

Bear Safety-page 18

page 18

### Welcome to Denali National Park and Preserve!



Welcome! Denali turned 90 this February and we're excited for you to celebrate with us. Special places like Denali National Park and Preserve don't stay special by accident. They stay special because many people work hard every day to make them so, not just park employees

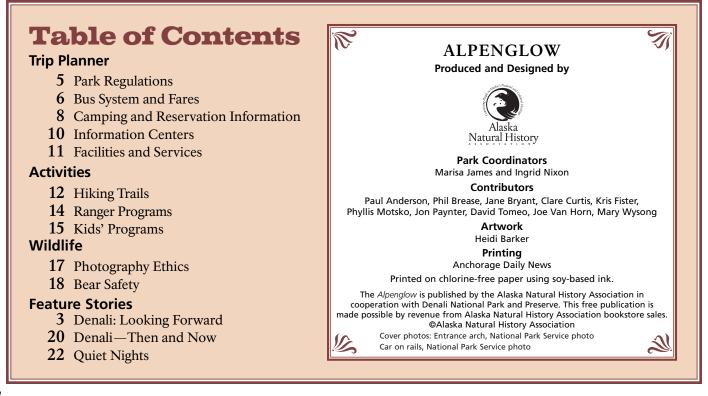
and volunteers, but our partners, and even our visitors. That's what has brought us this far; it's what will take us 90 more years into the future, when our grandchildren will bring their families to this world-class treasure and refuge.

Despite many changes over the years, the park looks much the same as it did in 1917. The protected ecosystems are still here. Although the buses are more comfortable today, and there are lots more visitors, the experience on the Park Road is still similar to what it was when the road was completed in 1938. (Yes, there have been buses on the Park Road since it was built!) Rangers still do winter patrol by dog sled and the blood of the park sled dogs' ancestors runs strong in each year's litter of puppies. Most of the change is in the park's front country—the award-winning Denali Visitor Center, the Murie Science and Learning Center, the hiking trails. Look for the 90th anniversary logo to learn more about special activities and exhibits as you visit these spectacular facilities and others like the visitor information station at Toklat.

Protecting Denali's wildlife and ecosystems and meeting the needs of this and future generations of visitors are big challenges. Denali is a wilderness park, and our facilities and programs are oriented toward helping the public understand and enjoy this special place and its wilderness character. For example, the new Eielson Visitor Center at Mile 66 on the Park Road replaces an old and inadequate facility. The new building models environmentally sensitive construction and sustainable design with indoor and outdoor viewing areas, new exhibits, interior eating area and space for interpretive programs. It will open in 2008.

We hope your Denali visit is the experience of a lifetime. Please enjoy it safely and treat it with great care. As it is the legacy that we leave for future generations, we'd really appreciate your thoughts on how we can continue to keep Denali meaningful to you for the next 90 years.

Paul R. Anderson, Superintendent



# Denali: Looking Forward

By Ingrid Nixon

National parks have been called America's best idea. Since the establishment of Yellowstone in 1872, the idea that a nation should preserve aspects of its heritage for the benefit of all citizens is an idea that has spread to countries around the world.

Establishing a park requires looking forward and

realizing that the qualities of a resource are special and worth preserving. In the early 1900s, when the idea was first proposed for creating a national park in the heart of Alaska's Interior, all of Alaska seemed wild. Wildlife was plentiful in many areas. Majestic mountains were not hard to come by. But here, just north of the Alaska Range, one could find a region with the magic combination of wildlife and scenery that typified the territory.

The territory, however, was changing just as the landscape had changed in the Lower 48. Miners combed drainages throughout the region looking for gold and other

valuable minerals. A railroad would soon connect Fairbanks to the coast. Early park proponents Charles Sheldon and Belmore Browne realized that the vast quantities of wildlife found north of the Alaska Range would come under increasing hunting pressure to feed railway workers, miners, and populations of growing communities.

