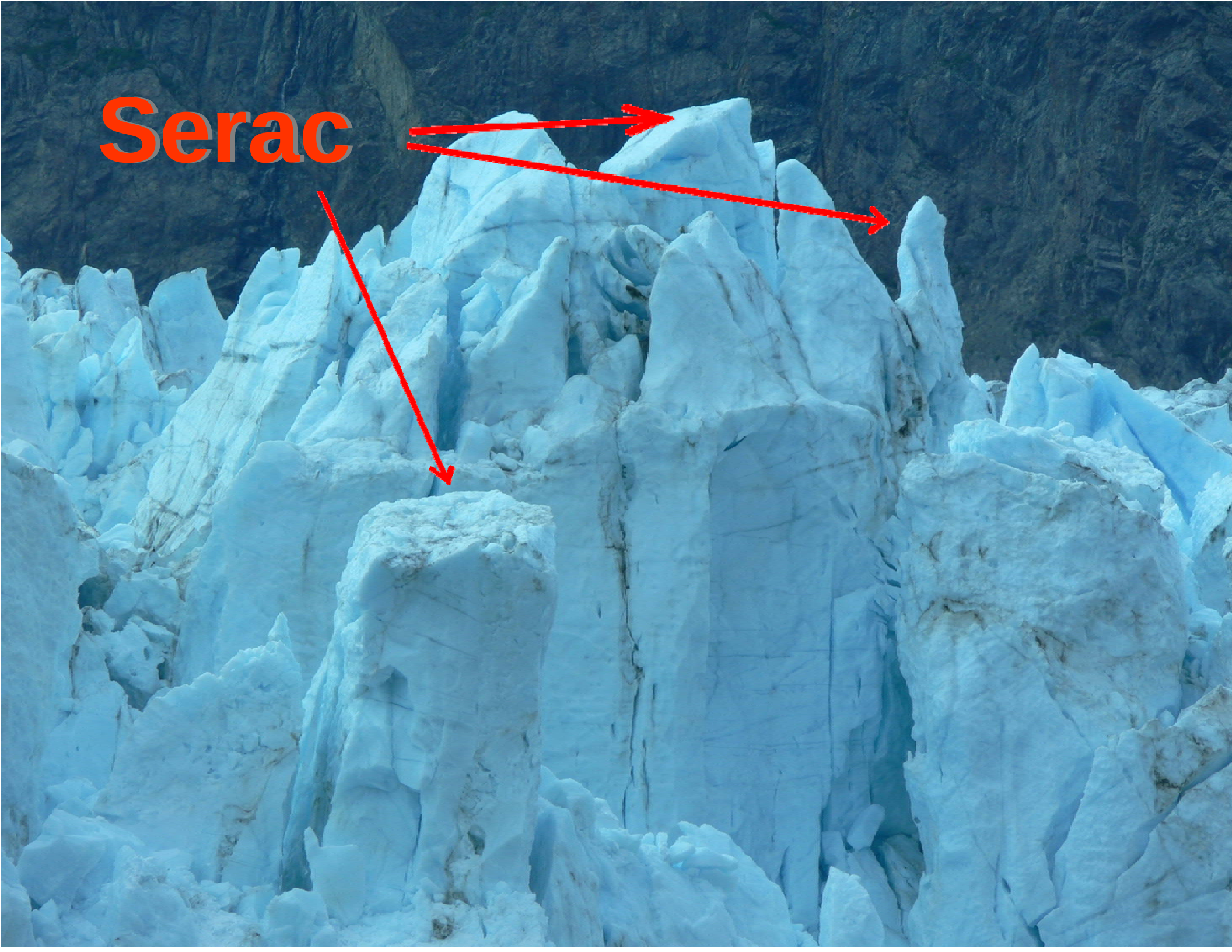

Serac

Serac

The high peaks of ice at and near the glacier's face are called seracs.


Ice Cave with
Meltwater Stream

Meltwater Stream

A stream created from the melting ice of a glacier is called a meltwater stream. Sometimes these streams form under, to the sides, or even through the middle of glaciers.


Iceberg

Ice Berg

Chunks of floating ice that have broken off a glacier are commonly called icebergs. We sometimes use the term *ice berg* to talk about large pieces of floating ice, *bergy bits* to talk about smaller pieces of ice, and *growlers* to talk about even smaller pieces of ice.

