



# The FAIRWEATHER

VISITOR GUIDE



**2016**  
National Park Service.  
CENTENNIAL



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# Welcome

to Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. You have arrived both at a special place and at a momentous time. Numbers can have exceptional significance, especially years: 126 years of visitors coming to Glacier Bay, 91 years of protection as part of the NPS system, 10 years since the Supreme Court case confirming park marine jurisdiction. These years reveal a rising tide of understanding of how unique and deserving of protection Glacier Bay is. This year, though, contains two distinctive numbers: the National Park Service is 100 years old and this is the birth year of the Huna Tribal House, celebrating a new relationship with the Huna Tlingit (see page 4).



Please join us in celebrating 100 years of successes preserving America's special places. Throughout the year there will be special events and activities culminating in the celebration of the Huna Tlingit Tribal House on NPS Founders Day, August 25. No matter which day you visit or how much time you have, there will be centennial activities in which to take part. Look on our information boards, the park's website, or ask a park ranger to find out how you can participate.

While this year is a celebration of prior successes, it is also a challenge to all to ensure the relevance of parks to people and their protection in the next century—concepts that are inextricably linked. You can help connect national parks to future generations by exploring a career with the NPS, volunteering, advocating for the preservation of what you find special, or sharing your stories about parks and their meaning with people, including at [FindYourPark.com](http://FindYourPark.com).

Glacier Bay is the park I found, with its intertwining of ocean and land and its mandate to understand the processes of ecological change. I was first drawn to the national parks for the challenges and excitement that came from scaling the rock walls of Yosemite and Sequoia. I arrived here as a marine scientist in 1991 and have remained transfixed by Glacier Bay's beauty and its many mysteries. Now, having returned last year to help lead the park, I realize how much it has provided meaning and a center to my life, and what a great responsibility we have to preserve these opportunities for our children and their children. At the start of our second century, the NPS challenges you—in your own and different way—to Find Your Park.



Philip Hooge  
Superintendent

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### The Fairweather

Produced and Designed by:



**Park Coordinator:** Laura Buchheit

**Contributors:** Laura Buchheit, Chris Gabriele, Ken Grant, Margaret Hazen, Tania Lewis, Mary Beth Moss, Emma Johnson, Janet Neilson, Steven Schaller, Lewis Sharman, Chad Soiseth, Tom VandenBerg, and Melissa Senac.

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# 100 Years of “America’s Best Idea”



Glacier Bay visitors 2016.



Glacier Bay visitors 1890.

## The National Park Service turns 100!

Congratulations! You are part of a long legacy of adventurers inspired by Glacier Bay. You have also chosen a significant year to visit—2016 celebrates the centennial of the National Park Service. This year we look back at our history and forward to new opportunities and the next generation of park advocates.

### *The Park Idea*

Creating a National Park Service was not easy. In the 19th century the idea of preserving special natural and cultural places in public ownership ran contrary to the prevailing idea of nature as a commodity. But as wilderness receded and remnants of prehistoric civilizations and revolutionary landmarks were lost, outstanding examples of our nation’s heritage needed to be protected.

### *The First Parks*

It began in 1864, when the federal government gave Yosemite Valley to the state of California to be “held for public use, resort, and recreation...for all time.” Eight years later, Congress created the world’s first national park, Yellowstone, as “a public park or pleasure-ing ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people.” More large western parks followed. Though without funding, or even one employee, it was up to Army cavalry units to develop and protect these fledging parks.

### *Birth of a National Park Service*

In 1916, Congress created the National Park Service with the mission: “to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” Since then the American people have entrusted the National Park Service with the care of their most special places. Today there are 409 sites covering more than 84 million acres in every state. Some parks commemorate notable people and achievements, and others conserve magnificent landscapes and natural wonders. Parks, “America’s best idea,” represent our nation’s collective identity for us and for visitors from around the world.

### *Centennial Events*

Join the celebration! Participate in special events at a park near you. Share your experiences at [FindYourPark.com](http://FindYourPark.com). Check the posted activity schedules in Bartlett Cove for special centennial programs, and attend (in person or virtually online) Glacier Bay’s centennial highlight event: the celebration of the Huna Tribal House in August.



# Returning To Homeland



Skilled craftsmen have been working for years on decorative elements for the interior and exterior of the new Tribal House.

Most visitors approach Glacier Bay with an eye to capturing something new—perhaps a first glimpse of an ice-blue glacier, a few days of solitude in wilderness waters, or peaceful moments walking through the mossy forests of Bartlett Cove. Even those who return again and again have the opportunity to experience some new sight or sound, to reflect on some newly awoken feeling.

For the Huna Tlingit, Glacier Bay is a place not of new discoveries, but rather of reconnection with the life ways, knowledge, and ancestors of the past. The four primary Huna Tlingit clans lived in *Sít Eeti Geiyí*, the “Bay in Place of the Glacier” and along Icy Strait and the Outer Coast for countless generations; the Tlingit say since time before memory. This land-

scape sustained their families with a rich abundance of fish, wildlife, and plants both before and after the Little Ice Age. And it is a place that continues to sustain them through stories, songs, dances, and ongoing traditional practices. Although most Huna Tlingit today live across Icy Strait in the modern village of Hoonah, they return again and again to commune with ancestral spirits and to retrace the footsteps and actions of all those who have visited before them.

When Glacier Bay became a national monument in 1925, its borders encompassed much of the traditional Huna Tlingit homeland. New federal laws severely curtailed Native activities within the monument’s boundaries. So began a painful period of strained



relations between the Huna Tlingit and the National Park Service.

Time and new understandings have brought much healing. In recent years, the National Park Service and Hoonah Indian Association, the tribal government, have worked cooperatively to reinvigate traditional harvest activities that are compatible with current regulations, develop educational programs for Huna youth, sponsor summer culture camps, and collect and preserve oral histories.

Perhaps the most significant cooperative venture is currently under construction on the Bartlett Cove shoreline. The *Xunaa Shuká Hít*—roughly translated as “Huna Ancestor’s House”—is the first permanent clan house in Glacier Bay since Tlingit villages were destroyed by an advancing glacier over 250 years ago. A long awaited dream, it will serve as a gathering place where tribal members can reconnect with their treasured homeland through ceremonies, workshops, camps, tribal meetings, and other events. It will also provide thousands of park visitors with opportunities to learn about Huna Tlingit history, culture, and life ways.

Working closely with a team of clan leaders, craftsmen, planners, architects, and cultural resource specialists, the NPS and tribal government designed the building to reflect a traditional architectural style while providing for the needs of contemporary tribal members and park visitors. The focal point of the Tribal House is a large open gathering area with a central fire pit. However, visitors’ eyes will also be drawn to the elaborately carved and painted house front, four richly detailed massive cedar interior house posts that support the house’s main beams, and an interior house screen that depicts the stories of the four primary Huna Tlingit clans. Tribal craftsmen continue to work on totem poles that will flank the building. These precious cultural elements will impart spiritual value to the Tribal House, but as importantly, their design and completion has expanded the circle of tribal members sharing cultural knowledge. Many images of the carved elements are available on the Glacier Bay National Park website and Facebook page.

Construction of the Tribal House began in 2015; a return to homeland celebration is planned for August 2016. The event is expected to attract hundreds of tribal members who will breathe life into the Tribal House that is evidence of their enduring tie to Glacier Bay. The *Xunaa Shuká Hít* will become a place of discovery and of reconnection for generations to come.



# Explore Bartlett Cove



## *If you just have a few hours...*

**Stop by the Visitor Center:** On the second floor of the Glacier Bay Lodge you will find the National Park Service (NPS) information desk, visitor center, auditorium, and public reading area. Open daily with a variety of exhibits and educational materials from Alaska Geographic for purchase.

**Catch a film:** The National Park Service shows several different films daily in the auditorium.

**Walk the Forest Trail:** Go on your own or with a ranger. Daily ranger-led walks meet in the lodge. See trail details, page 7.

**Go for a beach walk:** See trail details, page 7.

**Take in an evening program:** Join a ranger in the auditorium for a presentation about the park.

**Visit the Whale Exhibit:** See one of the largest humpback whale skeletons on display in the world. Located near the Visitor Information Station.

## *If you have a half day...*

**Hike to the Bartlett River:** See trail details, page 4.

**Rent a bike:** Start at the Glacier Bay Lodge and pedal towards Gustavus.

**Explore the intertidal zone at low tide.**

**Join a Morning Discovery Hike with a park ranger.**

## *If you have a full day...*

**Hike to Bartlett Lake:** See trail details, page 4.

**Go for a paddle:** There are several options for kayaking around Bartlett Cove. Take a guided kayak trip, or rent your own from Glacier Bay Sea Kayaks.

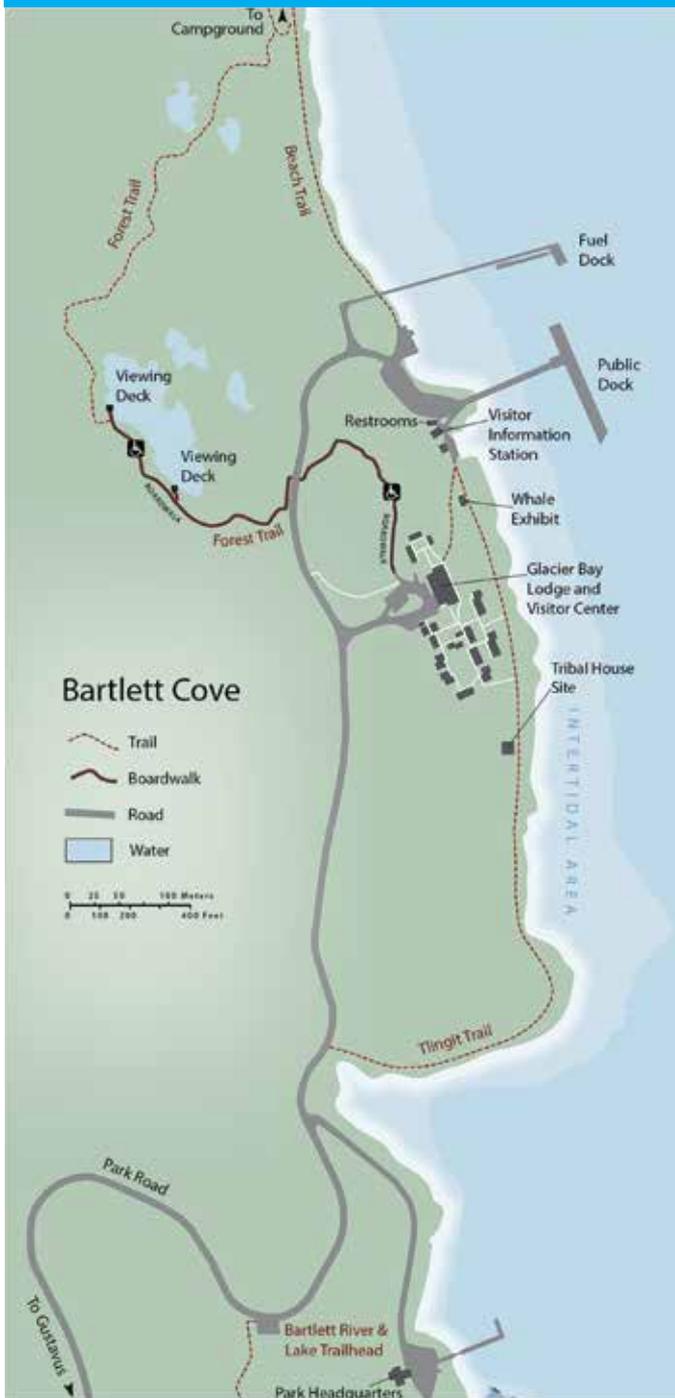
**Become a Junior Ranger:** Kids can visit the ranger at the NPS information desk to pick up their free Junior Ranger Activity Book. See page 37.



## Get the Latest Schedule of Events

Please see the National Park Service Visitor Center information desk in the Glacier Bay Lodge, the bulletin board in front of the lodge, or the Visitor Information Station (VIS) near the public dock for updates, desk hours, and evening program topics.

# Trails



Bartlett Cove is the only developed area within the wilds of Glacier Bay. The forests and shorelines offer great opportunities for hiking and exploring. Several relatively easy trails begin here. Spend some time, stretch your legs, and discover the wonders of Glacier Bay.

