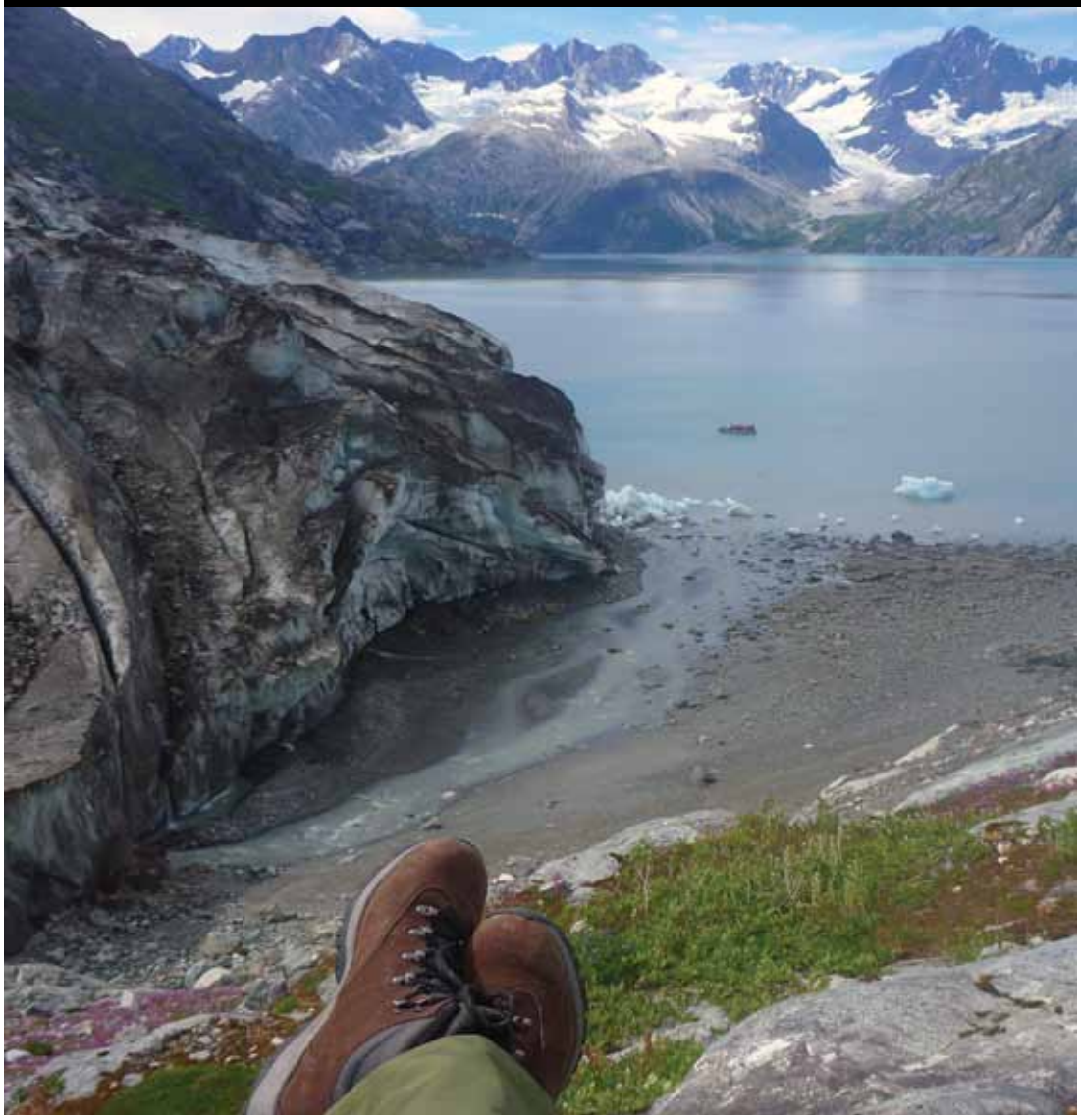
Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

Summer 2014

The FAIRWEATHER

VISITOR GUIDE



Alaska Geographic

Welcome to Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, one of the world's premier wilderness areas. From the high Fairweather peaks to deep sheltered fiords, Glacier Bay is known worldwide for its large, contiguous, intact ecosystems still dominated by natural processes. Glacier Bay is also a living laboratory that provides unparalleled opportunities to observe and study life returning to once barren landscapes. Small plants cling to life in sterile environments and new species arrive to colonize the blank slate left by retreating glaciers.

Glacier Bay offers the chance to witness a dynamic new land still emerging from the ice age. Great geological and biological changes can be observed within a single lifetime. Unique among our national parks, Glacier Bay was established to embrace the process of change. Indeed, no two visits are ever the same. Furthermore, the park is significant as the ancestral homeland of the Native Tlingit people whose culture thrives and remains vibrant today.

I hope that you'll take the opportunity to slow down and savor your Glacier Bay experience. Perhaps you will learn to see the world differently and gather a new appreciation for our national parks.

All of us who work here, whether rangers, scientists, administrators, work crews, volunteers, residents or partners, are linked by a shared appreciation and respect for one of the world's wildest places. We welcome your questions and comments, and we appreciate your interest and help in caring for this extraordinary place. It is, after all, your national park.

Have a safe and wonderful experience.

Susan L. Boudreau
Superintendent

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Fairweather

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Special thanks to the following photographers:
Bill Eichenlaub, Chris Gabriele, Duane Grego, Tania Lewis, Janet Neilson, Sean Nielson, Tim Rains, Fay Schaller, Steve Schaller, Tom VandenBerg, Jamie Womble, and NPS seasonal staff.

Printed on recycled paper using soy-based inks

The *Fairweather* is published by the Alaska Geographic Association in cooperation with Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. It is funded by revenue generated from Alaska Geographic bookstore sales.

Exploring Bartlett Cove

If you just have a few hours...

Stop by the Visitor Center: On the second floor of the Glacier Bay Lodge you will find the National Park Service Information Desk, Visitor Center, Auditorium, and public reading area. Open daily with a variety of exhibits and educational materials from Alaska Geographic for purchase.

Catch a film: The National Park Service shows several different films daily in the Auditorium.

Walk the Forest Trail: Go on your own or with a ranger. Daily ranger-led walks meet in the lodge. See trail details, page 28.

Go for a beach walk: See trail details, page 28.

Take in an evening program: Join a ranger in the auditorium for a presentation about the park.

If you have a half day...

Hike to the Bartlett River: See trail details, page 28.

Rent a bike: Start at the Glacier Bay Lodge and pedal towards Gustavus.

Explore the intertidal zone at low tide.

Join a Morning Discovery Hike with a park ranger.

If you have a full day...

Hike to Bartlett Lake: See trail details, page 28.

Go for a paddle: There are several options for kayaking around Bartlett Cove. Take a guided kayak trip or rent your own from Glacier Bay Sea Kayaks.

Become a Junior Ranger: Kids can visit the ranger at the NPS Information Desk to pick up their free Junior Ranger Activity Book. See page 30 for details.

Get the Latest Schedule of Events

Please see the National Park Service Visitor Center Information Desk in the Glacier Bay Lodge, the bulletin board in front of the lodge, or the Visitor Information Station (VIS) near the public dock for updates, desk hours, and evening program topics.

Tribal House Project

The Hoonah Indian Association and National Park Service (NPS) are working together to construct a traditional Tlingit tribal house on the shores of Bartlett Cove to provide a gathering place where tribal members can reconnect with their traditional homeland and park visitors will be inspired to learn about Tlingit history and life ways. Groundwork will begin this summer along the shoreline east of the Glacier Bay Lodge. When complete, this structure will be the first permanent clan house in Glacier Bay since Tlingit villages were destroyed by an advancing glacier over 250 years ago.

Cultural elements for the tribal house are currently being crafted in Hoonah by local Native artists. In 2011, carvers Gordon Greenwald, Owen James, Herb Sheakley, and Louie White, Jr. completed an elaborately carved and painted house screen which will serve as the centerpiece of the house interior. The screen depicts the stories of the four Glacier Bay clans and commemorates their deep connection to their Glacier Bay homeland. Carvers also completed four highly ornamented cedar house posts for the interior. This year, the artisans are working on a spectacular wooden exterior house screen which depicts Raven and Eagle, the two principal crests of Tlingit clans.

Many images of the carved elements are available on the Glacier Bay website and Facebook page.

The screen and house posts are currently on display in nearby Hoonah, but will eventually be incorporated into the Bartlett Cove tribal house. Once completed, the structure will serve as an interpretive center where visitors can learn about Tlingit culture and a venue where Tlingit communities and organizations can offer cultural workshops on topics such as Native art, woodworking, weaving, song and dance, healthy living, and more.

Tales of Two Whales

For many years a "Skeleton Crew" of park employees, whale-bone specialists, and Gustavus community members have worked together towards a common goal—to clean, repair, and articulate two unique whale skeletons. This summer the whales are finally complete and on permanent display!

