



the Tongass

VISITOR GUIDE

2016



Starrigavan.....4



Off the Beaten Path.....7



Sustainable Recreation.....12



Welcome to the Tongass

Welcome to the Tongass National Forest! Nearly 17 million acres in size, this is the largest National Forest in the United States, and is the largest contiguous temperate rainforest in the world. The Tongass National Forest is a public treasure. It is a land of beauty, of mystery, and of untold natural riches. Since time immemorial, this forest has nourished and sustained rich and unique human cultures.

Each year, more than 900,000 visitors travel the Tongass aboard cruise ships, airlines, and ferries. Additionally, approximately 75,000 Alaskans call this area home and are dependent on the Tongass National Forest for their livelihoods whether it is fish, timber, minerals, or a host of other resources. We invite you to enjoy the vast array of recreational opportunities available to you in the Tongass.

From world-class visitor centers in bustling port towns, to secluded cabins on the edges of vast wilderness, to wildlife in their natural habitat, to the opportunity to experience a glacier up close and personal—the Tongass has something for everyone. Explore, renew, refresh among the islands and along the coastline here in the Tongass, and take home exciting memories of adventures in Alaska. We hope you will choose to return often.

M. Earl Stewart
Tongass National Forest Supervisor

Contents

ACTIVITIES

Public Use Cabins	5
Campgrounds	6
Off the Beaten Path	7
Visitor Centers	14

INFORMATION

Forest Map	8
Annual Rainfall	9
Bear Viewing	10
Outdoor Viewing Ethics	11
Learn More	15
How to Contact Us	16

STORIES

Starrigavan	4
A Simple Act	5
Choosing Sustainable Recreation	12

THE TONGASS

Forest Service Coordinator:
Faith L. Duncan

Produced and Designed by



Alaska
Geographic

Many thanks to writers Laurie Lamm, Katie Rooks, and Laurie Craig; and to photographers Karla Hart and Libby Sterling/SeaTrails (Cover, lower vignette, page 13).

Printed on recycled paper using soy-based inks.

The *Tongass* Visitor Guide is published by the Alaska Geographic Association in cooperation with the Tongass National Forest.

©Alaska Geographic

Map: Gregor Wright
Photos: All photos are courtesy of USFS unless otherwise noted.

Getting the Most Out of Your Visit Listed South to North

KETCHIKAN, REVILLAGIGEDO ISLAND

Orient yourself at the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center: attend programs, tour the exhibits, and watch the award-winning movie. Saunter the Ward Creek Trail or hike into the backcountry surrounding town. Explore Misty Fiords National Monument via watercraft or air. Events include the Hummingbird Festival in April and the Blueberry Arts Festival the first week of August.

CRAIG AND THORNE BAY, PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND

Explore the island via Interisland Ferry. Day use areas and hiking trails abound; check at the Hollis and Coffman Cove ferry terminals for recreation information. Make a reservation at the Thorne Bay District Office for a guided tour of El Capitan Cave from late May through early September.

SITKA, BARANOF ISLAND

Enjoy camping in Starrigavan Creek Cabin, picnicking and a self-guided nature walk along Starrigavan Bay, and fish viewing in season within the Starrigavan Recreation Area, located 1/4 mile from the ferry terminal. Attend Sitka Summer Music Festival in June or Alaska Day activities in October. Hike numerous miles of trails from the Sitka road system.

WRANGELL, WRANGELL ISLAND

Attend mid-summer Friday night campfire programs or explore the Rainbow Falls Trail on a self-guided hike. Bring your camera and capture memories at the Anan Wildlife Observatory, a short plane or boat ride away. The Stikine River Bird Festival is held in April each year.

PETERSBURG, MITKOF ISLAND

The Petersburg Ranger District maintains several scenic recreation sites, including a newly refurbished, accessible picnic/day-use area and Swan Observatory. The Visitor Information Center in downtown Petersburg includes an interpretive bookstore and offers maps and advice on kayaking and camping in the area. The Tongass Rainforest Festival is held the second week in September.

HOONAH, CHICHAGOF ISLAND

Take an opportunity to see the real Alaska in this quiet town in a gorgeous setting. Stop by the Ranger District office in town to find out about available cabins, or for information on NatureWatch, hunting, and fishing.

JUNEAU, ON THE MAINLAND

Located at the foot of the magnificent Mendenhall Glacier, the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center has interpretive programs and exhibits, a glacier observatory, a series of interconnected trails, and an extensive bookstore (see page 14).

ANGOON, ADMIRALTY ISLAND

Attend traditional dances in town, canoe and portage the backcountry in the Kootznoowoo Wilderness area, or view brown bears at Pack Creek Viewing Site (see page 10). Contact the Ranger District office in Juneau for more information.