## Forest Trail

*Distance: 0.7 miles one-way*

*Time: 30 min. - 1.5 hours*

This leisurely stroll meanders through a lush forest that grows atop a glacial moraine. A wheelchair accessible boardwalk takes you part of the way, leading to two viewing decks that overlook a serene pond. Return along the shore for an easy one-mile loop. Rangers lead a guided walk along this trail every afternoon. Check the posted activity schedule for times.

## Bartlett River Trail

*Distance: 4 miles roundtrip*

*Time: 4-5 hours*

Meanders along an intertidal lagoon and through the spruce/hemlock forest before emerging and ending at the Bartlett River estuary. Watch for coyotes, moose, bear, and river otter along the beach. Ducks, geese, and other water birds concentrate in the intertidal area during migrations and molting. Salmon run up the river in the latter part of the summer, attracting hungry harbor seals. Bring water, snacks, and rain gear.

## Bartlett Lake Trail

*Distance: 8 miles roundtrip*

*Time: 7-8 hours*

Begin walking on the Bartlett River Trail. About  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile down the trail at a signpost, the lake trail will branch off and begin to climb the moraine. This trail is less maintained, so use caution to not lose the route. The chatter of red squirrels will accompany you as you wind your way over and around moss-covered boulders and lichen-covered trees before reaching the shores of Bartlett Lake. During this full-day wilderness journey, you may be richly rewarded with solitude and perhaps even the call of loons. Bring water, lunch, and rain gear.

## Explore the Shore

*Distance: varies*

The shoreline beyond the docks continues for many miles past the campground. You may observe land and marine wildlife. Look for birds, listen for whales, and watch for sea otters feeding near shore. Let the magic of Glacier Bay draw you in for an hour, or even a day.

# Wildlife Viewing



## By Land



**Moose**  
*Alces alces*

The largest member of the deer family is a recent newcomer to Glacier Bay. The first moose was spotted here in the late 1960s. Despite their

tremendous size (bulls can weigh 1,600 pounds and cows 1,300 pounds), they can appear and disappear in thick brush with surprising stealth. Moose are usually solitary, except for cows with calves and during the fall rutting season. Cows give birth in the spring to one or two small, reddish calves. A calf will stay with its mother for two years before the cow drives it off as she prepares to have more young. Their diet includes willow leaves, grasses, herbs, and aquatic vegetation. Only bulls grow antlers.



**Porcupine**  
*Erethizon dorsatum*

You may find this prickly member of the community high up in a cottonwood tree nibbling tasty tender leaves. Except for their footpads and nose,

porcupines are completely covered with yellowish fur and quills, which are actually modified hairs tipped with barbs. A threatened porcupine will turn its back-end toward the source of trouble to present an intimidating display of quills that firmly suggests the would-be predator reconsider its dinner plans. This large rodent (second largest in North America behind the beaver) performs a broad repertoire of grunts, whimpers, and screams. Listen for them in the evenings “talking” to no one in particular.

**Mountain Goats**  
*Oreamnos americanus*

Mountain goats have thick white coats of hollow hairs that help to keep them warm in extreme weather. Goats may have been among the first land animals to recolonize



Glacier Bay after the ice retreated, coming over the mountains from Lynn Canal to the east. They are at home on the steep rocky cliffs in the mid-to-upper bay. The special shape and design of their hooves allows them to leap nimbly from ledge to ledge in search of grasses, herbs, and low-growing shrubs. Seen at a distance, they can be mistaken for Dall sheep, which are found in interior Alaska, rather than Glacier Bay.

**Red Squirrel**  
*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*

If you see a little red flash zipping up a tree trunk or leaping nimbly among the branches, chances are it is a red squirrel. These agile rodents spend their summer preparing for winter



by collecting and storing green spruce cones in their middens, mounds of cones at the base of a tree. A red squirrel can harvest 12,000 to 16,000 spruce cones a year. Other favorite foods include mushrooms and seeds. Like forest alarms, they chatter unrelentingly when a threat—like you—is near.

When the ice retreated in Glacier Bay, it left behind a scoured landscape of rocks and mud. In time, plants returned to the seemingly sterile land. Eventually, animals returned to the land and waters within the bay. Today, a wide variety of creatures call Glacier Bay home for at least part of the year, and the number could grow as more creatures find their way to this evolving landscape. As you explore Bartlett Cove or as you cruise up the bay, keep your eye out for some of these more frequently seen members of the community.

## By Sea



### Steller Sea Lion

*Eumetopias jubatus*

Like all members of the eared seal family *Otariidae*, Steller sea lions can support themselves on their flippers while ashore, and their rear flippers pivot, allowing them to get around with surprising speed.

In the water they become fluid, executing a seemingly endless series of underwater flips, turns, and rolls. Mature males can weigh almost 2,000 pounds, though females average only 600 pounds. During mating season, large bulls compete at established rookery sites on Glacier Bay's outer coast to collect harems of females. Unsuccessful and immature males often congregate at haul-out areas like South Marble Island. Though the number of sea lions is growing in Glacier Bay, the population in Western Alaska has decreased by 80 percent since the late-1970s leading to that portion of the population's current listing as endangered.

### Harbor Seal

*Phoca vitulina richardsi*

Harbor seals have a dappled gray coat that can be highly variable between individuals. A thick layer of fat allows them to keep warm in otherwise chilling conditions. Unlike the sea lion, harbor seals have no external earflap and when out of the water, cannot support themselves on their flippers. On ice floes, they resemble plump sausages that move around by scooting on their ample bellies. In the water, they display admirable grace as they hunt for fish. Up to 1,700 seals converge in Johns Hopkins Inlet each summer for pupping and mating. Ongoing research in the park indicates that the population in the inlet has declined 75 percent in the past decade.



### Harbor Porpoise

*Phocoena phocoena*

At five feet long and about 120 pounds, harbor porpoise are the smallest cetaceans in Alaska waters. Often seen in groups of two to ten throughout the bay, they

announce themselves by offering a brief glimpse of their small triangular dorsal fin cutting slowly through the water's surface when they come up to catch a breath. Harbor porpoise are generally dark gray with a slightly pointed face. They do not ride bow waves, like their relative the Dall's porpoise. Dall's porpoise are larger (6.4 feet and 300 pounds) and resemble small orcas in their black and white coloration. Though Dall's porpoise can be seen in the bay, they are more often seen near the entrance and in Icy Strait.

### Sea Otter

*Enhydra lutris*

The Glacier Bay sea otter population has rebounded from zero to almost 9,000 in the last 20 years. Voracious eaters of shellfish like crabs and clams, they exert a strong influence on their environment and scientists anticipate dramatic changes will take place in the underwater world of Glacier Bay. Sea otters perform many of their daily tasks such as eating, bathing, and sleeping while floating on their backs. Lacking a thick layer of blubber, otters instead have the densest fur of any mammal with up to one million hairs per square inch. Generally dark brown, their faces get whiter as they age.



# A Brief Timeline of Glacier Bay

Prehistoric to present: Tlingit Indians and their ancestors had both permanent and seasonal settlements in much of what is now Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. Several hundred years ago at the end of the Little Ice Age, advancing glaciers forced the Tlingit people to abandon their villages and move to Hoonah, across Icy Strait from Glacier Bay.

1879 Guided by Tlingit Indians from Fort Wrangell, John Muir enters the bay in a dugout canoe accompanied by a Presbyterian missionary named S. Hall Young. Glacial ice has retreated into the bay 40 miles since 1794.

1890 Muir makes his third visit to Glacier Bay, this time constructing a cabin at the base of Mt. Wright. He makes extensive observations of glaciers and explains the interglacial tree stumps.

1778 Captain James Cook of the H.M.S. *Resolution* names Mt. Fairweather. His crew includes George Vancouver and William Bligh.

1750

1800

1850

1900

1750 The Little Ice Age is ending and the glaciers begin to retreat.

1794 Captain George Vancouver of the H.M.S. *Discovery* and Lt. Joseph Whidbey describe Glacier Bay as "a compact sheet of ice as far as the eye could distinguish." The "bay" is a mere 5-mile indentation in the coastline.

1899 On September 10, a tremendous earthquake centered in Yakutat Bay causes rapid and extensive calving in Glacier Bay, leaving the waters ice-choked and impassable to ships.

1786 Captain Jean-Francois de Galaup de Lapérouse's crew while in Lituya Bay described the Native peoples they met there; cartographers created the first detailed maps of park landforms. The expedition meets tragedy on July 13 when 21 sailors are lost in a tidal wave at the mouth of Lituya Bay.



1884 Captain Carroll pilots the side-wheel steamer *Ancon* to Muir Glacier, which will become a popular tourist destination until the 1899 earthquake.

1880 Guided by a Tlingit Indian named Tyeen, John Muir and Young return to visit Taylor Bay, Dundas Bay, and what will become known as Muir Glacier. Stickeen, a small dog, is part of the expedition.

1953 Canadian Pacific Steamship Company brings the first modern cruise ships into the area.

1916 William S. Cooper, ecologist from the University of Minnesota, arrives in Glacier Bay to begin a study of plant succession. He returns five more times between 1921 and 1966.

U.S. Congress passes the Organic Act, creating the National Park Service.

*1950*

1992 Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve — together with Wrangell/St. Elias National Park (Alaska), Kluane National Park Reserve (Canada) and Tatshenshini-Alsek Provincial Park (Canada) — becomes part of a 24-million-acre World Heritage Site.

1980 The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act is signed into law. Glacier Bay becomes a national park. Preserve lands are added. The new park and preserve total almost 3.3 million acres, of which 2.7 are designated Wilderness.

2016 National Park Service celebrates its centennial; 100 years of "America's Best Idea."

*2000*

1966 Glacier Bay Lodge opens.

1986 Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, along with Admiralty Island National Monument, is designated an International Biosphere Reserve.

1995 The National Park Service and Huna Tlingit sign a Memorandum of Understanding, establishing a working relationship.

1998-1999 Congress passes legislation regarding the management of commercial fishing activities in Glacier Bay National Park.

1925 President Coolidge establishes Glacier Bay National Monument on February 26.

1922 Cooper suggests national monument status for Glacier Bay to the Ecological Society of America.

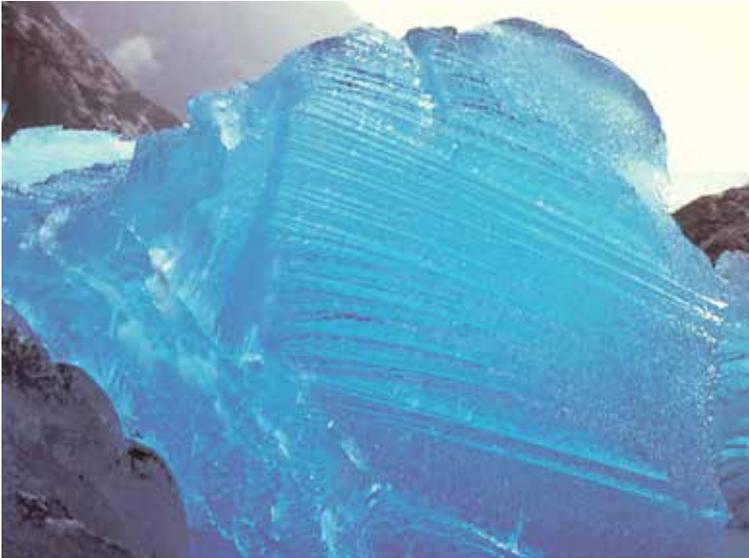
2015 About 500,000 people visit Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve.



# Glaciers

*“The Master Builder chose for a tool, not the thunder and lightning to rend and split asunder, not the stormy torrent nor the eroding rain, but the tender snowflake, noiselessly falling through unnumbered generations.”*

— John Muir



## Blue Ice, White Ice

*If you've ever played with a prism in the sunlight, you know that natural light is made up of all the colors of the rainbow.*

Each color of light has a specific wavelength and certain amount of energy. Colors such as red and yellow have long wavelengths and consequently low energy. But blue, with its short wavelengths, has high energy.

Glacier ice is made up of large, tightly packed ice crystals. When sunlight hits glacier ice, the ice acts like a prism and separates the light according to its wavelength. Low energy colors like red and yellow are absorbed by the ice. Blue has enough energy to reflect out to our eyes.

If the surface of the glacier ice becomes weathered or if the ice contains many air bubbles, the blue light becomes diffused. Then the ice appears white.