The Gustavus Public Library now hosts a 12-foot juvenile killer whale skeleton, unveiled in February. Discovered dead in Glacier Bay in 2005, the whale was collected and preserved for educational purposes. Articulation and installation was a partnership effort, thanks to Alaskan articulation specialist Lee Post, the town of Gustavus, and Alaska Geographic. Gustavus school staff and students were thrilled to witness and participate in the articulation project on site. The high school students even painted the cast teeth seen in the display. Stop by the Gustavus Public Library to see this rare specimen (call 907-697-2350 for library hours).

In Bartlett Cove, visitors can now experience a full-sized humpback whale skeleton up-close! Whale 68, also known as Snow, is one of only 18 humpback skeletons on display world-wide. At an impressive 45.5 feet long,

she is second only to a 49-foot skeleton in Newfoundland. To prepare the skeleton for final display, the park contracted with articulation specialist, Dan DenDanto, of Whales and Nails. In October 2012, Snow traveled from Glacier Bay to Dan's shop in Maine via U-Haul—likely a record for overland whale migration. Dan spent the next 18 months cleaning and articulating the huge skeleton. During that time, the park maintenance crew constructed a beautiful exhibit shelter in Bartlett Cove. Snow returned home in late May, and is now a spectacular display. Look for her near the Visitor Information Station just a short walk from the Glacier Bay Lodge.

Glacier Bay as Homeland

Most visitors approach Glacier Bay with an eye to capturing something new—a first glimpse of an ice-blue glacier, a few days of solitude in wilderness waters, or peaceful moments walking through the towering forests of Bartlett Cove. Even those who return again and again have the opportunity to experience some new sight or sound, to reflect on some newly awakened feeling.

But for the Huna Tlingit, Glacier Bay is a place not just of new discoveries, but of reconnection with the life ways, knowledge, and ancestors of the past. It is a land that sustained them with a rich abundance of fish, wildlife, and plants, but more importantly a place that continues to sustain them through stories, songs, dances, and ongoing traditional practices. Although most Huna Tlingit today live across Icy Strait in the modern village of Hoonah, Glacier Bay remains their spiritual homeland.

Traditionally, four Huna Tlingit clans occupied territories in and around Glacier Bay. When Glacier Bay became a national monument in 1925, its borders encompassed much of the traditional Huna Tlingit homeland. New federal laws severely curtailed Native activities within the monument boundaries. So began a painful period of strained relations between the Huna Tlingit and the National Park Service.

But time has brought much healing. In recent years, the National Park Service has maintained an open dialogue with the Huna Tlingit and has actively encouraged tribal members to return to the park to carry out traditional activities that are compatible with current regulations, such as berry picking, fishing, and shellfish harvesting. Each year, the park sponsors a range of cultural trips which allow Hoonah youth, elders, and other tribal members the opportunity to reconnect with Glacier Bay and share their knowledge of, and experiences with, this place that figures so prominently in their spiritual lives.

Although the Huna Tlingit no longer live permanently in Glacier Bay, you will find tangible evidence of their presence in and around Bartlett Cove. The sea otter hunting canoe on display next to the Visitor Information Station was carved by a team of Native carvers in 1987. Two Tlingit trail markers carved into living spruce trees near Glacier Bay Lodge serve as reminders of ancient ties to the land. A perceptive visitor might also sense the intangible aspects of the Tlingit's enduring connection to homeland.

As you explore Bartlett Cove, allow yourself to hear the beat of traditional drums and the voices of ancestors recounting ancient clan stories. We each have the opportunity for new discoveries—or rediscoveries—of the wonders of this special place.

Glacier-Making Weather

Glacier Bay has a maritime climate, heavily influenced by ocean currents. The result is mild winter temperatures and cool summer temperatures near sea level. Summer visitors can expect highs between 50°-to-60° F (10°-15° C). Winter temperatures rarely drop into the single digits, with average nighttime lows in the mid-20s and highs in the upper-30s.

Bartlett Cove receives about 70-75 inches of precipitation annually. You may find yourself thinking it's all coming down during your visit. April, May, and June are usually the driest months of the year, while September and October tend to be the wettest. All this moisture helps to create the lush temperate rainforests of the lower bay.

Keep in mind, these are weather conditions at sea level. Up in the mountains, conditions are more severe with colder temperatures and more precipitation that takes the form of snow. It's all that snow falling year after year that goes into creating the magnificent glaciers we love to see.

What to Wear?
The weather in Glacier Bay can change quickly over the course of the day, especially if you are traveling into the bay. Dressing appropriately will enhance your trip by allowing you to stay out in the elements and make the most of wildlife and glacier viewing. Remember, it's usually cooler on the water and near glaciers.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Glacier Bay was recently honored with the EPA Environmental Leadership Award for its amazing recycling program. Over 95 percent of the park's solid waste is sorted and shipped to Juneau for processing. Aluminum, paper products, steel, and #1 and #2 plastics go on to recycling centers. Locally, food waste from the park and the lodge, wood chips and brush from downed trees and clearing are composted into topsoil for the community. Composted sewage sludge is used as fertilizer. Any glass you throw away in the park will be pulverized into small non-sharp particles and used to stabilize roadbeds.

Receptacles for campers, boaters, and other park users are located near the Visitor Information Station. Please separate trash before placing it in the appropriate bins. This initial separation helps make it possible for up to 65 percent of waste generated in day-to-day park operations to be recycled or reused.

How can you help?

Please separate your waste into the appropriate bins near the Visitor Information Station located by the public dock.

Thank you!

Tides

The tidal fluctuations in Glacier Bay can be as high as 25 feet. This means that one moment you may be standing on the beach looking at mud flats stretching out for 100 yards and hours later the water is lapping at your toes. Or worse: one minute you've pulled your kayak up on shore so you can enjoy lunch, but you wake up 30 minutes later from your post-lunch nap to see your kayak floating away.

Tides result from the gravitational pull between the sun and the moon, and their relationship to the Earth. As these three celestial bodies are constantly in motion, the amount of gravitational pull varies and the tide levels change. Because it's closer, the moon has the strongest influence on the tides. Its gravitational attraction causes the water surrounding the Earth to bulge. It bulges on the side closest to the moon due to gravitational pull. The bulge on the opposite side of the Earth is due to centrifugal force.

You hardly need to spend more than six hours in Bartlett Cove to realize that there is something interesting going on with the tides.

There are usually two high and two low tides daily on the West Coast. The times for highs and lows shift about 50 minutes later on consequent days. This means if high tide is at 9:00 a.m. one day, it will be high at about 9:50 a.m. the next day, around 10:40 a.m. the next, and so on. Local conditions, such as topography, also influence the tides and the currents they generate. The entrance to Glacier Bay is narrow, yet a great deal of water must rush through that opening twice daily, creating currents in Sitakaday Narrows as strong as seven knots.

To see this incredible force in action, walk down to the water's edge about an hour after high or low tide. Fix your gaze on a shell or a piece of seaweed and watch how its proximity to the water's edge changes in just minutes. Be sure to keep that in mind when you decide to enjoy an after-lunch nap on your next paddling adventure.

"The Master Builder chose for a tool, not the thunder and lightning to rend and split asunder, not the stormy torrent nor the eroding rain, but the tender snowflake, noiselessly falling through unnumbered generations."

— John Muir

Blue Ice, White Ice

If you've ever played with a prism in the sunlight, you know that natural light is made up of all the colors of the rainbow.

Each color of light has a specific wavelength and certain amount of energy. Colors such as red and yellow have long wavelengths and consequently low energy. But blue, with its short wavelengths, has high energy.

Glacier ice is made up of large, tightly packed ice crystals. When sunlight hits glacier ice, the ice acts like a prism and separates the light according to its wavelength. Low energy colors like red and yellow are absorbed by the ice. Blue has enough energy to reflect out to our eyes.

If the surface of the glacier ice becomes weathered or if the ice contains many air bubbles, the blue light becomes diffused. The ice appears white.

Rivers of Ice

A glacier is born high in the mountains, where the only precipitation that falls is snow, and the snow that falls does not melt. A slight depression on the mountainside catches this snow. Year after year, the snowflakes pile up. Soon the sheer weight of this vast accumulation presses down on itself. The snow compresses. The flakes change shape and fuse into ice. Eventually, the weight of the ice is too much for the depression to hold against gravity and the ice begins to flow downhill seeking equilibrium. Now that it's moving, it's a glacier.

Like a river, the glacier flows down the mountain choosing the path of least resistance. As it moves, it incorporates rocks into its lower layers. These acquired rocks grind away at the bedrock. In time, the glacial ice will carve deep valleys in the mountainside.