YAKUTAT, ON THE MAINLAND

Explore historic beaches, surf, or try your luck at fishing on the world-class rivers adjacent to town. The annual Yakutat Tern Festival in celebration of the Aleutian and Arctic tern (seabird) colonies takes place in early June of 2016, and includes field trips, seminars, art exhibits, Native cultural presentations, and children's events.



For more information on where to call to learn more and to obtain a schedule of activities, check out the "Find Out More" listing on the back page of this guide or visit www.fs.usda.gov/tongass

Remarkable Recreation at Starrigavan

COMMON BIRD SPECIES

Dozens of birds frequent the estuary, although they can be seen at different times and in different places.

Common mergansers paddle around the pond diving for small fish. They're year-round residents, as are the graceful great blue herons, which stand frozen in the shallows, waiting to spear their prey.

Tree swallows swoop over the grassy flats in summer catching insects. Back at the forest edge, chestnut-backed chickadees scavenge year-round for insects and seeds.

Near the river, belted kingfishers dive down from streamside perches throughout the year to snatch up fish.

The sky is the bald eagle's domain. These majestic year-round residents nest in the forest, but patrol the entire estuary looking for fish, ducks, gulls or rodents.

Look for...

- American Robin
- Bald Eagle
- Barn Swallow
- Belted Kingfisher
- Brown Bat
- Bufflehead
- Chestnut-backed Chickadee
- Common Merganser
- Common Raven
- Dark-eye Junco
- Dipper
- Fox Sparrow
- Great Blue Heron
- Great Horned Owl
- Golden-winged Gull
- Hairy Woodpecker
- Herring Gull
- Lincoln Sparrow
- Mallard
- Mew Gull
- Northern Harrier
- Northwestern Crow
- Orange-crowned Warbler
- Red-breasted Sapsucker
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Rufous Hummingbird
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Song Sparrow
- Stellar Jay
- Swinson Thrush
- Townsend Warbler
- Tree Swallow
- Varied Thrush
- Wilson Warbler
- Winter Wren
- ...these species in the estuary

Tongass National Forest

Illustrations are by: Bobbie Lieberman. Bald eagle: L.H. Fox. Tree swallow: A.A.T. Fox.

Opportunity, diversity, and accessibility all come together just seven miles north of Sitka on Baranof Island. Here, within easy walking distance of the ferry terminal, visitors and residents alike can discover the Starrigavan Recreation Area.

Open year round, this recreation area offers everything from tranquil NatureWatch sites to accessible walking trails and campsites, all within a close commute to downtown Sitka. In prehistoric and historic times, summer fish camps occupied the shores around Starrigavan Creek. Tlingit people call the spot gaja-heen, translated as “land of water coming up.” During the Russian era, the area was known as Starry Gavan, meaning “Old Harbor.”

Starrigavan began as a small campground originally built in the early 1960s to accommodate campers departing the new Alaska Marine Highway vessels. The Starrigavan Recreation Area now offers a variety of barrier-free recreation opportunities. There are three separate loop trails for visitor use: The Estuary Loop contains twenty-four individual campsites for tents with vehicles or RVs. There are two group tent sites for up to twenty persons each. A popular artesian well located in this loop draws locals and visitors. The Backpacker Loop has six campsites complete with a cooking shelter for hikers and bikers. The Bayside Loop offers campsites overlooking Starrigavan Bay and easy water access for kayakers. Some of the campsites may be reserved in advance. The Bayside Loop also offers six picnic sites, two with shelters, an outdoor amphitheater

for campfire programs, and the trailhead for the Mosquito Cove Trail. The recreation area also has a spectacular, accessible, group cabin site produced from hand-adzed logs harvested from the local young growth forest.

Starrigavan Recreation Area borders a lush estuary and Starrigavan Creek where bird watching and fish viewing are possible with an occasional deer or bear passing through. Resting benches are provided for those who wish to spend time relaxing and enjoying the area.

Finally, driving or walking from the ferry terminal in Sitka to Starrigavan is easy. Only 3/4 of a mile separates the terminal from the recreation area. Plus, the three loop trails connect to the terminal via a pedestrian walkway, perfect for joggers and walkers alike. Sitka's star recreation site has amenities to offer everyone. For more information about the Starrigavan experience contact at Sitka Ranger District at 907-747-4216.

A Simple Act Equals Big Changes

Have you washed your hands today?

Every day, millions of people wash their hands and dry them on paper towels. Those paper towels are then discarded in the trash, bound for a landfill or possibly an incinerator. Is this use of paper towels really necessary?

