



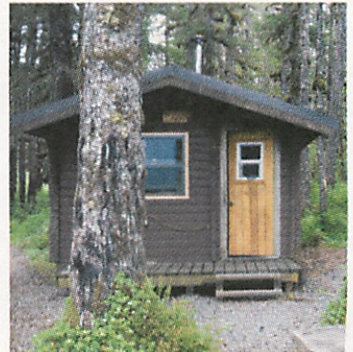
the Tongass

VISITOR GUIDE

2013



Kids Speak Out.....5

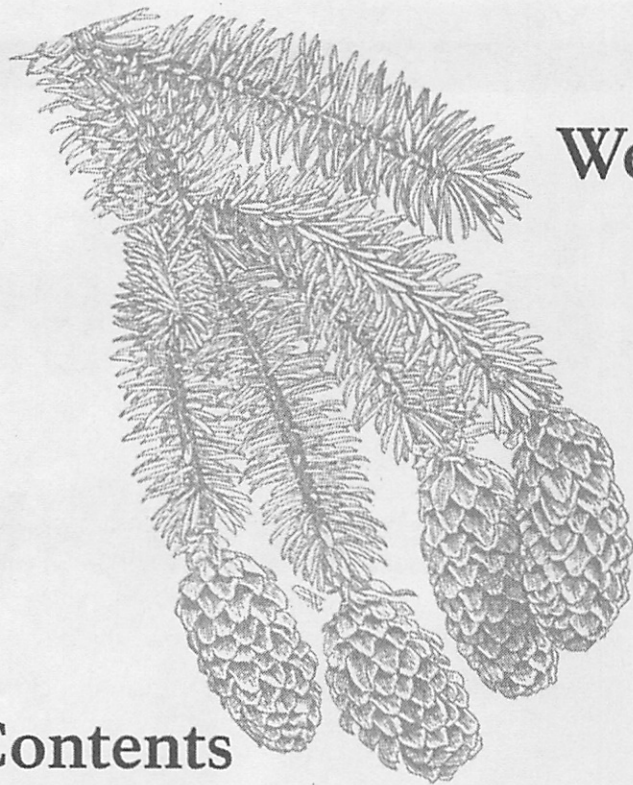


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Welcome to the Tongass

Welcome to the Tongass National Forest! Nearly 17 million acres in size, this is the largest National Forest in the United States, and is the largest contiguous temperate rainforest in the world. The Tongass National Forest is a public treasure. It is a land of beauty, of mystery, and of untold natural riches. Since time immemorial, this forest has nourished and sustained rich and unique human cultures.

Each year, more than 900,000 visitors travel the Tongass aboard cruise ships, airlines, and ferries. Additionally, approximately 75,000 Alaskans call this area home and are dependent on the Tongass National Forest for their livelihoods whether it is fish, timber, minerals, or a host of other resources. We invite you to enjoy the vast array of recreational opportunities available to you in the Tongass.

World-class visitor centers in bustling port towns, secluded cabins on the edges of vast wilderness, wildlife in their natural habitat, and the opportunity to experience a glacier up close and personal—the Tongass has something for everyone. Explore, renew, refresh among the islands and along the coastline here in the Tongass, and take home exciting memories of adventures in Alaska. We hope you will choose to return often.

Forrest Cole
Tongass National Forest Supervisor

Tricia O'Connor
Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor

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THE TONGASS

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Photos: All photos are courtesy of
USFS unless otherwise noted.

Many thanks to Katie Rooks and Carin Christensen for their community contributions, and Teresa Hunt for the article on page 7.

Printed on recycled paper using soy-based inks.

The *Tongass* Visitor Guide is published by the Alaska Geographic Association in cooperation with the Tongass National Forest. It is funded by revenue generated from Alaska Geographic bookstore sales.

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Getting the Most Out of Your Visit Listed South to North

KETCHIKAN, REVILLAGIGEDO ISLAND

Orient yourself at the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center: attend programs, tour the exhibits, and visit the interpretive bookstore (see page 14). Saunter the Ward Creek Trail or hike into the backcountry surrounding town. Explore Misty Fiords National Monument via watercraft or air. Events include the Hummingbird Festival in April and the Blueberry Festival the first week of August.

CRAIG AND THORNE BAY, PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND

Explore the island via Interisland Ferry from Ketchikan, or Petersburg/Wrangell. Day use areas and hiking trails abound, check at the Hollis and Coffman Cove ferry terminals for recreational information. Make a reservation at the Thorne Bay District Office for a guided tour of El Capitan Cave from late May through early September. Kids Fishing Day is the first weekend in June.

SITKA, BARANOF ISLAND

Enjoy camping in Starrigavan Creek Cabin, picnicking and a self-guided nature walk along Starrigavan Bay, and fish viewing in season within the Starrigavan Recreation Area, located 1/4 mile from the ferry terminal. Attend Sitka Summer Music Festival in June or Alaska Day activities in October. Hike numerous miles of trails from the Sitka road system.

