

Anan Wildlife Observatory FAQs

How do I buy a permit?

It is strongly recommended that you make your reservation beforehand using www.Recreation.gov. At least four daily passes will become available in-person at the Wrangell District Office during the season. Contact the District Office for more information on these in-person permits at 907-874-2323.

When are passes required?

Passes are required July 5th to August 25th.

Why do I need a pass?

Over the years, Anan Wildlife Observatory has been receiving more and more visitors. The Forest Service studied this trend to determine the impact of increased visitation on bears using the area to feed. It was determined that 60 visitors per day gives the maximum number of visitors the best viewing environment while protecting the bears.

What is the best time of the year to visit Anan?

The best time to view bears is during the salmon run. The start and ending dates of the salmon run changes from year to year. Typically, July through mid-August is a great time to go. Please call the Wrangell Ranger District at (907) 874-2323 a few days before your anticipated arrival for the latest information.

Will I be escorted by Forest Service Rangers while at Anan?

No. Forest Service staff will greet you at the trailhead and provide you with a brief safety orientation. There is also a staff member located at the observatory most of July and August.

What facilities are available?

At the trailhead there is a small kiosk and an outhouse. There is ½ mile partially surfaced trail with stairs to the observatory. At the observatory you will find a viewing shelter, two decks, photo blind and an outhouse.

What should I wear?

Be prepared for cold, rainy weather. Dress in several layers of warm clothes. Be aware that you will disembark the plane or boat in a tidal area so wear waterproof boots. The sun does shine here from time to time; so sunglasses and sunscreen are sometimes desirable.

What should I know about bear safety?

Please check out this bear facts website from the [Alaska Department of Fish and Game](#)

Can I bring a firearm or pepper spray?

Yes you can. If you decide to bring a firearm or pepper spray, make sure that you are competent and comfortable with its use.

Can I bring food?

No. Food and drink are prohibited past the trailhead from June 15th to September 15th by Forest Order. All food and drinks (except water) should stay on your boat or plane. There is a bear proof food locker at the trailhead where food can be stored while visiting, but all food must be eaten at the trailhead.

Can I bring my dog to Anan?

No. Dogs are prohibited by Forest Order from June 15th to September 15th.

Is camping available?

No. Camping is prohibited by Forest Order from June 15th to September 15th. You can rent the Anan Bay recreation cabin which is located ½ mile from the Anan Trailhead. For reservation information, go to www.recreation.gov.

Is it possible to paddle to Anan from Wrangell?

Yes. Anan Wildlife Observatory is about 30 miles from Wrangell. A great place to stop for the night in between would be the Berg Bay cabin. It is approximately 22 miles from Wrangell and 8 miles from Anan. For reservation information, go to www.recreation.gov.