Signed into being by the United States Congress in 1917, the original Mount McKinley National Park preserved roughly two million acres. Wildlife protection was the backbone of the park's enabling legislation, which set the stage for Denali's modern role as a wildlife refuge of international importance. Not only can today's visitors thrill at finding a wolf track or seeing a wild grizzly bear, but scientists can study wildlife populations that have seen minimal impacts from humans.

Passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act in 1980 expanded the park boundaries,

added preserve lands, and changed the name to Denali National Park and Preserve. Boundaries were expanded in part to accommodate migration patterns of caribou and other wildlife, and to take in the entire Mount McKinley massif. Protecting vast landscapes preserved the rich complexity of living organisms and their interactions that woven together make up the fabric of life. More and more in this changing world, researchers look to vast landscapes

> like Denali to collect baseline data on how natural systems function so we can better detect how things are changing and why.

By managing our landscapes under a variety of land designations national parks, preserves, and reserves - society preserves a diversity of experiences. Once a national park is established, the delicate tight rope walk begins as park managers balance preservation of the park resources with providing for visitor enjoyment of the same. Since its inception, Denali has fueled passionate debates in different sectors of society as to what are and are not appropriate

behaviors that should be allowed to take place within its boundaries.

Most visitors who come to the park today will travel some portion of the Park Road. Whether they are in their own car within the first 15 miles, on a bus or a tour, or backpacking, most everyone will still have the opportunity to see, smell, and touch the Alaska frontier. Whether it's sharing the landscape with large mammals or finding solitude or taking in vistas tremendous in their beauty, the experience can still be personal and authentic. That experience is what park founders and the Congress sought to preserve in perpetuity for people of this nation and of the world when they created this park 90 years ago. What that experience looks like in another 90 years is our challenge.

Ingrid Nixon is Chief of Interpretation for Denali National Park and Preserve.



# Making the Most of Your Visit

#### IF YOU HAVE A HALF DAY...

- ATTEND one of the sled dog demonstrations or sign up for an education program at the Murie Science and Learning Center or take a shuttle bus into the park.
- HIKE one of the entrance area trails near the Denali Visitor Center (see page 12). Each of these trails provides opportunities for exploring the taiga (boreal forest) and observing wildlife. Go on your own or join a ranger-guided walk (see page 15).
- WATCH the feature film at the Denali Visitor Center or Wilderness Access Center.
- RIDE the free Savage River shuttle bus to Mile 15 (see page 6). Keep a lookout for moose, caribou, bears or sheep. On a clear day, Mount McKinley may be seen in the distance from Mile 9 to Mile 14.
- TAKE a guided Natural History Tour of the park to Primrose Ridge (see page 6).

#### IF YOU HAVE A FULL DAY...

- TAKE a bus to Toklat or Fish Creek. As you travel the road west, you may observe wildlife or discover a place to get off the bus and take a hike.
- JOIN a ranger for a Discovery Hike or guided walk (see page 15). You must sign up in advance at the Denali Visitor Center for Discovery Hikes.
- SIGN UP for an education program at the Murie Science and Learning Center (see page 14).



TAKE a guided Tundra Wilderness Tour of the park to **Toklat River** (see page 6).



#### IF YOU HAVE A FEW DAYS...

- TAKE another trip into the park. Visit Wonder Lake and hike the McKinley Bar Trail, or join a Discovery Hike.
- SIGN UP for an education program at the Murie Science and Learning Center.
- PLAN your own hike. Topographical maps, guidebooks, and knowledgeable staff can assist you in planning a trip. All are available at the Backcountry Information Center.
- **OUTSIDE** the park, activities include rafting, flightseeing, and horseback riding. A list of area businesses is available at the Wilderness Access Center and the Denali Visitor Center.
- VISIT Denali's Talkeetna Ranger Station, located 150 miles south of the park entrance in the town of Talkeetna. This is a spectacular road trip that goes through Denali State Park and provides great views of Mount McKinley and the Alaska Range.