## Rivers of Ice

A glacier is born high in the mountains, where the only precipitation that falls is snow, and the snow that falls does not melt. A slight depression on the mountainside catches this snow. Year after year, the snowflakes pile up. Soon the sheer weight of this vast accumulation presses down on itself. The snow compresses. The flakes change shape and fuse into ice. Eventually, the weight of the ice is too much for the depression to hold against gravity and the ice begins to flow downhill seeking equilibrium. Now that it's moving, it's a glacier.

Like a river, the glacier flows down the mountain choosing the path of least resistance. As it moves, it incorporates rocks into its lower layers. These acquired rocks grind away at the bedrock. In time, the glacial ice will carve deep valleys in the mountainside.

When the ice reaches lower, warmer elevations, it begins to melt. Eventually the loss through melting is greater than the supply of ice flowing down the mountain. The glacier ceases to make further progress, though the body of ice is still moving down the mountain. At this point, the glacier is like a one-way conveyor belt moving ice out of the mountains into the valleys.

Glaciologists have identified different types of glaciers based on their characteristics. For example, a glacier that remains confined within valley walls is a valley glacier. If it flows out of the valley and spreads out, it's a piedmont glacier. If it simply drops out of the valley, it's a hanging glacier. But the type of glacier most folks in Glacier Bay are interested in is the type that ends in the sea: the tidewater glacier.

Compared to glacial ice, seawater is warm and highly erosive. Waves and tides work away at the unstable glacier face, causing huge chunks to calve or break off into the ocean.

Barring significant climate changes, each glacier is in a constant state of renewal. New snow will continue to fall in the mountain basin to replace the snow that has compacted into ice and begun to flow downhill. The length of time it takes for a snowflake that falls in the mountains to emerge at the end, or terminus, of a glacier varies, depending on the speed at which the glacier is flowing. The ice visible at the face of the park's glaciers is about 200 years old.

# Glacier ID

At first glance, it may seem that all glaciers look alike. But as you spend time getting acquainted with the glaciers of Glacier Bay, you will soon realize that each one is unique.

Look all around for glaciers during your voyage of discovery. There are over 1,000 glaciers in Glacier Bay. Most are high in the mountains, though a few notable glaciers extend all the way to the sea. Which glaciers did you enjoy on your visit?



Reid Glacier



Lamplugh Glacier



Margerie Glacier

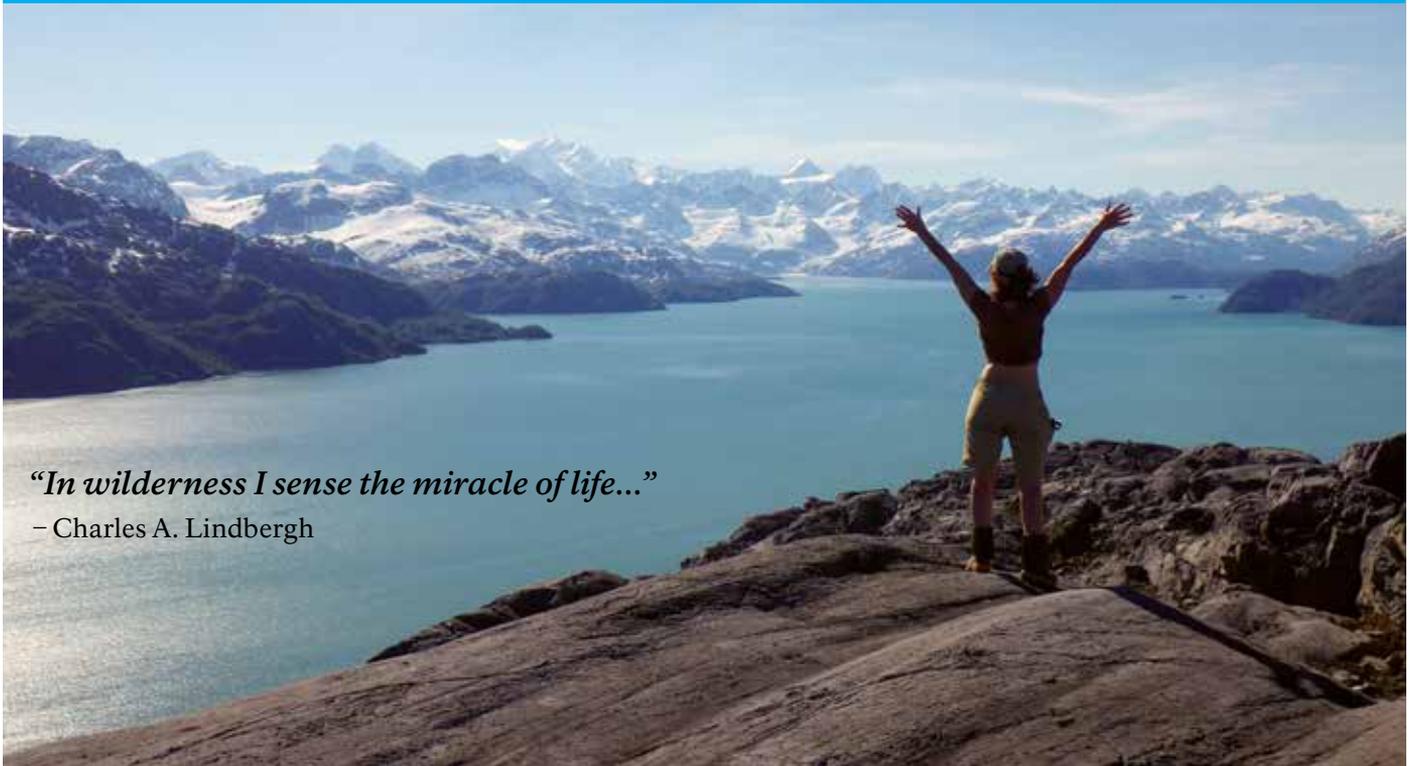


Johns Hopkins Glacier

<i>Glacier</i>	<i>Height</i> Above and Below Waterline	<i>Width</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Flow Rate</i> (in feet)	<i>Status</i>
Grand Pacific	60-180 feet above 0-60 feet below	2 miles	34.5 miles	1-4 feet / day 350-1,200 feet / year	Slowly Receding/ Thinning
Johns Hopkins	250 feet above 200 feet below	1 mile	12.5 miles	10-15 feet / day 4,000 feet / year	Advancing/ Thickening
Lamplugh	150-180 feet above 10-40 feet below	.75 miles	16 miles	2-3 feet / day 1,200 feet / year	Stable to Receding/ Thinning
Margerie	250 feet above 50-100 feet below	1 mile	21 miles	6-8 feet / day 2,000 feet / year	Stable
McBride	200-250 feet above est. 300 feet below	.5 miles	12 miles	15-20 feet / day 5,000-7,000 feet / year*	Rapidly Receding
Muir	30 feet above 0 feet below	.5 miles	12.5 miles	.5 feet / day 150 feet / year*	Slowly Receding/ Thinning
Reid	>20-130 feet above 0-10 feet below	.75 miles	9.5 miles	1-3 feet / day 800 feet / year*	Slowly Receding/ Thinning
Riggs	20-90 feet above 0 feet below	.75 miles	14.5 miles	1-2 feet / day 600 feet / year*	Slowly Receding/ Thinning

\* Estimated figures provided by Dr. Dan Lawson of the CRREL.

# The Wild Side



*“In wilderness I sense the miracle of life...”*

– Charles A. Lindbergh

Towering glaciers, amazing wildlife, spectacular mountains . . . Glacier Bay is overwhelming in its beautiful scenery and magnificent sights. Yet equally remarkable is what we do not see . . . buildings, roads, bridges, towers. Most of Glacier Bay will never be developed, for Glacier Bay has the highest conservation protection our country can give to wild lands: wilderness.

Perspectives on wilderness have changed throughout history. A place once feared became a place revered. Fifty years ago the United States made a bold statement to preserve some public lands as forever wild, defined by law as wilderness. The 1964 Wilderness Act, passed with an almost unanimous vote by Congress, created a National Wilderness Preservation System. Today, almost every state in the United States has designated wilderness and many countries around the world emulate the Wilderness Act.

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve safeguards one of the largest units of the National Wilderness Preservation System, encompassing more than 2.7 million acres. Glacier Bay also protects a unique type of wilderness—marine wilderness. Thirteen percent of Glacier Bay’s water is designated wilderness, and therefore managed to be wild, untrammeled, and primeval.

By designating an area as wilderness, we choose to manage it differently. There is considerable thought put into keeping wilderness truly wild. Protecting wilderness goes beyond caring for the landscape. Wilderness protects areas as places where humans exercise humility and restraint. Wilderness provides sanctuaries for wildlife and renewal for humans, offering reservoirs of hope in challenging times.

In Glacier Bay’s wilderness, we have the opportunity to be overwhelmed by sights of glaciers, wildlife, and mountains. Yet there is so much more to wilderness than what catches our eye. Here we can be a part of something larger. We can immerse ourselves in wild lands. We can connect with wilderness, and carry that sense of wildness within us.

*“. . . it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.”*

The Wilderness Act, 1964

# Park Science

People from around the world explore and admire Glacier Bay, including researchers. The dramatic retreat of glaciers created a premiere scientific laboratory. Explorer John Muir initiated the park's remarkable legacy of scientific inquiry in the late 1800s. Botanist William Cooper secured protected status for Glacier Bay following his unprecedented research about how plant life follows glacial retreat. In fact, the founding legislation of Glacier Bay National Park states research as a reason for national preservation. From whales to plankton and glaciers to gulls, research is a common occurrence in the protected laboratory of Glacier Bay. This research provides greater understanding and appreciation for the wilderness we explore. Learn more by reading the following pages, and make your own discoveries in Glacier Bay.

*“The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science.”*

– Albert Einstein



## Research Highlights

How are Glacier Bay's humpback whales related? Do wolves and bears eat the same food? How do we know that Glacier Bay's land is rising? To investigate the breadth of research in Glacier Bay, explore our collection of Research Highlights. Ask for Research Highlights at the Glacier Bay Visitor Center and the Visitor Information Station, or browse the research section of Glacier Bay's website. There is much to learn!

## Learning by Listening

We come to Glacier Bay to see amazing sights, yet it is the sounds of the landscape that help it come alive. While you are in Glacier Bay, take time to listen as intently as you look. Sounds are also a rich source of scientific knowledge. By studying the voices of Glacier Bay, we can protect natural soundscapes for the animals that live here, as well as the people who visit.

This year researchers are studying Glacier Bay with their eyes closed. A team of scientists from Oregon State and Syracuse Universities are using underwater sound recordings to study how harbor seals and humpback whales use sound in their daily life. This information will help evaluate how human-made noises, such as boat engines, affect marine mammal communication. To learn more, visit the Currents Ocean Science Hub at <http://www.nps.gov/glba/blogs/Currents.htm>.

You can also listen to the sounds of Glacier Bay in the Voices of Glacier Bay sound library. The library holds over 600 recordings of birds and mammals, as well as thundering glaciers, bubbling icebergs, and buzzing bugs.

To learn more, visit <http://www.nps.gov/glba/learn/nature/soundscape.htm>.





Researchers collect ocean water from the depths of Glacier Bay to document changing conditions for marine life. Glacier Bay’s “sea butterflies” are especially vulnerable to ocean acidification.

## Changing Seas

Visitors to Glacier Bay journey on ocean waters, often with the hope of glimpsing magnificent marine life such as humpback whales. These animals depend on the healthy marine environment protected by Glacier Bay National Park. However, Glacier Bay’s waters, like oceans everywhere, are vulnerable to change. Glacier Bay waters are especially sensitive to ocean acidification, a change of ocean chemistry with long-lasting impacts.

Ocean acidification is the increase in acidity (decrease in pH) of the ocean caused by the absorption of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Oceans have always absorbed carbon dioxide from the air, but today’s increasing carbon dioxide from burning of fossil fuels is resulting in higher levels of dissolved carbon dioxide and increasing acidity in seawater. As a result, many crabs, shrimp, clams, and other marine life have trouble building and maintaining their shells. The increased acidity causes the protective shells of these animals to become thinner and more brittle, which makes it hard for them to grow and survive. The smallest of such shell-bearing marine life include zooplankton, the microscopic animals that are a foundation for the entire marine food web. Marine scientists predict fundamental changes in the entire marine ecosystem as ocean acidification shakes the foundation of the food web.