When the ice reaches lower, warmer elevations, it begins to melt. Eventually the loss through melting is greater than the supply of ice flowing down the mountain. The glacier ceases to make further progress, though the body of ice is still moving down the mountain. At this point, the glacier is like a one-way conveyor belt moving ice out of the mountains into the valleys.

Glaciologists have identified different types of glaciers based on their characteristics. For example, a glacier that remains confined within valley walls is a valley glacier. If it flows out of the valley and spreads out, it's a piedmont glacier. If it simply drops out of the valley, it's a hanging glacier. But the type of glacier most folks in Glacier Bay are interested in is the type that ends in the sea: the tidewater glacier.

Compared to glacial ice, seawater is warm and highly erosive. Waves and tides work away at the unstable glacier face, causing huge chunks to calve or break off into the ocean.

Barring significant climate changes, a glacier is in a constant state of renewal. New snow will continue to fall in the mountain basin to replace the snow that has compacted into ice and begun to flow downhill. The length of time it takes for a snowflake that falls in the mountains to emerge at the end, or terminus, of a glacier varies, depending on the speed at which the glacier is flowing. Scientists estimate ice you see at the face of the park's glaciers to be around 200 years old.

The Ice Is Melting

The Earth's climate is changing—and fast! Climate change is real, and the world will be different because of it. Scientists who study the Earth's climate have documented warming temperatures in Alaska. Of the more than 100,000 glaciers in the state, 95 percent are currently thinning, stagnating, or retreating, and more importantly, the rate of thinning is increasing. Glacier Bay's glaciers follow this trend. However, due to heavy snowfall in the Fairweather Mountains, Glacier Bay remains home to a few healthy and even advancing glaciers, a rarity in today's world.

Glacial melting and a warming ocean (water expands when warmed) will contribute to sea level rise. Fortunately, though, Glacier Bay's shorelines are unlikely to be inundated. As the park's glaciers melt and remove their great weight from the land, the Earth's crust will slowly "bounce upward" to compensate. This "isostatic rebound" should more than keep up with rising sea level.

The next time you are near saltwater take a good look around. You can be guaranteed that the next time you visit, it will be different. The Earth's climate is changing and Glacier Bay is warming—how will these changes affect you?

Glacier	*Height* Above and Below Waterline	*Width*	*Length*	*Flow Rate* (in feet)	*Status*
Grand Pacific	60-180 feet above 0-60 feet below	2 miles	34.5 miles	1-4 feet / day 350-1,200 feet / year	Slowly Receding/ Thinning
Johns Hopkins	250 feet above 200 feet below	1 mile	12.5 miles	10-15 feet / day 4,000 feet / year	Advancing/ Thickening
Lamplugh	150-180 feet above 10-40 feet below	.75 miles	16 miles	2-3 feet / day 1,200 feet / year	Stable to Receding/ Thinning
Margerie	250 feet above 50-100 feet below	1 mile	21 miles	6-8 feet / day 2,000 feet / year	Stable
McBride	200-250 feet above est. 300 feet below	.5 miles	12 miles	15-20 feet / day 5,000-7,000 feet / year*	Rapidly Receding
Muir	30 feet above 0 feet below	.5 miles	12.5 miles	.5 feet / day 150 feet / year*	Slowly Receding/ Thinning
Reid	>20-130 feet above 0-10 feet below	.75 miles	9.5 miles	1-3 feet / day 800 feet / year*	Slowly Receding/ Thinning
Riggs	20-90 feet above 0 feet below	.75 miles	14.5 miles	1-2 feet / day 600 feet / year*	Slowly Receding/ Thinning

* Estimated figures provided by Dr. Dan Lawson of the CRREL.

The Many Voices of Glacier Bay

A howling wolf, a thunderous calving glacier, the breath of a whale, a rainforest full of songbirds… Some of the most powerful experiences that people have in Glacier Bay are linked to what they hear. Sounds give us a sense of scale in this vast wilderness and make us wonder about how animals use sounds in their daily lives.

Learning by listening

Sounds are also a rich source of scientific knowledge. By studying the voices of Glacier Bay, we can understand and protect natural soundscapes for visitor enjoyment and for the animals that live here. With specialized recording equipment and analyses we try to find out:

- How many species of songbirds have arrived this spring?
- How many different sounds does a raven make?
- Is vessel and aircraft noise audible at backcountry campsites?
- Is Glacier Bay quieter than a typical National Park? (Yes.)

In 2013, Glacier Bay began an exciting project to create a sound library that will be equal parts scientific collection and educational treasure trove. We are working with two long-time Alaska naturalists at the University of Alaska Southeast to collect hundreds of high-quality recordings of animals and physical phenomena (think glaciers, raindrops, and kayaking) in Glacier Bay. Park rangers will share these sounds with visitors in many ways. The recordings will also be available to all through Cornell University's Library of Natural Sounds.

Have you ever heard the sounds of live barnacles?

Naturalist Richard Nelson scans for sounds while kayaking.

Under the surface

In the underwater world, sound travels faster and farther than in air. Marine mammals live immersed in a world alive with the sizzle of rainfall, the hiss of whitecaps, and voices of other creatures. They rely on their hearing for most tasks where a human would use their vision, like finding food or avoiding predators. Unfortunately, vessel engine noise can temporarily make it harder for them to listen and communicate with others. Researchers place underwater recording gear on the seafloor to find out:

- Why do male harbor seals "roar" underwater during the breeding season?
- Do humpback whales change their calling behavior in noisy conditions?
- What kind of sea creature makes weird "knocking" sounds?
- Is vessel noise audible even in park areas closed to vessels?

Drop In, Tune In, Check It Out

Take time for solitude and stillness during your visit. Try to listen as intently as you look. You'll be amazed at what you hear.

Rather than going underwater to listen for whales, enjoy the live underwater audio available at the Listening Station Kiosks at the Visitor Center and Visitor Information Station. You may be surprised by the many sounds picked up by the park's underwater hydrophone.

After your visit, you can still tune in to the many voices of Glacier Bay by listening to some of our favorite sound clips on the park's website.

Sophisticated Sonar Senses Salmon

Salmon are Alaska's quintessential symbol of wildness and vitality. They are also a critical component of Glacier Bay's ecosystem. Not only are they an important food source for a variety of creatures including bears, wolves, seals, eagles, and people, they also "fertilize" streams and nearby forests with their own decomposing bodies after spawning. Each summer the Bartlett River is home to runs of sockeye, pink, coho, and chum salmon, and the amount of fishing along its banks has doubled in the last 10 years. Managers are working to ensure that healthy salmon runs continue within the park's most heavily fished river.

To determine the actual numbers of fish that spawn in the Bartlett, the park is conducting a four-year study to count coho salmon with high-resolution sonar. Using clean fuel cell energy, the sonar operates much like a typical fish finder. As salmon swim upstream, they pass the sonar which captures high quality "sound" images as they go by. The sonar is so sensitive that individual fish can be identified, counted, and sized from the images. Last summer was a big salmon run, and over 1,600 hours of sonar imagery were captured!

If you are fishing along the Bartlett River, park staff may interview you for this study. Your answers will help us estimate overall angler effort and salmon harvest. Results from these studies will provide us with a detailed baseline against which future changes in salmon abundance and harvest can be compared to ensure that future generations of salmon, bears, seals, and park visitors will continue to enjoy the rich productivity of the Bartlett River.

Fishing the Bartlett River

- Harvested fish must be kept within 6 feet of person.
- All harvested fish must be packed out whole, except for gills and entrails which should be disposed of in the deepest and fastest current of the stream.
- If a bear approaches while you have fish on the line, cut the line.
- Never yield your catch or other food items to a bear or other wildlife.

A Brief Timeline of Glacier Bay

Prehistoric to present: Tlingit Indians and their ancestors had both permanent and seasonal settlements in much of what is now Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. Several hundred years ago at the end of the Little Ice Age, advancing glaciers forced the Tlingit people to abandon their villages and move to Hoonah, across Icy Strait from Glacier Bay.

Today, many Huna Tlingits still regard Glacier Bay as their ancestral home, and feel a special connection to it. See page 5.

1877 Lieutenant C.E.S. Wood hired Tlingit guides to hunt mountain goats in the St. Elias Mountains. Convinced instead to hunt in Glacier Bay, he encountered Tlingit seal hunters encamped in several places. Wood was the first outsider to record a detailed account of Native life, wildlife and scenery.

1778 Captain James Cook of the H.M.S. *Resolution* names Mt. Fairweather. His crew includes George Vancouver and William Bligh.

1750 *1800* *1850*

1750 The Little Ice Age is ending and the glaciers begin to retreat.

1794 Captain George Vancouver of the H.M.S. *Discovery* and Lt. Joseph Whidbey describe Glacier Bay as "a compact sheet of ice as far as the eye could distinguish." The "bay" is a mere 5-mile indentation in the coastline.

