Welcome to Juneau Area
Alaska State Parks

Juneau Area's state parks are favorite recreational escapes among local residents, ranging from urban historic sites to road-accessible recreation areas and marine parks that are accessible only by boat. Attractions include public-use cabins for renting, trails for hiking, skiing, and snowshoeing, campfires for roasting, and scenery for viewing and photographing.

There is something for everyone to enjoy. Whether you have a full day, an afternoon, a day, a weekend, or an entire week. Come play in the grand outdoor stage surrounding Juneau, where you might encounter a moose, spot a bear from afar, or pass an Alaskan politician on the trails.

Wildlife Viewing
Wildlife abounds in the Juneau area and the nearby state parks are some of the best places to see these critters. Eagle Beach State Recreation Area is known for fabulous birding opportunities in spring and autumn when large flocks of migratory birds blanket the beach and fill the air.

Nearly all the area's state parks provide fishing opportunities, and where there are fish, bears are sure to follow. Admiration Island, where Oliver Inlet SMP is located, is especially well known for its large bear population.

Kayaking
The Juneau area is a kayaker's dream, with plenty to see and explore from the water. Popular paddling trips include a water trail between Point Bridget and Oliver Inlet with various route options among the Channel Islands.

There are plenty of possibilities for day trips, overnight, multi-day expeditions, and a variety of skill and experience levels. Get your spray skirts ready and head out on the water to enjoy breathtaking views of magnificent glaciers and mountains, narrow fjords, lush forests, numerous islands, and incredible wildlife viewing opportunities, or just paddle out to your favorite beach and relax.

Public-Use Cabin
To say that Alaska State Parks' rustic public-use cabins in the Juneau area are popular might be an understatement. With six cabins or near the road system and another five accessible only by water or float planes, there is sure to be one that will quench your fancy and meet your recreational needs.

Most are equipped with sleeping platforms or bunks, but no mattresses and are heated with kerosene-burning stoves.

Check for water availability before you go as you may have to pack water in or treat stream water. Toilets are available near all cabins.

Camping
The road-accessible Eagle Beach State Recreation Area has the most developed camping of all the state parks nearby, with 16 campsites available for use, including three with hot showers. Potable water can be obtained from the campground host site and toilets are also on site.

Camping is also allowed in Point Bridget State Park and suitable spots can be found near each of the public-use cabins and gravel bars. If you choose to camp near a cabin, please be a respectful neighbor.

Campsites are also invited to pitch their tents on the beaches of Saint James Bay State Marine Park, "009", and Channel Islands. Just be sure to choose a spot above the high tide line.

Welcome

History
Long before the Euroamericans set foot in this area, the Tlingit were here. They fished the salmon streams and the many productive inlets, channels, and bays. However, by the 1880s, the local Tlingit were familiar with the newcomers.

Kowee, a Tlingit of the Auk Tribe, responded to George Pilz's reward offer by showing some gold ore samples. Pilz sold Joe Juneau and Richard Harris with Chief Kowee to locate the source of the gold, and by November 1880, the stampede started.

Juneau grew from a gold-mining boomtown into Alaska's seat of government. Today, though mining and fishing are still important, government and tourism are the main driving forces of Juneau's economy.

Wickersham State Historic Site
Judge James Wickersham (1857-1939) was one of the most influential people in the development of 20th Century Alaska. This house was his home between 1932 and 1939 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The state acquired the house and its contents including furnishings, personal belongings, ethnographic artifacts, and a library containing invaluable archives in 1984.

Today, visitors are invited to visit his home. The Wickersham House and Collections is especially well known for its large bear population.

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For More Information
Southeast Area Office
400 Willoughby Avenue
Juneau, AK 99811-1071
(907) 465-4560
www.alaskastateparks.org
To report an emergency, call 911.

Juneau Area Highlights
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Saint James Bay SMP

This 1,002-acre state marine park is located on the west side of Lynn Canal. The park has many protected anchorage, large concentrations of fish and wildlife, and beach landing areas. The bay is a popular area for wildlife viewing, photography, waterfront and big game hunting, sport fishing, boating, kayaking, and camping. St. James Bay also boasts a public-use cabin. A short trail at the north side of the head of the bay leads to East Harbor, a beautiful and quiet inlet of Lynn Canal.

Channel Islands SMP

This park consists of 14 islands in Lynn Canal, approximately 35 miles northwest of downtown Juneau. It is a kayaker’s and small skiff operator’s paradise. It is easily accessed by several local launch sites including North Douglas, Auke Bay, Amalga Harbor, and Echo Cove. Two public-use cabins tempt visitors to spend the night in comfort.

Eagle Beach State Recreation Area

This recreation area is located at the saltwater coastline of the east end of Haines. It is composed of approximately 60 acres in five fenced areas, a salt marsh, and several estuarine nesting areas. Large numbers of migratory birds use the intertidal area as a resting and feeding place in the spring and fall. These areas are an excellent place to observe both waterfowl and shorebirds.

Rutledge Bridge State Park

Captain James Cook named the bridge in 1794, long before the area was a state park. Today visitors to this beautiful, 2,400-acre park enjoy the open meadows, beaver ponds, oceanfront cliffs, salmon streams, rocky beaches, and more. The salt marsh park system leads you through the lush temperate rainforest with old-growth trees to the meadows, small lakes, ponds, and streams that cover the landscape.

