



Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve



Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve has often been referred to as the “mountain kingdom of North America.” At 13.2 million acres, it is the largest national park in the system, home to numerous mountain peaks, massive glaciers, lush green valleys, abundant wildlife, and scenic coastal regions. The mineral rich country also played a significant historical role in the settling and exploration of Alaska and its eventual statehood.



The tremendous size of the park requires it to be separated into four different site locations all with their own unique housing/living situations. The headquarters location, while not actually in the park, is just 10 miles south of the town of Glennallen; a small rural town that serves as the hub for the valley. On the north side of the park in the Nabesna district, is a ranger station located in community of Slana with a 42 mile dirt access road that travels south into the park. In the heart of the park is the historic Kennecott mining town site. It is located at the end of a 60 mile dirt road that follows the old railroad bed, about a four hour drive from the headquarters location. On the southern end we have the coastal district with housing and the ranger station located outside of the park in the town of Yakutat.

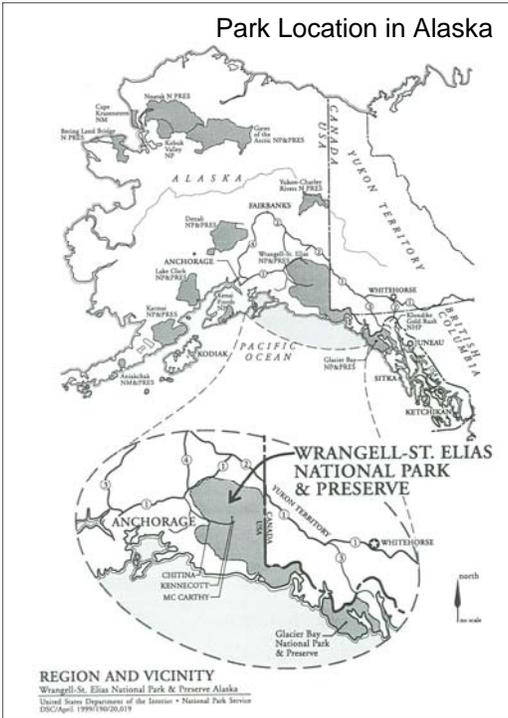
Traveling to and from the first three locations of the Copper Basin can be achieved by flying to Anchorage, Alaska and then finding an alternate source of transportation to the valley. Year-round there is a small twin prop airplane chartered through Security Aviation, [(907) 248-2677], that flies into the valley every Wednesday and Friday. During the summer months of May through September a bus travels to the valley and beyond, on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The bus company is called Alaska Direct and can be contacted at (800) 770-6652.

Travel to Yakutat can easily be done by flying either into Juneau, Alaska or Anchorage, Alaska and taking a commercial flight directly into the Yakutat airport. These flights run daily all year. In the summer a ferry also lands at Yakutat. A complete schedule for the Kennecott ferry can be acquired by calling the Alaska Marine Highway at (800) 526-6731.

Headquarters, Nabesna District, and the Kennecott District are all considered “interior Alaska” and are subject to the most temperature extremes. Temperatures can range from minus 62 degrees to 91 degrees. The average total precipitation at Headquarters is 9 inches, the Nabesna District Ranger Station in Slana averages 13 inches, and Kennecott averages 12 inches.

Yakutat’s coastal location allows for a more temperate climate. Temperatures range from 17 degrees to 60 degrees. However, precipitation is some of the heaviest in the state, averaging 132 inches.

Park Location in Alaska



Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve offers tremendous outdoor opportunities such as fishing, ascending a peak, rafting a river, climbing a glacier, or exploring early Alaska and Native American history. Most of the park and preserve is very rugged and isolated and is only accessible by charter airplane.



Park Detail

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

Alaska Region
 National Park Service
 U.S. Department of the Interior



Headquarters/Glennallen Area

Glennallen is located 187 miles from Anchorage at the junction of the Glenn and Richardson Highways and is the town in which most services can be found. The utility companies, several restaurants, a medical clinic, a small Christian college, a radio station, two banks, a chiropractor, headquarters for BLM and Alaska Fish and Game, and several of the largest stores in the valley can be found in this small town.



