246-3305.



2  
**Bering Land Bridge**

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve is a remnant of the land bridge that connected Asia with North America more than 13,000 years ago. The land bridge itself is now overlain by the Chukchi Sea and the Bering Sea. During the glacial epoch this was part of a migration route for people, animals, and plants whenever ocean levels fell enough to expose the land bridge. Scientists find it one of the most likely regions where prehistoric Asian hunters entered the New World.

Today Eskimos from neighboring villages pursue subsistence lifestyles and manage their reindeer herds in and around the preserve. Some 112 migratory bird species may be seen here, along with occasional seals, walrus, and whales. Grizzly bears, fox, wolf, and moose also inhabit the preserve. Other interesting features are rimless volcanoes called Maar craters, Serpentine Hot Springs, and seabird colonies at Sullivan Bluffs.

ACCESS: Air service out of Nome and Kotzebue is the usual means of access to this quite isolated preserve. APPROXIMATE SIZE: 2.7 million acres. FOR INFORMATION, write: Superintendent, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, P.O. Box 220, Nome, Alaska 99762, phone (907) 443-2522.

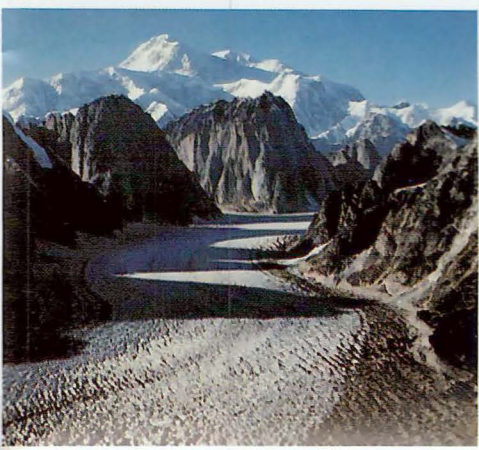


3  
**Cape Krusenstern**

The gravel beachscape of Cape Krusenstern National Monument chronologically records 5,000 years of marine mammal hunting by Eskimo peoples. These unrivaled archeological records are locked in 114 lateral beach ridges that describe the land's growth into the Chukchi Sea. The beach ridges were formed by changing sea levels and the action of wind and waves. Artifacts from nearby creek bluffs date back 6,000 years and act as a benchmark for predating the cape's beach ridges.

Eskimos still hunt seals along the cape's outermost beach. With rifles as well as traditional harpoons they hazard the dangerous spring ice floes to take the oogruk, or bearded seal. At shoreline campsites the women trim and render the catch for the hides, meat, and seal oil still vital to their diet. As old sites became landbound by the shoreline's seaward advance, the people abandoned their tents and sod houses to establish new camps nearer the sea. This process has continued ever since Eskimos of arctic Alaska first turned to the sea.

ACCESS: Chartered aircraft and boats can be arranged out of Kotzebue, which has daily commercial service from Anchorage and Fairbanks. APPROXIMATE SIZE: 660,000 acres. FOR INFORMATION, write: Superintendent Cape Krusenstern National Monument, P.O. Box 1029, Kotzebue, Alaska 99752, phone (907) 442-3890.



4  
**Denali**

Mount McKinley, at 20,320 feet, is North America's highest mountain. The Athabascan natives called it *Denali*, "the High One," and in 1980 the national park's name was changed to Denali. Mount McKinley is a massive mountain and the towering centerpiece of the glacier-strewn Alaska Range. Under its shadow in Denali National Park and Preserve are barren-ground caribou, grizzly bears, wolves, moose, Dall sheep, and other wildlife. Meandering, glacier-born rivers laden with silt (or rock flour) create natural dams and periodically change course across their wide, flat valleys. Much of the park's scant tree growth lies in the river valleys. At higher elevations are large expanses of tundra, a fascinating world of dwarfed shrubs and miniature wildflowers.