In September 2014, USDA Forest Service staff at Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center conducted a waste audit to see what goes into our trash. We discovered paper towels encompassed the largest volume of our trash! We resolved, as part of our Net Zero efforts, to dramatically reduce or eliminate paper towels from our trash. In summer 2015, paper towels were removed from our restrooms. We installed combination water faucet/hand dryers in the restrooms by our information kiosk. These combination faucet/dryers not only dry hands quite well, but they have the added benefit of allowing people to dry their hands where they wash them—without adding paper towels to waste bins or dripping water on the floor.

This simple act of removing paper towels reduced our volume of trash by twenty-six percent. We are saving the energy it takes to create and transport paper towels while also saving space in the landfill. This is just one step on our journey toward Net Zero. Net Zero is a goal to reach the point where our business operations are in balance with our environment. When we achieve Net Zero, our ecological footprint is neutral and we use no more



than we produce. Watch for more changes at the visitor center as we strive for Net Zero. We've installed water bottle fill stations to reduce plastic bottle waste and encouraged biking by adding bike racks. We are in the process of swapping out lighting for more efficient LED bulbs and are encouraging the use of electric transit. Working towards balance between people and planet is essential to ensuring sufficient resources for future generations. What steps can you take with us in this journey towards balance? It can be as simple as reducing your use of paper towels.



Public Use Cabins

CABINS: There are 150 rustic cabins spread throughout the Tongass. They each provide a cozy shelter, wooden bunks to sleep 2-15 people, and an outhouse. There are two drive-up cabins, Middle Ridge and Starrigavan. Twelve Mile Arm and Control Lake on Prince of Wales Island are located a short walk to and from a drive.

COST: \$25-\$65 a night.

STAY: Maximum 7 nights summer; 10 nights winter; 2 nights Juneau cabins only.

SETTING: Beach, river, lake, or alpine.

ACTIVITIES: Fishing, hunting, berry picking, hiking, paddling.

GET THERE: Hike, paddle, charter a plane or boat, auto, or a combination.

HEAT: Woodstove, oilstove, or propane furnace. Check before you go: A few cabins have no heater and for others you may need to take fuel.

BRING: Sleeping bags and pads, cook stove and gear, first aid, water, food, bug repellent, extra food and clothing just in case. Satellite phones are optional.

EMERGENCY: There are no phones or radios at the cabins, and no cell coverage. Be prepared to take care of emergencies and stay longer if weathered in.

MORE INFO:

Cabin descriptions and maps at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/activity/tongass/recreation/camping-cabins>

RESERVATIONS: 877-444-6777 or www.recreation.gov

Campgrounds



Where	Name and Location	# Sites	Cost	Reservations	Remarks
Prince of Wales Island	Eagles Nest 18 miles west of Thorne Bay	11	\$8	some sites	Fully accessible
	Harris River 15 miles from Craig	14	\$8	some sites	Fully accessible, one group shelter
Ketchikan	Ward Lake Rec. Area Signal Creek and Last Chance campgrounds 3.5 miles from ferry terminal	44	\$10	some sites	CCC Group Use Area can be reserved through ranger dist- rict for day or overnight use. Signal Creek open year-round
Wrangell	Nemo Campsite 14 miles from town	8	free	no	Wheelchair accessible 8 campsites at 4 areas
	Lower Salamander Rec. Site 23 miles from town	3	free	no	3 covered picnic shelters
Petersburg	Ohmer Creek 21 miles from town	10	\$6	no	Open year-round, weather permitting
Sitka	Starrigavan Rec. Area near ferry terminal; 1 cabin avail.	35	\$12-\$30 \$50	some sites	Fully accessible, open year-round; with vehicle restrictions Sept. 15 - April 30
Juneau	Mendenhall Lake* 13 miles from town 6 miles from ferry	69	\$12-\$23	no	Wheelchair accessible, tables, grills, water, toilets, showers
	Auke Village* 1.5 miles from ferry 15 miles from town	12	\$8	no	No RV facilities
Yakutat	Cannon Beach	3	free	no	Fully accessible, open year-round, tables, grills
	9-Mile	6	free	no	Accessible, boat launch

Forest Service Campgrounds have a 14-day stay limit and are open from May 1—September 30. Some campgrounds are open year-round. Reservations can be made by calling 877-444-6777 in the U.S., or 518-885-3639 outside the U.S. or online at www.recreation.gov. There is a reservation fee. Federal Interagency Senior and Access passes accepted.

* These campgrounds are now under fee reservation system www.recreation.gov

East Glacier Trail: Close, but a World Away



View from the East Glacier Trail.

Take a few steps behind the busy Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center and the hubbub of the crowd melts away. The green canopy of trees glistens with the temperate rainforest mist that nurtures mosses carpeting the forest floor; lichens drape from the branches above. The forest

primeval invites exploration and discovery.