Railr

Alaska

# Which Bus Do I Take?

Denali National Park and Preserve offers a variety of experiences—from a shuttle bus that allows you to get off and experience personal solitude and hiking, to a narrated tour with a certified interpretive guide. How you choose to spend your time in the park is

up to you!

What experience are you looking for? The options outlined in the chart are for those wishing to venture beyond the Savage River Check Station at Mile 15 of the Park Road.

ľd Enjoy	Visitor Transportation System	Discovery Hike Bus	Camper Bus	Denali Natural History Tour	Tundra Wilderness Tour
a hike	*	*			
a hike in a group with a park ranger		*			
the flexibility to get on and off buses to explore on my own	*				
going as far into the park as possible	*		*		
accessing the backcountry for backpacking			*		
staying at a campground in a tent	*		*		
a bus tour with an interpretive naturalist				*	*
a tour more focused on history and culture				*	
looking for wildlife	*				*
a morning trip that gets me back for the noon train to Anchorage				*	
a day trip that will get me back for the afternoon train to Fairbanks	*			*	*
bicycling on the Park Road			*		

# **Park Regulations**

**PETS** must be leashed at all times and are not allowed on trails or in the backcountry.

**FIREWOOD:** Fires are only allowed in designated sites. Please help protect park resources by gathering only dead and downed wood.

FOOD STORAGE: All food, beverages, garbage, pet food, cooking, or food storage equipment must be kept in a vehicle, locker, camper, or bear-resistant food container.

**CAMPING** is allowed at established campgrounds and backcountry units by permit only. NOISE: Generators in campgrounds may only be used between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., and 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. No exceptions.

**DRIVING:** Be sure to adhere to posted speed limits. Use pullouts and wide portions of the road to view wildlife.

WILDLIFE: To ensure your safety, please maintain the minimum distances found on page 17 of this guide.

# **Shuttle Destinations and Times**

	Destination (Mileage)	Savage River (Mile 15)	Polychrome Overlook (Mile 47)	Toklat River (Mile 53)	
What to See	Visitors are encouraged to get on and off the buses to explore the park. Anticipate waits up to one hour to re-board.	Savage River is the farthest that visitors can drive in their own vehicles on the Park Road. At this point there is a small parking area, picnic tables, restrooms, and a trail. Visitors are encouraged to take the shuttle as parking is limited.	Polychrome Overlook gets its name from the multi-colored bluffs in the area. Spectacular views of the Alaska Range are also possible.	Toklat River is an area of merging glacial rivers. Dall sheep are often seen and grizzlies sometimes graze the soapberries growing on the gravel bar in the fall.	
	Roundtrip Time	Under 2 hours roundtrip	5.5 hours roundtrip	6 hours roundtrip	
Fares	Adult Single Fare (age 18 and over) Young Adult Single Fare (age 15-17) Youth Single Fare (age 14 and under)	FREE Buses leave from the Wilderness Access Center hourly from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. during peak season. Check at visitor centers and bus stops for schedule.	Adult Single Fare <b>\$22.50</b> Young Adult Single Fare <b>\$11.25</b> Youth Single Fare <b>FREE</b>	Adult Single Fare <b>\$22.50</b> Young Adult Single Fare <b>\$11.25</b> Youth Single Fare <b>FREE</b>	

### **Shuttle Buses**

**Shuttle Buses** are for transportation and wildlife viewing. All shuttle buses depart from the Wilderness Access Center

only. Passengers may get off along the Park Road and re-board later buses (west of Mile 20) on a space available basis with a ticket for that day. Expect waits of up to an hour to re-board a shuttle bus.

**Children:** Young adults age 15-17 are half price and children 14 and under ride free, but still need a reservation. *Children under 4 years and/or 40 pounds must be in a carseat to ride on buses.* Please make arrangements to bring your own carseat.

