

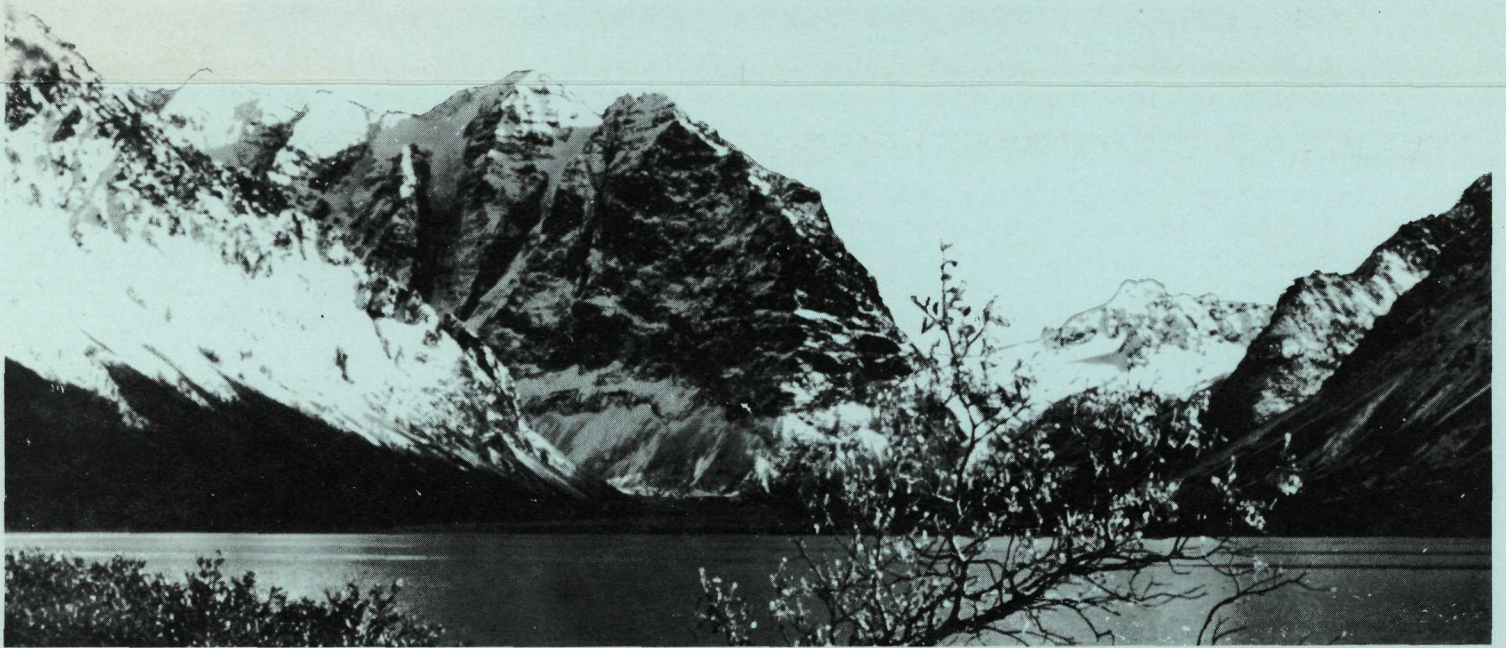
Lake Clark

LAKE CLARK
NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE
ALASKA

About 160 kilometers (100 miles) southwest of Anchorage, across Cook Inlet from the Kenai Peninsula, the Alaskan and Aleutian mountain ranges converge in the 1.46-million-hectare (3.6-million-acre)

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. The area boasts steaming volcanoes, rugged mountains, craggy peaks, alpine valleys, blue-green glaciers, free-flowing rivers, and sparkling lakes. Its wild-

life includes eagles, hawks, waterfowl, and seabirds; grayling, northern pike, trout, and salmon; bear, moose, caribou, and Dall sheep.



WHAT TO SEE AND DO

The park and preserve bear few marks of human activity. Opportunities to see, photograph, and experience nature as it has evolved are many. Predominantly wilderness in character, the park and preserve particularly appeal to hikers, backpackers, and climbers seeking relatively low but challenging mountains. You can camp out in solitude, observe abundant wildlife, run numerous rivers, sport fish in both park and preserve, and sport hunt in the preserve.

These activities can be arduous and require both stamina and wilderness skills, depending upon the area. But lakeshore and coastal areas, game trails, river bars, and ridges provide less demanding opportunities to enjoy magnificent natural resources. Those with limited time may fly over the area, seeing majestic panoramas of mountains, volcanoes, glaciers, forests, waterfalls, rivers, and lakes. An overflight can be rewarding and memorable, reflecting the vast

awesome, and beautiful nature of Alaska.

Sport fishing is good in many waters of the park and preserve. Grayling, northern pike, and several trout and salmon species can be caught throughout most of the season of open water. Sport hunting, chiefly for caribou and moose, is allowed in the preserve, with seasons, licenses and fees, and bag limits set by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

GUIDES AND OUTFITTING

Stores in Iliamna and Nondalton, somewhat convenient to the area, provide limited food, equipment, and clothing selections. Kenai, Homer, and Anchorage stores offer wider selections. Some merchants in Nondalton, Iliamna, and on Lake Clark offer rooms and cabins, meals, and guiding and outfitting services. Air and boat charter operators may also provide guides and rental equipment.

WEATHER

Both continental and marine elements influence the climate of the park's eastern region. June through August temperatures average between 10°C (50°F) and 18°C (65°F), with considerable precipitation. The park's interior and the preserve are warmer and drier in summer, with occasional temperatures rising to 27°C (80°F). Winter temperatures in the interior can plummet to -20°C (-40°F), sometimes lower. Winters in marine-influenced regions are warmer.

Comfortable weather conditions often occur in September and October, but even in mid-summer you should anticipate sub-freezing or even sub-zero temperatures in Alaska's remote regions. March and early April are best for cross-country skiing. From mid-April to late May thawing streams and lakes make all travel difficult. Strong winds--severe in and near mountain passes--can occur anytime.

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ACCESS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Because of Alaska's size, traditions, and lack of ground transportation, the National Park Service has generally adopted relaxed rules for aircraft, snowmobile, and motorboat access to Alaska parklands. Access to the Lake

Clark region is almost exclusively by small aircraft, wheeled or float equipped. There is no highway access. Scheduled, commercial flights between Anchorage and Iliamna, 48 kilometers (30 miles) outside the boundary, provide

near access. Chartered flights out of Anchorage, Kenai, and Homer can land within the boundary. Several private lodges on Lake Clark offer accommodations and services.

CLOTHING, FOOD, AND GEAR

Many attractions and resources here are far from modern conveniences, so you should arrive self-sufficient. Quality clothing, camping and rain gear, and good insect repellent are essential. Tents should have rain flies and be designed to withstand strong winds. Sudden or lengthy storms often delay air or boat charter pickups, so you should carry emergency food items.

PRECAUTIONS AND COURTESIES

This is a vast and sometimes hostile region. Animals are wild and should be respected because they can kill or maim careless or naive people. You should know your gear and possess backcountry skills. You should have both wilderness travel and wilderness survival skills. Winter travel is recommended only to those experienced in cold-weather camping and survival techniques. For your safety, we

suggest that you leave your itinerary with someone and contact that person upon completion of your trip.

Local residents carry on the subsistence way of life within the national park and preserve. Their camps, fish nets, and other equipment are critical to their well-being. Please observe the usual courtesies respecting their property and their privacy.

For more information write:
Superintendent
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
1011 Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