A recent research project in Glacier Bay discovered that Glacier Bay’s ocean waters are becoming more acidic. While ocean water is generally resistant to acidification, this resistance is diminished when fresh water dilutes ocean water. Glacier Bay has abundant fresh water entering the ocean from melting glaciers, thawing snow, and plentiful rainfall. This dilution effect is strongest during the summer months due to higher glacial meltwater runoff. Summer is also the time of greatest ocean productivity, so there is an increased impact on marine life.

A new study in Glacier Bay led by University of Alaska seeks to understand the effects of ocean acidification on shell-bearing zooplankton, including pteropods. Pteropods are free-swimming snails called “sea butterflies,” which are an important food source for juvenile salmon. Researchers will continue to investigate oceans to increase the understanding of and ability to respond to environmental change. While the National Park Service cannot directly control the acidification of Glacier Bay’s ocean water, the park strives to reduce other influences on the marine environment so that Glacier Bay can remain one of the healthiest marine areas in the world.



Ninety-five percent of Alaska's glaciers are thinning, stagnating, or retreating.

## The Ice Is Melting

The Earth's climate is changing—and fast! Climate change is real, and the world will be different because of it. Scientists who study the Earth's climate have documented warming temperatures in Alaska. Warming temperatures lead to changes in fire cycles, tree growth, animal migrations, and more, including melting glaciers. Of the more than 100,000 glaciers in the state, 95 percent are currently thinning, stagnating, or retreating, and more importantly, the rate of thinning is increasing. Glacier Bay's glaciers follow this trend. Recent research determined that there is 15 percent less glacial ice in Glacier Bay now than in 1950. However, heavy snowfall in the towering Fairweather Mountains means that Glacier Bay remains home to a few stable and even advancing glaciers, a rarity in today's world.

Glacial melting and a warming ocean (water expands when warmed) will contribute to sea level rise. Fortunately, though, Glacier Bay's shorelines are unlikely to be inundated. As the park's glaciers melt and remove their great weight from the land, the Earth's crust will slowly bounce upward to compensate, at a documented rate of one inch per year. Known as isostatic rebound, this process should more than keep up with rising sea level.

Take a good look at the glaciers you see in Glacier Bay today. The next time you see these glaciers, they will be different. The Earth's climate is changing and Glacier Bay is warming. How will these changes affect you? One fact is certain: the choices we make today do make a difference in the future.

For more information about climate change in Alaska's National Parks, visit [www.nps.gov/akso/nature/climate/state-of-change.cfm](http://www.nps.gov/akso/nature/climate/state-of-change.cfm).





Huna tribal member measures gull eggs while NPS biologist records information during an experimental Tlingit gull egg harvest in Glacier Bay.

## Resuming Tlingit Harvest of Gull Eggs in Glacier Bay

Following the last glacial retreat, the Huna Tlingit harvested gull eggs from seabird colonies on the newly exposed islands of Glacier Bay. Egg gathering provided not only a healthy spring food source, but also a way for families to bond through intergenerational food harvests and maintain ties with their homeland. These traditional harvests were restricted in the 1960s when the National Park Service (NPS) began enforcing the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and other policies which prohibited egg harvest. In recent years the NPS and the Hoonah Indian Association (HIA) have collaborated on a wide range of programs designed to reinvigorate cultural activities within the park, including the harvest of gull eggs. Substantial research on gull colonies in Glacier Bay has shown that egg harvest conducted early in the season does not likely impact gull numbers because gulls will lay again after losing eggs. Based on this research and findings demonstrating negligible impact to other park resources, the U.S. Congress passed legislation in 2014 authorizing a tribal harvest of glaucous-winged gull eggs in Glacier Bay National Park.

With passage of this legislation, a NPS-HIA working group began developing the first gull egg harvest plan

and the NPS is working through the necessary regulations to implement the law. Glacier Bay National Park managers are collaborating with HIA to collect information on glaucous-winged gulls to guide future egg harvests. Last spring, park staff and HIA conducted an experimental research harvest of eggs to determine the impact of harvesting on the timing of egg laying, number of eggs per nest and per colony, and egg size. Four tribal members joined the park's cultural anthropologist, wildlife biologist, and wildlife technician to visit two gull colonies pre-selected for this experimental harvest. Tribal members collected one hundred gull eggs from two colonies and assisted park biologists in conducting a full census of the nests and measuring harvested eggs. The eggs were distributed among Huna elders and tribal members. The cherished eggs were a highlight at a school picnic, reintroducing children to this culturally important food. Resuming the long tradition of gull egg harvest in Glacier Bay signifies one of many new opportunities welcoming the Huna Tlingit back to their Homeland.



Researchers assess a temporary satellite tag attached to a 4 foot long female halibut. The tag provides valuable information about the halibut's location.

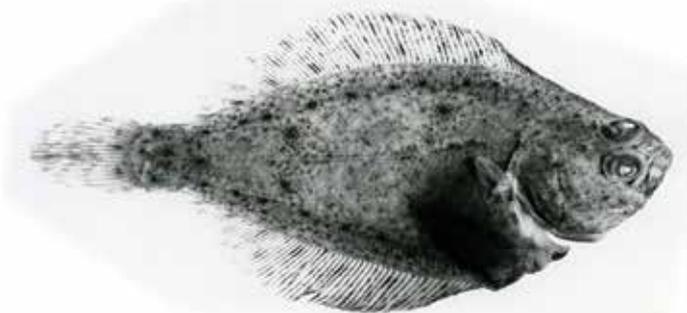
## Glacier Bay Halibut: Traveler or Homesteader?

Considering their fame in fishing, their delicacy on the dinner table, and their importance in the marine ecosystem, it is surprising how little we know about the journey halibut make throughout their lives. We do know that young halibut are wanderers. Females release millions of eggs in deep ocean waters along the continental shelf during the winter. Hatched larvae travel thousands of miles on ocean currents for up to six months before they settle in shallow water, moving progressively into deeper water as they grow. At three years old, a halibut is one foot long. If it survives, it may reach fifty-five years of age, nine feet long, and weigh over five hundred pounds.

There has been a long-held assumption that all adult halibut in Glacier Bay migrate to the Gulf of Alaska each winter to reproduce. Glacier Bay research is contradicting this assumption. In 2013, University of Alaska researchers tagged twenty-five female halibut with satellite transmitter tags. Tags recorded information about the halibut's location over seven to twelve months, until tags released automatically. Information was then transmitted to satellites. Preliminary results show that the majority (fourteen of twenty) of the halibut stayed within Glacier Bay throughout the study year. Four of the other six fish left Glacier Bay for only two months during the

winter, returning in March. Altogether, the tagged halibut spent over ninety percent of their time in Glacier Bay. The time that tagged halibut did spend outside the bay occurred during reproductive migration, which is primarily when the commercial halibut fishery is closed.

While halibut fishing is a major Southeast Alaska industry, commercial fishing within Glacier Bay will be phased out around 2050 due to 1999 National Park Service regulations. Since Glacier Bay's halibut seem to be committed homesteaders, there will be increased protection for halibut within Glacier Bay as commercial fishing ends. Continued research in this unique marine ecosystem highlights Glacier Bay's role as a nationally designated marine protected area.



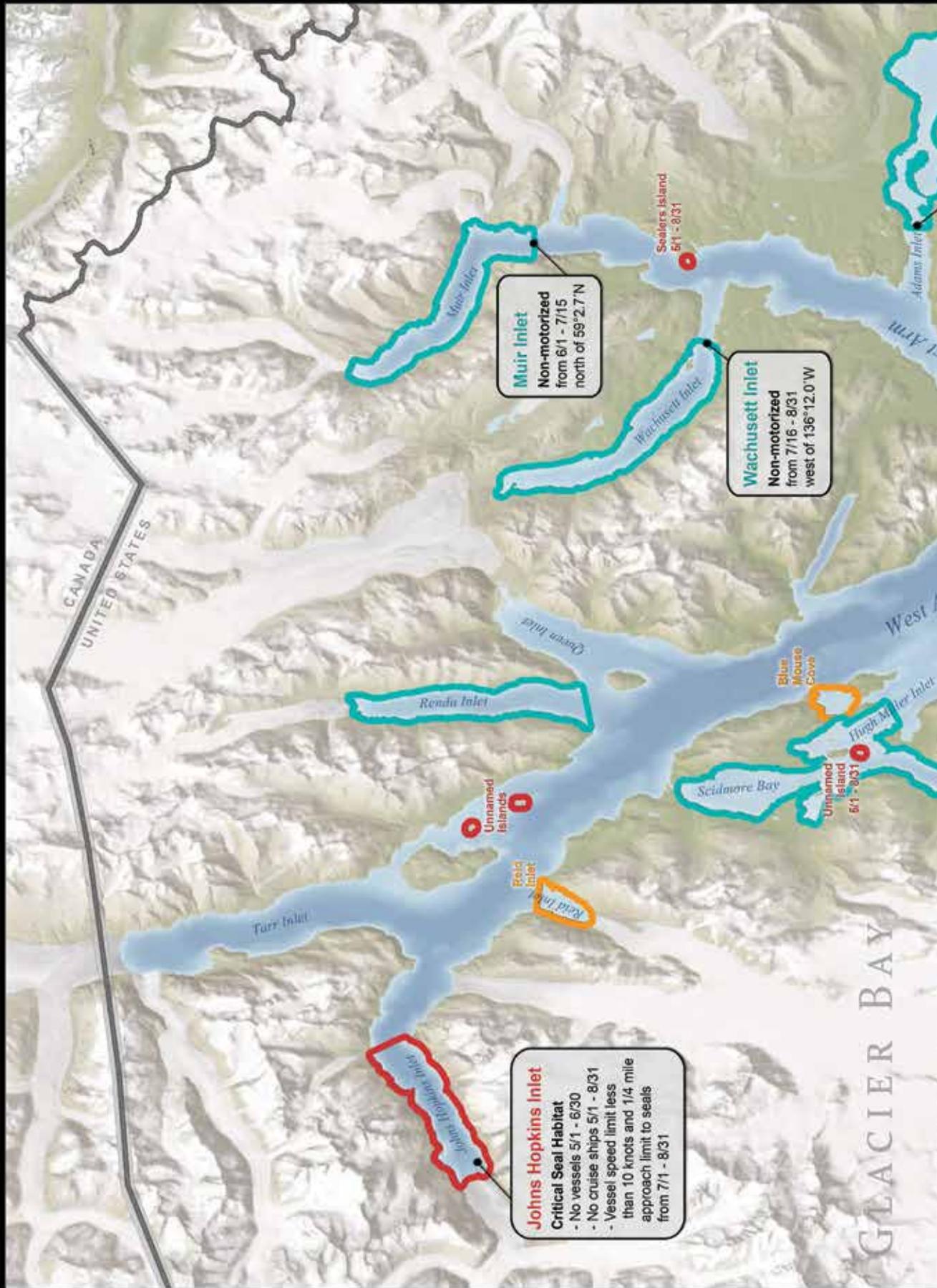
Juvenile halibut, actual size. Baby halibut have not yet been found in Glacier Bay.

Photo: International Pacific Halibut Commission

# Guide to Park Waters

For Boaters, Kayakers, and Campers

Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior





Check with the Visitor Information Station for additional camping or boating temporary restrictions.

Thank you for adhering to these restrictions. They were designed to protect park resources and provide for a wide range of visitor recreation opportunities.

Notify Bartlett Cove before entering and exiting Glacier Bay between May 1 - September 30 (VHF KVM20 channel 16 or 907-697-2627)



Adams Inlet  
Non-motorized  
east of 135° 59' 2" W

Please contact the Visitor Information Station for additional information about boating permits, camping permits, or other questions concerning Glacier Bay.  
 (907) 697 - 2627  
 1 Park Road, PO Box 140  
 Gustavus, AK 99826  
<http://www.nps.gov/glba>

**Legend**

- Critical Wildlife Areas**  
Year-round closures, except as noted  
Approach no closer than 100 yards
- Non Motorized Waters**  
5/1 - 9/15, except as noted

- Whale Waters**  
Vessel course and speed restrictions apply 5/15 - 9/30  
Darker blue indicates one nautical mile from shoreline
- Noise Restricted Areas**  
Generators prohibited 6/1 - 8/31 from 10pm to 6am

# Boating and Camping Guide



## Amazing Adventures Await!

Glacier Bay provides amazing opportunities for wilderness discovery. Time spent exploring the backcountry creates memories of a lifetime. Wilderness is full of surprises, so planning ahead and preparing for your adventure helps ensure a fulfilling and safe trip. The following pages give a wealth of information about camping and boating in Glacier Bay.