Within five minutes a turn to the left brings the soft earth of East Glacier Trail underfoot. The trail climbs steadily about five hundred feet above the east shore of Mendenhall Lake.

Overlooks on the trail reveal vistas of the glacier and the blue icebergs floating in the lake below. Wooden steps, switchbacks, and bridges make the 3.5-mile climb (about two-hours) fun and adventurous while the loop trail brings you back to the visitor center where you began.

For more information, please contact the Juneau Ranger District at 907-586-8880.



Sarkar Lake Recreation Area, Canoe Route and Cabin

Sarkar Lake lies in “the middle” of Prince of Wales Island. Thanks to Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) funding, a large covered pavilion, concrete vault outhouse, enlarged parking, and a paddle craft launch were added in 2015. The site is now located just off the new paved road that continues past the town of Naukati Bay. Visitors can travel one of the most scenic chains of lakes in southeast Alaska via paddle craft and discover a freshwater ecosystem.

Sarkar Lake Cabin lies almost at the end of the first lake. Built in the 1960s and snuggled on a mossy peninsula of larger hemlock and spruce growth, this small but cozy Pan-Abode cabin affords warm and dry shelter to both locals looking for a weekend getaway and those that want a canoe route adventure. A challenging fifteen-mile route is a relaxed two-day adventure. A Forest Service skiff (provided for cabin renters only, please) can be rowed or motored with a small outboard (not provided) to the cabin and first portage. A nearby stream inlet offers a good opportunity to catch dinner.

Frequent wildlife seen and heard from the cabin and along the canoe route include owls, trumpeter swans, waterfowl



of all kinds, wolves, bears, eagles, loons, otter, and mink. Come see all that this amazing recreation opportunity offers. For more information contact the Craig Ranger District at 907-826-3271.



What makes a coastal temperate rainforest?

- More than 55 inches of annual precipitation with 10% or more occurring in the summer.
- Cool, frequently overcast summers with midsummer average temperatures less than 61 degrees Fahrenheit.
- A dormant season caused by low temperatures.
- Infrequent forest fires.
- Close proximity to the ocean.

 RANGER DISTRICT OFFICES

 MARINE HIGHWAY ROUTES

 ALASKA HIGHWAY

 ROADS & HIGHWAYS

All measurements in miles

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Haines to Anchorage.....775 | • Haines Jct to Whitehorse.....100 |
| • Haines to Fairbanks.....653 | • Skagway to Whitehorse.....108 |
| • Haines to Haines Jct.....152 | • Skagway to Atlin.....158 |
| | • Hyder to Cassiar Highway.....40 |



Tongass National Forest

F A C T S

- Designated by Theodore Roosevelt in 1907, the Tongass National Forest is over 100 years old.
- At 16.9 million acres, the largest national forest in the United States.
- Managed for multiple use including recreation, timber harvest, mining, and wilderness preservation.
- Includes two national monuments, 13 campgrounds, 19 wilderness areas, 150 recreational cabins, and 450 miles of hiking trails.
- Part of the largest coastal temperate rainforest in the world.
- Icefields, glaciers, mountains, valleys, estuaries, islands, lakes, caves, and 14,000 miles of shoreline.
- Home to over 5,000 brown bears.
- Home to approximately 75,000 people.
- Surrounds the north end of the Inside Passage, a popular and historic travel route.



Annual Rainfall/Snowfall (in inches)

Angoon	43/63	Metlakatla	115/61
Craig	120/140	Pelican	127/120
Haines	52/133	Petersburg	106/97
Hoonah	100/71	Port Alexander	172/85
Hyder	78/162	Sitka	96/39
Juneau	54-92/101	Skagway	26/39
Kake	54/44	Thorne Bay	120/40
Ketchikan	162/32	Wrangell	82/64
Klawock	120/40	Yakutat	132/219
Little Port Walter	225/119		

Learn more at www.fs.usda.gov/tongass

Bear Viewing

Bears live, forage, and travel everywhere in the Tongass. Here is a selection of four sites where visitors can watch and learn about bears without disturbing them. Forest Service staff are on-site throughout July and August. Watch for group size limits and other restrictions. Pets, food, and camping are not allowed at these sites.



ANAN WILDLIFE OBSERVATORY

Anan is located 30 miles south of Wrangell, and access is by boat or floatplane. Season is late-June through mid-September. Passes required during peak season July 5 to August 25 and each pass costs \$10 plus reservation fee. Passes are obtained at <http://www.recreation.gov>. Commercial guides are available at nearby communities.

Facilities: Boardwalk trail is 1/2-mile from beach to observation deck, shelter, viewing blind, and outhouse. Anan Bay Cabin requires a reservation (see page 5).