1786 Captain Jean-Francois de Galaup de Lapérouse's party of the Boussole and Astrolabe while in Lituya Bay described the native peoples they met there, and the cartographers created the first detailed maps of park landforms. The expedition met tragedy on July 13 when 21 sailors were lost in a tidal wave at the mouth of Lituya Bay.

1879 Guided by Tlingit Indians from Fort Wrangell, John Muir enters the bay in a dugout canoe accompanied by a Presbyterian missionary named S. Hall Young. Glacial ice has retreated into the bay 40 miles since 1794.

1880 Guided by a Tlingit Indian named Tyeen, John Muir and Young return to visit Taylor Bay, Dundas Bay and what will become known as Muir Glacier. Stickeen, a small dog, is part of the expedition.

1884 Captain Carroll pilots the side-wheel steamer *Ancon* to Muir Glacier, which will become a popular tourist destination until the 1899 earthquake.

1890 Muir makes his third visit to Glacier Bay, this time constructing a cabin at the base of Mt. Wright. He makes extensive observations of glaciers and explains the interglacial tree stumps.

1899 On September 10, a tremendous earthquake centered in Yakutat Bay causes rapid and extensive calving in Glacier Bay, leaving the waters ice-choked and impassable to ships.

1900

1916 William S. Cooper, ecologist from the University of Minnesota, arrives in Glacier Bay to begin a study of plant succession. He returns five more times between 1921 and 1966.

1922 Cooper suggests national monument status for Glacier Bay to the Ecological Society of America.

1925 President Coolidge establishes Glacier Bay National Monument on February 26.

1939 A presidential proclamation by Franklin Roosevelt doubles the size of Glacier Bay National Monument.

1953 Canadian Pacific Steamship Company brings the first modern cruise ships into the area.

1950

1966 Glacier Bay Lodge opens.

1980 The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act is signed into law. Glacier Bay becomes a national park. Preserve lands are added. The new park and preserve total almost 3.3 million acres, of which 2.7 are designated Wilderness.

1986 Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, along with Admiralty Island National Monument, is designated an International Biosphere Reserve.

1992 Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve — together with Wrangell/St. Elias National Park (Alaska), Kluane National Park Reserve (Canada) and Tatshenshini-Alsek Provincial Park (Canada) — becomes part of a 24-million-acre World Heritage Site.

1995 The National Park Service and Huna Tlingits sign a Memorandum of Understanding, establishing a working relationship.

1998-1999 Congress passes legislation regarding the management of commercial fishing activities in Glacier Bay National Park.

2013 About 500,000 people visited Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve.

2000

Wildlife Viewing

By Land

Moose
Alces alces

The largest member of the deer family is a recent newcomer to the bay. The first moose was spotted here in the late 1960s. Despite their tremendous size (bulls can weigh 1,600 pounds and cows 1,300 pounds), they can appear and disappear in thick brush with surprising stealth. Moose are usually solitary, except for cows with calves and during the fall rutting season. Cows give birth in the spring to one or two small, reddish calves, though usually no more than one survives. A calf will stay with its mother for two years before the cow drives it off as she prepares to have more young. Their diet includes willow leaves, grasses, herbs, and aquatic vegetation. Only bulls grow antlers.

Porcupine
Erethizon dorsatum

You may find this prickly member of the community high up in a cottonwood tree nibbling tasty tender leaves. Except for their footpads and nose, porcupines are completely covered with yellowish fur and quills, which are actually modified hairs tipped with barbs. A threatened porcupine will turn its back-end toward the source of trouble to present an intimidating display of quills that firmly suggests the would-be predator reconsider its dinner plans. This large rodent (second largest in North America behind the beaver) performs a broad repertoire of grunts, whimpers, and screams. Listen for them in the evenings "talking" to no one in particular.

Mountain Goats
Oreamnos americanus

Arguably the most dapper of Glacier Bay's mammals, mountain goats sport thick white coats of hollow hairs (that keep them warm in extreme weather), accented by black horns and hooves. Goats may have been among the first land animals to recolonize Glacier Bay after the ice retreated, coming over the mountains from Lynn Canal to the east. They are at home on the steep rocky cliffs in the mid-to-upper bay. The special shape and design of their hooves allows them to leap nimbly from ledge to ledge in search of grasses, herbs, and low-growing shrubs. Seen at a distance, they are often mistaken for Dall sheep, which are found in the Interior.

Red Squirrel
Tamiasciurus hudsonicus

If you see a little red flash zipping up a tree trunk or leaping nimbly among the branches, chances are it is a red squirrel. These agile rodents spend their summer preparing for winter by collecting and storing green spruce cones in their underground caches. Like forest alarms, they chatter unrelentingly when a threat—like you—is near. They are a comedy tour de force when they harvest dandelion seed heads or go out on a limb for a savory green alder cone, and it is worth your time to stop and enjoy.

When the ice retreated in Glacier Bay, it left behind a scoured landscape of rocks and mud. In time, plants returned to the seemingly sterile land. Eventually, animals returned to the land and waters within the bay. Today, a wide variety of creatures call Glacier Bay home for at least part of the year, and the number could grow as more creatures find their way to this evolving landscape. As you explore Bartlett Cove or as you cruise up the bay, keep your eye out for some of these more frequently seen members of the community.

By Sea

Steller Sea Lion

Eumetopias jubatus

Like all members of the eared seal family *Otariidae*, Steller sea lions can support themselves on their flippers while ashore, and their rear flippers pivot, allowing them to get around with surprising speed. In the water they become fluid, executing a seemingly endless series of underwater flips, turns, and rolls. Mature males can weigh almost 2,000 pounds, but females average only 600 pounds. During mating season, large bulls compete at established rookery sites on Glacier Bay's outer coast to collect harems of females. Unsuccessful and immature males often congregate at haul-out areas like South Marble Island. Though the number of sea lions is growing in the bay, the population in Western Alaska has decreased by 80 percent since the late-1970s leading to that portion of the population's current listing as endangered.

Harbor Porpoise

Phocoena phocoena

At five feet long and about 120 pounds, harbor porpoise are the smallest cetaceans in Alaska waters. Often seen in groups of two to ten throughout the bay, they announce themselves by offering a brief glimpse of their small triangular dorsal fin cutting slowly through the water's surface when they come up to catch a breath. Harbor porpoise are generally dark gray with a slightly pointed face. They do not ride bow wakes, like their relative the Dall's porpoise, which are larger (6.4 feet and 300 pounds) and esemble a small orca in their black and white coloration. Though Dall's porpoise can be seen in the bay, they are more often near the entrance and in Icy Strait.

Harbor Seal

Phoca vitulina richardsi

Harbor seals have a dappled gray coat that can be highly variable between individuals. A thick layer of fat allows them to keep warm in otherwise chilling conditions. Unlike the sea lion, harbor seals have no external earflap and when out of the water, cannot support themselves on their flippers. On ice floes, they resemble plump sausages that move around by scooting on their ample bellies. In the water, they display admirable grace as they hunt for fish. Up to 1,700 seals converge on Johns Hopkins Inlet each summer for pupping and mating. Ongoing research in the park indicates that the population in the inlet has declined 75 percent in the past decade.

Sea Otter

Enhydra lutris

The Glacier Bay sea otter population has rebounded from zero to almost 9,000 in the last 20 years. Voracious eaters of things like crabs and clams, they exert a strong influence on their environment and scientists anticipate dramatic changes will take place in the underwater world of Glacier Bay. Sea otters perform many of their daily tasks such as eating, bathing, and sleeping while floating on their backs. Lacking a thick layer of blubber, otters instead have the densest fur of any mammal with up to one million hairs per square inch. Generally dark brown, their faces get whiter as they age.

Be Bear Savvy

Glacier Bay National Park is home to both brown bears, *Ursus arctos*, and black bears, *Ursus americanus*. Black bears are primarily creatures of woodlands and are found among the forested areas of the lower bay, including Bartlett Cove. In contrast, park biologists have recently discovered that brown bears inhabit virtually every part of Glacier Bay, from the barren glaciated areas to lush old growth forests.

While walking, hiking or camping in Glacier Bay, you may encounter a bear. The vast majority of these encounters do not result in human injury or property damage. You can help prevent injury to yourself or to the bear by taking a few basic precautions.

- Be alert.
- Be aware of what goes on around your campsite.
- Make noise, especially in wind or near rushing water.
- Choose routes that offer good visibility.
- Travel in groups of two or more.
- Keep your personal items and food within reach.
- Do not pursue or approach bears for photographs.
- Avoid streams with spawning fish.

Be a Smart Camper

Both campers and bears frequent the beaches of Glacier Bay. Bears only have six to eight months to acquire the calories and fat reserves needed for the entire year, and the shoreline is essential for food and travel. The following guidelines will minimize your disruption of bears and help keep them wild.