If you plan to camp or boat during your visit, your first stop should be at the Visitor Information Station (VIS) near the public dock. During the summer, a free permit is required for all motorized boating and overnight camping. Orientations are required annually for all

campers and boat captains. These orientations will help you to make the most of your time in Glacier Bay, safely and with minimum impact to the park. Orientations cover current backcountry conditions, regulations, safety issues, resource situations, tides, and weather. Backcountry campers can check out bear-resistant food containers to use free of charge during their visit.

It is your responsibility to know and follow the regulations of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. We can help. If you have any questions, please contact the park or ask a park ranger at the VIS, the visitor center, or at park headquarters.

### *Help Keep Glacier Bay Clean*

Glacier Bay is remarkably pristine and free of litter. You can help keep the park clean and efficient. Please separate your waste into the appropriate bins in the parking lot near the public dock. Your efforts to separate recycling help make it possible to reach the park's record of over 70 percent of waste generated in day-to-day operations to be recycled or reused.

Recycling is a serious endeavor in Glacier Bay. The park collaborates with the neighboring city of Gustavus to send shipments of aluminum, paper products, steel, tin,

and most plastics to recycling centers. Park staff do a final hand sorting of trash to ensure that all recyclable items are in recycling shipments. Locally, food waste from the park and the lodge is composted into topsoil for use in the community.

With your help, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve will continue to achieve one of the best recycling rates in the National Park Service. We can all work together to keep Glacier Bay's environment clean and healthy.



## Park Regulations

The following is a partial listing of laws and regulations designed to help you have a safe, enjoyable visit while protecting park resources. For further information or questions on additional regulations, please ask a park ranger.

**Feeding Wildlife** is prohibited. All food, fish, garbage, and equipment used to cook or store food must be cached inside of a motor vehicle (not in open pickup), vessel (excluding kayaks), building, approved bear-resistant food containers, designated trash receptacle, or designated food cache.

**Camping** in Bartlett Cove is allowed only in the designated campground or one mile away from any road, building, or trail.

**Firearms** are prohibited in federal facilities. Special regulations apply when carrying firearms within Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. Please contact the Visitor Information Station at Bartlett Cove at 907-697-2627 for further guidance.

**Hunting** is only permitted on the preserve lands in the Dry Bay area. All persons 16 years and older are required to hold a valid Alaska State Hunting License.

**Harvesting** the following for personal use and consumption is allowed: unoccupied seashells, edible berries and fruits, edible mushrooms, clams, and mollusks. State regulations apply.

NOTE: Eating clams and mussels from Glacier Bay is not recommended because of the presence of a naturally occurring neurotoxin that causes paralytic shellfish poisoning in humans and can lead to sudden death.

**Pets** are allowed on land in only a few select areas, may not be left unattended, and must be leashed at all times. Pets are not allowed on trails or in the backcountry. Pets are allowed on the Bartlett Cove public use dock, on the beach between the Bartlett Cove public use dock and the park headquarters dock, within 100 feet of Bartlett Cove roads or parking areas unless otherwise posted, and on vessels on the water.

**Sport Fishing** by all persons 16 years and older requires a valid Alaska State Fishing License, available during the summer months at Glacier Bay Lodge and some businesses in Gustavus. Consult Alaska State Fishing regulations when purchasing a license.

### FOR YOUR SAFETY

You are in a remote, isolated area. The closest hospital or trauma facility is in Juneau, 30 minutes by air. Weather conditions can delay medical evacuations or other emergency transport, sometimes for days. Plan and prepare for your trips carefully! Even for short excursions, always let someone know where you are going and what time you plan to be back.

# Boating

## Essentials for Motorized Vessels

### Permits

- Are required for private motor vessels from June 1 through August 31.
- Are free and valid for seven consecutive days.
- Must be confirmed 48 hours before scheduled entry date or permit will be cancelled.
- Are only valid for operation of one vessel at a time.

To confirm permits or to see if permits are available, call the Visitor Information Station “KWM20 Bartlett Cove” on marine band 16 or phone 907-697-2627. Permit applications are accepted 60 days before the intended entry date and are available at [www.nps.gov/glba](http://www.nps.gov/glba). All vessels must call in to KWM20 prior to entering and also when exiting the park.

### Docks

#### Bartlett Cove Dock:

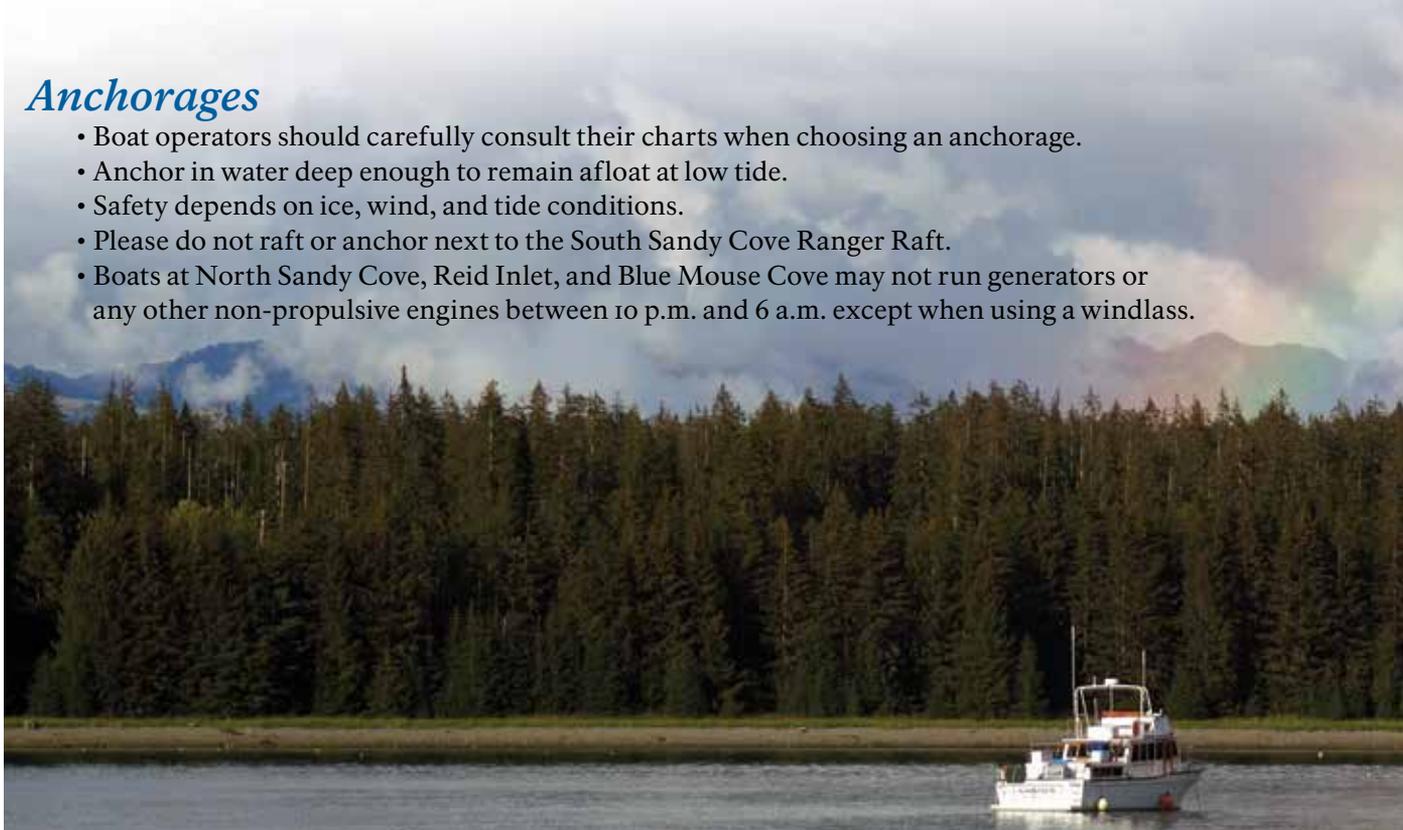
- Vessels may dock for a maximum of 3 hours in a 24-hour period. After that, anchor out beyond the white “no wake” buoys.
- Dinghies 10 feet or less may dock in the designated area for up to 24 hours.
- Do not leave vehicles or equipment unattended on docks.
- Use only slips designated for your use. See dock bulletin board.
- Potable water is available on the dock.

#### Fuel Dock:

- For hours, call Glacier Bay Lodge on marine band 16 or phone 907-697-4000.
- Fuel is available during the Glacier Bay Lodge operating season.
- Access to shore via the fuel dock is not permitted.
- Do not leave vessels unattended at the fuel dock.

### Anchorage

- Boat operators should carefully consult their charts when choosing an anchorage.
- Anchor in water deep enough to remain afloat at low tide.
- Safety depends on ice, wind, and tide conditions.
- Please do not raft or anchor next to the South Sandy Cove Ranger Raft.
- Boats at North Sandy Cove, Reid Inlet, and Blue Mouse Cove may not run generators or any other non-propulsive engines between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. except when using a windlass.



## Be Careful on the Water

**Closures:** Areas designated as Critical Wildlife Areas are off limits to entry and landings for all or part of the year. In summer, some areas are off limits to motorized vessels—including sailing vessels with auxiliary motorized propulsion, even if not in use. Know and obey all closures. See Guide to Park Waters, pages 20-21.

**Cruise Ships:** No more than two cruise ships are permitted in the park per day. These large vessels cannot turn quickly and may take miles to stop. Do not approach them when they are stationary in front of the glaciers. Do not get in their path and do not assume they see you. Watch for large wakes from ships. These waves can reach the beach over 10 minutes after the ship has passed.

**Currents & Winds:** The forces of tides, currents, and wind can combine in certain places to create dangerous conditions. Areas that may require extra caution include Sitakaday Narrows, Beardslee Entrance, McBride Entrance, Berg Bay, and the north shore of Adams Inlet. Plan crossings of wide channels carefully. Be prepared to change your route or wait for dangerous conditions to subside.

**Ice:** Glaciers can calve from above and below the waterline. Underwater tongues of ice can break off and shoot to the surface. Approaching tidewater glaciers closer than ¼ mile is not recommended.



**Tides:** Secure boats, kayaks, and gear well above the high tide line. Beware of extreme high tides. Some waterways are tide dependent and may only be passable at high tide.

**Landslides:** Many of Glacier Bay's steep mountainsides are unstable. Landslides may occur at any time, potentially resulting in large waves in narrow inlets and along shorelines.

**Weather:** Mid-May through September, weather forecasts and satellite images are posted daily at the Visitor Information Station bulletin board. Rangers broadcast the marine forecast and other important notices over marine band 9 at approximately 8:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. daily.

## Maps and Charts

Topographic Maps:  
Trails Illustrated Map by National Geographic 1:250,000  
USGS Quadrangles 1:63,360

Nautical Charts:  
17300 Stephens Passage to Cross Sound  
17318 Glacier Bay  
17302 Icy Strait and Cross Sound  
17301 Cape Spencer to Icy Point  
16762 Lituya Bay

## Emergency

Call rangers "KWM20 Bartlett Cove" on marine band 16. NOTE: Radio coverage in the bay is spotty, and cell phone coverage is nonexistent. Hail another boat nearby to relay messages.

If you have no radio, wave a large brightly colored item toward a passing boat. Tie this item to a stick, oar, or kayak paddle for greater visibility.

Report all emergencies to the Visitor Information Station near the public dock by phone (907-697-2627) or by radio (KWM20 Bartlett Cove).

## Glacier-Making Weather

Glacier Bay has a maritime climate, heavily influenced by ocean currents. The result is mild winter temperatures and cool summer temperatures near sea level. Summer visitors can expect highs between 50° and 60° degrees Fahrenheit (10-15 degrees Celsius). Winter temperatures rarely drop into the single digits, with average nighttime lows in the mid 20s and highs in the upper 30s.



## Hypothermia—Killer Cold

In the backcountry, good rain gear is a must. Staying dry will help you stay warm as wet clothing can wick away body heat and lead to hypothermia—the lowering of the body’s core temperature. Hypothermia can kill. Prevention and early recognition are vital to safe camping. A victim of hypothermia may not realize his or her condition, and will often deny being cold or needing help.

**Early Symptoms:** Violent shivering, changes in mood or consciousness, irritability, cool, pale skin, slow or weak pulse, slow, shallow breathing.

