

Mount McKinley

NATIONAL PARK • ALASKA

Mount McKinley National Park is a 3,030-square-mile wilderness of alpine tundra, spruce forests, and glacial streams—the home of 132 species of birds and 37 species of mammals. Above the green valleys and the snowy crest of the Alaska Range looms 20,320-foot Mount McKinley—highest on the continent. Some lesser peaks, about 12,000 feet high, remain unnamed. This land is still wild.

TRAVELING TO THE PARK

By auto. You are encouraged to bring a car (rental cars are not available locally). Have your car carefully checked and serviced before leaving home; and bring two spare tires, as they may help you to avoid delays and discomfort. You may ship your car by rail from Anchorage or Fairbanks.

The park can be reached from Paxson via the 163-mile gravel-surfaced Denali Highway. This road opens about June 1; however, snows can delay its opening or block it as early as September 15. Drifts and washouts on the park road are usually cleared by June 12.

By train. Daily service is provided by The Alaska Railroad from about May 26 through September 10. The 234-mile trip from Anchorage takes 8 hours; the 122-mile ride from Fairbanks, 4 hours. Information on the trip is available from The Alaska Railroad, Box 7-2111, Anchorage, AK 99501.

By plane. Major airlines serve Anchorage and Fairbanks daily. A 3,000-foot airstrip at McKinley Park is maintained for light aircraft. Bush planes can be chartered at Alaska's principal airports to fly you to the park.

CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES

"Cool, wet, and windy" best describes summer weather. To be comfortable, you should have clothing for temperatures from freezing to 80°. Insect repellent and wet-weather clothing and footwear are necessities. Binoculars are invaluable for viewing wildlife and distant mountains, and telephoto lenses help in wildlife photography.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND SERVICES

The park is isolated, but essential services are furnished. Major services and supplies may be obtained in Fairbanks or Anchorage, 122 and 234 miles distant respectively.

McKinley Park Hotel provides lodging, dining room, and souvenirs. You should make reservations early enough to receive confirmation before leaving home. For rates and reservations, write to Mt. McKinley National Park Co., 149 North Stone Ave., Tucson, AZ 85701 (October 1—May 14), or to the Manager, McKinley Park Hotel, McKinley Park, AK 99755 (May 15—September 30).

Campgrounds. Campsites cannot be reserved. Firewood is scarce and, when available, is usually wet; campstoves are recommended. It is not advisable to take trailers west of Teklanika Campground because of the narrow, steep road. Camper mail should be addressed c/o General Delivery, McKinley Park, AK 99755.

Campground	Miles from RR. sta.	Campsite				Toilet		Water supply		Camping limit (days)
		Spaces	Tent	Camper	Trailer	Pit	Flush	River	Tap	
Riley Creek . . .	1.5	75	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	15
Savage River . .	12	24	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	15
Sanctuary River	22	7	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	5
Teklanika River.	29	50	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	15
Igloo Creek . . .	33	7	x			x	x	x	x	15
Toklat River . . .	53	7	x	x		x		x	x	5
Wonder Lake . . .	84	28	x	x		x		x	x	15

The service station at the hotel provides gasoline, oil, tires, white gas, and minor auto repairs. No gasoline or auto services are available along the 87-mile-long park road.

Store. Basic groceries and camper supplies are available at the service station.

HOW TO ENJOY THE PARK

The park road. An 87-mile road, open from about June 12 to September 10, penetrates the interior of the park. It is winding, hilly, and rough in places, and has many sharp curves; only the first 13 miles are paved.

Paralleling the Alaska Range, the road intermittently traverses forests and tundra and crosses many braided rivers whose sources are distant mountain glaciers. (The glaciers can be explored by hiking in to them.) For the first 70 miles the route cuts through the 5,000-foot-high northern foothills. Lower slopes are covered by shrubs and wildflowers; higher up are talus slopes and bare cliffs. The remainder of this narrow road crosses tundra and offers a background of higher peaks of the Alaska Range. Caribou, moose, grizzly bear, and other wildlife roam the open country.

The first sighting of Mount McKinley is 8 miles from the hotel, and the view improves as you drive into the park until about Mile 60, from which point the summit is only about 27 miles away. The ice-shrouded peak appears much closer, but clouds hide the mountain nearly 60 percent of the time. The last 20 miles of road follows an old glacial moraine studded with tundra ponds. Wonder Lake, near the end of the road, is the park's largest.