Cooking and storing food

- Cook and eat in the intertidal zone at least 100 yards from your tent and food storage area.
- Wash cooking gear in marine waters.
- Be prepared to quickly stow all food should a bear suddenly approach.
- Keep all food, trash, and other scented items in a bear-resistant food container (BRFC).
- At night, store BRFCs and clean cooking gear in brush or behind rocks away from animal trails 100 yards from camp, not in your boat.

Choosing a campsite

- Avoid areas with bear sign including an abundance of scat, animal trails, and chewed or clawed trees.
- Avoid active salmon streams.
- Store your kayak and pitch your tent clear of the beach.
- Select a site that would allow bears room to pass at high tide.

Control your gear

- Keep gear together. The more spread out your gear is the more difficult it is to defend.
- To minimize potential bear damage to gear, consider breaking down your campsite daily.

When encountering humans, most bears will run away, approach curiously, appear to ignore the situation or act defensively. By staying alert, calm, and tailoring your reaction to the bear's behavior and species, you increase the odds of a positive outcome for both you and the bear.

If You See a Bear

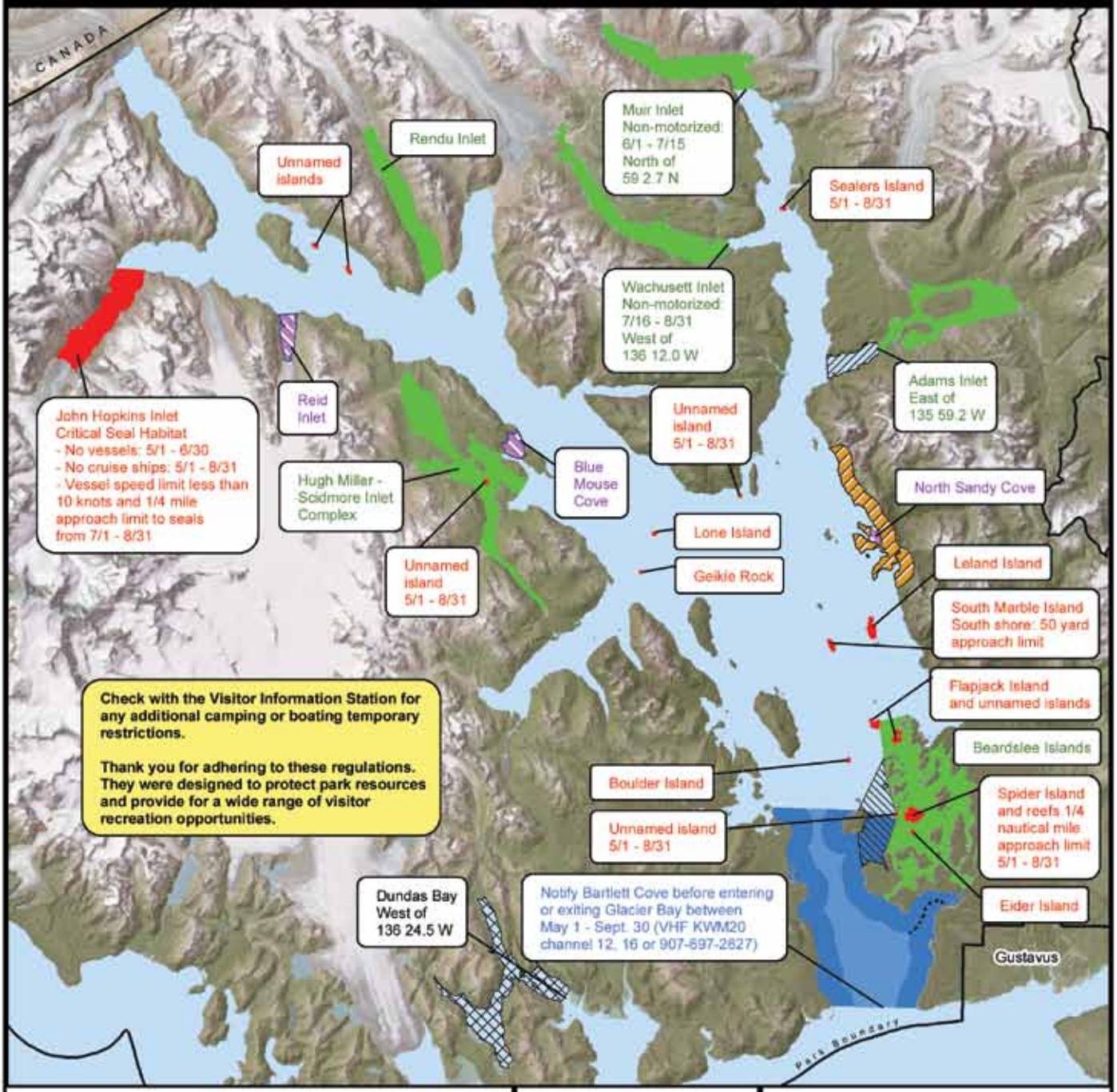
The Bear	What You Can Do
May or may not be aware of you	*What is your activity and degree of mobility?* *You are hiking or kayaking (mobile):* • Change your course to avoid bear. • Monitor bear's movement. • If bear is close, talk calmly to avoid surprising it. *You are camping or eating (not mobile):* • Keep all gear under direct control. • Group together without blocking bear's route. • Talk calmly to make bear aware of you. • Stand your ground.
Moves toward you	• Monitor bear's movement. • Stand your ground and talk calmly. • Allow bear to pass peacefully.
Becomes focused on you	• Stay together and stand your ground. • Be assertive and elevate your defense: clap your hands, wave your arms, use noisemakers, such as air horns or bang pots together.
Charges	• Continue to stand your ground and look big. • Use pepper spray if you have it. • Few charges end in contact.
If a bear makes contact	• Fight back vigorously. • This is likely a predatory attack.
Enters your tent	• Fight back.

If You Surprise a Bear

The Bear	What You Can Do
May react defensively and may snort, huff, pop its jaw, or charge	• Stand your ground and talk calmly to the bear. • Attempt to move away slowly.
Begins to follow you	• Stand your ground.
Charges	• Use pepper spray.
Is a brown bear and makes contact	• Play dead—lie flat, face down on the ground, and lace your fingers behind your head. Do not move.
Is a black bear and makes contact	• Fight back vigorously. • This is likely a predatory attack.

Vessel Regulation Guide

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior



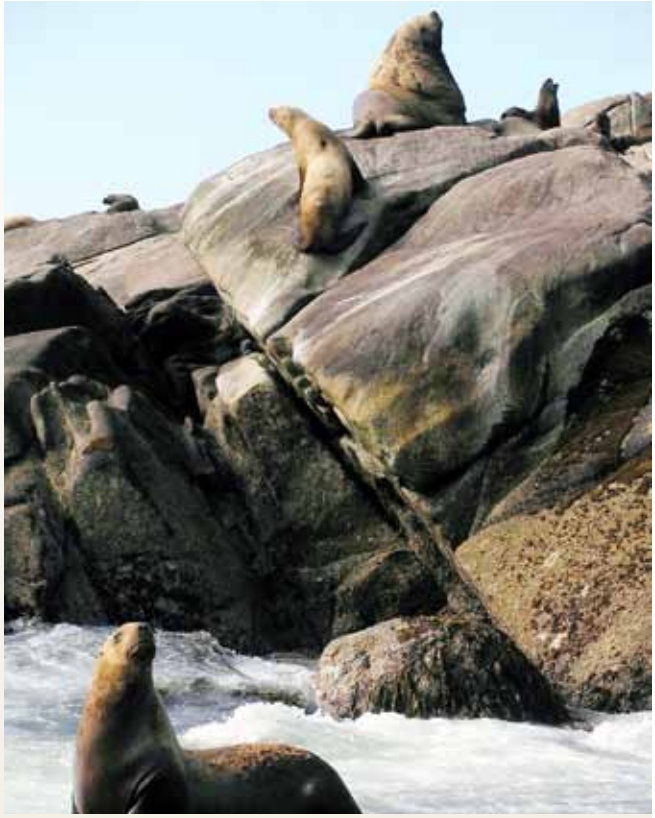
Life's No Picnic

You are picnicking alone on an idyllic beach when a boat roars up out of nowhere. It stops just offshore. Its wake washes the beach, taking away half your lunch. People on the boat laugh and talk loudly. Camera flashes explode. You drop your lunch and dash off into the underbrush.

You've just experienced what happens to wildlife when thoughtlessly approached by humans. The effects can be devastating. Steller sea lions tumble over one another as they stampede from haul-outs to get into the water, risking injury and expending valuable energy. Breeding birds flushed from nests leave eggs vulnerable to cooler temperatures and predators.