Restrictions: No camping near Anan Creek; visitors must stay on trails between June 15 and September 15 annually. The trail is rated moderate to difficult. Look for: brown and black bears, pink salmon, eagles, otter, and seals. Saltwater fishing only.

For more information or to obtain a pass please contact the Wrangell Ranger District at 907-874-2323.



FISH CREEK WILDLIFE OBSERVATION SITE

Located 75 air miles northeast of Ketchikan and three miles north of Hyder by road in the Salmon River valley. The site is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Entry fees July 1 - September 30: \$5 a day; \$10 for 3 days; \$20 for 7 days; \$65 for the season. Fees payable at Hyder Forest Service Office and at local vendors.

Facilities: parking area, viewing deck, restroom. Camping in Hyder. Look for: brown and black bears, eagles, geese, ducks, mink, beaver, songbirds, and chum salmon.

For more information, call the Ketchikan Ranger District or the Hyder Forest Service office from May 1 through October 1. 907-225-2148 or 250-636-2367.

PACK CREEK BROWN BEAR VIEWING AREA

Located on Admiralty Island, 27 air miles south of Juneau, access by boat or floatplane. Season runs June 1 through September 10 (best July 5 through August 25). Permit required, commercial guides available. Adults \$50 and youth \$25 per person during peak season.

Facilities: Beach walk to observation pad, camping on nearby Windfall Island, no shelter or restroom. Look for: brown bears, deer, and birds.

For more information, call the Admiralty National Monument Juneau Ranger District at 907-586-8800.



MARGARET CREEK WILDLIFE OBSERVATION SITE

Forest Service guides are on site intermittently in August and the first two weeks of September. Located on Revillagigedo Island, 26 miles north of Ketchikan. Access is by boat or floatplane. No fees or permits required. Commercial guides available.

Facilities: 1/4-mile gravel trail located one mile from Margaret Bay dock takes visitors through old-growth temperate rainforest to viewing platform. Look for black bears, birds, and four types of salmon.

For more information, call Ketchikan/Misty Fiords Ranger District at 907-225-2148.

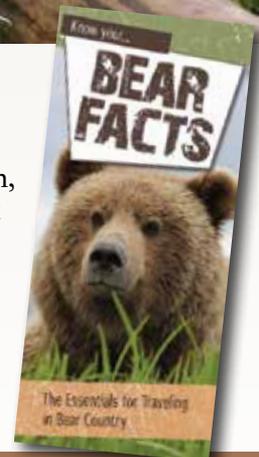
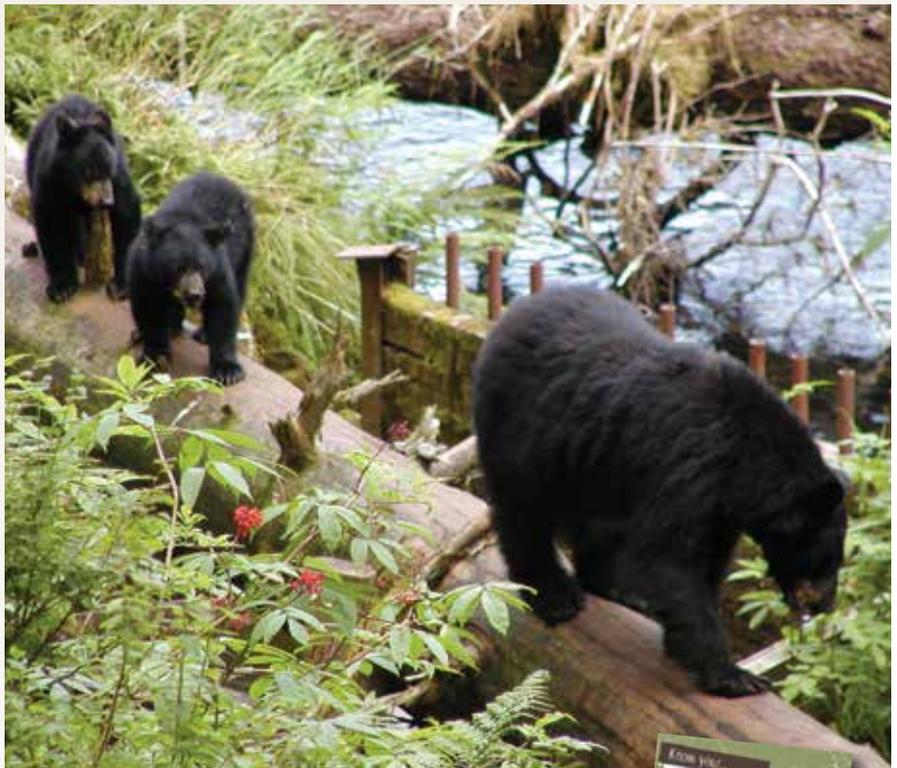
Outdoor Viewing Ethics

AVOIDING ENCOUNTERS

-  Be alert: Bears are active day and night, and can be anywhere. Watch for tracks, scat, and smells.
-  Keep your food and garbage away from bears. Use bear-resistant food containers, hang it in a tree, keep it in your pack, but never let a bear get any or it will come looking for more.
-  Make noise to avoid surprising a bear. Be especially careful in dense brush where visibility is low, and along rivers where bears cannot hear you over the noise of the water.
-  Give bears lots of space: Never approach a bear.
-  Stay on observation decks and marked trails.

IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BEAR

-  If the bear is unaware of you, back away quietly and quickly, putting lots of space between you and the bear.
-  If the bear approaches you, stand your ground and keep your pack on. Talk calmly in a low voice and slowly wave your arms over your head. Continue to stand your ground unless you are on its trail or adjacent to its food source. Bears that stand up on their hind legs are not threatening you, but merely trying to identify you.
-  Should a bear charge you, stand your ground and keep your pack on. Bears sometimes charge, coming within ten feet of a person before stopping or veering off. Dropping a pack may encourage the bear to approach other people for food. Stand still and talk to the bear until it moves away, then slowly back off.
-  If a bear actually makes contact, fall to the ground and play dead. Lie flat on your stomach, or curl up in a ball with your hands behind your neck. Typically, a bear will slow its attack once it feels the threat has been eliminated. Remain motionless for as long as possible. If you move, and the bear sees or hears you, it may return and renew its attack. If the attack is prolonged, fight back vigorously.



For more information about Alaska's bears, pick up a copy of *Bear Facts* at any Forest Service Office or visit www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livingwithbears.main

Choosing Sustainable Recreation



Sustainable means “being able to support over the long term” without putting excessive pressure on existing resources such that they become unavailable or cannot be renewed.

Sustainability can come in four forms: (1) energy use can be sustainable by using alternative sources rather than carbon-based fossil fuels; (2) water sources and uses can be sustainable by not using more than you need, such as fixing leaking fixtures, capturing rainwater, and finding more efficient ways to use water; (3) transportation can be more sustainable choosing alternative travel modes; and (4) waste management and waste flow can be more sustainable by reuse and recycling.

Recreation encompasses all these forms of sustainability. It might emphasize non-motorized access, or leaving recreation sites better than you found them by collecting trash and recycling it. Or sustainability of the recreation site might benefit from spreading the use away from crowded, overused areas.

One favorite form of recreation is planning the annual trip to the high country to cut the perfect holiday tree. When you think about the trip as a whole it involves gasoline for the car, food for the family, and removing and packing the tree. While it is true the family would eat anyway, consider the waste stream differences between eating at home versus eating along the route. After the holiday do you chip down the tree for mulch? Leave it on the sidewalk so someone else chips it? Dry it for firewood? Leave it in the forest to rot? These are all sustainability questions.

Some sustainability questions for this form of recreation include: Do you use a handsaw to cut the tree? In other words, are you using renewable energy to accomplish the work or non-renewable energy? Do you decide to put low-energy-consumption lights on it inside your house or have you decorated a living tree outside with some bird-edible ornaments?

Most recreation requires a specific set of overlapping resources. For example, here in the

Tongass, water and air access makes visits to the forest very fuel-dependent. We welcome visitors to the backcountry, to lakes and cabins, to streams and NatureWatch sites. You can make these fuel-dependent trips more sustainable by sharing transportation and making sure to leave your overnight sites better than you found them. Making sure your gear is clean and free from algae, animal, or insect infestations and seeds of invasive plants are all sustainable actions. Pack out what you pack in and recycle as much waste as possible. These actions promote sustainability by lessening the need for extra trips to fight invasive species and remove garbage from sites.

Over the last ten years, the non-profit group Sea Trails has emphasized non-motorized access to specific resources in the Forest. Bicycle trips on Prince of Wales Island are one example. Interspersed with camping and short hikes, canoeing, and kayak routes, this is a very easy way to make your recreational visit more sustainable. If you are not from the island and need to ferry over, the cost of the energy use for the ferry trip is shared by all the users.

Leave no trace ethics and techniques can also contribute to forms of sustainable recreation in the forest. Leave no trace is a way of practicing low impact recreational techniques. It includes planning what you are doing, making choices when you are out doing them, and establishing a state of mind that is attainable for your recreational pursuit. For example, you are taking your dog out for a run while you are cross country skiing. Can you ski from your residence to public land and decrease the crowding and fossil fuel use to a popular place with a large parking lot? Bringing a reusable water bottle and leashing your dog are two small actions that can have big effects. The reusable bottle reduces waste. A leashed dog creates fewer effects on wildlife and habitat. Your decision to ski to the recreation area instead of drive lessens crowding in the parking lot and saves on fuel use.

