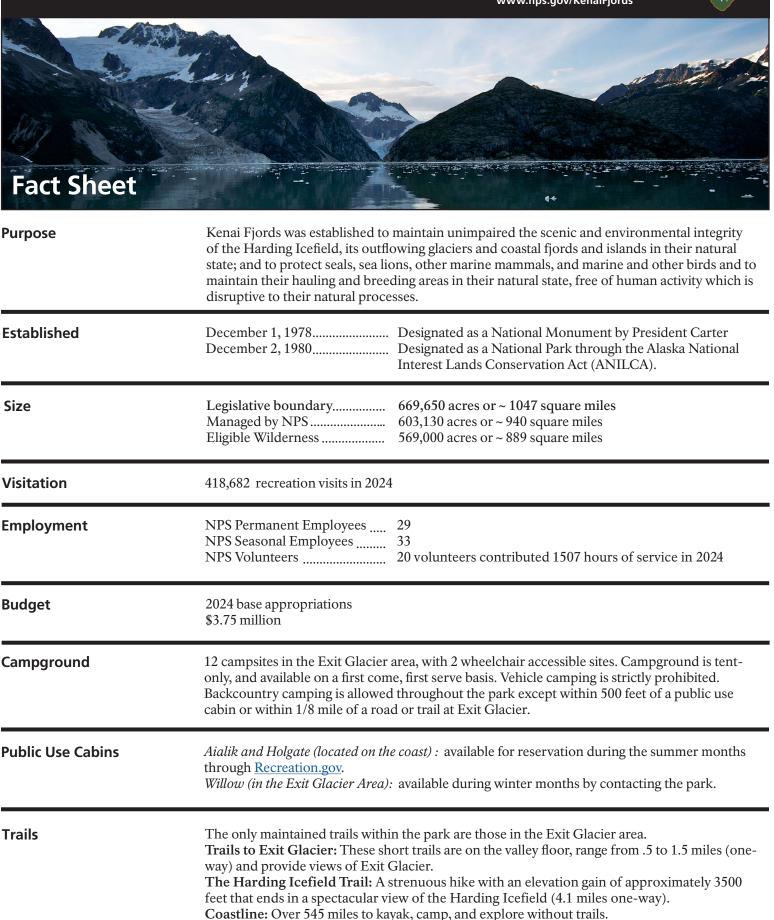
Kenai Fjords

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

Kenai Fjords National Park www.nps.gov/KenaiFjords



Human Connection	Sugpiaq (Alutiiq) people and villages maintain their cultural and ancestral affiliation to lands within park boundaries. Sugpiaq means "real people" in their language, Sugcestun. A maritime people, they span a large expanse of what is now south-central Alaska—including what comprises Kenai Fjords National Park. Alutiiq is their own version of "Aleut", a term used by Russian explorers encountering coastal Alaskans in the 1740s. No matter the name, people past, present, and future are interwoven with these lands and waters. A subsistence way of life is at the core of this relationship, including ocean resources such as seal, seabird eggs, and intertidal invertebrates, as well as, terrestrial resources including berries and land mammals.
Climate	Kenai Fjords generally enjoys a temperate maritime climate, relative to the interior of Alaska, primarily due to the influence of the Alaska coastal current that flows through the Gulf of Alaska. Summer : The daytime temperatures range from the mid 40s to the low 70s (Fahrenheit). Overcast and cool rainy days are frequent with occasional sunny days. Winter : Temperatures can range from the low 30s to -20 (Fahrenheit). The Exit Glacier area averages close to 200 inches of snowfall annually, but conditions vary greatly.
Harding Icefield	The Harding Icefield is the largest feature within Kenai Fjords National Park, covering half the park. The total area of ice for all of the icefield is 695 mi^2 (1,800 km ²), of this, 424.8 mi ² (1,100 km ²) are contained within the boundaries of the park. It is approximately 50 miles across at the longest point; 20 miles wide across the widest point. From 1950 to 2005, the glaciers in and around the park lost 252 km ² or 11.2% of glacier ice.
Glaciers	There are at least 38 glaciers that flow from the Harding Icefield. More than 12 of these glaciers terminate within park boundaries including: <i>Lowell, Exit, Bear, Skee, Lechner, Aialik, Addison, Pedersen, Holgate, Northwestern, McCarty, Dinglestadt</i> and <i>Split.</i>
Elevation	Truuli Peak, at 6,612 feet above sea level, is the tallest peak on the Harding Icefield and lies within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. The highest surface on the Harding Icefield is approximately 5,200 feet above sea level. The highest peak within the boundaries of Kenai Fjords, at 6,450 feet , is unnamed.
Fauna	Land mammals: close to 30 species. Marine mammals: around 10 species Birds: 191 species. Fish: 40 species (marine and freshwater) Threatened / endangered species : humpback, sei, and gray whale, and Steller sea lion. Species of special concern / rare species : Kittlitz's murrelet, peregrine falcon, northern goshawk, gray-cheeked thrush, Townsend's warbler, blackpoll warbler, and harbor seal.
Flora	Interior valleys are primarily comprised of Sitka spruce and western hemlock forest, with alder, cottonwood, and willow showing up in recently de-glaciated areas. Hemlock, blueberry, highbush and low-bush cranberry, and devil's club crowd the forest floor. Sitka spruce and rich growths of devil's club and salmonberry are found along the coast. The rocky intertidal zone supports large bands of brown, red, and green algae, such as rockweed and ribbon kelp. Management Species of Concern : Enander's sedge, dunhead sedge, sessileleaf scurvygrass, Alaskan douglasia, Pale poppy, Chimissso's orchid, Arctic pennycress. Invasive Plant Species : common dandelion, annual bluegrass, common chickweed, common plantain, pineapple weed, common timothy, mouse-ear chickweed, meadow foxtail, smooth brome, white clover.
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