Glennallen Airport



View of Mt. Drum from Glennallen



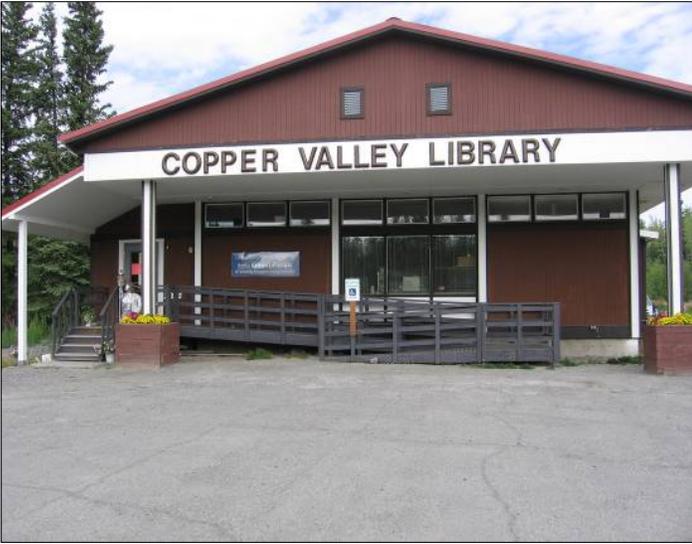
Post Office



Glennallen



Caribou Hotel



Copper Valley Library



Crossroads Medical Clinic



Sporting Goods Store / Pizza Parlor

Glennallen hosts a variety of activities throughout the year including the 4th of July parade and salmon fry, the Copper Basin 300 Sled Dog Race, and the summer craft fair. Goods and services tend to be a little more expensive than Anchorage. A gallon of milk is \$4.95, 1 dozen eggs cost \$1.95, a cheeseburger meal is around \$8.00, and one loaf of bread averages \$3.31.



KCAM Radio Station



Wells Fargo Bank



Omni /Park's Place Grocery Store



Glennallen Community Chapel



Hub Maxi Mart Gas Station



Glennallen Housing Units

The best park housing is located in the middle of Glennallen and is available for permanent employees and temporary housing needs. 1 four bedroom, 2 three bedroom, 2 two bedroom, and 1 one bedroom housing units may be available if unoccupied. Public transportation is unavailable to and from Glennallen and the headquarters area (12 miles).



Glennallen Housing Living Room/Kitchen



Glennallen Housing Bedroom



Headquarters Office Building

Headquarters

Our main office area consists of a multiple building complex with limited seasonal office space. The park Superintendent and most permanent employees work out of this office. In the winter time several visitor out buildings and the visitor center are shut down to conserve energy costs.



Headquarters Visitor Center



Seasonal Office Space in the Visitor Center



View Inside the Visitor Center



Seasonal Office Space in Headquarters



Near the Headquarters facility are our seasonal 10ft x 12ft sleeping cabins and a separate common cooking and rest-room/shower cabin.

Slana/Nabesna

The Nabesna District has one permanent housing unit for the designated District Ranger and several seasonal housing units that are available from May to September. All Nabesna District housing is located outside the park in the small community of Slana. Minimal services are offered in Slana as there is no grocery store, convenience store, or gas station in the immediate area. The closest gas station/convenience store is located in Chistochina approximately 30 miles west of Slana. Most supplies are obtained by driving southwest to Glennallen, Alaska approximately 84 miles away; or by driving northeast to Tok, Alaska approximately 56 miles away. Public transportation is not available.



Nabesna District Ranger Residence



Support Building



10' x 12' Sleeping Cabin



10' x 12' Sleeping Tent

Seasonal housing is located behind the Ranger Station and consists of small heated sleeping cabins or tents which accommodate one or two people with a shared kitchen, laundry, shower and restroom facilities located in the Support building.