WRANGELL, WRANGELL ISLAND

Attend mid-summer Friday night campfire programs or explore the Rainbow Falls Trail on a self-guided hike. Bring your camera and capture memories at the Anan Wildlife Observatory, a short plane or boat ride away. The Stikine River Bird Festival is held in April each year.

PETERSBURG, MITKOF ISLAND

The Petersburg Ranger District maintains several scenic recreation sites, including a newly refurbished, accessible picnic/day-use area and Swan Observatory. The Visitor Information Center in downtown Petersburg includes an interpretive bookstore, and offers maps and advice on kayaking and camping in the area. The Tongass Rainforest Festival is held the second week in September.

HOONAH, CHICHAGOF ISLAND

Take an opportunity to see the real Alaska in this quiet town in a gorgeous setting. Stop by the Ranger District office in town to find out about available cabins, or for information on hunting, public dances, and fishing.

JUNEAU, ON THE MAINLAND

Located at the foot of the magnificent Mendenhall Glacier, the Mendenhall Visitor Center has interpretive programs and exhibits, a glacier observatory, a series of interconnected trails, and an extensive bookstore (see page 14).

ANGOON, ADMIRALTY ISLAND

Attend traditional dances in town, canoe and portage the backcountry in the Kootznoowoo Wilderness area, or view brown bears at Pack Creek Viewing Site (see page 10). Contact the Ranger District office in Juneau for more information.

YAKUTAT, ON THE MAINLAND

Explore historic beaches, surf, or try your luck at fishing on the world-class rivers adjacent to town. The annual Yakutat Tern Festival takes place in late May to early June, and includes field trips, seminars, art exhibits, Native cultural presentations, and children's events.



Tongass National Forest 

For more information on where to call to learn more and to obtain a schedule of activities, check out the "Find Out More" listing on the back page of this guide or visit www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass.

The Heart of the Tongass



The Tongass is a forest of islands and coastlines with a 500-mile long landscape that stretches north from Yakutat to the Dixon Entrance waters to the south. The heart of the Tongass is embedded in the 35 communities and the approximately 73,500 people within its borders, of which 22 percent are Alaska Native. Each community has its own particular geographic location, history, access to forest resources, and social dynamic.

Get to know the Tongass by meeting its residents and learning more about its communities. The top industries in the Tongass today are government, seafood, tourism, healthcare, and marine services such as shipbuilding and mariculture.

The visitor industry is an economic powerhouse for southeast Alaska, with over 1.6 million visiting our shores in the past year. A little over half of these people arrive by cruise ship, 40 percent arrive by air, and another four percent by ferry. Visitor information in airports and ferry terminals help orient visitors, including a new seasonal banner display at the airport in Juneau.

There's a lot for visitors to see and do here from viewing wildlife in their natural habitat to exploring the inside of a cave, and enjoying a community festival. Wildlife viewing is one of the top reasons visitors come to Alaska, and in the Tongass we have many world-class viewing opportunities. See page 10 for more information on our bear viewing sites.

Explore the unique environment of caves located northwest of the town of Thorne Bay on Prince of Wales Island. Tours are offered three times a day in summer. Becoming familiar with karst means appreciating the rare environments of caves, underground streams, plunging drop-offs and the undulating surfaces of limestone.

Festivals are an exciting way the Tongass works to introduce visitors to the area. In April and May, celebrate the migration of birds and the significant number of waterfowl along coastal wetlands and flyways in the area. Combine this experience with field research, art classes, speakers and educational symposia for youth and adults, and you have a full Alaskan experience.

Get to know the Tongass by visiting often at any time of the year. Whether you have a day or longer, come and enjoy the heartbeat of our forest.



Kids Speak Out



In 2011, the Tongass was designated a Children's Forest. This recognized the contributions from all ten ranger districts towards getting youth outdoors, exploring the Tongass in their backyards, acknowledging their contributions towards being stewards of the present and future forests, and getting them involved with citizen science projects. A Children's Forest has longevity and strength due to the abundance of community partners that believe and support projects that support youth.

In 2012, over 400 young writers and artists participated in the International Year of Forests. A month-long art show culminated the work that had taken place throughout the year. In each district, educators were asked to work with a teacher they knew well and a class

of students from preschool to middle school. Students were encouraged to answer questions about the forest and express themselves through art and language.

Some of the questions they were given were quite straightforward. How did they feel about the Tongass National Forest? What was their favorite activity in the Tongass? Youth and adults alike were encouraged to write their hopes and dreams about the forest on recycled paper leaves and contribute them to the show for others to reflect on. A metal sculpture by local artist Rich Stage acted as a centerpiece of the gallery, and watercolor and journaling artist, Andie Thrans, exhibited his field journals. Participants received new nature journals for all their creative efforts.



Public Use Cabins

CABINS: There are 150 rustic cabins spread throughout the Tongass. They provide a cozy shelter, wooden bunks to sleep 2-15 people, and an outhouse.

COST: \$10-\$65 a night.

STAY: Maximum 7 nights summer; 10 nights winter; 2 nights Juneau cabins only.

SETTING: Beach, river, lake or alpine.

ACTIVITIES: Fishing, hunting, berry picking, hiking, paddling.

