

*Your guide to*  
**Glacier Bay National Park  
& Preserve**



**Authorized  
Concessioner**



## Welcome to Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

When Captain George Vancouver first set eyes on the small five-mile inlet that was Glacier Bay in 1794, he described a “sheet of ice as far as the eye could distinguish.” By the time naturalist John Muir visited in 1879 with a group of the native Tlingit, who call the bay their ancestral homeland, the ice had retreated enough to begin exposing one of the world’s most majestic wildernesses. His poetic descriptions of the area have been inspiring visitors to Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve ever since.

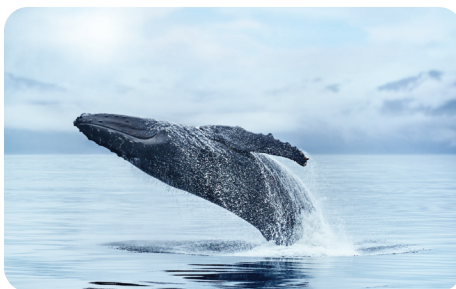
### Towers of ice

You are one of the fortunate travelers to see this incredible place for yourself. There’s no place quite like it on earth – over 3.2 million acres of forest, inlet and shore, mountain peaks rising over 15,000 feet, and of course, the namesake glaciers. Great rivers of ice stretch over and between

mountain ridges until they meet the green tidewater, calving large chunks of ice with thunderous cracks into the sea. The bay boasts three such tidewater glaciers, including famous Margerie Glacier – one of Alaska’s most photographed sights, and also one of the state’s most active glacial faces. And if you’re lucky, you may be treated to one of nature’s grandest displays – the calving of a glacier.

### Untamed nature

You’re also likely to see some of the bay’s most celebrated residents – abundantly present wildlife, ranging from bald eagles and puffins to sea mammals like sea otters, seals and humpback whales. Those training a keen eye on the shores could even be treated to the rare sighting of a brown bear, moose or mountain goat. We hope you enjoy your stay in the bay. A small team of park rangers will be on board the entire time to share insights and stories of Glacier Bay National Park.



## Keep Glacier Bay beautiful

Please join us in our commitment to keep Glacier Bay pristine and beautiful for future visitors and generations. To do your part, we ask that you:

- Please do not throw anything overboard.
- Take extra care that loose clothing, hats, napkins, maps and other items do not blow overboard.
- Do not feed the wildlife or birds.
- Avoid disturbing wildlife.
- Please respect your fellow guests’ experience of this majestic place.
- Please note that the use of drones (unmanned aerial vehicles) is prohibited in Glacier Bay National Park.

Princess has established a hotline to report any environmental concerns. U.S., call: 1-888-290-5105  
Internationally, call: 1-305-406-5863  
Online: [carnivalcompliance.com](http://carnivalcompliance.com)

“The very thought of this, my first Alaskan Glacier garden, is an exhilaration.”  
– John Muir

# Glacier Bay rangers' top ten questions



## 1. Why does the ice look blue?

When light hits highly compacted glacier ice, long wavelength colors (reds) are absorbed, while short wavelength colors (blues) reflect back through the ice to your eyes.

## 2. Does the bay freeze in the winter?

No, the combination of wind, tidal fluctuation and moderate maritime temperatures keep the bay from freezing over.

## 3. Can anybody bring a ship in here?

Vessels are welcome to visit Glacier Bay. To protect park resources and enhance visitor experiences, the National Park Service limits the number of vessels. Two cruise ships may enter each day.

## 4. Where are the whales?

Humpback whales are most often seen in the lower portion of Glacier Bay, typically close to shore. Look for their "spouts" hanging in the air; and remember, even whales can look small from a distance.

## 5. How high is the face of Margerie Glacier?

The face of Margerie Glacier is constantly changing. Recently, Margerie Glacier was documented as one mile wide, with a face that is about 200 feet above the waterline.

## 6. Why is the Grand Pacific Glacier so dirty?

Avalanches, rock slides, tributary glaciers and the scouring of the valley have caused an accumulation of dirt and rock on the glacier's surface.