U-shaped Valley

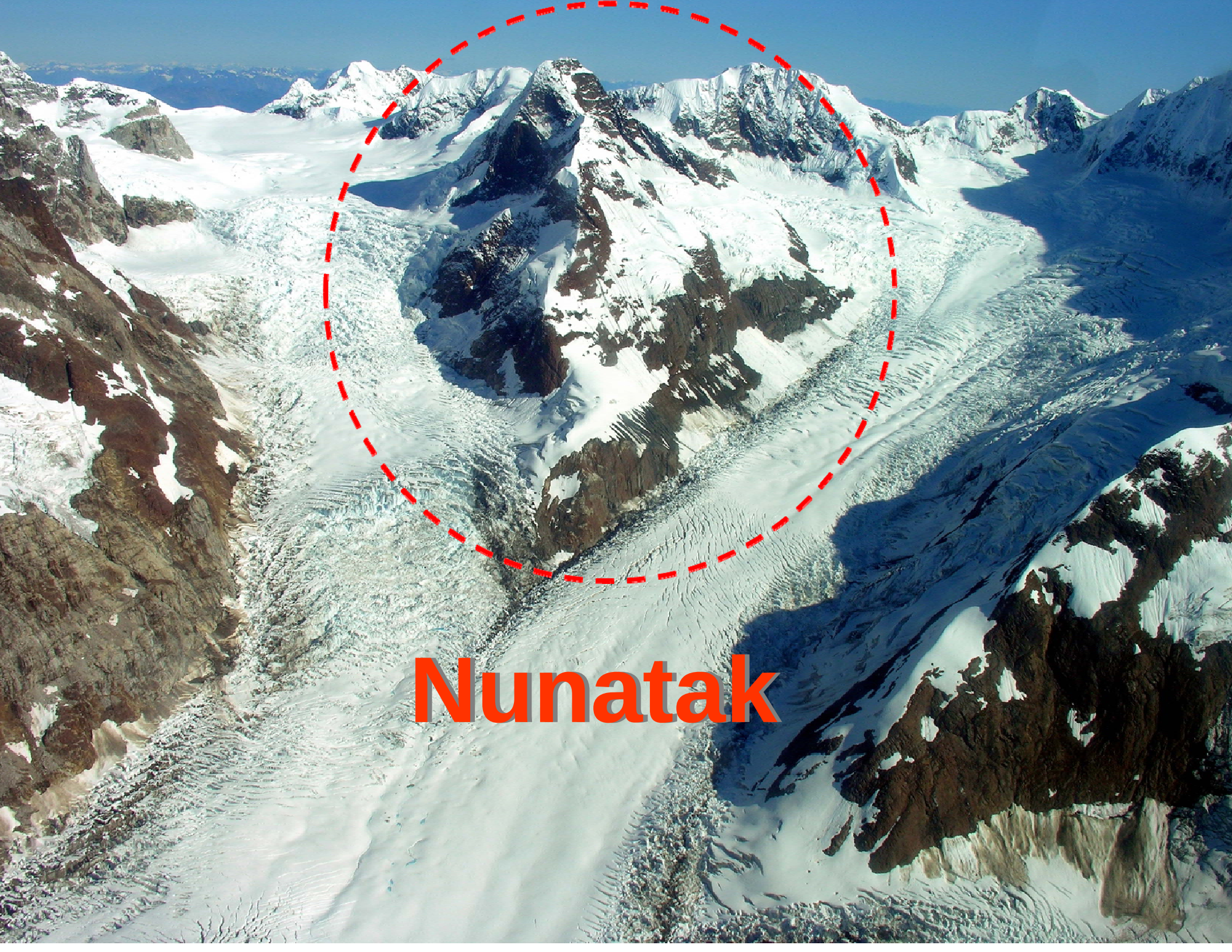
U-shaped Valley

Rivers have a way of cutting V-shaped valleys as they carve out the landscape over time. As glaciers move through the landscape, they carve out U-shaped valleys. Look for U-shape valleys all throughout the bay. Glacier Bay is a U-shaped valley that is filled up with the ocean's water called a *fjord*.