GET THERE: Hike, paddle, charter a plane or boat, auto, or a combination.

HEAT: Woodstove, oilstove or propane furnace. Check before you go: A few cabins have no heater and for others you may need to take fuel.

BRING: Sleeping bags and pads, cook stove and gear, first aid, water, food, bug repellent, extra food and clothing just in case. Satellite phones are optional.

EMERGENCY: There are no phones or radios at the cabins, and no cell coverage. Be prepared to take care of emergencies and stay longer if weathered in.

MORE INFO:

Cabin descriptions and maps at
www.fs.usda.gov/goto/R10/tongass/cabins

RESERVATIONS: 877-444-6777
or www.recreation.gov

Campgrounds



Where	Name and Location	# Sites	Cost	Reservations	Remarks
Prince of Wales Island	Eagles Nest 18 miles west of Thorne Bay	11	\$8	some sites	Fully accessible
	Harris River 15 miles from Craig	14	\$8	some sites	Fully accessible, one group shelter
Ketchikan	Ward Lake Rec. Area Signal Creek and Last Chance campgrounds 3.5 miles from ferry terminal	44	\$10	some sites	CCC group site reserved for a day or overnight use through Ranger District. Signal Creek open year-round
Wrangell	Nemo Campsite 14 miles from town	8	free	no	Wheelchair accessible 8 campsites at 4 areas
	Lower Salamander Rec. Site 23 miles from town	3	free	no	3 covered picnic shelters
Petersburg	Ohmer Creek 21 miles from town	10	\$6	no	Open year-round, weather permitting
Sitka	Starrigavan Rec. Area near ferry terminal; 1 cabin avail.	35	\$12-\$30 \$50	some sites	Fully accessible, open year-round; some vehicle restrictions in winter
Juneau	Mendenhall Lake 13 miles from town 6 miles from ferry	69	\$12-\$23	no	Wheelchair accessible, tables, grills, water, toilets, showers
	Auke Village 1.5 miles from ferry 15 miles from town	12	\$8	no	No RV facilities
Yakutat	Cannon Beach	3	free	no	Fully accessible, open year-round, tables, grills.
	9-Mile	6	free	no	Accessible boat launch.

Forest Service Campgrounds have a 14-day stay limit and are open from May 1—September 30. Some campgrounds are open year-round. Reservations can be made by calling 877-444-6777 in the U.S., or 518-885-3639 outside the U.S. Or online at www.recreation.gov. There is a reservation fee. Federal Interagency Senior and Access passes accepted.

Off the Beaten Path: Situk Lake Trail



A large bear and her cubs are eating blueberries along the side of the road, so I take a moment to make sure that I have pepper spray ready to use. It's always important to be bear-aware whenever you are in the Yakutat area).

The trail begins by passing through a massive spruce and hemlock forest with loads of blueberries and an occasional salmonberry in the understory. The trail changes quickly from gravel tread to an elevated narrow boardwalk over a beautiful, lush muskeg filled with moss, an occasional pool, and a weaving stream.

Around the next bend, the landscape opens up to a small lake that often has a pair of swans along the far shore. The western edge of this lake has lots of beaver activity. The trail winds up a glacial moraine along the shore and allows for a spectacular view looking down on the lake. As I drop off the moraine, to my right is an active beaver den bordering the northwestern shore about 40 feet away. A river otter is nearby, playing on the shore opposite a narrow inlet.

The trail moves away from the lake and changes to gravel tread with an occasional narrow boardwalk weaving through a thick, forested area. I listen to songbirds as I walk. Singing or whistling along with the birds keeps me from surprising any bear that may be in the area.