**Advanced Symptoms:** Absence of shivering, unconsciousness.

Bartlett Cove receives about 70-75 inches of precipitation annually. You may find yourself thinking it’s all coming down during your visit. April, May, and June are usually the driest months of the year, while September and October tend to be the wettest. All this moisture helps to create the lush temperate rainforests of the lower bay.

Keep in mind, these are weather conditions at sea level. Up in the mountains, conditions are more severe with colder temperatures and more precipitation that takes the form of snow. It’s all that snow falling year after year that goes into creating the magnificent glaciers we love to see.

### What to Wear?

The weather in Glacier Bay can change quickly over the course of the day, especially if you are traveling into the bay. Dressing appropriately will enhance your trip by allowing you to stay out in the elements and make the most of wildlife and glacier viewing. Wool and synthetic clothing such as fleece will keep you warm even if the clothes are damp. Always have raingear with you.

Remember, it’s usually cooler on the water and near glaciers.

**Treatment:** Prevent further heat loss. Provide shelter from cold, rain, wet ground, and wind. Replace wet clothing with dry synthetic clothing. Techniques to stay warm include:

- Wrap patient in space blanket, sleeping bag, or ground cloth.
- Wrap warm water bottles in cloth and place in the sleeping bag with patient.
- Provide close contact with another warm person.
- Build a fire.
- Feed patient sugars, carbohydrates, or sweet warm drinks.
- Keep patient awake.

**DO NOT:** Give alcohol, rub or massage the affected area, or expose to excessive heat.



Twice a day, an amazing world is exposed by the changing tides. The intertidal zone is full of life uniquely adapted to this area between high and low tide.

## Tides

The tidal fluctuations in Glacier Bay can be as high as 25 feet. This means that one moment you may be standing on the beach looking at mud flats stretching out for 100 yards and hours later the water is lapping at your toes. Or worse: one minute you've pulled your kayak up on shore so you can enjoy lunch, but you wake up 30 minutes later from your post-lunch nap to see your kayak floating away.

*You hardly need to spend more than six hours in Bartlett Cove to realize that there is something interesting going on with the tides.*

It's closer, the moon has the strongest influence on the tides. Its gravitational attraction causes the water surrounding the Earth to bulge. It bulges on the side closest to the moon due to gravitational pull. The bulge on the opposite side of the Earth is due to centrifugal force.

There are usually two high and two low tides daily on the West Coast. The times for highs and lows shift about 50 minutes later on subsequent days. This means if high tide

is at 9:00 a.m. one day, it will be high at about 9:50 a.m. the next day, around 10:40 a.m. the next, and so on. Local conditions, such as topography, also influence the tides and the currents they generate. The entrance to Glacier Bay is narrow, yet a great deal of water must rush through that opening twice daily, creating currents in Sitakaday Narrows as strong as seven knots.

To see this incredible force in action, walk down to the water's edge about three hours after high or low tide. Fix your gaze on a shell or a piece of seaweed and watch how its proximity to the water's edge changes in just minutes. Be sure to keep that in mind when you decide to enjoy an after-lunch nap on your next paddling adventure.



# Camping



## In the Backcountry

A free permit is required between May 1 and September 30. Certain parts of the bay are closed to campers, either permanently or temporarily, due to animal activity or resource protection. Ask a ranger at your camper orientation about any current advisories.

Take care of your park. By practicing “Leave No Trace,” we help to ensure that future generations can enjoy Glacier Bay in the same condition as it is today.

### Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Have the appropriate charts, maps, and navigation tools.
- Allow time for a thorough camper orientation prior to obtaining your permit.
- Be familiar with park regulations and unique concerns for the area.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.

### Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Do not camp within 100 feet of a stream or lake.
- Leave your campsite as natural as you found it.
- A good campsite is FOUND and not MADE.

### Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in—pack it out.
- Keep all trash in a bear canister.
- Deposit human waste either in a hole dug at least six inches deep in a location at least 100 feet from any freshwater source or in the intertidal zone (below high tide line), allowing the tide to remove the human waste.
- Toilet paper must be burned or carried out.

### Leave What You Find

- Unoccupied shells and berries or plants may be collected for personal use or consumption.
- Collection of rocks, flowers, or artifacts is not allowed.
- For lasting memories, take pictures or make sketches.

### Minimize Your Campfire

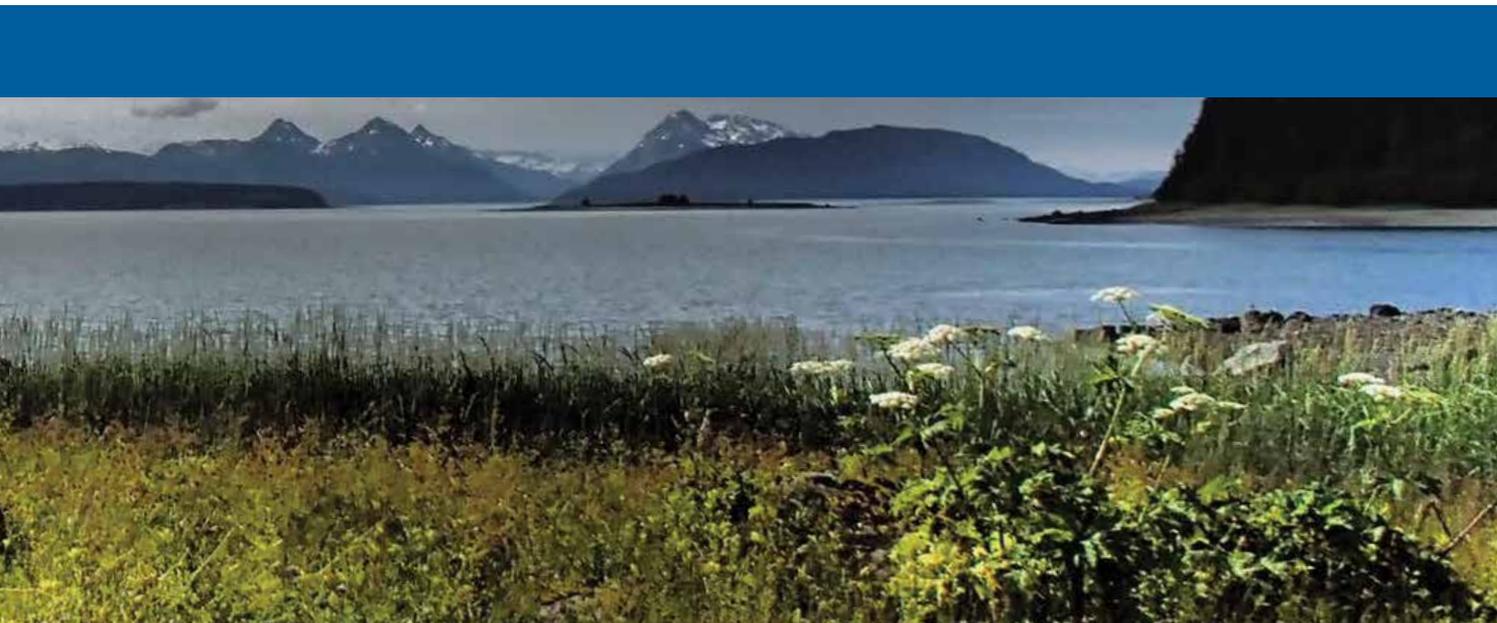
- Avoid the need for a campfire. Use a cook stove.
- Campfires are permitted below the high tide line. Break up any campfire rings before leaving the site.
- Burn only dead and downed wood. Do not burn interglacial wood, which comes from the exposed remnants of ancient forests found on certain beaches within the bay. Ask a ranger for details.

### Be Considerate of Others

- Avoid camping near other parties.
- Keep your camp and activities as inconspicuous as possible.
- Groups larger than 12 are not allowed.

### Respect Wildlife

- Choose a campsite that shows few signs of wildlife.
- Watch carefully for and avoid ground nesting birds.
- Cook and eat in the intertidal zone at least 100 yards from your campsite.
- Never leave food unattended.
- Store all food and scented items in a bear canister in brush or behind rocks at least 100 yards from camp, not in your boat or kayak.



### ✓ Check In

If you fail to check in at the Visitor Information Station as scheduled, rangers will begin a search the day after your scheduled return, starting with the areas indicated on your permit.

## Bartlett Cove Campground

A free, walk-in tent campground is located at Bartlett Cove. You must register for a site at the Visitor Information Station (VIS). Wheelbarrows are available to help haul gear between the VIS, dock, and campground. Drinking water is available near the VIS. Please observe the following:

- Store all food, trash, and scented items in the caches provided in the campground.
- Cook, prepare, and eat food only in the intertidal zone next to the campground. Never eat or cook in the campground or warming shelter.
- Dispose of trash and recyclables in appropriate bins near the VIS.
- Fires are permitted only in the designated campground beach fire ring.



## Arriving on the Ferry?

Since 2011, the Alaska Marine Highway ferry system has provided regular service from Juneau.

Although this new option affords both visitors and residents many new opportunities, it may take time for the park and community to fully adapt. If visiting with a personal vehicle, you may not yet find all the services and amenities one might expect in other road-linked Alaska communities. If arriving with a vehicle be aware that:

- Glacier Bay National Park is essentially roadless. Bartlett Cove is accessible by vehicle from Gustavus, but all other areas may only be reached on foot, by boat, or by small aircraft.
- National Park facilities in Bartlett Cove were not designed to accommodate visitors with private vehicles, and parking may be limited.
- There is one primitive campground in the park. It is accessible on foot only.
- There are no RV facilities (sites/dump station/hook-ups/etc.) or vehicle camping areas within the park. Camping is not permitted in parking areas or along the park road.
- For the latest updates on park facilities call 907-697-2230 or visit [www.nps.gov/glba](http://www.nps.gov/glba)
- There are various lodging and other services available in Gustavus. For more specific information please contact the Gustavus Visitors Association at 907-697-2454 or [www.gustavusak.com](http://www.gustavusak.com)

# Protect Wildlife

## Life's No Picnic

You are picnicking on an idyllic beach when a boat roars up out of nowhere. It stops just offshore from you. Its wake washes the beach, taking away your lunch. People on the boat laugh and talk loudly. Camera flashes explode. You drop your food and dash off into the bushes, anything to get away.

You have just experienced what happens to wildlife when thoughtlessly approached by humans. The effects can be devastating. Steller sea lions tumble over one another as they stampede into the water, female harbor seals lose their newborn pups among the ice floes when they become separated. Breeding birds flushed from nests leave eggs vulnerable to cooler temperatures and predators.

To reduce disturbance to wildlife and protect sensitive areas, the park has regulations that define the minimum distances you must keep from animals in Glacier Bay. Be aware of closures (see map on pages 20-21). In all situations, be aware and respectful. Remember that even if you maintain a legal distance, if an animal changes its behavior due to your presence, you are too close.

As you admire Glacier Bay's wildlife, keep in mind that every day they struggle to find what they need to eat, reproduce, protect their young, and prepare for winter as they avoid becoming food for others. Indeed, life is no picnic for the wildlife of Glacier Bay.

### *Harbor Seals*

Harbor seal numbers have declined in Glacier Bay over the past 20 years. Help protect seals by travelling slowly and watching for them in the water and on icebergs. Seals can be disturbed by boats even at great distance.

In Johns Hopkins Inlet you must stay at least 1/4 mile away from seals on ice.

### *Steller Sea Lions*

Although numbers have increased here over the past 20 years, some in Glacier Bay are from the endangered Western stock. Stay at least 100 yards away from sea lions on land, and keep your distance from those in the water, too.

### *Nesting Birds*

Many birds nest on the ground and are extremely vulnerable to disturbance! If a bird dive-bombs or makes repeated alarm calls, you are close to a nest. Watch your step to avoid crushing eggs or chicks, and move away to avoid disturbing the parents guarding the nest. You must stay at least 100 yards away from nesting seabird colonies, and several islands are closed to foot traffic (see map on pages 20-21).

### *Humpback Whales*

Whales can be startled by boats, even bumping or capsizing them. For your safety and to avoid disturbance, regulations require that you stay at least 1/4 mile away from whales. Whales can move surprisingly fast, so if one surfaces near you, it is recommended to make some noise by knocking on your boat.

### *Black and Brown Bears*

All of Glacier Bay is bear country! Bears may appear anywhere at any time. Enjoy bear viewing from a safe and respectful distance. Even in your kayak, don't approach swimming bears or bears on shore.



# Bears



Black bears are primarily seen in Glacier Bay’s forested areas.