Calving Glacier

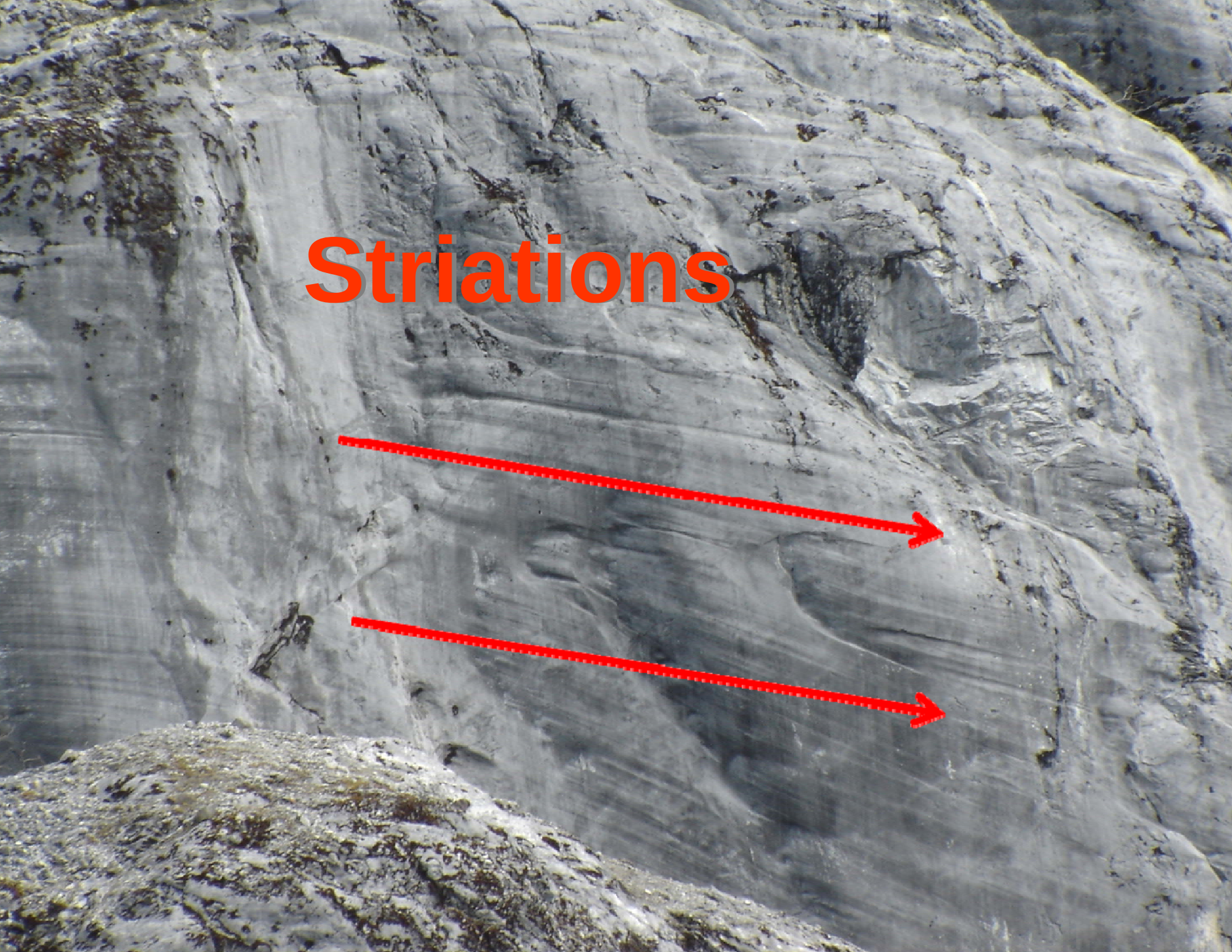
Calving Glacier

A tidewater glacier that has ice breaking off and falling from its face is considered a calving glacier. The Tlingit people call the sound it makes "white thunder." Watch for the splash and wave that calving creates.


Nunatak

Nunatak

Nunataks are mountains or mountain peaks that rise above the glaciers or ice fields that surround them.


