

# Glacier Bay

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Park and Preserve  
Alaska



## 2025 Fact Sheet

**Superintendent** *Tom Schaff*

### Established

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

*In 2024, a mural of a juvenile killer whale was painted at the Gustavus Public Library to match a corresponding killer whale skeleton installed in 2014.*



2025 marks one-hundred years of the preservation of Glacier Bay! 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:	3,222,434 acres	5,035 square miles
National Preserve:	+ 58,406 acres	+ 91 square miles
	= 3,280,840 acres	= 5,126 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

\$ 5,752,744 (Fiscal Year 2024)

### Staffing

Permanent        ·        68  
Seasonal & Term    ·        53

### 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

2024 marked the second consecutive record-breaking visitation year for Glacier Bay. The number of marine vessels per day is limited in the summer months. Maximum number of vessels allowed each day include two cruise ships, three tour vessels, six charter vessels, and 25 private vessels.

2024:    691,387 Cruise Ship Passengers  
          13,516 Tour Vessel Passengers  
          3,710 Backcountry Visitors

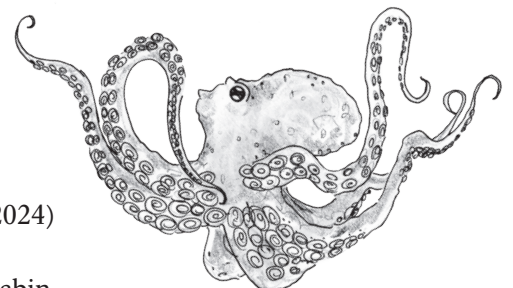
### Trails

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

### Lodging

Glacier Bay Lodge        ·        48 rooms (13,748 guests in 2024)  
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.*



## Prehistory

Glacier Bay remains the Homeland of the Huna Tlingit people since time immemorial.

## 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 22.5 feet from high to low (11/6/2025: 18.6 foot high, -3.9 foot 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 about 1,571 square miles or 30.6 percent of the park. At last count there were 1,059 glaciers in the park. There are 62 named glaciers, seven of which are active tidewater glaciers that calve icebergs into the sea. Most large glaciers in the park originate between elevations from 8,000 to 15,000 feet.

The Brady (200+ square miles), Grand Pacific, and Carroll glaciers cover areas in excess of 100 square miles each.

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

<b>Selected Glacier Statistics</b>	<b>Height <i>above water</i></b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Observation Status</b>
Grand Pacific Glacier	65-165 feet	1.35 miles	21.7 miles	receding
Johns Hopkins Glacier	225-300 feet	1 mile	16.4 miles	thinning
Margerie Glacier	200 feet	0.85 miles	21 miles	receding
Lamplugh Glacier	165 feet	.9 miles	20 miles	thinning

## Landmarks & Elevations

Mount Fairweather 15,300 feet

Mount Quincy Adams 13,650 feet

Mount Crillon 12,726 feet

Lituya Mountain

11,750 feet

Mount La Perouse

10,728 feet

Mount Bertha

10,204 feet

## Earthquakes

Major earthquakes in the last 150 years (Date/Richter scale reading):

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