**Bring** plenty of food, water, and dress in layers. You may also want to bring field guides, binoculars, and a camera.

# **Tour Buses**

#### **Tundra Wilderness Tour**

Experience the park and its wildlife with a naturalist guide on this narrated tour of the park to Toklat River (Mile 53). A box lunch and hot beverages are served. Wheelchair accessible by pre-arrangement. Early morning and afternoon departures from area hotels and the Wilderness Access Center.

#### Length of Tour: 7 - 8 hours

4 - 6 hours in shoulder season, destination Teklanika (Mile 30)

**Wheelchair Accessible Buses** are available. Please advise staff of your needs when you make your reservation.

**Fares** do not include entrance fees which are \$10.00 per person or \$20.00 per vehicle.

**Refund Policy:** There is a cancellation fee of \$4.00 for each shuttle bus seat and/or campground site. Cancellations must be made at least two hours prior to bus departure. This fee also applies to any changes made to existing reservations, but will not apply to reservations for children under 14.

**Dates of Operation:** May 19 through September 13, 2007, weather permitting.

For Reservations: Call 800-622-7275 or 907-272-7275

For More Information: www.reservedenali.com

### **Natural History Tour**

Focusing on the rich natural and cultural history of Denali, this narrated tour to Primrose Ridge (Mile 17) includes several interpretive stops. A snack and beverage are provided. Wheelchair accessible by pre-arrangement. Morning and afternoon departures from area hotels and the Wilderness Access Center.

Length of Tour: 4.5 - 5 hours

Dates of Operation: Core Season: May 19 through September 13, 2007, weather permitting. Shoulder Season: May 13-18 and September 14-17, 2007, weather permitting.

For Reservations: Call 800-622-7275 (Nationwide), 907-272-7275 (International and Anchorage).

For More Information: Visit www.nps.gov/dena or www.reservedenali.com.

\* Fish Creek bus service begins June 1. Wonder Lake and Kantishna begin June 8.

sh Creek Turnaround* Wonder Lake* Kantishna* (Mile 64 ) (Mile 85) (Mile 90)
to this turnaround point, d among the rolling a hills of the Thorofare ; offers spectacular views unt McKinley on a clear nd ample opportunities to wildlife. Wonder Lake was created by the Muldrow Glacier. Along the road to Wonder Lake, alder and willow-carpeted hills are dotted with kettle ponds. Look for beaver along the way. Kantishna is primarily a destination for lodge visitors and backpackers for backcountry access. Please respect the private lands in this area.
8 hours roundtrip 11 hours roundtrip 13 hours roundtrip
Adult Single Fare \$28.75Adult Single Fare \$39.75Adult Single Fare \$43.25ung Adult Single Fare \$14.50Young Adult Single Fare \$20.00Young Adult Single Fare \$21.75Youth Single Fare Youth Single FareYouth Single Fare Youth Single FareYouth Single Fare

#### **Entrance Area Buses**

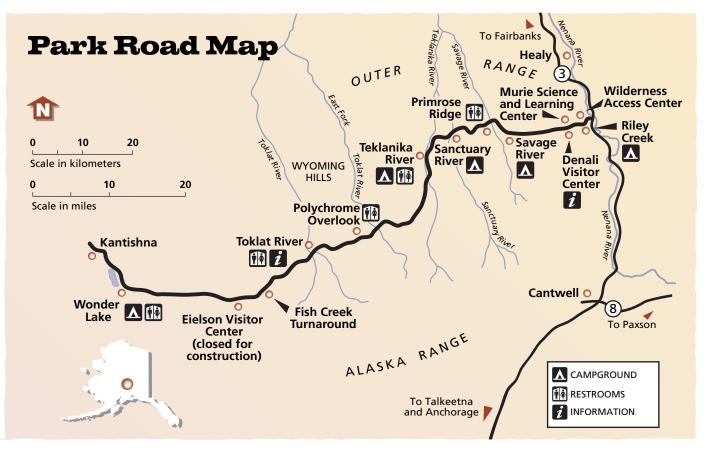
The entrance area is where you'll find most of the amenities of the park: Denali Visitor Center, Wilderness Access Center, Murie Science and Learning Center, Riley Creek Campground, Denali Park Post Office, Riley Creek Mercantile, Railroad Depot, and trailheads.

