The BEGICH, BOGGS VISITOR CENTER is open daily 9am-6pm from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

The center is also available for special events, meet and greets, educational activities and may be rented. For more information call 907-783-3117.

3. Explorer Glacier Viewing Area
This area offers a great view of Explorer Glacier. Keep a lookout for signs of bear activity in the area.

4. Tangle Pond
Trout fishing opportunities exist.

5. Black Bear Campground
A 15-site campground designed for tent and small RV camping. Campsites are walk-in and have a picnic table and outhouse.

6. Williwaw Salmon Viewing Platform
Early August through mid-November you can see salmon returning to spawn. Species normally seen are red (sockeye), chum (dog), pink (humpy) and silver (coho). Williwaw Nature Trail starts here. This easy 0.3 mile trail connects the viewing platform to Williwaw ponds. The trail near the trail is closed to salmon fishing.

7. Williwaw Campground
A 60-site fully accessible campground designed for RV and tent camping. Paved site with pull-through style parking pads, campfire rings, bear-proof dumpsters, and hand-water pumps. No hookups or dump station.

8. Williwaw Ponds
Trout fishing opportunities exist.

9. Byron Glacier Trail
An easy to moderate trail along Byron Creek. Avalanche danger exists throughout winter into spring. Travel past the maintained trail is not recommended. Avalanche debris fields and cave-like structures are not stable and serious injuries or death may occur. Length: 0.9 miles. Time: one hour round trip. Elevation gain: 100 feet.

10. Portage Pass Trail
Trail starts on the Whittier side of the tunnel. This moderate trail leads to Portage Pass with spectacular views of Portage Lake and Glacier, and the surrounding sub-alpine terrain, and continues to lakeshore. Length: 2 miles. Time: Three-four hours. Elevation gain: 25 ft. 

11. Portage Glacier Cruises
Hour long tours of Portage Lake to Portage Glacier, operated by Holland America under a special use permit with the Forest Service. Forest Service interpreters provide narration during each trip. Cruise operates from mid-May thru mid-Sept. For information on trip times, ticket prices and reservations call: 1-800-544-2206.

12. Gary Williams Moraine Trail
An easy, self-guided trail showing glacial effects upon the landscape. Length: 0.4 mile loop. Time: 20 minutes. Elevation gain: 25 ft.

13. Portage Glacier Day Lodge
Privately owned gift shop and restaurant operated year around under special use permit from the Forest Service. For more information, please call (907) 783-3117.

If you plan on fishing, be sure to check the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's fishing regulations before you go.
**Portage Glacier — More than a Century of Change.**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Portage Glacier</th>
<th>Burns Glacier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1808</td>
<td>Formed by melting ice from Portage Lake</td>
<td>Formed by melting ice from Lake George</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>Building begins</td>
<td>Building begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>Glacier reaches its maximum extent</td>
<td>Glacier reaches its maximum extent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>Beginning of retreat</td>
<td>Beginning of retreat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>Greatest retreat</td>
<td>Greatest retreat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>Glacier reaches its current position</td>
<td>Glacier reaches its current position</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Minimum extent of glacier</td>
<td>Minimum extent of glacier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Current position of glacier</td>
<td>Current position of glacier</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wild Weather**

Due to its location, Portage Valley is host to a variety of wild and weather situations. An unexpected snowfall can close the Chugach and Kenai mountains they drain into, causing roads and trail access to become impassable. Strong winds, which are common in Portage Valley, may make it difficult to see on the trails, or may force winds driving heavy rains in Portage Valley.

**Portage Pass**

Portage Pass is a narrow land bridge between Prince William Sound and Turnagain Arm. As the air pressure between the two areas equals out, extremely high winds can be created. These winds have snapped 50 foot flagpoles like a dream, tossed asphalt, and blown trees from the railroads tracks.

**Weather Watch**

- Be prepared for spotted weather changes: Heavy rain or snow, strong winds can occur any time.
- Keep in mind that medical help is far away! Plan ahead and prepare.
- Stay off the lake ice in the winter. Periods of freezing and thawing throughout the winter make the ice very unstable.
- Avalanche danger exists in Portage Valley in the summer months. Stay off avalanches and out of ice-like structures; they can collapse without warning.
- Don’t approach wilderness. Make sure when hiking, especially in brushy areas, and know how to handle an encounter with a wild animal if you have one close to you.
- Black bears are the most common wildlife species in Portage Valley. When hiking, keep your food in bear-resistant containers. When hiking, pack out any food.
- Be alert for moose and bear that may bolt out in front of your vehicle.
- Travel anywhere on the Forest Service roads is inherently dangerous. Be responsible for your safety at all times.