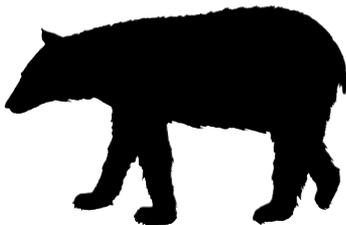
## Glacier Bay Bears

Glacier Bay National Park is home to both brown bears, *Ursus arctos*, and black bears, *Ursus americanus*. Black bears are primarily creatures of woodlands and are found among the forested areas of the lower bay, including Bartlett Cove. In contrast, park biologists have recently discovered that brown bears inhabit virtually every part of Glacier Bay, from the barren glaciated areas to lush old-growth forests.

Telling the difference between the two species can be tricky. Simply looking at the color doesn’t help. Black bears can be black, brown, blonde, even blue-gray—as is the case of the rare color phase found in Southeast Alaska called “glacier bear.” Brown bears can be any shade from honey blonde to black. A few key physical characteristics can clarify which type of bear you have spotted:

### Black Bears

- Straight facial profile
- No shoulder hump
- Prominent ears
- Short, curved claws
- 3 feet at the shoulder
- 125 to over 300 pounds



### Brown Bears (also called “grizzlies”)

- “Dish-shaped” facial profile
- Prominent shoulder hump
- Long, straight claws
- 3.5 feet at the shoulder/up to 9 feet when standing on hind legs
- Average 500 to 1,000 pounds



# Bears

## Be Bear Savvy

While walking, hiking or camping in Glacier Bay, you may encounter a bear. The vast majority of these encounters do not result in human injury or property damage. You can help prevent injury to yourself or to the bear by taking a few basic precautions.

- Be alert.
- If you carry bear spray, know how to use it.
- Be aware of what goes on around your campsite.
- Make noise, especially in wind or near rushing water.
- Choose routes that offer good visibility.
- Travel in groups of two or more.
- Keep your personal items and food within reach.
- Do not pursue or approach bears for photographs.
- Avoid streams with spawning fish.



## Be a Smart Camper

Both campers and bears frequent the beaches of Glacier Bay. Bears only have six to eight months to acquire the calories and fat reserves needed for the entire year, and the shoreline is essential for food and travel. The following guidelines will minimize your disruption of bears and help keep them wild.

### Cooking and storing food

- Cook and eat in the intertidal zone at least 100 yards from your tent and food storage area.
- Wash cooking gear in marine waters.
- Be prepared to quickly stow all food should a bear suddenly approach.
- Keep all food, trash, and other scented items in a bear-resistant food container (BRFC).
- At night, store BRFCs and clean cooking gear in brush or behind rocks away from animal trails 100 yards from camp, not in your boat.

### Choosing a campsite

- Avoid areas with bear sign, including an abundance of scat, animal trails, and chewed or clawed trees.
- Avoid active salmon streams.
- Store your kayak and pitch your tent clear of the beach.
- Select a site that would allow bears room to pass at high tide.
- Maintain a clear view of your gear and surrounding terrain.

### Control your gear

- Keep gear together. The more spread out your gear is, the more difficult it is to defend.
- To minimize potential bear damage to gear, consider breaking down your campsite daily.



## Fishing the Bartlett River

- Harvested fish must be kept within 6 feet of person.
- All harvested fish must be packed out whole, except for gills and entrails which should be disposed of in the deepest and fastest current of the stream.
- If a bear approaches while you have fish on the line, cut the line.
- Never yield your catch or other food items to a bear or other wildlife.

When encountering humans, most bears will run away, approach curiously, appear to ignore the situation, or act defensively. By staying alert, calm, and tailoring your reaction to the bear's behavior and species, you increase the odds of a positive outcome for both you and the bear.



## If You See a Bear

The Bear	What You Can Do
May or may not be aware of you	<p><i>What is your activity and degree of mobility?</i></p> <p><i>You are hiking or kayaking (mobile):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change your course to avoid bear.</li> <li>• Monitor bear's movement.</li> <li>• If bear is close, talk calmly to avoid surprising it.</li> </ul> <p><i>You are camping or eating (not mobile):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep all gear under direct control.</li> <li>• Group together without blocking bear's route.</li> <li>• Talk calmly to make bear aware of you.</li> <li>• Stand your ground.</li> </ul>
Moves toward you	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor bear's movement.</li> <li>• Stand your ground and talk calmly.</li> <li>• Allow bear to pass peacefully.</li> </ul>
Becomes focused on you	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay together and stand your ground.</li> <li>• Be assertive and elevate your defense: clap your hands, wave your arms, use noisemakers such as air horns, or bang pots together.</li> </ul>
Charges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to stand your ground and look big.</li> <li>• Use pepper spray if you have it.</li> <li>• Few charges end in contact.</li> </ul>
If a bear makes contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fight back vigorously.</li> <li>• This is likely a predatory attack.</li> </ul>
Enters your tent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fight back.</li> </ul>

## If You Surprise a Bear

The Bear	What You Can Do
May react defensively and may snort, huff, pop its jaw, or charge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stand your ground and talk calmly to the bear.</li> <li>• Attempt to move away slowly.</li> </ul>
Begins to follow you	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stand your ground.</li> </ul>
Charges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use pepper spray.</li> </ul>
Is a brown bear and makes contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play dead—lie flat, face down on the ground, and lace your fingers behind your head. Do not move.</li> </ul>
Is a black bear and makes contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fight back vigorously.</li> <li>• This is likely a predatory attack.</li> </ul>

# Whales



National Marine Fisheries Service, permit no. 945-1776-0

Biologists recognize individual whales by photographing the black and white patterns on tail flukes. These patterns remain the same throughout the whale's lifetime.

## Glacier Bay Is Home for Humpback Whales

Seeing a humpback whale in Glacier Bay is an unforgettable experience for many visitors. The true giants of Glacier Bay's waters, these endangered animals are 40-50 feet (12-16 m) long and weigh over 35 tons (32,000 kg). The humpback is a baleen whale that migrates seasonally. Most Glacier Bay whales swim to Hawaii each winter to mate and give birth, a 2,500-mile (4,000 km) journey that takes about a month each way. These whales do not eat while they are wintering in the tropics. All spring, summer, and fall in Alaska, they gorge themselves on high-calorie small schooling fish such as capelin and herring.

The park's whale monitoring program began in 1985, and is now one of the world's longest running studies of humpbacks. Since the 1970s, biologists have identified more than 740 different individual humpback whales in Glacier Bay and Icy Strait. In 2013, about 250 different whales were documented, including some with sighting histories more than 40 years! Commercial whaling for humpbacks in Alaska ceased in the 1960s, and the southeastern Alaska population is now increasing about 5 percent annually.

Humpback whale population recovery is a conservation success story, but in populated areas it creates more opportunities for collisions with vessels. All types and sizes of vessels, from kayaks to cruise ships, have accidentally hit whales in Alaska. Colliding with a whale, especially in a fast-moving, small vessel, is dangerous and scary. To protect yourself and these magnificent creatures, proceed cautiously, and reduce your speed in areas where whales may be present.



Biologists have been monitoring humpbacks in Glacier Bay over 30 years.

# Whale Watching

To minimize disturbance to endangered humpback whales, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve has developed some of the most protective boating rules visitors will find anywhere. Because the park's mission is to protect and preserve these magnificent creatures, we maintain strict operating and speed restrictions in critical whale habitat.

## *Rules for All National Park Waters*

All vessels, including kayaks, must not:

- Operate within 1/4 nautical mile of a humpback whale.
- Pursue a humpback whale within 1/2 nautical mile by altering course or speed in a manner that results in decreasing the distance between the whale and the vessel.

## *Whale Waters*

These are special areas in Glacier Bay that require additional speed and operating restrictions. These critical areas change depending on current whale activity in the bay. See Guide to Park Waters on page 20 for areas and dates that regulations are in effect and check at the VIS for additional temporary restrictions before setting out.

## *Rules for Lower Glacier Bay Whale Waters (May 15-Sept 30)*

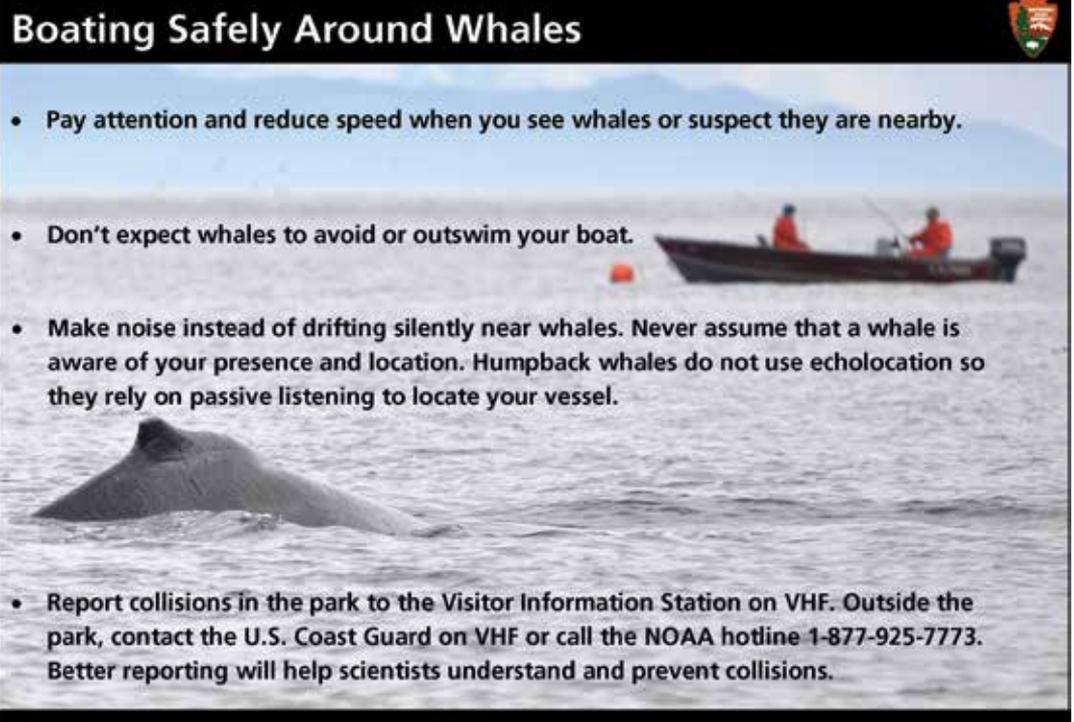
All vessels must operate within speed restrictions. Check at the VIS for current status. Motorized vessels over 18 feet in length must:

- Maintain a distance of at least one mile from shore. In narrower areas, navigate a mid-channel course (unless fishing or operating solely under sail).
- Approach or land on shore perpendicularly, taking the most direct line to shore.
- Watch for additional whale waters designations in other areas. Check at the VIS for current whale waters boundaries and regulations.

What do you do if a whale suddenly appears in front of you?

*If your vessel is accidentally positioned within a 1/4 nautical mile of a humpback whale, immediately slow your vessel to ten knots or less. Don't shift into reverse unless impact is likely. Then, carefully direct or maintain your course away from the whale until at least 1/4 nautical mile separation exists.*

## Boating Safely Around Whales

- 
- Pay attention and reduce speed when you see whales or suspect they are nearby.
  - Don't expect whales to avoid or outswim your boat.
  - Make noise instead of drifting silently near whales. Never assume that a whale is aware of your presence and location. Humpback whales do not use echolocation so they rely on passive listening to locate your vessel.
  - Report collisions in the park to the Visitor Information Station on VHF. Outside the park, contact the U.S. Coast Guard on VHF or call the NOAA hotline 1-877-925-7773. Better reporting will help scientists understand and prevent collisions.

# For Teachers



## Take Your Class on a Trip to Glacier Bay!

Last year, over 2,000 students and teachers visited Glacier Bay National Park in the heart of winter without ever leaving their schools. Kindergartners spotted bears and sea otters, fourth graders catalogued humpback whale behaviors, and high school students explored the wide range of careers with the National Park Service. These students all visited Glacier Bay virtually, using videoconferencing equipment to connect Glacier Bay rangers to classrooms across the country.

Glacier Bay offers a variety of interactive, curriculum-based, long-distance programs. Programs cover a variety of Glacier Bay topics and are grade appropriate. New this year is a program on glaciers for middle school students. All programs allow students to ask questions and interact with a park ranger. Sometimes students even earn a Junior Ranger award!