Dates of Operation: May 19 through September 13, 2007, weather permitting.

Wheelchair Accessible buses are available.

#### **Riley Creek Loop Bus** Sled Dog Demo Bus Free, roundtrip transportation for Free transportation around the entrance area each 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. dog of the park. Loops continuously throughout demo. Board only at the Denali the day, see schedule at bus stops and visitor centers. Board at Riley Creek Campground, Visitor Center bus stop 40 minutes before demo. No parking at kennels Wilderness Access Center, Denali Visitor Center bus stop, Murie Science and Learning area. May 19-September 13, 2007. Times vary during shoulder season. Center, and the Horseshoe Lake Trailhead.

30 minutes	10 minutes each way	
FREE	FREE	
No reservations needed	No reservations needed	



## **Reservations for Shuttle Bus and Campsites**

**ONLINE** reservations open from December 1, 2006 through September 13, 2007 at www.reservedenali.com.

**PHONE** lines are open from February 15, 2007 through September 13, 2007; hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, Alaska time (one hour behind Seattle). Tickets can be purchased by phone up until the day before travel and picked up at the Wilderness Access Center (WAC).

#### 800-622-7275 Nationwide 907-272-7275 International 272-7275 Anchorage

FAX service begins December 1 and continues through August 31 each year. Fax your request to **907-264-4684**. Requests must be received no less than two days before travel. Download a fax form from Denali's Home Page at **www.nps.gov/dena** to ensure you include all the necessary information.

MAIL your request to Doyon/ARAMARK, 241 West Ship Creek Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501. Requests must be received 30 days before travel date. Both fax and mail requests will be processed in the order received.

When faxing or mailing reservation requests, include the names and ages of each passenger, as youth discounts do apply. It is always helpful to include alternate dates of travel. Please include an entrance fee of \$10.00 per individual or \$20.00 per vehicle, or indicate possession of a National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass (Annual, Senior, or Access) and its number. Include credit card numbers (VISA, Mastercard, Discover, AMEX) and their expiration dates. Other payment options are personal check (received 10 working days in advance) or money order. Cancellation fees apply.

It is not necessary to check in at the WAC if you already have your shuttle tickets. You need to be at the WAC loading deck 15 minutes before your bus departure.

Prepaid, reserved tickets may be picked up at the WAC. Any unclaimed, prepaid tickets for buses departing before 7 a.m. may be picked up from the expeditors on the bus deck. Bus drivers do not sell tickets. Campground permits can be picked up at the Riley Creek Mercantile or at the WAC.

**Refund Policy:** There is a \$4.00 cancellation fee for each bus seat and/or campground site. Bus cancellations must be made at least two hours before departure time. Campground cancellations must be made by 5 p.m. the day of the reservation. A \$4.00 change fee is collected for any changes made to existing reservations.

### **Campground Descriptions and Fees**

Campground	Season	Water	Facilities	Cost/Night	Emergency	Reservations
Riley Creek 1/4 mile west of Alaska Hwy. #3. 146 sites for RVs and tents	All year; limited facilities from Sept May	Yes (no water in winter)	Flush toilet	\$12.00 walk-in \$20.00 drive-in	Pay phone near bus stop and Mercantile; call 911	Make reservations in advance or at the Wilderness Access Center (WAC)
Savage River Mile 13, 33 sites for RVs and tents	May - Sept. Weather dependent	Yes	Flush toilet	\$20.00	Contact camp host or Park Headquarters	Make reservations in advance or at the WAC
Savage Group Mile 13, 3 sites	May - Sept. Weather dependent	Yes	Vault toilet	\$40.00	Contact camp host or Park Headquarters	Make reservations in advance or at the WAC
Sanctuary River Mile 23, 7 sites; tents only; no vehicles	May - Sept. Weather dependent	No	Chemical toilet	\$9.00*	Contact Park Headquarters	Make reservations in person at the WAC, within two days of stay
Teklanika River Mile 29, 53 sites for hard-sided campers only	May - Sept. Weather dependent	Yes	Chemical toilet	\$16.00*	Contact camp host	Make reservations in advance or at the WAC
Wonder Lake Mile 85, 28 sites; tents only; no vehicles	June - Sept. Weather dependent	Yes	Flush toilet	\$16.00*	Contact camp host or Wonder Lake Ranger Station (2 mi. west)	Make reservations in advance or at the WAC