Striations

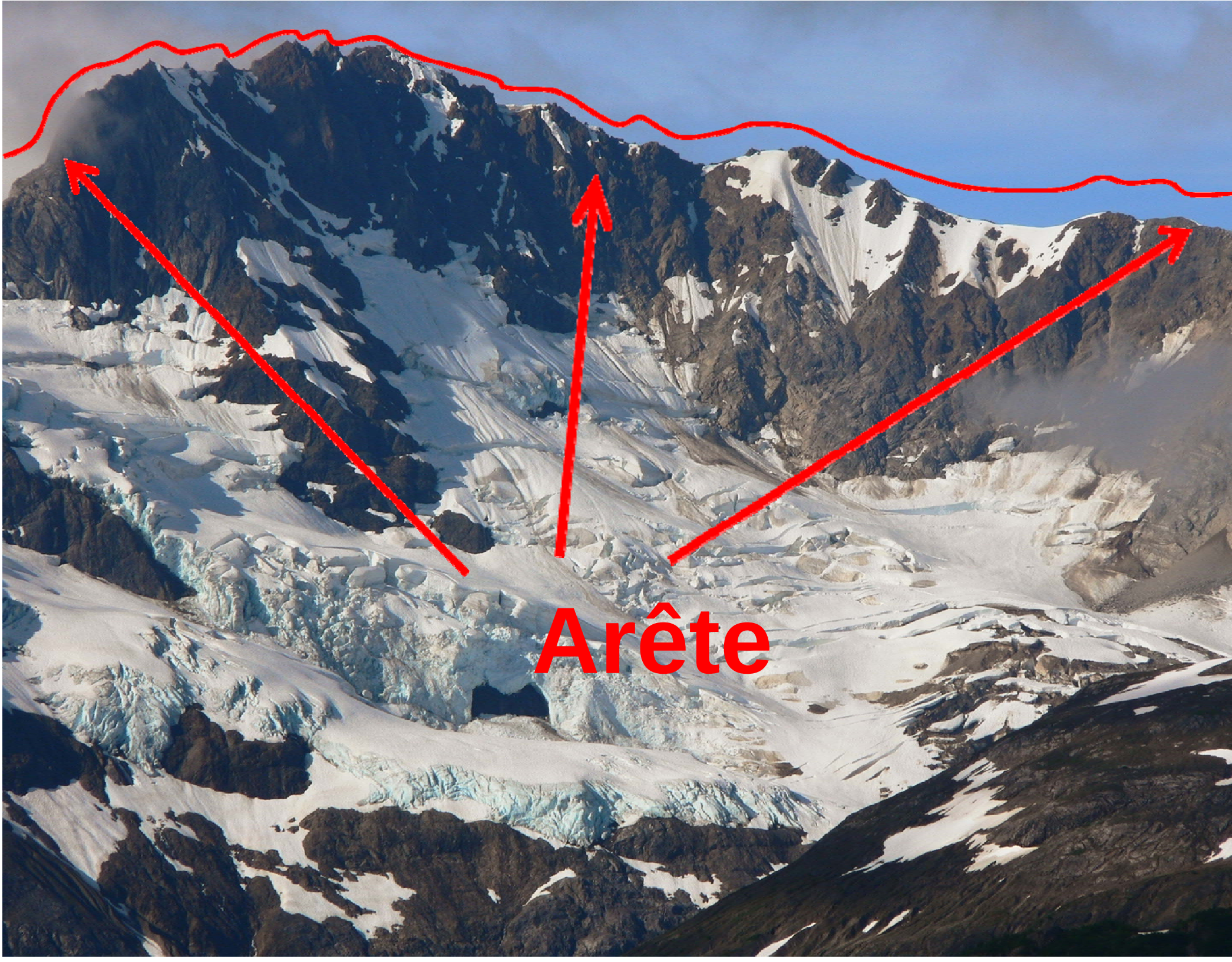
Striations

As glaciers move they carry rock and debris with them that scrape up against the bedrock and the sides of the mountains. The scrape marks left behind on the rock are called striations.