The Tongass National Forest has been pursuing sustainable operations to complement these and other sustainable efforts, both in their facilities and their procedures. District “Green Teams” implement programs such as recycling and powering down electronics to reduce environmental impacts. The

agency also is assessing the carbon footprints of facilities and operations across the forest and works to reduce our resource use. We encourage you to come and recreate in the Tongass, whether visiting for the first time or using it daily. Your sustainable actions benefit these publically owned resources, and promote and enhance their longevity; with these actions, we all benefit.





Southeast Alaska Discovery Center

HOURS

Summer: (May 1 to September 30) 8 am to 4 pm, seven days a week and closed holidays.
Winter: Noon to 8 pm Friday only; exhibits closed in winter.

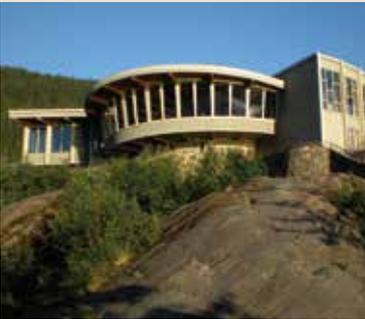
ACTIVITIES

- Interpretive programs for all ages with a focus on Alaska ecoregions, seasonal changes, and Forest resources.
- Totem Poles: Lobby features three totem poles representing the traditional styles of each of Southeast Alaska’s Native groups—Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian.
- Theater: Special interpretive and audiovisual programs scheduled throughout each day. Award-winning movie, *Discovering the Tongass: Alaska’s Rainforest*, shown daily.
- Rainforest Room: Observe how the forest progresses from post-timber harvest to old growth, and see how many hidden creatures you can find.
- Native Traditions Room: Travel through time to a Native fish camp and listen to elders describe traditional life as you learn about the indigenous cultures of Southeast Alaska.
- Ecosystems Room: Interactive exhibits bring the many ecosystems of Alaska to life. Listen to outdoor sounds as you learn about the state’s natural wonders. Use the spotting scope, view the salmon cam, or check out the 16-foot orca skeleton.
- Natural Resources Room: Learn about the history of fishing, mining, timber, tourism, and recreation in Southeast Alaska.
- Fish Cam: Explore the underwater world of spawning salmon during late July, August, and September.

Opened in 1995 and managed by the Forest Service, the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center is one of four Alaska Public Lands Information Centers. The center has exhibits and interactive displays on the land, the people, and the culture of Southeast Alaska. Walk through a rainforest, experience a Native fish camp, and view wildlife up-close through a spotting scope. Families can enjoy scavenger hunts and Junior Ranger programs. All this and more, just one block from the cruise ship dock in downtown Ketchikan.

Southeast Alaska Discovery Center

50 Main Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901
907-228-6220



Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center

HOURS

Summer: 8 am to 7:30 pm daily
Winter: 10 am to 4 pm, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Closed holidays.

ACTIVITIES

- Exhibits: Learn about the salmon forest, wildlife, climate change, the Juneau Icefield with an aerial map and research station replica, and time-lapse glacier movement video.
- Bookstore: Find books, videos, maps, artwork, and recordings of Alaska subjects, and unique and practical gifts (open May-September).
- Observatory: View the glacier, icebergs, mountain goats, and the temperate rainforest through panoramic windows with spotting scopes available for close-up views. Enjoy naturalists’ presentations.
- Theater: Watch the award-winning 15-minute film *Landscape of Change: The Tongass National Forest*.
- Fish cam: Peer into the underwater world of spawning salmon during late July, August, and September.
- Black bear viewing: Look for black bears that frequent the area from May through October. To ensure visitor safety, no food or flavored beverages are allowed outdoors at the visitor center complex and no dogs are allowed on Steep Creek Trail from May 1 through October 31.
- Family programs: Explore the Discovery Zone. Ask a ranger about special activities for youngsters.

The Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center in Juneau is the Forest Service’s first visitor center, and was constructed in 1962. Remodeled in 1999, the center offers a wide range of activities including watching spawning salmon along Steep Creek, spotting mountain goats from the center’s observatory, and outstanding glacier viewing.

Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center

Glacier Spur Road
Juneau, AK 99801
907-789-0097

Forest Partners

As the primary nonprofit education partner of the Tongass National Forest, 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.