Long distance programs are offered between November and February. A videoconferencing system (such as Polycom, LifeSize, or Tandberg) is required to conduct a visit. Programs are free, and registration

starts on October 1 each year. To register for a program, visit the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration (CILC) website at [www.cilc.org](http://www.cilc.org). Search for programs offered by Glacier Bay and click request a program. Additionally, teachers may register for programs by phone at 907-697-2753. To learn more about these opportunities and a list of available presentations, visit <http://www.nps.gov/glba> and look within our “Education” section for “Distance Learning.” We look forward to sharing Glacier Bay with your classroom!



Using technology, Ranger Emma brings Glacier Bay to a classroom in Arizona.

# For Kids



Ask a ranger about family-friendly guided ranger programs and activities in Bartlett Cove and check the schedule for our summer Discovery Days for kids.

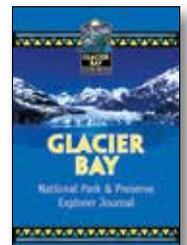
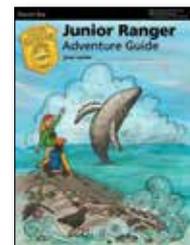
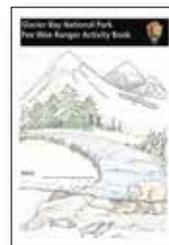
## Kids Love Glacier Bay!

Are you ready to begin your Junior Ranger adventure? If you are between the ages of two and 100, you may want to become a Junior Ranger during your visit. There are two ways to pick up your Junior Ranger Activity Booklet.

 If you came by plane or boat to Bartlett Cove, stop by the Visitor Center on the second floor of the Glacier Bay Lodge.

 If you are on a tour boat, meet with the ranger on board.

Glacier Bay offers three different booklets, depending on your age.



For children between the ages of 2 - 6, we have the *PeeWee Ranger Adventure Guide*.

For children between the ages of 6 - 12, pick up the *Junior Ranger Adventure Guide*.

For people between the ages of 13 - adult, pick up the *Explorer Journal*.

When you have completed the activities, bring your booklet to a ranger, and you will be awarded a special badge that makes you a Glacier Bay National Park Junior Ranger.



[www.everykidinapark.gov](http://www.everykidinapark.gov)

# The Fairweather Detective!



Discover more about Glacier Bay! Search for clues in *The Fairweather* newspaper to answer the questions below.

Show your detective work to a park ranger. You will earn a prize for your investigative work!

1. What is the length of the Margerie Glacier?

miles

2. What happened to Glacier Bay in 1925?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What are three things you can do to be bear savvy?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Scientists conduct many research projects in Glacier Bay. What is one thing scientists have learned in Glacier Bay recently?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. If you could spend a summer helping a scientist in Glacier Bay, what would you want to study?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. How long have biologists been monitoring humpback whales in Glacier Bay?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. How far away should boats, including kayaks, stay from humpback whales so as not to disturb them?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What is the Tlingit name for the new Tribal House being built in Glacier Bay?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Bears live throughout all of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. How many bears can you find in *The Fairweather*?

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Use the map to find three Critical Wildlife Areas in Glacier Bay that are closed to people all year.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

## Bonus question

Look for this symbol during your visit:



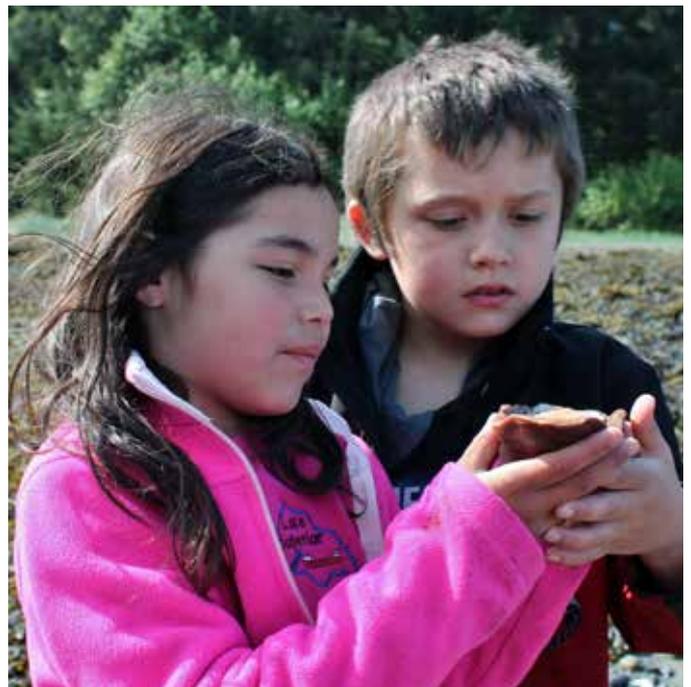
What does it mean?

(Hint: Ask a ranger who is wearing it!)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Did you know?

Visitors often see porcupines on the trails around Bartlett Cove. Baby porcupines are born with soft quills that begin to harden several hours after birth. A baby porcupine is called a porcupette.



# Learn More

## Park Partners

As the official nonprofit education partner of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, Alaska Geographic connects people to Alaska's magnificent wildlands through experiential education, award-winning books and maps, and by directly supporting the state's parks, forests, and refuges. Over the past 50 years, Alaska Geographic has donated more than \$20 million to help fund educational and interpretive programs throughout Alaska's public lands.

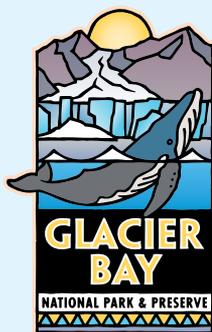
Alaska Geographic operates bookstores across the state, including several locations in Glacier Bay: the park visitor center in Bartlett Cove, ranger district office in Yakutat, and on board the dozens of cruise ships that visit the area each year. Your purchases at these locations directly support Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve—a portion of every sale helps fund the park's educational and interpretive programs.

To find out more, become a member, or browse our selection of Alaska books, maps, and films, stop by any Alaska Geographic bookstore or visit our website at [www.alaskageographic.org](http://www.alaskageographic.org)



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Discover Alaska Collector Series  
Pins, patches, hats, and other products featuring  
this unique Glacier Bay design. Exclusively from  
Alaska Geographic.

## To Learn More

Visit the Alaska Geographic bookstore at the park visitor center in Bartlett Cove to find the best books, maps, films, and gifts related to the natural and cultural history of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve.

### Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve *Alaska National Park Series*

Author Kim Heacox takes you into a world of blue ice, temperate rainforests, misty mountains, and coastal wildlife. You will meet the bold explorers who trekked its glaciers and waterways, the scientists who study its vast landscape, and the Huna Tlingit who have lived here since time began.

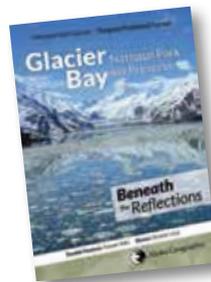
Item #12806, 60 pages \$14.95



### Beneath the Reflections DVD

Travel into the dark underwater world of Glacier Bay where perpetual snowfall and swirling currents shape the abounding patterns of life. Then, explore the natural and cultural history of the bay in the bonus feature, *Forever Wild*.

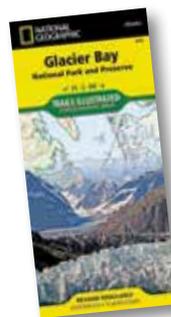
Item #30053001, 45 min. \$9.95



### Glacier Bay Topographical Map Scale: 1:94,000

This sturdy waterproof and tear-resistant topo map is an excellent planning resource for hiking, camping, fishing, or hunting. The map denotes elevations, hiking trails, campgrounds, cabins, and provides a synopsis of public land protocols and restrictions.

Item #35073001 \$11.95



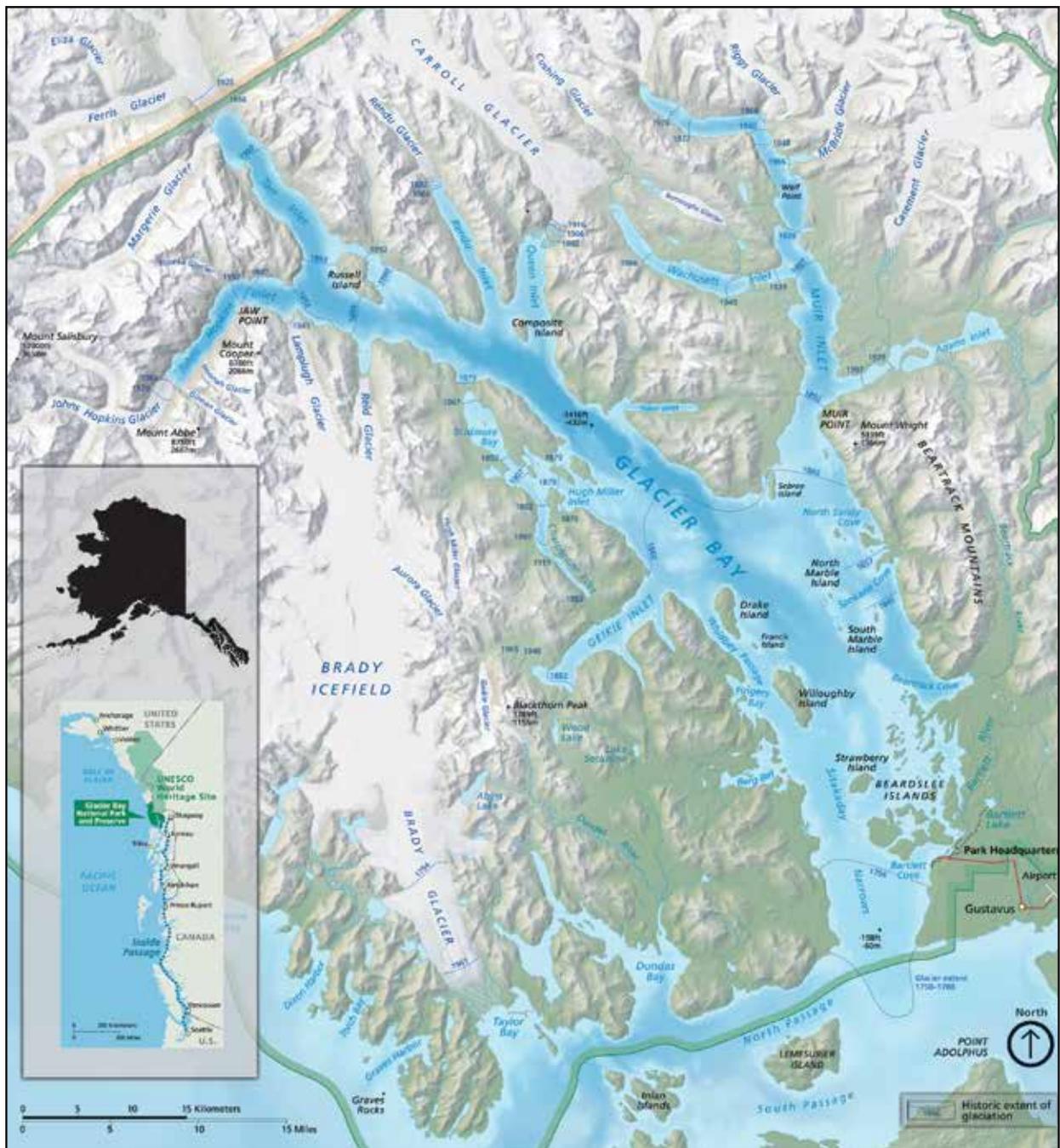
### Glacier Bay Flash Drive Over 300 photos

Create your own wildlife, glacier, and wilderness scrapbook by downloading exquisite, high resolution photos taken throughout the park.

PC or Mac compatible \$30.00



Also available online at [www.alaskageographic.org](http://www.alaskageographic.org)



**For More Information**

Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve  
 P.O. Box 140  
 Gustavus, AK 99826  
 907-697-2230  
 www.nps.gov/glba



 Follow us on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/GlacierBayNationalPark](https://facebook.com/GlacierBayNationalPark)

**Emergency and Medical Assistance**

**Emergency Inside the Park**  
 907-697-2651  
 KWM20 Bartlett Cove on marine band 16  
 There is no cell service in Glacier Bay.  
 Local use phone available at Visitor Information Station.

**Emergency Outside the Park**  
 Gustavus Emergency Response  
 Dial 911

**Other Medical Assistance**  
 Gustavus Community Clinic  
 42 Dolly Varden Lane, Gustavus  
 907-697-3008