ACCESS: The area is accessible by highway, railroad, and scheduled air service. To protect wildlife and to preserve opportunities to see it, private vehicle use is restricted on the park road. A free shuttle bus service operates within Denali along the 85 mile wilderness road from the park entrance to Wonder Lake. The shuttle bus will drop you off or pick you up anywhere along the park road. APPROXIMATE SIZE: 6 million acres. FOR INFORMATION, write: Superintendent, Denali National Park and Preserve, P.O. Box 9, McKinley Park, Alaska 99755, phone (907) 683-2294.



5  
**Gates of the Arctic**

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve lies entirely north of the Arctic Circle. It includes the scenic headland of the Brooks Range, the northernmost extension of the Rocky Mountains. Combined, the park and preserve are four times the size of Yellowstone National Park. The area's austere beauty and grandeur defy description. This is the ultimate wilderness that captured the heart and imagination of Arctic explorer Robert Marshall in the 1930s.

Barren-ground caribou and grizzly bears range the area's spacious and fragile tundra, garnering a living based in the thin veneer of arctic soils. The park straddles the crest of the Brooks Range, its southern flank sampling the boreal forest of Alaska's interior and its north slope at the edge of a polar desert with precipitation comparable to the Earth's driest regions. Two distinct cultures are represented here: the Athabascan peoples of the spruce-talga forests, and the Nunamiut Eskimos, who hunt caribou in the high valleys. Both cultures continue to follow traditional subsistence patterns of life in the park and preserve.

ACCESS: Scheduled flights from Fairbanks serve Bettles/Evensville and Anaktuvuk Pass. APPROXIMATE SIZE: 8.4 million acres. FOR INFORMATION, write: Superintendent, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, P.O. Box 74680, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707, phone (907) 456-0281.



6  
**Glacier Bay**

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve contains some of the world's most impressive examples of tidewater glaciers. The bay has experienced at least four major advances and four major retreats of glaciers and serves as an outdoor laboratory for contemporary research. Mountains rise here up to 3 vertical miles right from tidewater. The dramatic variety of plant communities ranges from barren terrain just recovering from glacial retreat to lush temperate rain forest. Nowhere is the story of plant succession more richly told than here at Glacier Bay.

The park and preserve harbors brown and black bears, mountain goats, moose, whales, seals, plus eagles and more than 200 other species of birds. Mount Fairweather is the highest peak in southeastern Alaska.

ACCESS: Glacier Bay is accessible by commercial cruiseship, tour boat, charter boat, or aircraft, or by scheduled air and boat service from Juneau and other southeastern Alaska communities. APPROXIMATE SIZE: 3.3 million acres. FOR INFORMATION, write: Superintendent, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, Bartlett Cove, Gustavus, Alaska 99826, phone (907) 697-2230.



7  
**Katmai**

In 1912 a tremendous eruption occurred in the wilderness that today is Katmai National Park and Preserve. The blast in which Mount Katmai collapsed was one of the most violent ever recorded. Afterwards, in what would become known as the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes, fumaroles by the thousands issued steam hot enough to melt zinc. Only a few active vents remain, and the crater holds a lake.

Katmai's scenery boasts lakes, rivers, glaciers, waterfalls, and a coastline of plunging cliffs and islets. This is the home of the huge brown bear—Earth's largest terrestrial carnivore—which in summer fishes the park and preserve's streams to feast on migrating salmon. This area is critical for the brown bear's survival on the Alaska Peninsula. It also boasts some of southwestern Alaska's best sportfishing.

Camping at Brooks Camp: Campground reservations are required for Brooks Camp Campground between June 1 and September 10. Reservations may be made through the address shown below. Length of stay is 7 nights in any 10-day period.

ACCESS: Scheduled jets from Anchorage serve King Salmon on the park's west boundary from June through Labor Day. Daily commercial flights operate between King Salmon and the Brooks River area June through Labor Day. Air charters from King Salmon or Iliamna are available from May through October. APPROXIMATE SIZE: 4 million acres. FOR INFORMATION, write: Superintendent, Katmai National Park and Preserve, P.O. Box 7, King Salmon, Alaska 99613, phone (907) 246-3305.