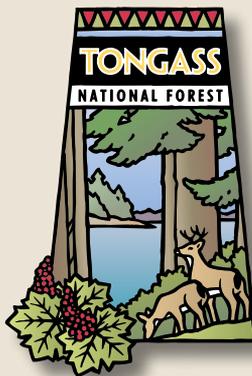
Alaska Geographic operates bookstores across the state, including six locations in the Tongass National Forest: the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center in Juneau, and Ranger District Offices in Petersburg, Wrangell, Craig, and Thorne Bay. Your purchases at these locations directly support the Tongass National Forest—a portion of every sale helps fund educational and interpretive programs throughout the forest.

To find out more, become a member, or browse our wide selection of Alaska books, maps, and films, stop by any Alaska Geographic bookstore or visit our website at www.alaskageographic.org



**Alaska
Geographic**

Alaska Geographic
241 North C Street
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-274-8440 or toll-free at 866-AK-PARKS
www.alaskageographic.org

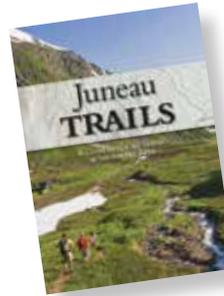


Discover Alaska Collector Series

Pins, patches, hats, and other products featuring this unique Tongass design. Discover Alaska designs also available for Mendenhall Glacier, Prince of Wales Island, and Misty Fjords. Exclusively from Alaska Geographic.

LEARN MORE

Visit an Alaska Geographic bookstore to find books, maps, films, and gifts related to the natural and cultural history of the Tongass National Forest.



Juneau Trails *A Guide to Hiking Trails in the Juneau Area*

Pull on your hiking boots and explore the Juneau area with this updated, full-color, comprehensive trail guide that includes hikes around downtown Juneau, Douglas Island, north to Auke Bay, and around Mendenhall Glacier. Detailed map available.

76 pages, softcover

Item #10885 **\$10.00**

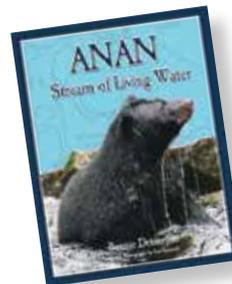


Mendenhall Glacier Patch *Discover Alaska Collection*

This colorfully embroidered patch quickly attaches to your favorite bag, jacket, or hat with just a few stitches. Combine with other patches in the Discover Alaska Collection to show your support for Alaska's public lands.

3"x4"

Item #56038 **\$5.95**



Anan *Stream of Living Water*

Anan Creek is a prime location for observing black and brown bears in their natural habitat, drawn to the abundance of fish. Explore the connections between salmon, bears, and water in one of North America's most prolific humpback salmon streams.

70 pages, softcover

Item #12356 **\$13.95**



Tongass National Forest Hiking Medallion *Discover Alaska Collection*

This colorful metal hiking medallion, part of the Discover Alaska Collection, will be a great reminder of your Alaska adventures. Its slightly curved shape allows for easy placement on your walking stick or canoe paddle. (Attaches easily with two small brads, provided.)

1"x1.5"

Item #56178003 **\$5.95**

Also available online at www.alaskageographic.org



Find out more about the Tongass National Forest

Visit www.fs.usda.gov/tongass or e-mail: mailroom_r10_Tongass@fs.fed.us

**Admiralty National Monument
Juneau Ranger District**
8510 Mendenhall Loop Road
Juneau, AK 99801
907-586-8800

Craig Ranger District
P.O. Box 705
Craig, AK 99921
907-826-3271

Hoonah Ranger District
P.O. Box 135
Hoonah, AK 99829
907-945-3631

Ketchikan/Misty Fiords Ranger District
3031 Tongass Avenue
Ketchikan, AK 99901
907-225-2148

Petersburg Ranger District
P.O. Box 1328
Petersburg, AK 99833
907-772-3871

Sitka Ranger District
204 Siginaka Way
Sitka, AK 99835
907-747-6671
r10_sitka_rd@fs.fed.us

Southeast Alaska Discovery Center
50 Main Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901
907-228-6220

Thorne Bay Ranger District
P.O. Box 19001
Thorne Bay, AK 99919
907-828-3304

Wrangell Ranger District
P.O. Box 51
Wrangell, AK 99929
907-874-2323

Yakutat Ranger District
P.O. Box 327
Yakutat, AK 99689
907-784-3359

Other contacts in Southeast Alaska

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, 907-697-2230, www.nps.gov/glba
Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, 907-983-2921, www.nps.gov/klgo
Sitka National Historical Park, 907-747-6281, www.nps.gov/sitk
Alaska State Parks, Southeast Region, 907-465-4563, www.dnr.state.ak.us



Many recreational sites in the Tongass National Forest have a user fee. The money collected is used to improve the visitor experience at the site or facility. Spotting scopes, interpretive signs, trail improvements, and extra staff are all paid for with fees collected from visitors like you. Thanks!