Also, the diminishing size of the glacier consolidates the rocks, so that the glacier looks more like land than ice.

## 7. How deep is Glacier Bay?

Very deep! It was carved out by a glacier and filled in with saltwater as the glacier retreated, creating a fjord. Much of the bay is over 1,000 feet deep.

## 8. What are the chances of seeing the glacier calve?

The chances are fairly good. These glaciers can move forward over five feet a day! Yet glacier calving is unpredictable. A watchful eye is necessary to catch changes in the glacier's face.

## 9. What's the weather like here?

It rains a lot – 70 inches a year near park headquarters. May and June are the sunniest, and it is usually not as cloudy near the glaciers as in the lower portion of the bay. The constantly changing moods and quality of the light are part of Glacier Bay National Park's scenic splendor.

## 10. Is climate change affecting Glacier Bay's glaciers?

Scientists who observe Earth's climate have documented warming temperatures globally. Decades of data show that Alaska has warmed more than twice as fast as the rest of the earth, causing dramatic changes across the state. Of the more than 100,000 glaciers in the state, 95% are currently thinning, stagnating, or retreating. More importantly, the rate of thinning is increasing. Glacier Bay's glaciers follow this trend.

## Ranger suggestions for a spectacular day

Here are some helpful hints for maximizing your enjoyment of the pristine paradise of Glacier Bay National Park:

- Enjoy the beautiful Glacier Bay map that was delivered to your stateroom last night. It includes excellent information on tidewater glaciers, whales, plants and animals in the bay.
- Visit the onboard Ranger Station, check the latest itinerary, and plan to attend presentations. It's your opportunity to talk to a park ranger and ask questions you may have about your national park. Read your Princess Patter for times and location.
- Get outside on the open decks – especially during your visit at the glacier. Nothing compares to the sense of scale and magnificence of the massive ice wall, and the incredible sound when it calves.
- Watch the National Park Service videos: Welcome to Glacier Bay, Beneath the Reflections and Glacier Bay for Kids on your stateroom TV before or after our visit to the bay.
- Encourage your youngsters to join the Junior Ranger program, and to pick up activity booklets available at the youth center.
- To learn more about Glacier Bay National Park, please visit <http://www.nps.gov/glba>.



# National Parks: America's best idea

## The park idea

Writer and historian Wallace Stegner called national parks “the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst.” Creating a National Park Service was not easy. In the 19<sup>th</sup> 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 fledgling 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 wildlife 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 more than 400 sites covering more than 84 million acres in every state plus American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. These areas include national parks, monuments, battlefields, historic sites, recreation areas, seashores, scenic rivers and trails. As a testament to success, over 300 million visitors enjoy the parks each year. In preserving America’s special places, national parks help maintain our nation’s identity for us and for visitors from around the world. Parks, “America’s best idea,” tell America’s story and connect us to our history, our environment, ourselves and each other.

## Find Your Park

Recently, the National Park Service celebrated 100 years of caring for our nation’s most special places. We invite you to join us in celebrating the achievements of the past and looking to the future as we kick off a second century of stewardship for America’s national parks and communities. Dedicated as a National Monument in 1925 and upgraded to National Park status in 1980, Glacier Bay has been a destination for visitors cruising on ships since the 1890s. While in Glacier Bay, visit with the park rangers to learn about this place and become inspired by the park’s limitless opportunities for reflection, awe and wonder. Learn about the variety of ways to experience Glacier Bay’s wilderness and to connect with the natural world. There may be other national parks on your Alaska itinerary (such as Klondike Gold Rush, Sitka, Denali or Kenai Fjords). Explore the parks near your home and spread the word. Connect future generations to parks by helping youth explore careers with the National Park Service, volunteering, advocating for what you find special, and sharing your park stories with others at [FindYourPark.com](https://www.findyourpark.com).

**Celebrate national parks — America’s best idea!**  
Join a park ranger to learn more. Visit [nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov).

**FIND YOUR  
PARK**