

Discover Bartlett Cove

A New Land



Here, just two hundred years ago stood the snout of a 100-mile long glacier. Though icebergs no longer dot the waters of Bartlett Cove (the nearest tidewater glacier is 40 miles away), the animals, plants and landscape continue to change after being affected by the Neoglacial Ice Age.

This folder suggests ways to see Bartlett Cove, a small part of Glacier Bay. You may wish to explore alone, with a small group, or as a part of a naturalist-led walk or talk. Whatever the method, the beauty of Bartlett Cove and the events that take place here are well worth discovering.

TRAILS

There are three maintained hiking trails near Glacier Bay Lodge: all are fairly easy walking. You may find the following gear useful:

- * water repellent footwear
- * rain coat and hat
- * insect repellent
- * binoculars
- * camera and fast film or tripod

Forest Trail. About one mile long, this nature trail begins at Glacier Bay Lodge and ends near the dock. If you are able to walk a mile at home, this trail should be easy. There are a couple of benches along the way.

The trail winds through a pond-studded spruce/hemlock forest for one half mile, then descends to the beach. From that point, a right turn will bring you back to the dock, and then on to the lodge/visitor center.

In May and June, when the spring bird migration is at a peak, the trail is full of bird song. June and July are the best times

for wild flowers. August is the month for bright mushrooms and blueberries.

Bartlett River Trail. Allow a half day for this four mile round trip. The trail is not difficult, but has a few muddy spots during rainy periods.

The trail meanders along an intertidal lagoon, through the forest, then emerges and ends at the Bartlett River estuary. Ducks, geese, and other water birds concentrate during migrations and molting in intertidal areas. Watch for coyotes and bears along the beach, and porcupines and red squirrels in the forest. Salmon run up-river during the latter part of the summer.

Bartlett Lake Trail. This trail branches off from the Bartlett River Trail about one quarter mile from the Gustavus Road. About four miles in length (eight round-trip), it winds through the temperate rain-forest and leads to Bartlett Lake. This is a more primitive trail, not used as much as the other two, but the peacefulness of the hike and the beauty of the lake are well worth the trip.

OFF-TRAIL HIKES

The Shoreline. Walk past the dock on the beach as far as you wish; it'll be easy to find your way back. An extended hike along the shore to Point Gustavus (six miles one way) can be completed in a day. The intertidal strip is a natural trail, for wildlife and people. Watch for song birds on the forest's edge and water birds offshore. Flowers are profuse in mid summer on the beach meadows. At low tide, the lower beach is worth a look for marine life. Check with a naturalist in the Visitor Center or at the Backcountry Office near the dock for the daily tide schedule.

Gustavus Road. This road is a beautiful route through the spruce forest and out onto the wet-meadows beyond the limits of the last glacial advance. Watch out for cars!

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Boats, air charters, kayak rentals and guided kayak trips are available through concession companies. A campground, operated by the National Park Service, is located one quarter mile from the dock.

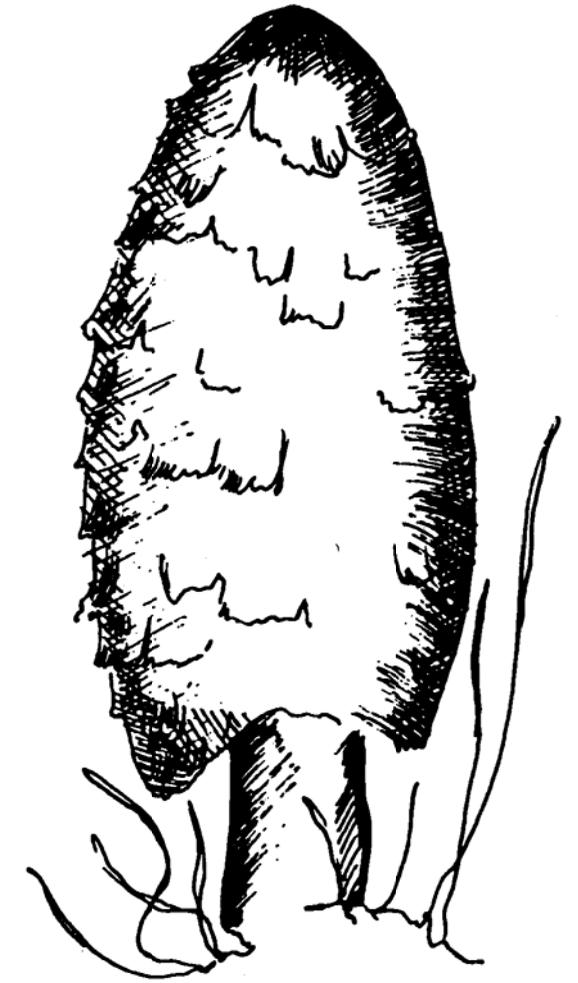
INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

You and the Ranger-Naturalist. Naturalist-led hikes, films and evening programs are scheduled daily. It is a good idea to check the Naturalist Activities Board placed at the Lodge/Visitor Center building for subjects and special events.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Those visitors wanting to know more about the natural events of Glacier Bay can find out in several ways. Park rangers can help answer many questions. Natural history exhibits and an information desk are located in the Visitor Center, upstairs at the lodge. Topographic maps, nautical charts and other publications may be purchased through the Alaska Natural History Association in the same area. The National Park Service library, located at Park Headquarters, is open 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday. A Contact Station (the Backcountry Office) near the dock is open daily from 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Please leave all plants, animals, and shells as you found them for others to enjoy . . . next year . . . next generation.



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