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.

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 www.alaskastatetrails.org

Kachemak Bay

State Park & State Wilderness Park

Welcome to

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.

Clam Digging

Climbing

Exploring Fishing

Glacier Traversing

Hiking

Horseback Riding

Hunting & Trapping Kayaking



Scuba Diving Skiing

Snowshoeing

Solitude

Tidepooling

Surfing Tracking

Whale Watching

Wildlife Viewing

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 for a list of authorized commercial air and water taxi services.



Photo courtesy of Chuck Young/USFWS



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, murres, and puffins.





Camping



Camping is allowed in most areas of the park. Several sites throughout the park have amenities for campers including: fire rings, picnic tables, tent platforms, toilets, and bear-resistant food caches.

Check the map for campsite locations.

Alaska State Parks

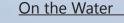
Public-Use Cabins

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.

Photos not otherwise credited are courtesy of Alaska State Parks employees

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.



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.

Public Mooring





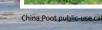
Halibut Cove Lagoon offers an 80-foot-long dock, capable of mooring boats up to 26 feet long. The dock provides access to the ranger station, toilet, three public-use cabins, and nearby trails. Dock space is limited, and available on a first come, first served basis. Public mooring buoys are located 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.

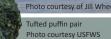






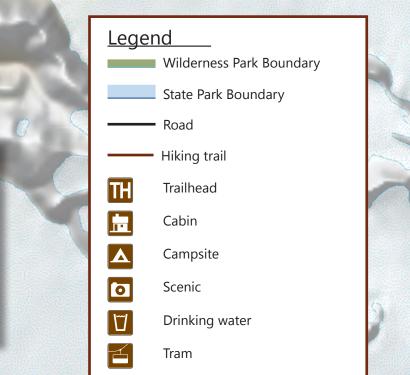






Otter eating a crab





Trail Descriptions

For more information on trails in Kachemak Bay State Park, including detailed camping and water availability, visit www.alaskastateparks.org and www.alaskastatetrails.org

Emerald Lake Loop Trail



Access: Grewingk Glacier Trails or Humpy Creek Trailhead

Distance: 12.6-mile loop **Travel Means: Foot** Elevation Gain: 2,800 feet

This trail accesses beautiful Emerald Lake and its alpine surroundings. The trail climbs to Portlock Plateau for fantastic views of Kachemak Bay. Look for bears and mountain goats on the high ridges.

Grewingk Glacier Trails (2)



Access: Glacier Spit Trailhead, Humpy Creek Trailhead or Emerald Lake Loop Trail. **Distance:** Grewingk Tram Spur Trail, 1 mile; Blue Ice Trail, 1.9 miles

Travel Means: Foot Elevation Gain: 500 feet

Blue Ice Trail offers the only developed access to a glacier in Kachemak Bay State Park. At Grewingk Creek, there is a hand-operated cable car pulley system that requires two people for operation. Caution: Unless properly trained and outfitted for glacial travel, do not climb on ice or in ice caves.

Glacier Lake Trail (3)



Access: Glacier Spit Trailhead or Saddle Trailhead **Distance:** 3.2 miles one way to Grewingk Glacier Lake from Glacier Spit Trailhead

Travel Means: Foot **Elevation Gain: 200 feet**

This trail crosses flat terrain and ends at the broad, open beaches of Grewingk Glacier Lake. The trail comprises a popular route joined by the Saddle and Grewingk Glacier trails.

China Poot Lake Trail



Access: Halibut Cove Lagoon **Distance:** 2.8 miles one way to China Poot Lake **Travel Means:** Foot Elevation Gain: 500 feet

This popular trail gently climbs through the forest and over a low ridge, passing two small lakes where common loons are often seen and blueberries are plentiful in August.

Moose Valley Trail 5



Access: North end at mile 1.0 China Poot Lake Trail or south end at mile 0.8 Poot Peak South Trail.

Distance: 6.7 miles **Travel Means:** Foot

Elevation Gain: 1,200 feet (traveling southward)

This trail passes along the shore of Two Loon Lake, ascends through forested ridges and valleys, and then opens into Moose Valley's meadows. Look for high waterfalls beyond the log footbridge over Moose Valley Creek. Be attentive—tall grasses can obscure trail markers.

Poot Peak Trails

4



Access: China Poot Lake Trail to China Poot Lake **Distance:** 4.3 miles North to South Trail loop with

Travel Means: Foot **Elevation Gain:** 2,430 feet

Ranger

Toilet

There are two routes that branch off the Wosnesenski River Trail to the summit of Poot Peak. The north route is very steep and is not maintained. The south route is not as difficult and is maintained, but it is longer than the north route. Both trails lead to the Summit Spur Trail. Only hikers with rock climbing training should continue beyond this point—climbing the peak is hazardous due to shifting scree and falling rock.

Wosnesenski River Trail (7)



Access: China Poot Lake Campsite, Haystack Trailhead

Distance: 11.3 miles one way **Travel Means:** Foot

Elevation Gain: 900 feet

Beginning from the Poot Peak Trail, this route winds through forests, meadows and bogs, up and over a low ridge, and into the Wosnesenski River Valley. The Wosnesenski River is a glacial river, braided with gravel flats on either side; this is a highly scenic area with sweeping vistas of mountains and glaciers, and a spectacular 600-foot waterfall.

Sadie Knob Trail (8)



Access: North Eldred Trailhead, South Eldred Trailhead. Please respect private property south of these two trailheads. Distance: North route, 1.6 miles; South route,

1.9 miles; ridge trail to Sadie Knob, 2.6 miles **Travel Means:** Foot

Elevation Gain: 2,200 feet

This trail accesses an alpine ridge between Sadie Cove and Kachemak Bay. The North and the South routes connect the north and south ends of Eldred Passage—both join the ridge route at Quiet Creek. The trail follows the ridgeline to Sadie Knob where hikers can enjoy superb and expansive 360° views of Kachemak Bay. Caution: Vertical cliffs and rugged country! Clouds often shroud the trail, limiting visibility to under 50 feet making it easy to lose the trail. Wait for clouds to lift so you can spot trail markers in tricky areas.

Grace Ridge Trail 9



Access: North end at Kayak Beach Campsite or south end at South Grace Ridge Trailhead Distance: 8.9 miles one way **Travel Means:** Foot

Elevation Gain: 3,100 feet

This hike offers stunning views of Eldred Passage, Sadie Peak, Cook Inlet volcanoes and beyond. Watch for mountain goats, black bears, and golden and bald eagles.