To reduce disturbance to wildlife and protect sensitive areas, the park has regulations that define the minimum distance you must keep from animals. During your visit, you can help to protect wildlife by doing the following:

- Know and observe all minimum distances and closures (see page 18).
- When viewing wildlife, approach and depart slowly and cautiously.
- Use binoculars or a telephoto lens so you can view from afar.
- Avoid sudden movements or loud noises.
- Don't approach large rafts of birds or any animals. If an animal changes its behavior because of your presence, you are too close.
- Avoid stressing wildlife. The animals living here are engaged in a daily struggle to find food, shelter, and water necessary for survival.



Sea Lion Success

Marine mammals are a highlight of any visit to Glacier Bay. One significant species is the Steller sea lion. The number of sea lions in the Glacier Bay region has changed dramatically in the last few decades, especially around South Marble Island. Visitors in the 1980s would have been lucky to spot 150, while most trips to the island this summer will yield over 1,000 sea lions! This is the most rapid growth of their population recorded anywhere.

In 1990, Steller sea lions in Alaska were listed under the Endangered Species Act. Two distinct population segments are recognized: a western and an eastern segment. The Eastern population includes sea lions living in southeast Alaska, British Columbia, California, and Oregon.

In November 2013, the National Marine Fisheries Service concluded that although the western segment is still declining, eastern Steller sea lions have recovered enough that they have been removed from the threatened species list. Although de-listed, they will remain protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. During your visit, look and listen for the evidence of sea lion success in Glacier Bay, as they lounge on the shore, splash in the sea, and fill the air with roaring voices.

National Marine Fisheries Service, permit no. 945-1776-0

On this mother and calf, you see how biologists recognize individual whales by photographing the black and white pigment pattern on the underside of their tail flukes, which is stable over the whale's lifetime.

Glacier Bay Is Home for Humpback Whales

Seeing a humpback whale in Glacier Bay is an unforgettable experience for many visitors. The true giants of Glacier Bay's waters, these endangered animals are 40-50 feet (12-16 m) long and weigh over 35 tons (32,000 kg). The humpback is a baleen whale that migrates seasonally. Most Glacier Bay whales swim to Hawaii each winter to mate and give birth, a 2,500-mile (4,000 km) journey that takes about a month each way. These whales do not eat while they are wintering in the tropics. All spring, summer, and fall in Alaska, they gorge themselves on high-calorie small schooling fish such as capelin and herring.

The park's whale monitoring program began in 1985, and is now one of the world's longest running studies of humpbacks. Since the 1970s, biologists have identified more than 665 different individual humpback whales in Glacier Bay and Icy Strait. In 2013, about 250 different whales were documented, including some with sighting histories spanning 42 years! Commercial whaling for humpbacks in Alaska ceased in the 1960s, and the southeastern Alaska population is now increasing about five percent annually.

Humpback whale population recovery is a conservation success story, but in populated areas it creates more opportunities for collisions with vessels. All types and sizes of vessels, from kayaks to cruise ships, have accidentally hit whales in Alaska. Colliding with a whale, especially in a fast-moving, small vessel, is dangerous and scary. To protect your own safety and these magnificent creatures, proceed cautiously and reduce your speed in areas where whales may be present.

Biologists have been monitoring humpbacks in Glacier Bay for 30 years.

Whale Watching

To minimize disturbance to endangered humpback whales, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve has developed some of the most protective boating rules visitors will find anywhere. Because the park's mission is to protect and preserve these magnificent creatures, we maintain strict operating and speed restrictions in critical whale habitat.

Rules for All National Park Waters

All vessels, including kayaks, must not:

- Operate within 1/4 nautical mile of a humpback whale.
- Pursue a humpback whale within ½ nautical mile by altering course or speed in a manner that results in decreasing the distance between the whale and the vessel.

Whale Waters

These are special areas in Glacier Bay that require additional speed and operating restrictions. These critical areas change depending on current whale activity in the bay. See Boating Guide on page 18 for areas and dates that regulations are in effect and check at the VIS for additional temporary restrictions before setting out.

Rules for Lower Glacier Bay Whale Waters (May 15-Sept 30)

All vessels must operate within speed restrictions. Check at the VIS for current status. Motorized vessels over 18 feet in length must:

- Maintain a distance of at least one mile from shore. In narrower areas, navigate a mid-channel course (unless fishing or operating solely under sail).
- Approach or land on shore perpendicularly, taking the most direct line to shore.
- Watch for additional whale waters designations in other areas. Check at the VIS for current whale waters boundaries and regulations.

What do you do if a whale suddenly appears in front of you?

If your vessel is accidentally positioned within a 1/4 nautical mile of a humpback whale, immediately slow your vessel to ten knots or less. Don't shift into reverse unless impact is likely. Then, carefully direct or maintain your course away from the whale until at least 1/4 nautical mile separation exists.

National Marine Fisheries Service Permit No. 945-1776

Park Information

Welcome to Glacier Bay

If you intend to camp or boat during your visit, your first stop should be at the Visitor Information Station (VIS) near the public dock. During the summer, a free permit is required for all boating and overnight camping. Orientations, provided with the permit, are required annually for all campers and skippers. They cover the following: rules and regulations, resource concerns, safety issues, and tides. Backcountry campers can also check out bear-resistant food containers (BRFC) to use free of charge during their visit.

We want you to make the most of your visit, and we want to make sure you do it safely and with minimum impact, so others who follow will be able to enjoy the wildness this land can offer. It is your responsibility to know and obey the rules and regulations of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. If you have any questions, please ask a ranger.

Hypothermia—Killer Cold

In the backcountry, good rain gear is a must. Staying dry will help you stay warm as wet clothing can wick away body heat and lead to hypothermia—the lowering of the body's core temperature. Hypothermia can kill. Prevention and early recognition are vital to safe camping. A victim of hypothermia may not realize his or her condition, and will often deny being cold or needing help.

Early Symptoms: Violent shivering, changes in mood or consciousness, irritability, cool, pale skin, slow or weak pulse, slow, shallow breathing.

Advanced Symptoms: Absence of shivering, unconsciousness.

Treatment: Prevent further heat loss. Provide shelter from cold, rain, wet ground, and wind. Replace wet clothing with dry synthetic clothing. Techniques to stay warm include:

- Wrap patient in space blanket, sleeping bag, or ground cloth.
- Wrap warm water bottles in cloth and place in the sleeping bag with patient.
- Provide close contact with another warm person.
- Build a fire.
- Feed patient sugars, carbohydrates, or sweet warm drinks.
- Keep patient awake.

DO NOT: Give alcohol. Rub or massage affected area. Expose to excessive heat.

Park Regulations

The following is a partial listing of laws and regulations designed to help you have a safe, enjoyable visit while protecting park resources. For futher information or questions on additional regulations, please ask a park ranger.

Feeding Wildlife is prohibited. All food, fish, garbage, and equipment used to cook or store food must be cached in a sealed motor vehicle, vessel (excluding kayaks), building, BRFC, designated trash receptacle, or designated food cache.

Firearms are prohibited in federal facilities. Special regulations apply when carrying firearms within Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. Please contact the Visitor Information Station at Bartlett Cove at 907-697-2627 for further guidance.

Hunting is only permitted on the preserve lands in the Dry Bay area. All persons 16 years and older are required to hold a valid Alaska State Hunting License.

Harvesting the following for personal consumption or use is allowed: unoccupied seashells, all edible berries and fruits, edible mushrooms, clams and mollusks. State regulations apply. NOTE: Eating clams and mussels from Glacier Bay is not recommended because of the presence of a naturally occuring neurotoxin that causes paralytic shellfish poisoning in humans and can lead to sudden death.

Pets are allowed in the developed areas of Bartlett Cove and must be on a leash at all times. Pets are NOT permitted on park trails. No pets are allowed onshore in the backcountry.

Sport Fishing by all persons 16 years and older requires a valid Alaska State Fishing License, available during the summer months at Glacier Bay Lodge and some businesses in Gustavus. Consult Alaska State Fishing regulations when purchasing a license.

For Your Safety

You are in an isolated area. The closest hospital or trauma facility is in Juneau, 30 minutes by air. Weather conditions may delay medical evacuations or other emergency transport, sometimes for days. To help ensure you have a safe visit, use caution.

- Respect boundaries, especially around construction zones.
- Watch for traffic on docks, roadways, and in parking lots.
- Report any hazardous situations to the Visitor Information Station.
- Even for short excursions, always let someone know where you are going and what time you plan to be back, then stick to your plan.

Boating Essentials

Permits

- Are required for private motor vessels from June 1 through August 31.
- Are free and good for seven consecutive days.
- Must be confirmed 48 hours before scheduled entry date or permit will be cancelled.