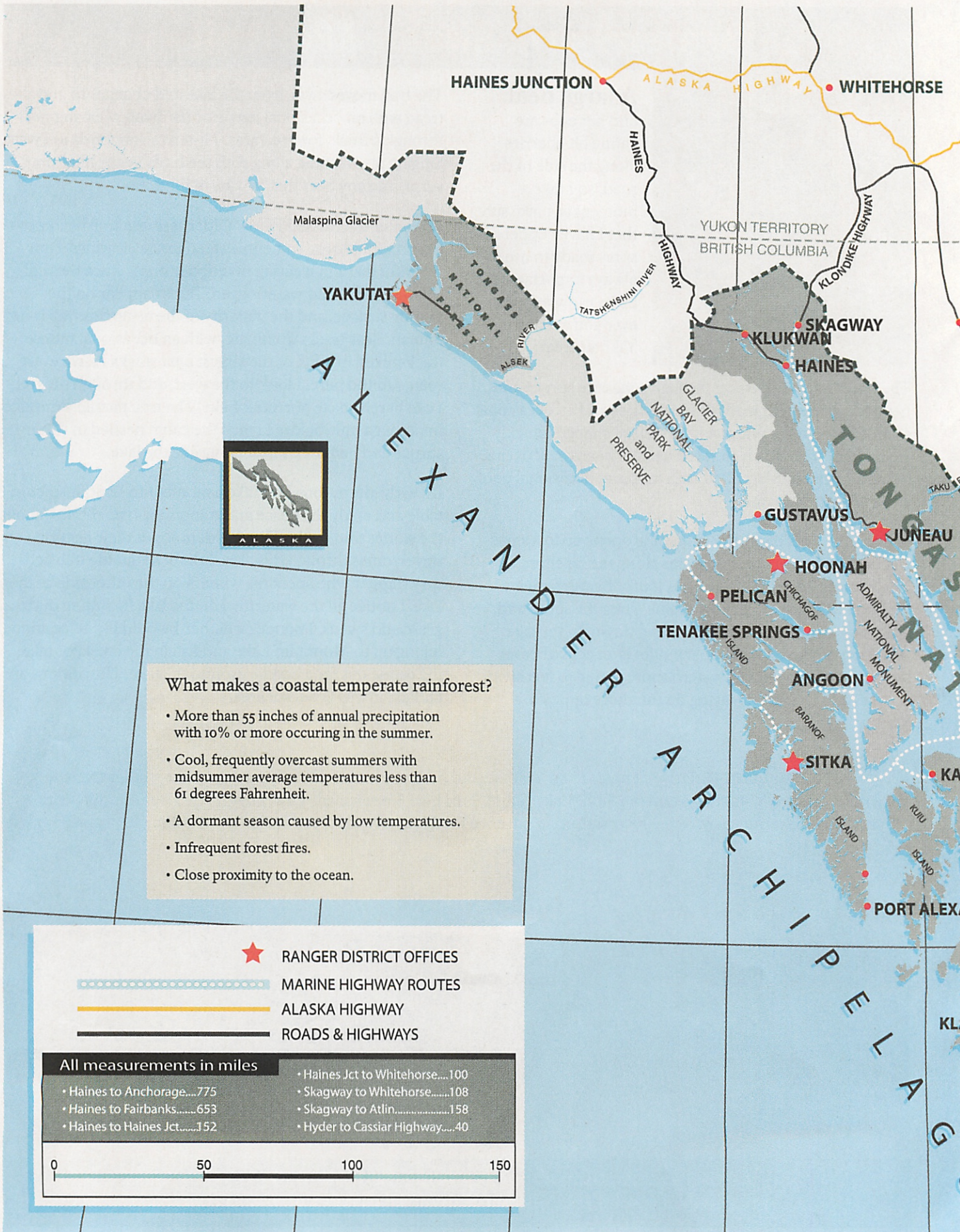
As I enter the Russell Fiord Wilderness, the trail becomes a dirt path. Moose sometimes feed in the clearings. I am thankful that I'm wearing my rubber boots since the trail can be muddy and waterlogged. Tracks appear on the muddy surface, and the majority of life using this trail is not human. Bear tracks dominate, with an occasional moose track mixed in. One of the largest bear tracks I have ever seen, I found here. I look to the west, and through the trees I can barely make out Situk Lake. The trail parallels the lake for about a mile before I reach the cabin nestled in the lush spruce and hemlock forest alongside the lake.

It's early afternoon and I take a moment to sit at the picnic table and enjoy the peace and tranquility here. I think about the stories told by the Tlingit elders about their historic travel routes through this area. I think about the 18th century trapper who spent his winters on the other side of the lake. I notice all the waterfowl on the lake including ducks, geese and swans. I ponder whether I would like to continue hiking up to Mountain Lake and fish in the creek, or take the canoe out for a paddle around the lake. The options are endless in this beautiful area.

Getting There: Drive 14 miles from Yakutat, and park at the end of FS Road 9551. Hike 3 miles into the Russell Fiord Wilderness and the Situk Lake Cabin. This hike is a relatively easy, one- to-two hour ramble with minimal elevation gain. Make reservations in advance for \$35 at www.recreation.gov or by calling 877-444-6777.