Perseverance Trail

Access: Approximately one mile up Perseverance Trail at the end of Basin Rd.
Travel Means: Foot
Distance: 0.5 miles one way
Elevation gain: 1,500 feet

This trail is not for the faint of heart on the inexperienced hiker! It’s attention, steep hike with many slick spots that require scrambling. For this reason, hiking during wet conditions is strongly discouraged. This hike can take from 1 to 3 hours to complete, but might reward the hiker with colorful wildflowers, glimpses of hoary marmots, alpine meadows, and sweeping views from Mt. Juneau.

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Taku Harbor SMP

Taku Harbor is a natural, broad-shouldered harbor that was once home to a major salmon canneries and might have been the first outlet of the Hudson Bay Company on the west coast. Taku Harbor is frequently used as a night anchorage by commercial fishing boats and small tour ships. It is easily accessed by several local launch sites including North Douglas, Auke Bay, Amalga Harbor, and Echo Cove. Two public-use cabins tempt visitors to spend the night in comfort.

Wickersham House State Historical Site

Between 1928 and 1939, this was the home of James Wickersham, lawyer, judge, delegate to Congress, collecto, and author. The first floor, which is managed as a seasonal museum, is open to the public between mid-May and mid-September. For more information, call the Wickersham House at (907) 566-9051 or Alaska State Parks’ Southeast Area Office at (907) 465-4561.

Ernest Gruening State Historical Park

The site of Territorial Governor Ernest Gruening’s former rustic summer home, Ernest Gruening State Historical Park features Gruening’s cabin, a landscaped forest, and a hiking trail. A trail connects Rays Creek to the park. Ernest Gruening was a lawyer, judge, delegate to Congress, collector, and author. The first floor, which is managed as a seasonal museum, is open to the public between mid-May and mid-September.

Juneau State Trail System

Trails accessed from Basin Road should be avoided during the winter due to extreme avalanche danger. For more information on trails in the Juneau State Trail System, including detailed camping and water availability, visit: www.alaskastateparks.org and www.alaskastateparks.com.

Perseverance Trail

Access: From downtown Juneau take Gold St. to Basin Rd. Follow it to the end.
Travel Means: Foot
Distance: 5 miles one way
Elevation gain: 1,500 feet

Perseverance Trail is one of the most scenic and well-used trails in Juneau with magnificent mountain views, a good view of Juneau harbor, and old growth forest. It is comparable to the Idaho Trail and the Chilkoot Trail. It is a popular area for wildlife viewing, photography, waterfront and big game hunting, sport fishing, and berry picking; eventually, it became Juneau’s first road.

Mt. Juneau Trail

Access: Approximately one mile up Perseverance Trail at the end of Basin Rd.
Travel Means: Foot
Distance: 0.5 miles one way
Elevation gain: 1,500 feet

This trail is not for the faint of heart on the inexperienced hiker! It’s attention, steep hike with many slick spots that require scrambling. For this reason, hiking during wet conditions is strongly discouraged. This hike can take from 1 to 3 hours to complete, but might reward the hiker with colorful wildflowers, glimpses of hoary marmots, alpine meadows, and sweeping views from Mt. Juneau.

Granite Creek Trail

Access: A marked trail intersects approximately one mile up Perseverance Trail at the end of Basin Road.
Travel Means: Foot
Distance: 3.5 miles one way
Elevation gain: 1,500 feet

This trail features wildflowers and berries, alpine meadows, and spectacular views. The trail starts at the end of Perseverance Road; hikers are rewarded with the opportunity to explore a beautiful basin.

Mt. Roberts Trail

Access: Basin Rd., just beyond the wooden trestle bridge.
Travel Means: Foot
Distance: 4.5 miles to Mt. Roberts; 2.5 miles to Cross, 5 miles to Gastineau Peak
Elevation gain: 1,800 feet to Mt. Roberts, 2,200 feet to Cross

The trail features views of Lynn Canal, plenty of wildlife viewing opportunities, and wildflowers. If you want to skip the lower 1,700 feet, hop in the Mt. Roberts Tramway, and cover the distance the way you like. The trail continues from the upper terminal to Gastineau Peak and Mt. Roberts Peak.

Sheep Creek Trail

Access: Mile 4 of Thane Rd.
Travel Means: Foot
Distance: 3.5 miles one way
Elevation gain: 700-800 feet to valley, 1,500 feet to ridge

The first half of the trail, though wide, is steep with steeper grades installed in some sections. However, if snow levels out it follows power lines down to the creek with only a few changes in elevation. After three miles, the trail becomes a primitive path that leads to a Powder Ridge with access to Sheep Mountain and Handspike Peak. During the snowmelt season, hikers may spot mountain goats, black bears, and other wildlife, berries, and a host of wildflowers.

Legend

- Public Use Cabin
- Tent Camping
- Hiking
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Picnic Shelter
- Kayaking
- Boat Launch
- Fishing
- Wildlife Viewing
- History
- Information

Projected Coordinate System
HAD 93 State Plane Zone 1 7,000,000
Not for navigational purposes

Background photo courtesy of Mike Eberhardt

Photo courtesy of Jarrod Sowa

Photo courtesy of Leta Simons

Photo courtesy of Mike Eberhardt

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