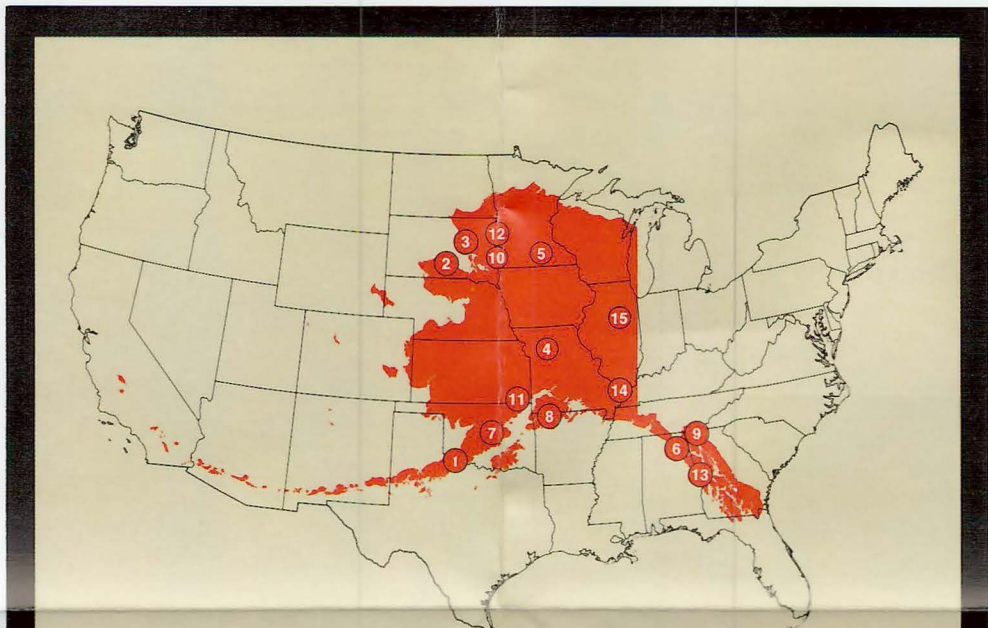


8  
**Kenai Fjords**

Kenai Fjords National Park features the seaward interface for the Harding Icefield, one of four major ice caps in the United States. This may be a remnant of Pleistocene ice masses once covering half of Alaska. Along the coastline are the scenic Kenai Fjords, whose shoreline was carved by glaciers. Sea stacks, islets, and jagged shoreline are remnants of mountains that today inch imperceptibly into the sea under the geological force of the North Pacific tectonic plate. Exit Glacier, the most accessible area of the park, can be reached by car and a short walk.

Moose and a large population of mountain goats inhabit the land. Stellar sea lions haul out on rocky islands at the entrances to the fjords. Harbor seals rest on icebergs. Killer whales, porpoises, sea otters, and several whale species also are found here. Thousands of sea birds—horned and tufted puffins, common murre, and black-legged kittiwakes—rear their young on steep cliffs.

ACCESS: Seward, 130 miles south of Anchorage via the Seward Highway, is the gateway to Kenai Fjords. Served by scheduled buses, commuter flights, and railroad, it offers charter boats and aircraft services. The park visitor center is next to the Harbormaster's office in Seward's small boat harbor. APPROXIMATE SIZE: 669,000 acres. FOR INFORMATION, write: Superintendent, Kenai Fjords National Park, P.O. Box 1727, Seward, Alaska 99664, phone (907) 224-3874.



Superimposing Alaska—"the Great Land"—on the Lower 48 states emphasizes its vastness. This also tells the traveler that planning, and indeed, choosing which areas to visit, will be essential in approaching the national parklands in this richly varied landscape. The numbered dots, corresponding to the 15 area descriptions on this side of the folder, graphically portray how well the National Park System preserves Alaska's varied geographical offerings. Its coastlines, with their deep bays and dramatic fjords, their fascinating whales and other sea mammals, are represented. So are its mountains, volcanoes, lakes and rivers, archeological and historic sites, its intriguing Arctic tundra, and even sand dunes! Last, but not least, are its designated national rivers, supplementing and adding to the 15 parklands described in this folder.