Shared Office Space in Nabesna Ranger Station



Inside Nabesna District Ranger Station/Visitor Center



Nabesna District Ranger Station /Visitor Center

Kennecott/McCarthy

Deep in the heart of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park is the historic mining town of Kennecott. Virtually deserted in the winter time when the operation is shut down, the population blooms to between 200 to 300 hundred residents during the summer. A significant number of visitors venture down the 60 mile dirt road and former railroad bed from Chitina to McCarthy. One should plan on 3 to 4 hours to complete the drive mainly due to the condition of the dirt road. The small town of Chitina is 54 miles from headquarters and is the last place to obtain gasoline and most food supplies. A daily shuttle drives to and from McCarthy during peak season.

Vehicles are not allowed to drive past the Kennicott River and parking spaces are provided for a fee. However, the National Park Service has established a support site ½ mile prior to the end of the road that has three 10' x 12' sleeping cabins and two 10' x 12' sleeping tents. Restroom/shower, laundry and kitchen facilities are provided in a shared support building. A vault toilet is provided to accommodate the beginning and end of the season.

In the middle of the Kennecott town site there are four seasonal sleeping cabins each 8' x 10'. Restroom, shower, and kitchen facilities are located in a nearby building. A vault toilet is provided to accommodate the beginning and end of the season.

The area has two rustic lodging and restaurant businesses, The Kennecott Glacier Lodge and The McCarthy Lodge. There is also a fast food place called The Potato. The average cost of a hamburger is about \$12.00. A small store with limited supplies allows one to purchase a gallon of milk for \$5.99 and a loaf of bread for \$5.00.



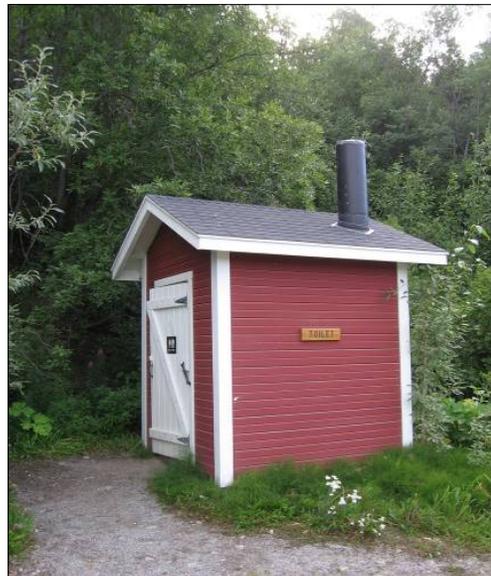
Kennecott 8' x 10' Sleeping Cabins
(Support Building seen above first sleeping cabin)



Kennecott Support Building



Interior of Sleeping Cabin



Vault Toilet



Support Building Kitchen



Support Building Kitchen



Historic Kennecott Looking South



Office Space in the Historic Kennecott School



Visitor Contact Station



View of Kennicott Glacier



Hikers on Root Glacier

Yakutat

The very southern tip of the park is designated as the Yakutat District. This part of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve includes Mount St. Elias and the pristine costal waters of Icy Bay and Disenchantment Bay.

Housing is not provided in the park, but is found in the town of Yakutat, a plane or boat ride away from the park. Seasonal housing may be available for one person in an efficiency apartment located in the park hanger at the Yakutat airport. Also, on nearby Forest Service land are two small wall tents with a support building. The wall tents are only big enough for one person to sleep in with storage for a minimal amount of personal possessions. The support building has restroom, cooking and laundry facilities.



Aerial View of Yakutat



Yakutat Ranger Station/Visitor Center



Shared Office Space in the Ranger Station



There are two grocery stores in Yakutat. Average prices include: one gallon of milk= \$6.39, one dozen eggs= \$1.95, loaf of bread= \$3.31, one pound of hamburger= \$3.09.

Yakutat has three lodges open May through October with either limited or full service restaurants. A small café is open all year.

There is also a qualified Emergency Care Center called the Yakutat Community Health Center.



National Park Service Hanger at the Yakutat Airport



Hanger Apartment Kitchen



8' x 10' Sleeping Cabin



Sleeping Cabin Interior



Yakutat Support Building



Support Building Kitchen



Support Building Bathroom



Support Building Laundry