Cancellations must be made by 5 p.m. in order to receive a refund. 50% discount available with Senior or Access Pass.

\* Prices do not include a non-refundable campground reservation fee of \$4.00.

### Teklanika Campground

Teklanika ("Tek") campers may drive their vehicle to the campground with a minimum three-night stay. Camping is only allowed in hard-sided vehicles. Dump your holding tanks, fill your water tank, and get all necessary items *before* going to Tek. Your road pass is good for one trip into the campground and one trip out. During the remainder of your stay, your vehicle is restricted to the campground. Leave towed vehicles in the Riley Creek long-term parking lot.

Campers driving to Tek Campground should purchase a Teklanika Shuttle Pass to travel further west into the park on the shuttle bus. The Tek Pass is only good for campers staying at Tek Campground. The Tek Pass may not be used to travel east of Tek Campground.

### **Other Campgrounds**

Please camp responsibly! Camping along the Parks Highway within Denali National Park is prohibited. Garbage and illegal sewage discharge create problems for people and wildlife. Additional campgrounds outside the park offer RV hookups, sewage disposal, tent camping, and food lockers. Thank you for protecting our environment!

Privately Owned Campground	Distance*	# Sites	Phone #
Waugaman Village	12 N	18	907-683-2737
McKinley RV and Campground	10 N	89	907-683-2379
Denali RV Park	8 N	85	907-683-1500
Denali Riverside Campground	3 N	98	888-778-7700
Denali Rainbow RV Camping	1 N	77	907-683-7777
Denali Grizzly Bear Cabins and Campground	6 S	58	907-683-2696
Carlo Creek Lodge	13 S	25	907-683-2576
Cantwell RV Park	27 S	76	800-940-2210
Tatlanika Campgrour	nd 39 N	18	907-582-2341

\* Miles from park entrance, North (N) or South (S)

### Know Before You Go

#### Campground Regulations

- Fires are allowed only in established grates at Riley Creek, Savage, and Teklanika. Firewood may be purchased at the Riley Creek Mercantile. Power saws and cutting live vegetation or standing deadwood is prohibited.
- Pets must be leashed at all times. They are not allowed on trails, riverbars, or in the backcountry. Please dispose of feces in garbage cans. Secure pet food inside a vehicle or food locker.
- Quiet hours are between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. at Riley Creek, Savage River, and Teklanika. Generators may only be operated from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. No exceptions.
- \* Check in at 2 p.m. Checkout at 11 a.m.

#### Wildlife & Food Storage

- \* Keep a clean camp and wash dishes immediately.
- \* Do not cook directly on fire grates; use foil.
- \* Store and cook food away from sleeping areas.
- \* Store all food and ice chests in vehicles or in the food lockers provided.
- \* Do not feed any animal, including birds.



Restrictions on the use of the Igloo and Teklanika campgrounds were initiated in 2001, in response to wolf activity in those areas. A wolf pack using the Teklanika River area near the Park Road was exhibiting increasingly bold and sometimes "fearless" behavior around humans. In the interest of both visitor safety and the protection of park wolves, management decided to close Igloo Campground and limit Teklanika to hard-sided vehicles only (no tent camping).

Between 2003 and 2006, the Murie Science and Learning Center set up a field camp at Igloo Campground as a test to determine if the wolves would continue to show interest in humans and their belongings. During this study, wolf activity was quiet. Though Igloo will remain closed, Teklanika may open to tents sometime this summer. Check the park website for possible openings at Teklanika.