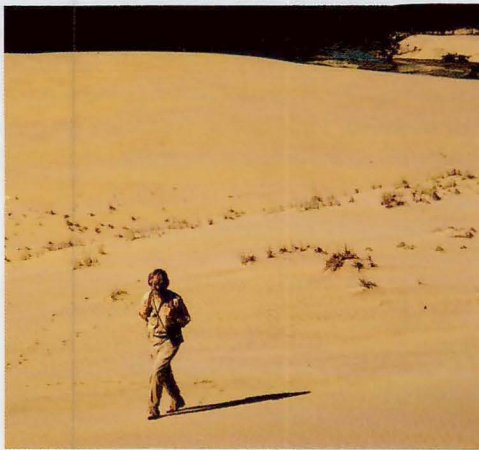


9  
**Klondike**

When an 1897 issue of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported a steamer from Alaska putting in at Seattle with a ton of gold aboard, it set off the last of the great gold rushes. At the height of the rush John Muir called Skagway "a nest of ants taken into a strange country and stirred up by a stick." Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park preserves historic buildings from this period in Skagway, Alaska, and portions of the Chilkoot and White Pass Trails into the Klondike.

The park offers a variety of experiences, from small town to wilderness. A lively nightlife thrives in Skagway, a regular port of call for cruiseships. The Trail of 98 Museum is housed in Alaska's first granite building. Backpacking over the passes has become popular.

ACCESS: By ferry, cruiseship, commuter airline, air taxi, or by car. APPROXIMATE SIZE: 13,000 acres. FOR INFORMATION, write: Superintendent, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, P.O. Box 517, Skagway, Alaska 99840, phone (907) 983-2921.



10  
**Kobuk Valley**

Today's dry, cold climate of the Kobuk Valley still approximates that of late Pleistocene times, supporting a remnant flora once covering the vast Arctic steppe tundra bridging Alaska and Asia. Great herds of caribou still cross the Kobuk River at Onion Portage, and are hunted by today's Eskimo people. These herds once fed the Woodland Eskimo people of 1250 A.D. Human occupation at the portage dates back to 12,500 years, forming a benchmark by which all other arctic sites are measured. The valley remains an important area for traditional subsistence harvest of moose, bears, caribou, fish, waterfowl, and many edible and medicinal plants.

The Great Kobuk Sand Dunes—25 square miles of shifting dunes where summer temperatures can exceed 90°F—is the largest active dune field in arctic latitudes. Both the Kobuk and Salmon Rivers offer canoeing and kayaking.

ACCESS: Daily jet service is available from Anchorage to Kotzebue. Scheduled air service is available to nearby villages and local air and boat charter is available by advance arrangement. APPROXIMATE SIZE: 1.7 million acres. FOR INFORMATION, write: Superintendent, Kobuk Valley National Park, P.O. Box 1029, Kotzebue, Alaska 99752, phone (907) 442-3890.



11  
**Lake Clark**

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve has been described as the Alaskan Alps, for here the Alaska and Aleutian ranges meet. Set in the heart of the Chignik Mountains along Cook Inlet's western shore, the park boasts great geologic diversity. Its jagged peaks, granite spires, glaciers, two active volcanoes, and 50-mile-long Lake Clark provide a dazzling array of scenery. The lake, fed by hundreds of waterfalls throughout its rimming mountains, is part of an important red salmon spawning ground. All these features combine to create a maze of natural river running and hiking routes providing spectacular wilderness experiences.

Brown and black bears, caribou, moose, Dall sheep, salmon, and trout inhabit these scenic environs. Within the park and preserve are coastal lowlands of spruce and marshes; alpine meadows; and tundra plains backed by ever-changing mountain scenes.

ACCESS: Air charters are available from Anchorage, Kenai, or Iliamna. Lodging, from primitive to modern, is available from private operators within the park and preserve. APPROXIMATE SIZE: 4 million acres. FOR INFORMATION, write: Superintendent, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, 701 C Street, Box 61, Anchorage, Alaska 99513, phone (907) 271-3751.

