

## Park History

Believed to be descended from the Chugach Eskimo, the indigenous inhabitants of this area harvested sustenance from Kachemak Bay's diverse riches including fish, shellfish, marine mammals, and birds. Archaeological remains show evidence of thriving culture and traditions, but around 500 A.D. these people left the bay; their motives remain undiscovered. However, Kachemak Bay did not remain untapped by humans for long. By the time of European exploration, the area was the territory of the Dena'ina Athabascans.

Before the establishment of the park, the land "across the bay" was a place of natural beauty, solitude, and recreation for the people of Homer. When Kachemak Bay State Park was designated in June 1970, it became Alaska's very first state park. People quickly took to the park, making it one of Alaska's most loved backcountry destinations, and over the years legislative actions added acreage and a wilderness park. Today, there are nearly 400,000 acres of land within the parks, every one of them the result of concerned lawmakers and grassroots citizen action to preserve and protect this marvelous corner of the Alaskan landscape.

Overlooking Kachemak Bay and Homer Spit  
Photo courtesy of Leanne Quirk

## For More Information

Homer Ranger Station  
(907) 235-7024  
Marine VHF Ch. 16

Kenai Area Office  
PO Box 1247  
Soldotna, AK 99669  
(907) 262-5581

[www.alaskastateparks.org](http://www.alaskastateparks.org)  
[www.alaskastatetrails.org](http://www.alaskastatetrails.org)



Greivingk Glacier Lake  
Photo courtesy of Emily Lochart



# Welcome to Kachemak Bay State Park & State Wilderness Park

## Welcome

Alaska's first state park and only wilderness park together encompass nearly 400,000 breathtaking acres of mountains, glaciers, forest, coastline, and ocean. The park boasts an unmatched variety of habitats, wildlife, and recreational opportunities including: fishing, hunting, kayaking, beachcombing, camping, and hiking on over 85 miles of trails leading into the backcountry. Go where no road can take you, and set your course for one of the wildest and most remote state parks in the wildest and most remote state.



Tutka Lake  
Background photo Alpine Ridge

Photos not otherwise credited are courtesy of Alaska State Parks employees

- Backpacking
- Beachcombing
- Berry Picking
- Biking
- Bird Watching
- Camping
- Canoeing
- Clam Digging
- Climbing
- Exploring
- Fishing
- Glacier Traversing
- Hiking
- Horseback Riding
- Hunting & Trapping
- Kayaking



Kite surfing in Kachemak Bay  
Photo courtesy of Emily Lochart

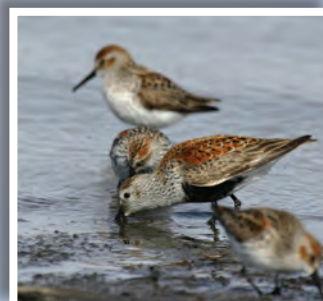
- Mountaineering
- Paddle Boarding
- Photography
- Picnicking
- Public-Use Cabins
- Packrafting
- Relaxing
- Scuba Diving
- Skiing
- Snowshoeing
- Solitude
- Tidepooling
- Surfing
- Tracking
- Whale Watching
- Wildlife Viewing

## Alaska State Parks

## Area Highlights

### Getting There

Access to these parks is by boat or airplane. Air charters, water taxi services, and boat rentals are available in Homer. Check the Kachemak Bay webpage at [www.alaskastateparks.org](http://www.alaskastateparks.org) for a list of authorized commercial air and water taxi services.



Sandpipers and dunlin  
Photo courtesy of Chuck Young/USFWS



Red squirrel  
Photo courtesy of Emily Lochart

### Wildlife

Kachemak Bay is a State Critical Habitat Area with estuaries, coves, and fjords that support a myriad of marine wildlife. Rich intertidal zones offer natural classrooms for marine studies. Visitors frequently observe sea otters, harbor seals, porpoises, and various whale species among the waves. On land, you may spot moose, black bears, mountain goats, coyotes, and wolves. Many bird species also inhabit the area, including bald eagles, gyrfalcons, murrens, and puffins.



Black bear cubs  
Photo courtesy of Emily Lochart



China Poot campsite



China Poot public-use cabin

### Public-Use Cabins

Six public-use cabins located at Halibut Cove Lagoon, Leisure Lake, Moose Valley, and Tutka Bay are available for rent. Reservations can be made up to six months in advance. For reservations and informational fact sheets for each cabin, visit [www.alaskastateparks.org](http://www.alaskastateparks.org).

### Yurt Rentals

Six yurts are available for rent at various locations in Kachemak Bay State Park. A commercial operator maintains and rents these yurts. Each yurt sleeps a maximum of eight people and is equipped with a wood stove. Contact the Homer Ranger Station for more information.



Coalition Bay yurt



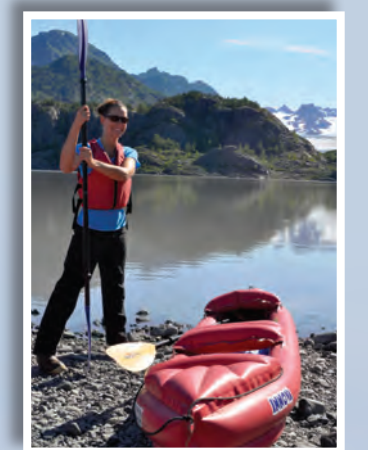
China Poot public-use cabin

### On the Water

**Always wear a life jacket.** The bay can be rough at times. When conditions are poor, be patient as the weather often improves in the evening. Carry food and warm clothing for an unexpected overnight. Marine charts show many of the bay's hazards and should be carried by all boat operators. Refer to Nautical Chart #16645, Gore Point to Anchor Point. For more information on safe boating, visit [www.alaskaboatingsafety.org](http://www.alaskaboatingsafety.org).



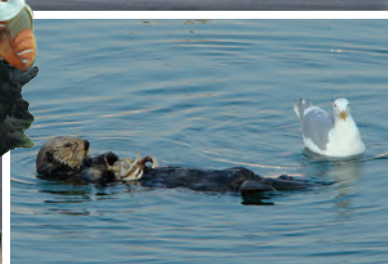
Dock at Halibut Cove



Greivingk Glacier Lake  
Photo courtesy of Brody Reid

### Public Mooring

Halibut Cove Lagoon offers an 80-foot-long dock, capable of mooring boats up to 26 feet long. The dock provides access to the ranger station, toilet, three public-use cabins, and nearby trails. Dock space is limited, and available on a first come, first served basis. Public mooring buoys are located at the Saddle Trailhead, Right Beach, Halibut Cove Lagoon Trailhead, and Tutka Bay public-use cabin, and are rated for a maximum vessel length of 40 feet.



Otter eating a crab  
Photo courtesy of Jill Wheeler

Tufted puffin pair  
Photo courtesy USFWS

