



## Humpback Whale Skeleton Update



Coming soon to Bartlett Cove

*Future visitors to Bartlett Cove will have a chance to get up close and personal with an impressive full-sized humpback whale skeleton. There are only eighteen re-articulated humpback whale skeletons on display in the world, and this will be the second largest one!*

### Giant Skeleton

In July 2001, a 46-foot adult female humpback whale was found dead at the mouth of Glacier Bay after having been struck by a cruise ship. The entire skeleton was collected, and over the intervening years many volunteers from the community, including high school and college students, have worked alongside Glacier Bay staff to retrieve, clean, and preserve the whale bones.

### Central Location

Currently, the National Park Service (NPS) is preparing to construct a roofed, open-sided shelter to showcase this magnificent specimen in Bartlett Cove. The shelter will be located along the shoreline trail near the Visitor Information Station (VIS). This location will make the skeleton easily accessible to visitors walking between the Lodge, kayak outfitter concessions, VIS, and the public dock. The design will complement the historic Mission 66 architecture of the Glacier Bay Lodge. A corner of the shelter will be visible from the Lodge deck, but it preserves the view of Bartlett Cove, which was an important element of the original Lodge design.

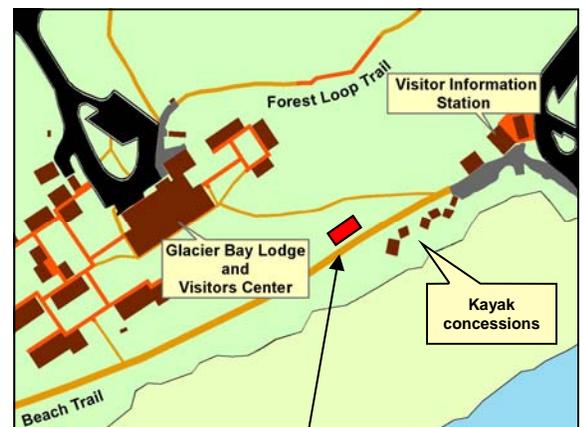


Retrieving the skull

### A Whale of a Display

In late spring and summer 2013, a whale bone expert will lead a team to rearticulate the whale bones into a complete skeleton. Interpretive signs near the skeleton will tell the life story of this individual whale, and provide an opportunity to educate the public about the species' life history and conservation threats to whales in general. Final architectural plans are being developed, and site preparation will begin soon, avoiding the main visitor season. Construction of the shelter is scheduled to begin September 2012.

Stay tuned and follow along as years of work and planning pay off and this spectacular display becomes a reality.



Future location of whale skeleton display