Naturalist services. Park rangers and naturalists conduct daily nature walks, campfire programs, illustrated talks, movies, and sled-dog demonstrations.

Trails are few. However, open ridgetops and wide valleys give the hiker a choice of unspoiled wilderness to explore. A park ranger will help you plan a hiking trip lasting from 1 hour to 1 week or more.

Park tours. The Mt. McKinley National Park Company operates a wildlife tour which leaves the hotel at 4 a.m. for the Eielson Visitor Center and returns at noon.

Eielson Visitor Center, housing a ranger station and observation room with exhibits, is 65 miles west of the hotel.



Courtesy Charles J. Ott



Courtesy Charles J. Ott



ANIMALS ARE WILD

It is reckless to approach bears or moose closely. Even though they seem tame, they may charge suddenly and unpredictably, and inflict serious injury. They are particularly dangerous when accompanied by young, so you are warned not to approach *any* animal. To avoid being molested by bears, maintain a clean camp and keep food sealed to prevent odors. Photographers must be especially cautious; use a telephoto lens instead of endangering yourself by getting too close and disturbing the animal.

REGULATIONS

Driving. The park road was built for scenic enjoyment and not as a high-speed highway. Maximum speed is 35 m.p.h. (25 m.p.h. for trucks and buses) except where posted lower. Fast driving is dangerous to you and the wildlife you come to see.

Pets and wildlife don't mix. Pets must be leashed or under other restrictive control.

Camping is limited to 15 days in any calendar year. Roadside camping is restricted to established campgrounds and campsites.

Hikers must obtain campfire permits at any ranger station prior to departure and surrender them upon returning.

Trash. Pack out what you carry in.

Natural features. The park was established in 1917 to preserve natural conditions. Therefore, the destruction, defacing, or collecting of plants or rocks is prohibited. Only dead and down trees and limbs may be used as firewood. Killing, capturing, or molesting wildlife is not allowed.

Wildlife protection area. A special wildlife protection zone lies between Miles 37 and 42 (Sable Pass), and leaving the road is not permitted in this 5-mile section.

Firearms and hunting. Firearms must be declared and made inoperative when you enter the park. Hunting is prohibited.

Fishing. No license is required. Limits (per person per day): lake trout—2 fish; grayling and others—10 fish but not to exceed 10 pounds and 1 fish. Fishing is poor because the rivers are silty and the ponds shallow.

Boating. Motor-powered boats are not permitted on any park waters.

Motor vehicles, including trail bikes and snowmobiles, may not leave the park road.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The superintendent, upon written request, will furnish additional information needed in planning your trip. Also, a pricelist of park maps and wildlife and plant booklets may be obtained by writing to the Mount McKinley Natural History Association, McKinley Park, AK 99755.

