

COVID-19 Response

Following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state and local public health authorities, park operations continue to adapt to changing conditions while maintaining public access, particularly outdoor spaces. Before visiting a park, please check the [park website](#) to determine its operating status. Updates about the overall NPS response to COVID-19, including safety information, are posted on www.nps.gov/coronavirus. Please [recreate responsibly](#).

National Park Service

Denali

National Park & Preserve
Alaska

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Park Statistics

Contact Info

- **Mail:**
Alaska Region | Denali National Park & Preserve
P.O. Box 9, Denali Park, AK 99755-0009
- **Telephone:** 907-683-9532 | 907-683-9649 Teletype for the Deaf/Hearing Impaired (TTY)
- **Fax:** 907-683-9612
- **Email us**
[.....](#)
- **Superintendent:** Don Striker

Visitation and Budget

Year	Visitation	Base Budget
2000	364,019	\$9,189,000
2001	360,271	\$9,792,000
2002	353,560	\$10,144,000
2003	359,838	\$10,949,000
2004	404,234	\$10,687,000
2005	403,520	\$10,842,000
2006	415,935	\$10,547,000
2007	458,307	\$10,644,000
2008	432,301	\$11,910,000
2009	358,040	\$12,642,000
2010	378,885	\$13,976,000
2011	406,581	\$13,881,000
2012	388,433	\$13,777,000
2013	530,911	\$13,540,800
2014	531,315	\$13,527,200
2015	589,450	\$14,354,793
2016	599,822	\$14.3 million
2017	642,809	\$14.8 million
2019	601,153	\$14.8 million
2020	TBD	\$14.8 million

Check out older visitation data
[.....](#)

Effects of Visitor Spending

Year	Spending	Jobs	Economic Output
2016	\$605 million	7,744	\$864 million
2017	\$632 million	8,154	\$924 million
2018	\$602 million	7,370	\$859 million

Dates & Numbers

Quick history

- February 26, 1917 - Established (as "Mount McKinley National Park"). Park was around 2,146,000 acres at that time.
- 1976 - Designated an [International Biosphere Reserve](#)
- December 2, 1980 - Renamed Denali National Park and Preserve, park roughly tripled in size.
- [Learn more about park history](#)

Size

- Park: 4,740,091 acres (including 2,146,270 acres of Federally-designated Wilderness)
- Preserve: 1,334,118 acres
- Total area: 6,075,030 acres (9,492 square miles)
- Perimeter: 606 miles
- Comparison: New Hampshire is 9,351 square miles in area, Massachusetts is 10,555 square miles.

Staffing

- 124 permanent employees (2017)
- 16 term employees (2017)
- 126 seasonal employees (2017)
- 772 volunteers (2017)

Infrastructure

- 3 **RV and/or tent campgrounds** (232 total sites)

- 3 tent-only campgrounds (42 sites)
- 35.5 miles of **official trails**

- 92 miles of road (Denali Park Road)

Landmarks and Elevation

- Denali Visitor Center: 1,746 feet above sea level (asl)
- Polychrome Overlook: 3,700 feet asl
- Highway Pass (highest point on the Denali Park Road): 3,980 feet asl
- Eielson Visitor Center: 3,733 feet asl
- Wonder Lake Campground: 2,055 feet asl
- Mount Foraker: 17,400 feet asl
- Mount Denali (highest point in North America): 20,310 feet asl
- Yentna River, at the Denali boundary (lowest point in the park): 223 feet asl


Plants and Animals

- Amphibians - 1 species
- Mammals - 38 species
- Birds - 172 recorded species (160 breeding or resident + 12 incidentals)
- Fish - 14 species (including 3 salmon species)
- Reptiles - none!

- Vascular plants - 758 species
- Trees - 8 species
- Mosses - 380 species documented to date
- Liverworts - 119 species documented to date
- Lichens - 442 species documented to date

Species in Denali

Select a Park: Denali National Park & 

Select a Species Category (optional): All 

[Get Checklist](#) [Get Full List](#) **[List Differences](#)**

Search results will be displayed here.