To confirm permits or to see if permits are available, call the Visitor Information Station "KWM20 Bartlett Cove" on marine band 16 or phone 907-697-2627. Permit applications are accepted 60 days before the intended entry date and are available at www.nps.gov/glba

Docks

Bartlett Cove Dock:

- Vessels may dock for a maximum of 3 hours in a 24-hour period. After that, anchor out beyond the white "no wake" buoys.
- Dinghies 10 feet or less may dock in the designated area for up to 24 hours.
- Do not leave vehicles or equipment unattended on docks.
- Use only slips designated for your use. See dock bulletin board.

Fuel Dock:

- Do not leave vessels unattended at the Fuel Dock.
- For hours, call Glacier Bay Lodge on marine band 16 or phone 907-697-4000.
- Access to shore via the fuel dock is not permitted.

Anchorages

- Anchorages do not contain moorings.
- Anchor in water deep enough to remain afloat at low tide.
- Safety depends on ice, wind, and tide conditions.
- Please do not raft or anchor next to the South Sandy Cove Ranger Raft.

Adams Inlet	Johnson Cove	South Sandy Cove
Beardslee Entrance	North Fingers	Reid Inlet*
Berg Bay	North Sandy Cove*	Russell Island
Geikie Inlet	Sebree Cove	Tidal Inlet
Goose Cove	South Fingers	

* Boats at these anchorages may not run generators or any other non-propulsive engines between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. except when using a windlass.

Hazards

Closures: Due to animal activity or resource protection, certain areas are off limits to entry and landings for all or part of the year. In summer, some areas are off limits to motorized vessels—including sailing vessels with auxiliary motorized propulsion, even if not in use. Know and obey all closures. See Boating Guide, page 24.

Cruise Ships: No more than 2 cruise ships are permitted in the park per day. These large vessels cannot turn quickly and may take miles to stop. Do not approach them when they are stationary in front of the glaciers. Do not get in their path and do not assume they see you. Watch for large wakes, the waves of which can reach the beach over 10 minutes after the ship has passed.

Currents & Winds: Currents of 6 to 8 knots are not uncommon. Traveling with the tides, rather than against them, can help you ride or paddle easier and quicker.

Caution: The forces of tides, currents, and wind can combine in certain places to create dangerous conditions. Use caution in Sitakaday Narrows, Beardslee Entrance, McBride Entrance, Berg Bay, and the north shore of Adams Inlet. Plan crossings of wide channels carefully. Better to change your route or wait for conditions to subside than to risk flipping your boat.

Ice: Glaciers can calve from above and below the waterline. Underwater tongues of ice can break off and shoot to the surface. We do not recommend approaching tidewater glaciers closer than 1/4 mile.

Tides: Secure boats and gear well above high tide line. Beware of extreme spring tides.

Landslides: Many of Glacier Bay's steep mountainsides are unstable. Landslides may occur at any time, potentially resulting in large waves in narrow inlets and along shorelines. Ask a ranger for more information.

Weather: Mid-May through September, weather forecasts and satellite images are posted daily at the Visitor Information Station bulletin board. Rangers broadcast the marine forecast and other important notices over marine band 16 at approximately 8:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. daily.

Maps and Charts

Topographic Maps:
Trails Illustrated Map by National Geographic 1:250,000
USGS Quadrangles 1:63,360

Nautical Charts:
17300 Stephens Passage to Cross Sound
17318 Glacier Bay
17302 Icy Strait and Cross Sound
17301 Cape Spencer to Icy Point
16762 Lituya Bay

To order maps and charts contact:
Alaska Geographic
P.O. Box 140
Gustavus, AK 99826
907-697-2635

Emergency

Call rangers "KWM20 Bartlett Cove" on marine band 16. NOTE: radio coverage in the bay is spotty and cell phone coverage is nonexistent.

If you have no radio, wave a large brightly colored item toward a passing boat. Tie this item to a stick, oar, or kayak paddle for greater visibility.

Report all emergencies to the Visitor Information Station near the public dock.

Camping Information

In the Backcountry

A free permit is required between May 1 and September 30. Certain parts of the bay are closed to campers either permanently or temporarily due to animal activity and resource protection. Ask a ranger about any current advisories.

Take care of your park. By practicing "Leave No Trace," we help to ensure that future generations can enjoy Glacier Bay in the same condition as it is today.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Do not camp within 100 feet of a stream or lake.
- Leave your campsite as natural as you found it.
- A good campsite is FOUND and not MADE.

Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in—pack it out.
- Keep all trash in a bear canister.
- Within ¼ mile of shoreline, either remove human waste as trash or deposit at least 100 feet from any surface freshwater source in a hole dug at least 6 inches deep.
- Beyond ¼ mile of shoreline, deposit human waste at least 100 feet from water sources, campsites, or within sight of trails.
- Toilet paper must be burned or carried out.

Leave What You Find

- You may only collect unoccupied shells, and berries or plants that will be personally consumed.
- Collection of rocks, flowers, or artifacts is not allowed.
- Take only pictures.

Minimize Your Campfire

- Avoid the need for a campfire. Use a cook stove.
- Campfires are permitted below the high tide line. Break up any campfire rings before leaving the site.
- Burn only dead and downed wood. Do not burn interglacial wood, which comes from the exposed remnants of ancient forests found on certain beaches within the bay. Ask a ranger for details.

Be Considerate of Others

- Avoid camping near other parties.
- Keep your camp and activities as inconspicuous as possible.
- Groups larger than 12 are not allowed.

Respect Wildlife

- Choose a campsite that shows few signs of wildlife.
- Watch carefully for and avoid ground nesting birds.
- Cook and eat in the intertidal zone at least 100 yards from your campsite.
- Never leave food unattended.
- Store all food and scented items in a bear canister in brush or behind rocks at least 100 yards from camp, not in your boat or kayak.
- In the campground, store all food and scented items in the cache provided. Never eat or cook in the campground or warming shelter.

✔ Check In

If you fail to check in as scheduled, rangers will begin to search for you starting with the areas indicated on your permit.

Bartlett Cove Campground

A free, walk-in tent campground is located at Bartlett Cove. You must register for a site at the Visitor Information Station (VIS). Wheelbarrows are available to help haul gear between the VIS, dock, and campground. Please observe the following:

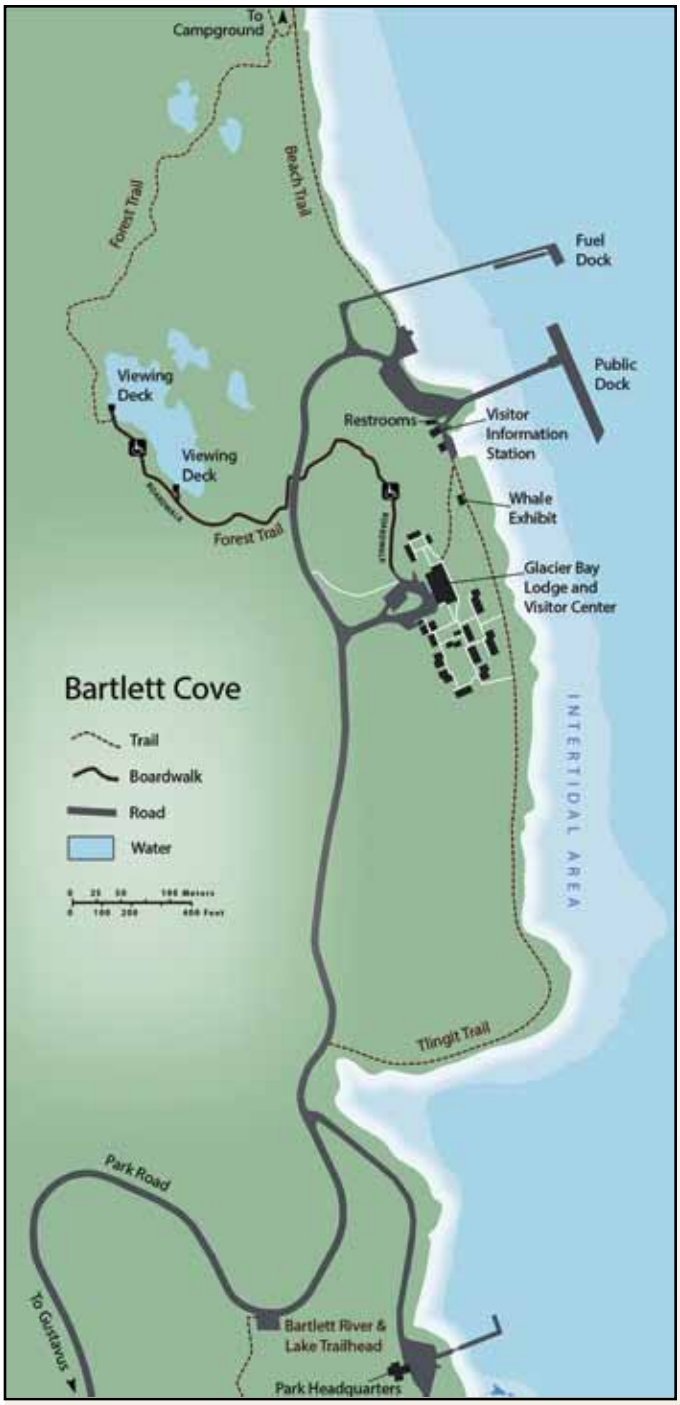
- Store all food, trash, and scented items in the caches provided in the campground.
- Cook, prepare, and eat food only in the intertidal zone next to the campground.
- Dispose of waste into appropriate bins near the VIS.
- Fires are permitted only in the designated campground beach fire ring.