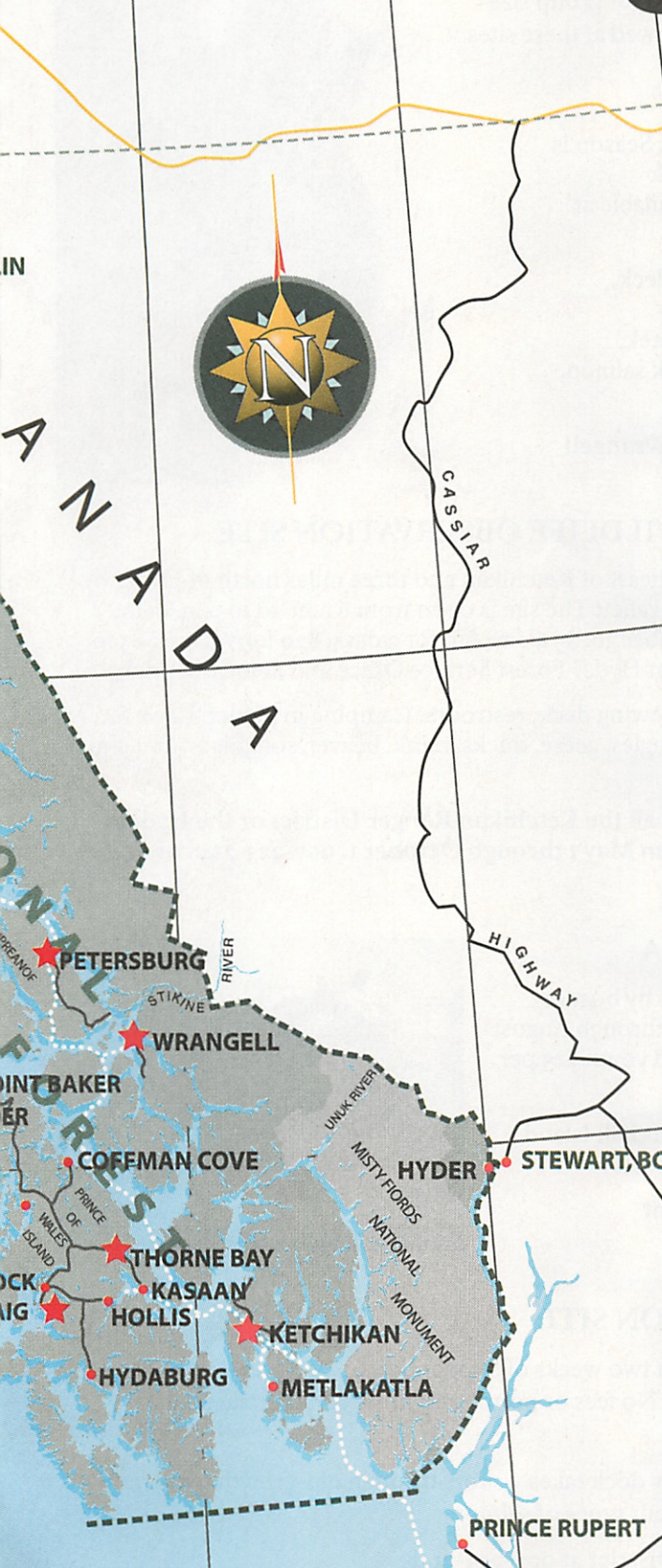


For further information about exploring the Russell Fiord Wilderness please contact the Yakutat Ranger District at 907-784-3359



Tongass National Forest

F A C T S



- Designated by Theodore Roosevelt in 1907, the Tongass National Forest is over 100 years old.
- At 16.9 million acres, the largest national forest in the United States.
- Managed for multiple use including recreation, timber harvest, mining, and wilderness preservation.
- Includes two national monuments, 13 campgrounds, 19 wilderness areas, 150 recreational cabins, and 450 miles of hiking trails.
- Part of the largest coastal temperate rainforest in the world.
- Icefields, glaciers, mountains, valleys, estuaries, islands, lakes, caves, and 14,000 miles of shoreline.
- Home to over 5,000 brown bears.
- Home to approximately 75,000 people.
- Surrounds the north end of the Inside Passage, a popular and historic travel route.

Annual Rainfall/Snowfall (in inches)

Angoon	43/63	Metlakatla	115/61
Craig	120/140	Pelican	127/120
Haines	52/133	Petersburg	106/97
Hoonah	100/71	Port Alexander	172/85
Hyder	78/162	Sitka	96/39
Juneau	54-92/101	Skagway	26/39
Kake	54/44	Thorne Bay	120/40
Ketchikan	162/32	Wrangell	82/64
Klawock	120/40	Yakutat	132/219
Little Port Walter	225/119		

Learn more at www.fs.usda.gov/tongass

Bear Viewing

Bears live, forage, and travel everywhere in the Tongass. Here is a selection of four sites where visitors can watch and learn about bears without disturbing them. Forest Service staff are on-site throughout July and August. Watch for group size limits and other restrictions. Pets, food, and camping are not allowed at these sites.



ANAN WILDLIFE OBSERVATORY

Located 30 miles south of Wrangell, access by boat or floatplane. Season is mid-June through mid-September. **Passes required during peak season July 5 to August 25 and cost \$10.** Commercial guides available at nearby communities.

Facilities: Boardwalk trail is 1/2-mile from beach to observation deck, shelter, viewing blind, and outhouse. Anan Bay Cabin requires a reservation (see page 5). **Restrictions:** No camping near Anan Creek; visitors must stay on trails. **Look for:** brown and black bears, pink salmon, eagles, otter, and seals. Saltwater fishing only.

For more information or to obtain a pass please contact the Wrangell Ranger District at 907-874-2323.



FISH CREEK WILDLIFE OBSERVATION SITE

Located 75 air miles northeast of Ketchikan and three miles north of Hyder by road in the Salmon River valley. The site is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Entry fees July 1—September 30: \$5 a day; \$10 for 3 days; \$20 for 7 days; \$65 for the season. Fees payable at Hyder Forest Service Office and at local vendors.

Facilities: parking area, viewing deck, restroom. Camping in Hyder. **Look for:** brown and black bears, eagles, geese, ducks, mink, beaver, songbirds, and chum salmon.