Visit **NPSpecies** for more comprehensive information and advanced search capability. Have a suggestion or comment on this list? **Let us know.**

Natural History

Paleontology

Thousands of trace fossils (tracks, footprints, or body prints) have been found since the first discovery of dinosaur prints in 2005, all dating from 65-72 million years ago. They include theropods, hadrosaurs, ceratopsians, and pterosaurs, as well as bird tracks, fish traces, crayfish burrows, and insect trackways. *Myriospirifer breasei*, a species of extinct marine brachiopod that has been found only in Denali, is named after Phil Brease, park geologist from 1986 until his untimely death in May 2010. [Learn more about paleontology in the park.](#)

Lakes and Streams

- Chilchukabena Lake: 2.6 miles long, 2 miles wide, 2056 acres (largest in the park)

- Wonder Lake: 2.7 miles long, 1/2 mile wide, 649 acres, 280 feet maximum depth
- Approximately 12,206 lakes and ponds in the park and preserve; 18,679 miles of streams

Glaciers

- 15% of park's land area is covered with glaciers (approx. 1,422 sq. miles).
- Loss of 8% from 1950 - 2010.
- Largest glacier: Kahiltna Glacier on the south side of Alaska Range (45 miles or 72.4 km long)
- Largest glacier on north side of Alaska Range: Muldrow Glacier (34 miles or 54.7 km long)
- Deepest measured glacier: Ruth Glacier, 3805 feet or 1160 meters
- **[Learn more about glaciers in the park](#)**

Earthquakes

- Average number per year within park boundaries: about 3,000
- Depth: 60% between 0-20 km – deepest are at about 200 km
- Largest recent earthquake is magnitude 5.2 (January 23, 2011).
- Earthquakes as small as magnitude 0.5 are routinely detected.
- The 7.9 quake on November 3, 2002 was largest recorded interior Alaska earthquake.
- Most events occur within the Kantishna seismic cluster, in the foothills north of Denali.

Weather

- Average annual precipitation = 15 inches / 381mm (park headquarters)
- Wettest months are July, August, and June (in that order)
- Average annual snowfall = 80 inches / 202 cm (park headquarters)
- Coldest temperature recorded at headquarters: -54° F / -48°C, February 5, 1999
- Coldest year on record: 1956
- Highest temperature recorded at headquarters: 91° F / 33°C, June 22, 1991

- Warmest year on record: 1926
 - Average January temperature: 2.0°F / -17°C
 - Average July temperature: 55°F / 13°C
 - Shortest day (December 21): 4 hours, 21 minutes of daylight
 - Longest day (June 21): 20 hours, 49 minutes of daylight
 - Number of years in cooperation with the National Weather Service: 90
 - **Learn more about park weather**
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Uniquely Denali

Sled Dogs

- Average number of miles patrolled by sled each winter: 3,000
- Kennels building constructed in 1929
- Sled dog demonstrations inaugurated in 1939
- Average yearly dog demonstration attendance: over 50,000
- **Learn more about the sled dogs**
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Denali Mountaineering

- Check out detailed **annual mountaineering statistics**, including total climbers and narrative summaries of each climbing season since 1978.
- Notable Ascents First summit of South Peak (true summit): June 7, 1913; W. Harper, H. Karstens, H. Stuck, R. Tatum
- First summit of North Peak: April 3, 1910; Pete Anderson, Billy Taylor
- First woman to summit: June 6, 1947; Barbara Polk Washburn
- First solo ascent: August 26, 1970; Naomi Uemura
- First winter ascent: February 28, 1967; Dave Johnston, Art Davidson, Ray Genet
- First solo winter ascent: February 12, 1984; Naomi Uemura (died on descent)

- First successful winter solo ascent completed: March 7, 1988; Vern Tejas
- Oldest person to summit: June 28, 2013; Tom Choate, 78 years old
- Youngest person to summit: June 17, 2001; Galen Johnston, 11 years old

Last updated: September 16, 2020

CONTACT THE PARK

Mailing Address:

PO Box 9
Denali Park, AK 99755

Phone:

(907) 683-9532

A ranger is available 9 am—4 pm daily (except on major holidays). If you get to the voicemail, please leave a message and we'll call you back as soon as we finish with the previous caller.