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ADMINISTRATION

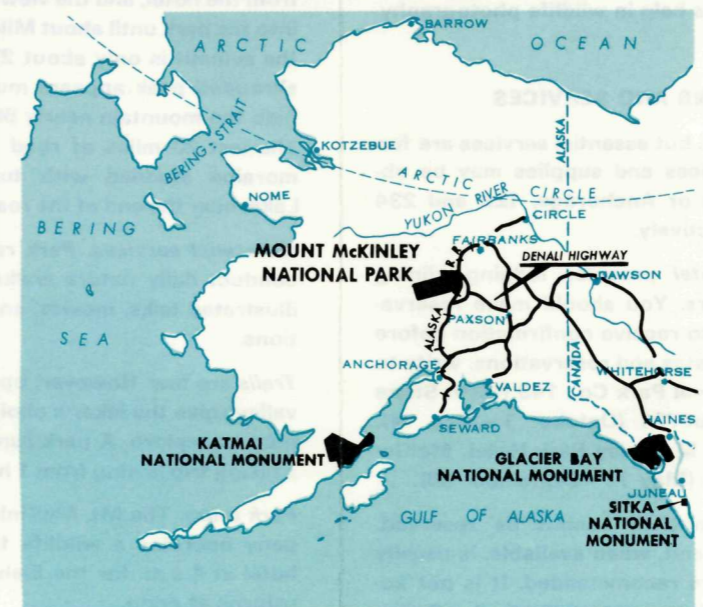
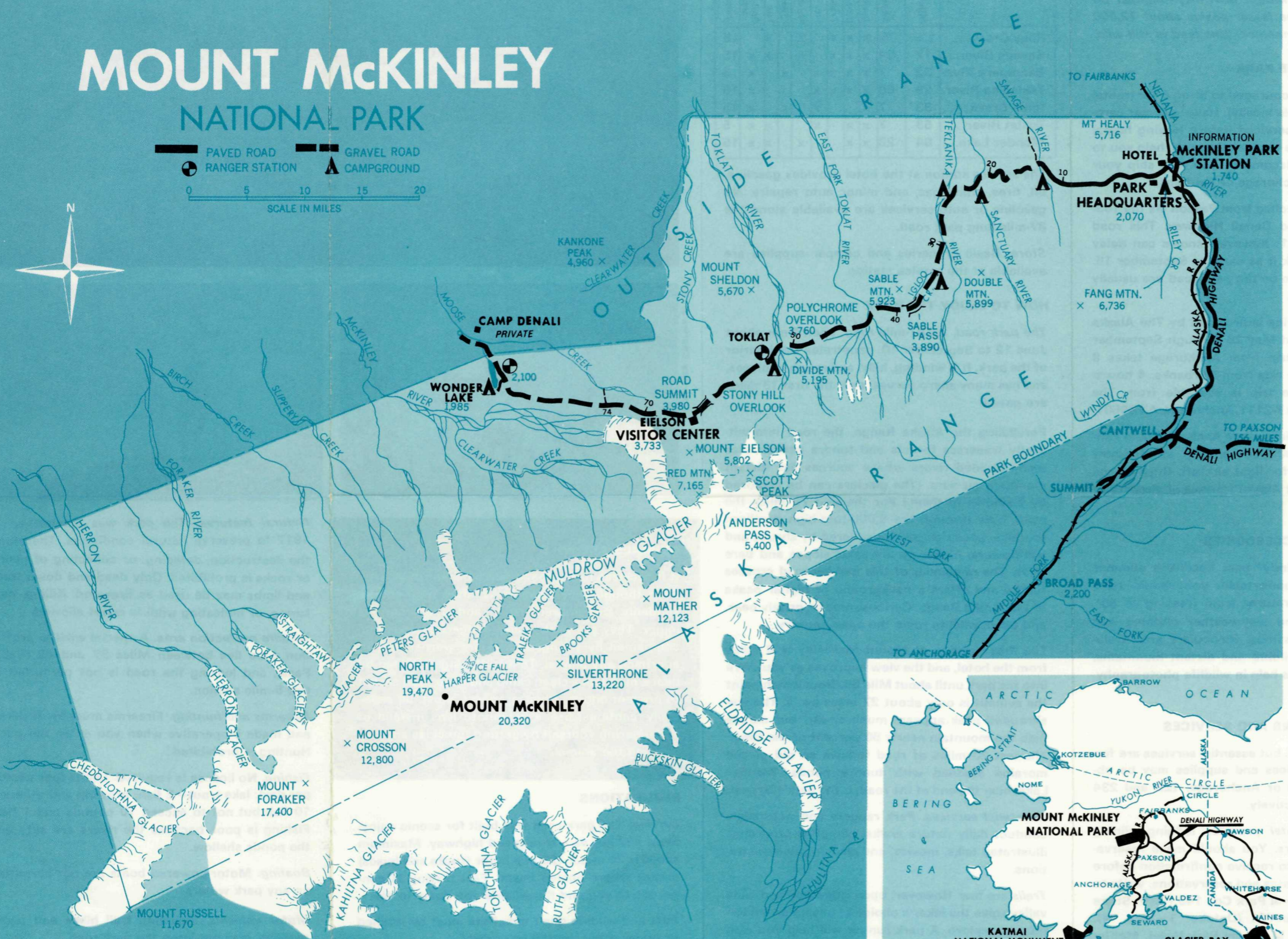
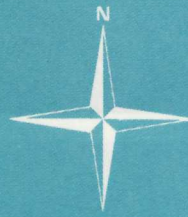
Mount McKinley National Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Mount McKinley National Park, Box 2252, Anchorage, AK 99501, is in immediate charge.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources." The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MOUNT MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK

PAVED ROAD GRAVEL ROAD
 RANGER STATION CAMPGROUND
 0 5 10 15 20
 SCALE IN MILES



0 100 300 500 1000
 SCALE IN FEET