Glacier Flour

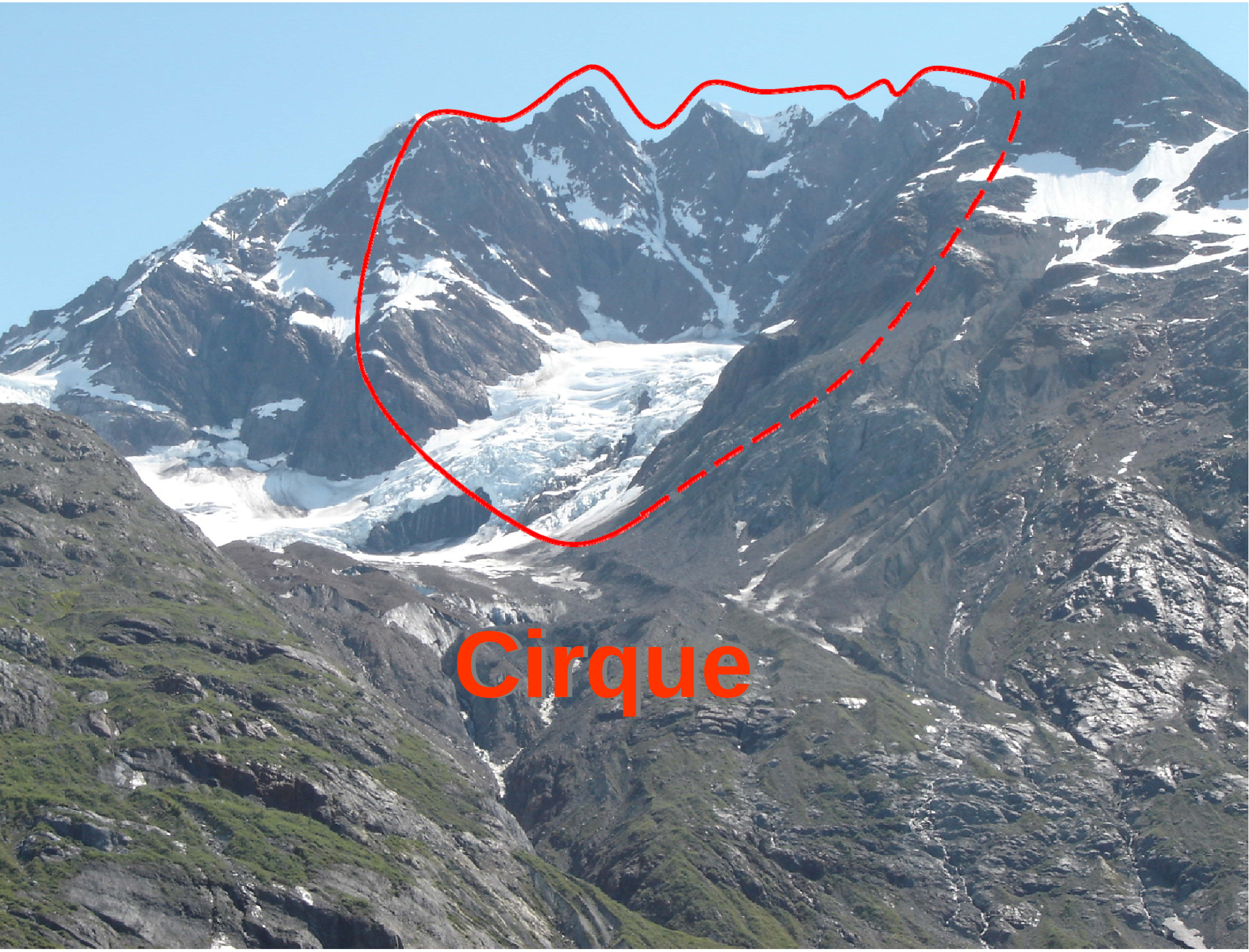
Glacial Flour

Glaciers carry rocks with them that scrape, grind, and pulverize the surrounding landscape into a fine sediment called glacial flour or silt. This silt is often carried to the ocean's water by a calving glacier or a meltwater stream. Look how the glacial flour changes the color of the water at different locations throughout your trip in Glacier Bay.


Arête

Arête

An arête is a thin, almost knife-like, ridge of rock which is typically formed when two glaciers erode parallel U-shaped valleys.


Cirque

Cirque

An amphitheater-like valley formed at the head of a glacier is called a cirque. Look for valleys high up in the mountains that look like an ice cream scoop scooped out a piece of the mountain.


Moraine

Moraine

A jumbled pile of rocks and debris that are carried or pushed by a glacier is called a moraine; they often appear as a dark band on the white ice of the glacier. A **lateral moraine** is a dark band of rocks piled up along the sides of a glacier. A **medial moraine** is a dark band in the middle of the ice where two glaciers and their lateral moraines come together mixing a band of rocks in the middle.


Glacier Face

Glacier Face

The end of a glacier is called its face. The face of tide-water glaciers are often sheer walls of ice.


Crevasse

Crevasse

A crevasse is an open crack in the ice that can be very deep (sometimes around 150 feet).


Valley Glacier
Alpine Glacier
Tidewater Glacier

Valley Glacier

A valley glacier is a glacier that carves its way through a valley down from the mountains but does not reach the ocean.

Alpine Glacier

An alpine glacier is a glacier that forms high in the mountains. Because it does not make its way down a valley, it does not reach the ocean and is about as wide as it is long.

Tidewater Glacier

A tidewater glacier is a glacier that reaches the ocean.