For more information, call the Ketchikan Ranger District or the Hyder Forest Service office from May 1 through October 1. 907-225-2148 or 250-636-2367

PACK CREEK BROWN BEAR VIEWING AREA

Located on Admiralty Island, 27 air miles south of Juneau, access by boat or floatplane. Season runs June 1 through September 10 (best July 5 through August 25). Permit required, commercial guides available. Adults \$50 and youth \$25 per person during peak season.

Facilities: Beach walk to observation pad, camping on nearby Windfall Island, no shelter or restroom. **Look for:** brown bears, deer, and birds.

For more information, call the Admiralty National Monument Juneau Ranger District at 907-586-8800.



MARGARET CREEK WILDLIFE OBSERVATION SITE






Forest Service guides on site intermittently in August and the first two weeks of September. Located on Revillagigedo Island, 26 miles north of Ketchikan, access by boat or floatplane. No fees or permit required, commercial guides available.

Facilities: 1/4-mile gravel trail located one mile from Margaret Bay dock takes visitors through old-growth temperate rainforest to viewing platform. **Look for:** black bears, birds, and four types of salmon.





For more information, call Ketchikan/Misty Fiords Ranger District at 907-225-2148.

Watching Bears

AVOIDING ENCOUNTERS

-  Be alert: Bears are active day and night, and can be anywhere. Watch for tracks, scat, and smells.
-  Keep your food and garbage away from bears. Use bear-resistant food containers, hang it in a tree, keep it in your pack, but never let a bear get any or it will come looking for more.
-  Make noise to avoid surprising a bear. Be especially careful in dense brush where visibility is low, and along rivers where bears cannot hear you over the noise of the water.
-  Give bears lots of space: Never approach a bear.
-  Stay on observation decks and marked trails.

IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BEAR

-  If the bear is unaware of you, back away quietly and quickly, putting lots of space between you and the bear.
-  If the bear approaches you, stand your ground and keep your pack on. Talk calmly in a low voice and slowly wave your arms over your head. Continue to stand your ground unless you are on its trail or adjacent to its food source. Bears that stand up on their hind legs are not threatening you, but merely trying to identify you.
-  Should a bear charge you, stand your ground and keep your pack on. Bears sometimes charge, coming within ten feet of a person before stopping or veering off. Dropping a pack may encourage the bear to approach other people for food. Stand still and talk to the bear until it moves away, then slowly back off.
-  If a bear actually makes contact, fall to the ground and play dead. Lie flat on your stomach, or curl up in a ball with your hands behind your neck. Typically, a bear will slow its attack once it feels the threat has been eliminated. Remain motionless for as long as possible. If you move, and the bear sees or hears you, it may return and renew its attack. If the attack is prolonged, fight back vigorously.



For more information about Alaska's bears, pick up a copy of *Bear Facts* at any Forest Service Office or visit www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livingwithbears.main

Communities and Economies: Small Mills



Prince of Wales Island is home to many small mill and lumbering companies. These vignettes were gathered from several company owners to describe the diversity of approaches to lumber on the island.

Brent Cole is the owner of Alaska Specialty Woods, producing high-quality soundboards made from Sitka spruce that are used for musical instruments. In business since 1995, Cole buys primarily

from the Forest Service and other vendors. About 80 percent of his business utilizes Sitka spruce, and he also buys some smaller quantities of Western red and Alaska yellow cedar.

Cole uses mainly salvage wood by obtaining a permit to extract trees that have been downed because of natural processes (such as age, windstorms or insect kill). Cole exports his work to over 55 countries. He also produces locally used products, including wood used for Native traditional and artistic use in canoe paddles and hand-carved totems.

Cole heats his facility and home exclusively with the by-products from his business—wood scraps, shavings, and small pieces. He gives firewood to elderly community members and has provided samples of local wood to researchers who are exploring alternative natural energy extraction from wood.

Dean Blankenship and Phil Hiatt co-own Good Faith Lumber, a small “family owned” mill on Prince of Wales Island. They buy timber from the Forest Service and currently produce 600,000 BF (board feet) of lumber a year. A board foot is a unit of volume for measuring lumber. It describes a piece of wood 12-feet square (so one foot wide, one foot long) and one-inch thick.

Hiatt says they hope to increase to one MBF (million board feet) next year, with an ultimate goal of producing between two and three MBF per year. Their current facility has a five-head planer machine and kiln drying banks. This means they can produce dried, finished wood with “V-matches” or what was commonly been known as “tongue and groove.” These boards fit together tightly without the need for nails, screws, or other fasteners. They produce lumber from Alaska yellow cedar, Western red cedar, hemlock, and Sitka spruce.

The Company is researching producing alder products for the future, as well as utilizing “second growth” timber. Second growth timber is a fast-emerging market in the U.S. and while it may not fit structural framing needs, it can be used to produce car decking, high-quality trim and one-inch V-match lumber. They currently ship their lumber to buyers all over Southeast Alaska, Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Seattle, and even farther if requested. They produce pre-cut cabin kits, as well.