Arriving on the Ferry?

Since 2011, the Alaska Marine Highway ferry system has provided regular service from Juneau.

Although this new option affords both visitors and residents many new opportunities, it may take time for the park and community to fully adapt. If visiting with a personal vehicle, you may not yet find all the services and amenities one might expect in other road-linked Alaska communities. If arriving with a vehicle be aware that:

- Glacier Bay National Park is essentially roadless. Bartlett Cove is accessible by vehicle from Gustavus, but all other areas may only be reached on foot, by boat, or small aircraft.
- National Park facilities in Bartlett Cove were not designed to accommodate visitors with private vehicles and parking may be limited.
- There is one primitive campground in the park. It is accessible on foot only.
- There are no RV facilities (sites/dump station/hook-ups/etc.) or vehicle camping areas within the park. Camping is not permitted in parking areas or along the park road.
- For the latest updates on park facilities call 907-697-2230 or visit www.nps.gov/glba
- There are various lodging and other services available in Gustavus. For more specific information please contact the Gustavus Visitors Association at 907-697-2454 or www.gustavusak.com



Trails

Bartlett Cove is the only developed area within the wilds of Glacier Bay. The forests and shorelines offer great opportunities for hiking and exploring. Several relatively easy trails begin here. Spend some time, stretch your legs, and discover the wonders of Glacier Bay.

Forest Trail

Distance: 0.7 miles one-way
Time: 30 min.- 1.5 hours
This leisurely stroll meanders through a lush forest that grows atop a glacial moraine. A wheelchair accessible boardwalk takes you part of the way, leading to two viewing decks that overlook a serene pond. Return along the shore for an easy one-mile loop. Rangers lead a guided walk along this trail every afternoon. Check the posted activity schedule for times.

Bartlett River Trail

Distance: 4 miles roundtrip
Time: 4-5 hours
Meanders along an intertidal lagoon and through the spruce/hemlock forest before emerging and ending at the Bartlett River estuary. Watch for coyotes, moose, bear, and river otter along the beach. Ducks, geese, and other water birds concentrate in the intertidal area during migrations and molting. Salmon run up the river in the latter part of the summer, attracting hungry harbor seals.

Bartlett Lake Trail

Distance: 8 miles roundtrip
Time: 7-8 hours
Begin walking on the Bartlett River Trail. About 3/4 of a mile down the trail at a signpost, the lake trail will branch off and begin to climb the moraine. This trail is less maintained so use caution to not lose the route. The chatter of red squirrels will accompany you as you wind your way over and around moss-covered boulders and lichen-covered trees before reaching the shores of Bartlett Lake. During this full-day wilderness journey, you may be richly rewarded in solitude and perhaps even the call of loons. Bring water, lunch, and rain gear.

Explore the Shore

Distance: varies
The shoreline beyond the docks continues for many miles past the campground. You may observe land and marine wildlife. Look for birds, listen for whales, and watch for sea otters feeding near shore. Let the magic of Glacier Bay draw you in for an hour, or even a day.

"... It is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness." — The Wilderness Act, 1964

Wilderness Is 50!

What comes to mind when you hear the word "wilderness?" In Glacier Bay, simply open your eyes—you are surrounded by wilderness! You can hear, breathe, and touch wilderness. You can hear wolves howling and see expanses of land without modern development. You can imagine the American frontier past and envision a wilderness future.

This year we are celebrating wilderness. Fifty years ago, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Wilderness Act (passed with only one dissenting vote in the House). The Wilderness Act established a national system of wilderness areas and provided the most permanent conservation protection possible to selected federal lands. While wilderness brings a multitude of definitions to mind, the Wilderness Act provides an ideal, and legal, definition.

True wilderness is not only found in Alaska. Almost every U.S. state has federally designated wilderness. Other countries have modeled wilderness legislation on The Wilderness Act, protecting wild lands and waters worldwide.

Wilderness is many things, but it is not an absence of people. Glacier Bay wilderness invites exploration for challenge and renewal. The rich history preserved is both recent and traditional, protecting significant human stories and connections.

This year look for wilderness celebrations nationwide. Most importantly, look for and explore wilderness near you!

For more wilderness information and inspiration, including a map of the National Wilderness Preservation System, visit www.wilderness.net.

WILDERNESS 50 years
1964–2014
YOURS:
TO ENJOY
TO PROTECT

Kids Love Glacier Bay!

There are millions of acres of mountains, waterways, glaciers, wildlife, history, and adventure to discover. Would you like to experience and learn more about Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve? After all, there will be a time in the not-too-distant future when you will step in to take care of this park for future generations. Why not learn more now?

Are you ready to begin your Junior Ranger adventure? If you are between the ages of 2 to 200, you may want to become a Junior Ranger during your visit. There are many ways to pick up your Junior Ranger Activity Booklet.

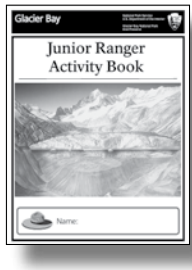
If you came by plane or boat to Bartlett Cove, stop by the Visitor Center on the second floor of the Glacier Bay Lodge.

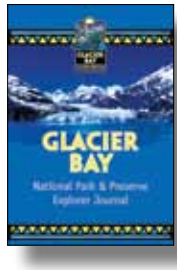
If you are on a tour boat, meet with the ranger on board.

If you are a virtual visitor, you can visit the park website at www.nps.gov/glba and print off your own booklet and get started.

Ask a ranger about family-friendly guided ranger programs and activities in Bartlett Cove and check the schedule for our summer Discovery Days series for kids.

Glacier Bay offers three different booklets, depending on your age.





For children between the ages of 2 - 6, we have the *PeeWee Ranger Activity Book*.

For children between the ages of 6 - 12, pick up the *Junior Ranger Activity Book*.

For people between the ages of 13 - adult, pick up the *Explorer Journal*.

When you have completed the activities, bring your booklet to a ranger and you will be awarded a special badge that makes you a Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve Junior Ranger.

Park Partners

As the official nonprofit education partner of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, Alaska Geographic connects people to Alaska's magnificent wildlands through experiential education, award-winning books and maps, and by directly supporting the state's parks, forests, and refuges. Over the past 50 years, Alaska Geographic has donated more than $20 million to help fund educational and interpretive programs throughout Alaska's public lands.

Alaska Geographic operates bookstores across the state, including several locations in Glacier Bay: the park visitor center in Bartlett Cove, ranger district office in Yakutat, and on board the dozens of cruise ships that visit the area each year. Your purchases at these locations directly support Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve—a portion of every sale helps fund the park's educational and interpretive programs.

To find out more, become a member, or browse our selection of Alaska books, maps, and films, stop by any Alaska Geographic bookstore or visit our website at www.alaskageographic.org

Alaska Geographic

Alaska Geographic
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GLACIER BAY
NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE

Discover Alaska Collector Series
Pins, patches, hats, and other products featuring this unique Glacier Bay design. Exclusively from Alaska Geographic.

To Learn More

Visit the Alaska Geographic bookstore at the park visitor center in Bartlett Cove to find the best books, maps, films, and gifts related to the natural and cultural history of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve.

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
Alaska National Park Series

Author Kim Heacox takes you into a world of blue ice, temperate rainforests, misty mountains, and coastal wildlife. You will meet the bold explorers who trekked its glaciers and waterways, the scientists who study its vast landscape, and the Huna Tlingit who have lived here since time began.

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Travel into the dark underwater world of Glacier Bay where perpetual snowfall and swirling currents shape the abounding patterns of life. Then, explore the natural and cultural history of the bay in the bonus feature, *Forever Wild*.

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Scale: 1:94,000

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Create your own wildlife, glacier, and wilderness scrapbook by downloading exquisite, high resolution photos taken throughout the park.

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For More Information

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Gustavus, AK 99826
907-697-2230
www.nps.gov/glba

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Emergency and Medical Assistance

Emergency Inside the Park

Dial 911
KWM20 Bartlett Cove on marine band 16
There is no cell service in Glacier Bay.

Emergency Outside the Park

Gustavus Emergency Response
Dial 911

Other Medical Assistance

Gustavus Community Clinic
42 Dolly Varden Lane, Gustavus
907-697-3008