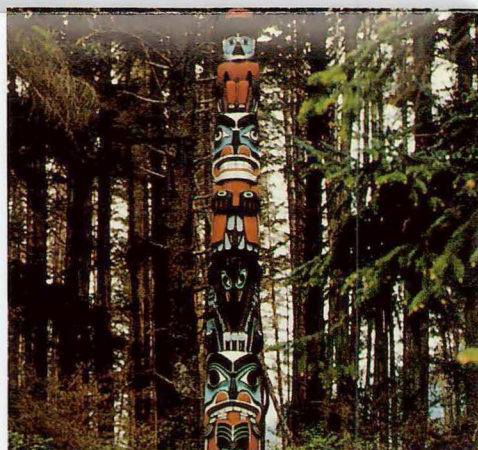


12  
**Noatak**

Noatak National Preserve protects the largest untouched river basin in the United States. Above the Arctic Circle the Noatak River runs from glacial melt atop Mount Igikpak in the Brooks Range out to Kotzebue Sound. Along its 425-mile course it has carved out the Grand Canyon of the Noatak. This striking, scenic canyon serves as a migration route for plants and animals between subarctic and arctic environment. In recognition of this fine and vast wilderness, UNESCO has made the Noatak River basin an International Biosphere Reserve.

The Noatak serves as a natural highway not only for plants and animals, but also for wilderness travelers. The preserve is especially popular for canoeing and kayaking, because the river is slow moving and gentle along most of its course. Only near its headwaters is the Noatak rough water. Backpacking in the foothills provides attractive recreational use here. And the preserve offers outstanding wildlife watching opportunities. Among its large mammals are grizzly bears, caribou, wolves, lynx, and Dall sheep in abundance. Birdlife abounds in the area, too, as summer brings migratory birds to the Noatak basin from Asia and the tip of South America. The river itself supports arctic char, whitefish, grayling, and salmon.

ACCESS: Charter flights out of Kotzebue and Bettles/Evensville, which are served by air from Fairbanks or Anchorage. APPROXIMATE SIZE: 6.5 million acres. FOR INFORMATION, write: Superintendent, Noatak National Preserve, P.O. Box 1029, Kotzebue, Alaska 99752, phone (907) 442-3890.



13  
**Sitka**

Sitka is one of Alaska's most scenic and historic cities. Here Sitka National Historical Park preserves the site of the 1804 fort and battle that marked the last major resistance of the Tlingit Indians to Russian colonization. This was Alaska's economic and cultural capital for half a century, serving as the headquarters for the Russian-American Company's fur and other trading operations. The park displays a fine collection of totem poles, and visitor center exhibits illustrate the art and traditions of the Tlingit people. The park also contains the premier historic structure in Alaska, the restored 1842 Russian Bishop's House.

The Tlingit long ago followed the salmon streams southward to settle here at "Shee Atika," as they called Sitka, on this island-dotted coast. They enjoyed a rich culture, esthetically and spiritually, in a world of natural abundance. This was interrupted by the Russian-American Company under the determined leadership of Alexander Baranov. The 1804 Battle of Sitka ended when the Tlingit ran out of ammunition and withdrew. Baranov burned their fort and built a new town that he named New Archangel.

ACCESS: Sitka is reached by state-operated ferries, commercial cruiseships, and daily jet service. SIZE: 106 acres. FOR INFORMATION, write: Superintendent, Sitka National Historical Park, P.O. Box 738, Sitka, Alaska 99835, phone (907) 747-6281.



14  
**Wrangell-St. Elias**

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve abuts Canada's Kluane National Park just across the border in Yukon Territory. Together they are on the international World Heritage List for outstanding natural areas. This is North America's mountain kingdom. Here the Wrangell, St. Elias, and Chugach mountain ranges converge. The park and preserve contain the North American continent's largest assemblage of glaciers and its greatest collection of peaks over 16,000 feet in elevation. One glacier, the Malaspina, is larger than the State of Rhode Island. Mount St. Elias, at 18,008 feet, is the second highest peak in the United States.

The park and preserve are characterized by rugged mountains, remote valleys, wild rivers, and exemplary populations of wildlife. They embrace coastal beaches on the Gulf of Alaska. The area abounds in opportunities for wilderness backpacking, lake fishing, car camping, river running, cross-country skiing, and mountain climbing. In both stature and numbers, Dall sheep populations of the Wrangells are considered the world's finest.