Ron Sharp, owner of St. Nick Forest Products, has been running a small sawmill for about five years, but has been active in the local timber industry in various capacities for decades. Sharp produces about 100,000 BF of milled lumber per year. He mills local wood exclusively, purchasing mainly from the Forest Service, although he also works with other vendors. He utilizes Alaska yellow cedar, Western red cedar, and hemlock. Sharp’s milled lumber is used mainly for decking, siding and interior trim, most of which stays in the local area. His vision for the future is to compete more vigorously for Forest Service “micro-sales,” a small, local sale method that the Forest Service put into practice about ten years ago.

Communities and Economies: Fishing



You may be indulging in a delicately-prepared wild king salmon at an elegant New York restaurant, or simply enjoying a crispy, fried halibut sandwich at a small-town eatery in rural Alaska, but there is a good chance that both fish came from Petersburg.

Located on the Southeast panhandle, Petersburg has a culture and history as rich and diverse as the seafood that is caught and processed here. Found on the northwest end of Mitkof Island, where the Wrangell Narrows meet Frederick Sound, Tlingit Indians from Kake first inhabited the area as a summer fish camp. In the late 1890s, Peter Buschmann, a Norwegian immigrant and pioneer in the cannery business, arrived and built the Icy Strait Packing Company cannery, a sawmill, and a dock. He found the site exceptional due to its proximity to productive salmon and halibut fishing grounds, and glacier ice for packing fish. The community maintains a mixture of Tlingit and Scandinavian history, and supports recreational and subsistence fishing.

It is commercial fishing, however, that drives the local economy. Petersburg harbors one of Alaska's most prosperous and diversified fishing fleets, with nearly 1 in 4 residents holding a commercial fishing permit. It has one of the largest home-based halibut fleets, and is also well-known for supplying all five species of salmon, as well as shrimp, crab, herring, and other fish products. Petersburg is also one of the leading processing communities in Alaska, supporting three large canneries and a number of smaller custom processors. During the summer season, seafood processors often hire up to 1,000 hard-working employees, originating from all over the world.

Petersburg fishermen have a reputation for being hard-working, fishing at all hours of the day, and keeping their vessels busy almost year-round by participating in several different fisheries. In the summer, when the salmon are spawning, fishermen can be found seining, gillnetting, or trolling for salmon. The rest of the year they might be seen setting longlines for halibut or black cod, hauling in pots full of king or tanner crab, or diving for sea cucumbers or geoducks during their designated seasons.

In a survey conducted by the Alaska Fisheries Science Center in 2011, community leaders indicated that several public services in Petersburg are at least partially funded by fisheries-related revenue sources. These services include harbor maintenance, medical and emergency response services, police enforcement and fire protection, roads, and social services such as the public library and educational scholarships. Local grocery and hardware stores see a great increase in business during the summer fishing season, and many local businesses increase their employment during the busy fishing season.

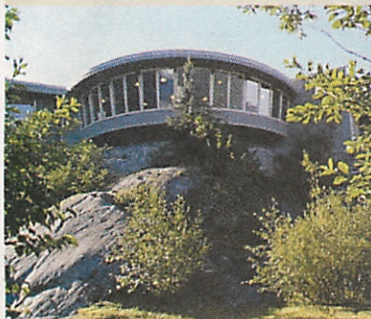
If you happen to travel through Southeast Alaska, consider a trip to Petersburg and stroll through the harbor to observe the Petersburg fishing fleet first-hand.



Opened in 1995 and managed by the Forest Service, the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center is one of four Alaska Public Lands Information Centers. The center has exhibits and interactive displays on the land, the people, and the culture of Southeast Alaska. Walk through a rainforest, experience a Native fish camp, and view wildlife up-close through a spotting scope. Families can enjoy scavenger hunts and Junior Ranger programs. All this and more, just one block from the cruise ship dock in downtown Ketchikan.

Southeast Alaska Discovery Center

50 Main Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901
907-228-6220



Built in 1962, the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center in Juneau is the Forest Service's first visitor center. Remodeled in 1999, the center offers a wide range of activities including watching spawning salmon along Steep Creek, spotting mountain goats from the center's observatory, and outstanding glacier viewing.

Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center

Glacier Spur Road
Juneau, AK 99801
907-789-0097

Southeast Alaska Discovery Center

HOURS

Summer: 8 am to 3 pm, seven days a week and closed holidays.
Winter: 10 am to 4 pm Friday through Saturday.

ACTIVITIES

- Totem Poles: Lobby features three totem poles representing the traditional styles of each of Southeast Alaska's Native groups—Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian.
- Theater: Special interpretive and audiovisual programs scheduled throughout each day. Watch the 18-minute film, *Discovering the Tongass: Alaska's Rainforest*, shown daily.
- Rainforest Room: Observe how the forest progresses from post-timber harvest to old growth, and see how many hidden creatures you can find.
- Native Traditions Room: Travel through time to a Native fish camp and listen to elders describe traditional life as you learn about the indigenous cultures of Southeast Alaska.
- Ecosystems Room: Interactive exhibits bring the many ecosystems of Alaska to life. Listen to outdoor sounds as you learn about the state's natural wonders. Use the spotting scope, view the salmon cam, or check out the 16-foot orca skeleton.
- Natural Resources Room: Learn about the history of fishing, mining, timber, tourism, and recreation in Southeast Alaska.
- Fish Cam: Explore the underwater world of spawning salmon during late July, August, and September.
- Bookstore: Gifts, books, local crafts, and more at this Alaska Geographic outlet.

Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center

HOURS

Summer: 11:30 am to 7:30 pm Mondays; 8 am to 7:30 pm Tuesday through Sunday.
Winter: 10 am to 4 pm, Friday through Sunday.

ACTIVITIES

- Exhibit Hall: Interactive exhibits including a model of Mendenhall Glacier and a replica of an icefield research station.
- Bookstore: Unique gifts, books, maps, and artwork at the Alaska Geographic outlet.
- Observatory: View the glacier, icebergs, or mountain goats through panoramic windows and telescopes. Join a naturalist to learn more.
- Theater: Watch the 15-minute film, *Landscape of Change: The Tongass National Forest*, shown daily.
- Fish Cam: Explore the underwater world of spawning salmon during late July, August, and September.
- Black Bear Viewing: Black bears frequent the area from late July to mid-September, depending on salmon runs. To ensure visitor safety, no food or flavored beverages are allowed at the center complex and no dogs allowed on Steep Creek Trail May 1 to September 30.
- Kids' Programs: Explore bugs, berries, bears, and many other topics during these 60-minute programs at 11 a.m. most Saturdays. Children 4-7 years of age are welcome with an adult.

Forest Partners

As the primary nonprofit education partner of the Tongass National Forest, Alaska Geographic connects people to Alaska's magnificent wildlands through experiential education, award-winning books and maps, and by directly supporting the state's parks, forests, and refuges. Over the past 50 years, Alaska Geographic has donated more than \$20 million to help fund educational and interpretive programs throughout Alaska's public lands.

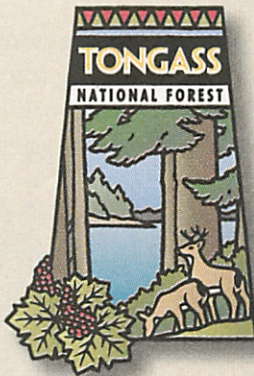
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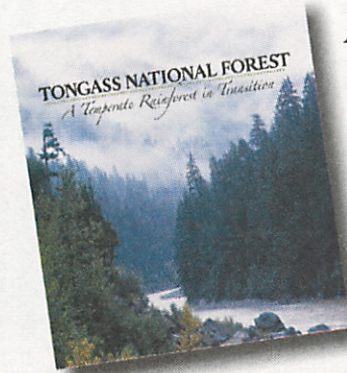


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Tongass National Forest Map

U.S. Forest Service

This comprehensive overview map of the entire forest indicates land ownership, public-use cabins, campgrounds, visitor centers, hiking trails, and other recreational opportunities. The back side includes additional information on the area's human and natural history.

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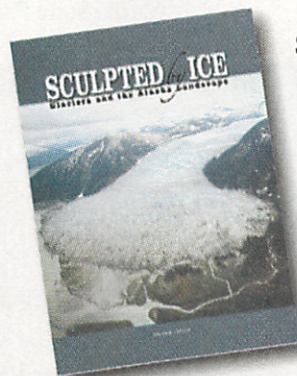
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Find out more about the Tongass National Forest

Visit www.fs.usda.gov/tongass or e-mail: mailroom_r10_Tongass@fs.fed.us

**Admiralty National Monument
Juneau Ranger District**
8510 Mendenhall Loop Road
Juneau, AK 99801
907-586-8800

Craig Ranger District
P.O. Box 705
Craig, AK 99921
907-826-3271

Hoonah Ranger District
P.O. Box 135
Hoonah, AK 99829
907-945-3631

Ketchikan/Misty Fiords Ranger District
3031 Tongass Avenue
Ketchikan, AK 99901
907-225-2148

Petersburg Ranger District
P.O. Box 1328
Petersburg, AK 99833
907-772-3871

Sitka Ranger District
204 Siginaka Way
Sitka, AK 99835
907-747-6671
r10_sitka_rd@fs.fed.us

Southeast Alaska Discovery Center
50 Main Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901
907-228-6220

Thorne Bay Ranger District
P.O. Box 19001
Thorne Bay, AK 99919
907-828-3304

Wrangell Ranger District
P.O. Box 51
Wrangell, AK 99929
907-874-2323

Yakutat Ranger District
P.O. Box 327
Yakutat, AK 99689
907-784-3359

Other contacts in Southeast Alaska

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, 907-697-2230, www.nps.gov/glba
Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, 907-983-2921, www.nps.gov/klgo
Sitka National Historical Park, 907-747-6281, www.nps.gov/sitk
Alaska State Parks, Southeast Region, 907-465-4563, www.dnr.state.ak.us



Many recreational sites in the Tongass National Forest have a user fee. The money collected is used to improve the visitor experience at the site or facility. Spotting scopes, interpretive signs, trail improvements, and extra staff are all paid for with fees collected from visitors like you. Thanks!