

Glacier Bay

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve
Alaska

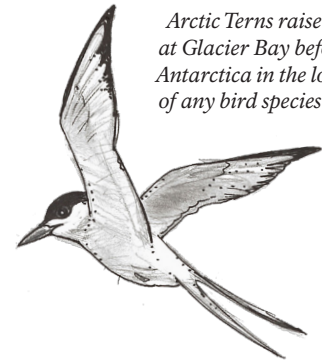


2020 Fact Sheet

Superintendent *Philip N. Hooge*

Established

Feb 26, 1925 Designated National Monument
Dec 2, 1980 Designated National Park & Preserve
1986 Designated World Biosphere Reserve
1992 Designated World Heritage Site



Arctic Terns raise their young at Glacier Bay before flying to Antarctica in the longest migration of any bird species.

Glacier Bay represents the most dramatic documented large-scale glacial retreat in the world and provides unparalleled opportunities for scientific study of tidewater glaciers and ecosystem development.

Size

National Park:	3,226,800 acres	5,130 square miles
National Preserve:	+ 57,700 acres	+ 90 square miles
	= 3,284,500 acres	= 5220 square miles

(roughly the size of the state of Connecticut)

Park Designated Wilderness: 2,656,200 acres
Biosphere Reserve: 3,455,300 acres
This consists of both Glacier Bay and Admiralty Island, including a marine corridor connecting the two.
World Heritage Site: 24,313,000 acres
This also includes Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, Kluane National Park (Canada), and Tatshenshini-Alsek Park (Canada), one of the world's largest protected areas.

Base Budget

\$ 5,052,000

Staffing

Permanent 54
Term/Seasonal 65
Volunteers 58 *(contributed 900 hours of work in 2019)*

Access

Most visitors arrive on cruise ships and tour boats. The only road is 10 miles from the small community of Gustavus. Gustavus has an airport and is served by Alaska Airlines in summer and small planes all year round. The Alaska Marine Highway provides scheduled ferry service from Juneau to Gustavus.

Visitation

The number of vessels per day is limited in the summer months. Maximum number of vessels allowed each day include two cruise ships, three tour boats, six charter vessels, and 25 private vessels.

2019: 626,000 Cruise Ship Passengers
16,500 Tour Vessel Passengers
4,000 Backcountry Visitors *(boating and camping)*

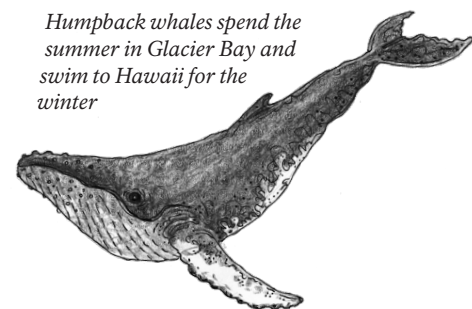
Trails

Three hiking trails: 10 miles
Over 700 miles of shoreline to kayak, camp, and explore

Lodging

Glacier Bay Lodge · 48 rooms (12,000 guests in 2019)
Bartlett Cove Campground · 33 campsites
Dry Bay, Glacier Bay National Preserve · 1 public use cabin

There are many lodging options in the community of Gustavus, AK. In the National Preserve at Dry Bay, there are 3 commercial lodges in operation.



Humpback whales spend the summer in Glacier Bay and swim to Hawaii for the winter

Prehistory

Glacier Bay has been the homeland of the Huna Tlingit people for countless generations.

Climate

Southeast Alaska is within a cool, wet coastal temperate rainforest. Summer: 50° to 60°; Winter 20° to 30°, with extremes of -10° F. Some form of precipitation occurs on average 228 days per year. Annual precipitation is 70-80 inches (including an annual snowfall of 14 feet). A warming climate has increased precipitation over the past decade.

High in the Fairweather Mountains, over 100 feet of snow may fall annually- making it one of the world's snowiest places. Recently, evidence of a receding snow line along the range has become apparent.

Marine Waters & Coastlines

Total Marine Waters: 607,100 acres (largest marine area managed by NPS)

Coastline (including the outside coast) 1180 statute miles (approx.)

Coastline of Glacier Bay proper, excluding all islands: 560 statute miles

Coastline of Glacier Bay proper, including all islands: 760 statute miles

Oceans & Tides

Deepest Point in Glacier Bay: 1,427 feet below sea level

Tides are mixed semi-diurnal: Different high and low tides, twice daily (*two high/two low every day of differing heights*)

Tidal fluctuation: Maximum tidal change will be about 22 ft. from high to low (*11/16/2020: 19ft high, -3 low*)

Glaciers

About 250 years ago a single, large tidewater glacier covered all of Glacier Bay. By 1750 the glacier began to retreat and has now retreated 60 miles to the head of the bay.

Currently glaciers cover 2,055 square miles or 27 percent of the park. At last count there were 1,045 glaciers in the park. There are over 50 named glaciers, seven of which are active tidewater glaciers that calve icebergs into the sea. Most park glaciers originate between elevations from 8,000 to 15,000 feet.

The Grand Pacific, Brady, and Carroll glaciers cover areas in excess of 200 square miles each.

In general, tidewater and terrestrial glaciers in the park have been thinning and receding over the last several decades.

Selected Glacier Statistics	Height <i>above water</i>	Width	Length	Observation Status
Grand Pacific Glacier	60 feet	2 miles	34 miles	receding
Johns Hopkins Glacier	250 feet	1 mile	12.5 miles	thinning
Margerie Glacier	250 feet	1 mile	21 miles	receding
Lamplugh Glacier	180 feet	.75 miles	16 miles	thinning

Landmarks & Elevations

Mount Fairweather	15,308 feet	Mount Watson	12,407 feet
Mount Quincy Adams	13,566 feet	Mount La Perouse	10,713 feet
Mount Crillon	12,674 feet	Mount Bertha	10,158 feet

Earthquakes

Major earthquakes in the last 150 years (Date/Richter scale)
1899 / 8.2, 1927 / 7.3, 1958 / 7.8, 2014 / 6.0, 2017 / 6.3

Wildlife & Flora

Fish	329 species
Birds	247 species
Mammals	12 marine, 34 terrestrial species
Amphibians	1 species (Boreal toad)
Reptiles	1 species (Leatherback sea turtle)
Vascular Plants	594 individual taxa documented



Sea otters perform most of their daily activities – eating, grooming, and sleeping – while floating on their backs.