ACCESS: Park headquarters in Glennallen is 200 miles east of Anchorage by road. Two primitive roads enter the park. Under normal summer conditions most 2-wheel drive vehicles can make the 61-mile trip from Chitna to McCarthy and the first 29 miles of the Siana to Nebesna Road. By arrangement, charter air taxis will provide access from Gulkana and McCarthy Airports to more than 200 bush airstrips throughout the park and preserve. Commercial airlines fly daily to Yakutat. APPROXIMATE SIZE: 13 million acres. FOR INFORMATION, write: Superintendent, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, P.O. Box 29, Glennallen, Alaska 99588, phone (907) 822-5234.

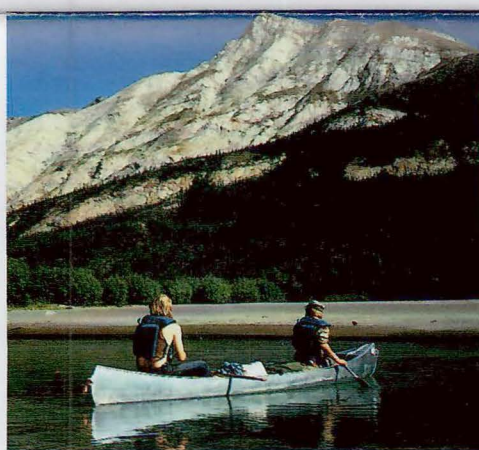


15  
**Yukon-Charley Rivers**

Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve contains 115 miles of the historic Yukon River and the entire 88-mile Charley River basin. Old cabins and relics recall the Yukon's importance in the Gold Rush era. Archeological and paleontological sites in the preserve provide knowledge of both thousands and millions of years in the past.

The two rivers are quite different: the broad and swift Yukon flows with glacial silt while the smaller Charley flows crystal clear. The Charley is considered one of Alaska's finest recreational streams. The rivers merge between the early-day boom towns of Eagle and Circle. Cliffs and bluffs along the two rivers provide nesting habitat for peregrine and gyrfalcons. Beyond the riverbanks grizzly bears, Dall sheep, and moose may be seen. Floating the Yukon, whether by raft, canoe, or powerboat, is a popular way to see wildlife and scenic resources. The Charley River demands more advanced river skills.

ACCESS: By Taylor Highway to Eagle or Steese Highway from Fairbanks to Circle. Scheduled flights serve both towns from Fairbanks. APPROXIMATE SIZE: 2.5 million acres. FOR INFORMATION, write: Superintendent, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, P.O. Box 167, Eagle, Alaska 99738, phone (907) 547-2233.



16  
**National Rivers**

Wild, free-flowing rivers born in cold mountain lakes or nurtured by runoff from remote highlands provide transportation corridors through some of Alaska's most spectacular geography. Crags and peaks, narrow canyons, rolling tundra-cloaked hills, or forested slopes present themselves in a constantly changing panorama during a float trip.

Congress established the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System to preserve in a free-flowing condition rivers of remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar value. All or part of 25 such rivers in Alaska are designated wild and scenic. The National Park Service administers 13 of these, all designated "wild." With one exception the designated sections lie within the boundaries of parks, monuments, or preserves. Because of their classifications, only minimal development will be allowed along the banks of these rivers. Included are the following rivers: Alagnak, Delta, Aniakchak, Charley, Chilkadrotna, John, Kobuk, Mulchatna, Noatak, Koyukuk (North Fork), Salmon, Tinayguk, and Tiikakila.

ACCESS: For access information and other particulars, refer to the information on this side of the folder under the areas in which the rivers occur: Alagnak [Katmai]; Alutna, John, Kobuk, Koyukuk (North Fork), and Tinayguk [Gates of the Arctic]; Aniakchak [Aniakchak]; Charley [Yukon-Charley Rivers]; Chilkadrotna, Mulchatna, and Tiikakila [Lake Clark]; Noatak [Noatak]; and Salmon [Kobuk Valley].