Welcome to Kachemak Bay State Park & State Wilderness Park

Welcome

Kachemak Bay State Park is the first state and only wilderness park in Alaska. It is a place of natural beauty, solitude, and ocean. The park boasts an unmatched variety of habitats, wildlife, and recreational opportunities including: fishing, hunting, kayaking, backcountry camping, and hiking on over 85 miles of trails leading into the backcountry. Guided tours can take you and see your course for one of the wildest and most remote state parks in the wildest and most remote state.

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.

Wildlife

Kachemak Bay is a State Critical Habitat Area and a National Ecological Research Reserve with fiords, coves, and estuaries that support a myriad of marine wildlife. Rich intertidal zones offer natural classrooms for marine studies. Visits frequently observe sea otters, harbor seals, porpoises, and various whale species among the waves.

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.

Public Use Cabins

Six public-use cabins located at Halibut Cove Lagoon, China Post Lake, Moose Valley, and Tutka Bay are available for rent. Reservations can be made up to seven months in advance. For reservations and informational fact sheets for each cabin, visit alaskastateparks.org.

On the Water

Always wear a life jacket. The waters within Kachemak Bay State Park are frigid and occasionally rough. When conditions are poor, be patient as the weather often improves in the evening. Carry food and warm clothing for unexpected overnights. 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 alaskaboatingsafety.org.

Public Mooring

Halibut Cove Lagoon offers an 80-foot-long dock capable of mooring boats up to 60 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. There are no public mooring buoys in the area.

Greening Glacier Mega Tsunami Hazard

Greening Glacier is a popular visitor destination, and for good reason—The glacier is surrounded by miles of trails, glacier views, and a picturesque lake filled with icebergs. But this area has not always been so tranquil. In 1967, a landslide triggered an estimated 351-foot wave that scooped everything in its path within mere minutes. Stay alert and watch for landslide activity when recreating in the area. Know your exit strategy.

For more information, visit: dh.state.ak.us/parks/parks/kachemakbaysp.htm
Trail Descriptions

Trails in Kachemak Bay State Park range from family friendly to difficult and occasionally impassable; check the current trail conditions at www.alaskastateparks.org. For more information about trails, camping and water availability, visit alaskastateparks.org.

Emerald Lake Trail
Access: Greenough Trailhead, Humny Creek Trailhead or Emerald Lake Loop Trail.
Distance: 2.7 miles one way to Greenough Lake from Glacier Spit Trailhead.
Travel Means: Foot
Elevation Gain: 500 feet
This trail follows the only accessible access to a glacier in Kachemak Bay State Park. At Greenough Creek, there is a hand-operated cable car/pulley system that requires two people for operation. Caution: Cable car/pulley system needs to be pulled up the ridge and over the glacial travel, do not climb on ice or in ice caves.

Glacier Lake Trail
Access: Glacier Spit Trailhead or Saddie Trail.
Distance: 1.7 miles one way to Greenough Glacier Lake from Glacier Spit Trailhead.
Travel Means: Foot
Elevation Gain: 200 feet
The popular trail generally climbs through the forest and then a low ridge, passing two small lakes where common loons are often seen and blueberries are abundant.

Moose Valley Trail
Access: North and at end of 1.5-mile China Poot South Trail.
Distance: 8.7 miles
Travel Means: Foot
Elevation Gain: 900 feet
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—fall grasses can obscure trail markers.

Sadie Knob Trail
Access: North Eldred Trailhead, South Eldred Trailhead.
Distance: 6.0 miles one way.
Travel Means: Foot
Elevation Gain: 2,200 feet
This trail accesses an alpine ridge between Sadie Cove and Kachemak Bay. The North and South routes connect the north and south ends of Eldred Passage—both join the ridge route. The trail then follows the ridgecrest to Sadie Knob where hikers can enjoy superb and expansive views of Kachemak Bay. Caution: Without cliffs and rugged country, climb often should 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
Access: North end at Kayak Beach Campsite or south end at South Grace Ridge Trailhead.
Distance: 8.5 miles one way.
Travel Means: Foot
Elevation Gain: 1,500 feet
This trail offers stunning views of Eldred Passage, Sadie Peak, Cook Inlet volcanoes and beyond. Watch for mountain goats, black bears, and golden and bald eagles.

Legend:
- Wilderness Park Boundary
- State Park Boundary
- Road
- Hiking Trail
- Trailhead
- Cabin
- Campsite
- Scenic View
- Drinking Water
- Tri
- Ranger Station
- Restroom
- Bear-Resistant Trash Can
- Tsunami Hazard