The Talkeetna Ranger Station is the base of operations for Denali National Park and Preserve's mountaineering rangers. The highly skilled staff orients mountaineers before they attempt to climb Mount McKinley, Foraker, Hunter, and other peaks in the Alaska Range, and provides support and emergency assistance to climbers from base camps located on Mount McKinley.

# **Information Centers**

#### TALKEETNA RANGER STATION

B Street in Talkeetna, 907-733-2231 Open: Mid-April to Labor Day, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily Remainder of year, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday Offers: Climbing information for Alaska Range

General information Interpretive programs Alaska Natural History Association bookstore

For information on mountaineering guide services contact:

Talkeetna Ranger Station P.O. Box 588, Talkeetna, AK 99676 907-733-2231 or e-mail DENA\_Talkeetna\_Office@nps.gov

#### WILDERNESS ACCESS CENTER

Mile 1 Park Road, 907-683-9274

Open: May 15 to Sept. 17, 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily Hours may vary during shoulder seasons

- Offers: General information from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. All shuttle buses depart from here Bus tickets Campground information Feature film Coffee service Retail sales
  - Lost and found (683-9275)

#### BACKCOUNTRY INFORMATION CENTER

Mile 1 Park Road, adjacent to the Wilderness Access Center

Open: May 1 to Sept. 19, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Offers: Backcountry information and permits Bear-resistant food containers Maps

#### DENALI VISITOR CENTER

Mile 1.5 Park Road Open: May 15 to Sept. 18, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily Offers: Bus schedules General information Feature film Ranger guided walks Interpretive programs Alaska Natural History Association bookstore Morino Grill

#### TOKLAT CONTACT STATION

Mile 53 Park Road Open: May 26 to Sept. 17, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily Offers: Bookstore Information Rangers Displays

# **Facilities and Services**

- \* Accessibility: The Denali Visitor Center campus and its facilities are wheelchair accessible, as are the Murie Science and Learning Center and the Wilderness Access Center (WAC). The Denali Visitor Center film is open-captioned and assisted listening devices are available. The WAC feature film is open-captioned. Some tour and shuttle buses are wheelchair accessible; please advise staff upon making reservation. Along the Park Road accessible restrooms are located at Savage, Teklanika, Polychrome, Toklat, and Wonder Lake. Trail accessibility information is available at the Denali Visitor Center Information Desk and the park website.
- \* Alaska Railroad: You can travel to Denali by rail from Fairbanks, Anchorage, or Talkeetna.

Call 265-2683 in Anchorage; 907-265-2683 outside Anchorage; 800-544-0552 outside Alaska; 683-2233 in Denali.

- \* ATMs: ATM service is provided at the Denali Princess, McKinley Chalets, Northern Lights Gift Shop, and the Lynx Creek Store near the park entrance, and at some commercial establishments in Healy, Cantwell, and Talkeetna.
- Food Service: Morino Grill offers coffee, soups and ready-made and grilled items for sit-down service. Open mid-May through mid-September.
- \* Gas and Propane: On Highway #3 one mile north of the park entrance (summer); year-round in Healy, Cantwell, and Talkeetna (see map page 7).
- **\*** Grocery, Laundry, and Showers: At the Riley Creek Mercantile, located at the entrance of the park.
- \* Lost and Found: If you lose something of value, contact a ranger or call 907-683-9275. To report a loss or to turn in found items, stop by the Wilderness Access Center, Denali Visitor Center, Toklat Rest Stop, or the Talkeetna Ranger Station.
- \* Medical: Located north of the park entrance at Mile 238 of Highway #3 is the Canyon Clinic. This is an urgent care facility open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with emergency staff on call 24 hours a day (907-683-4433).



In the region south of Denali, the Sunshine Community Health Center is located at Mile 4 of the Talkeetna Spur Road. Open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with 24 hour on-call services (907-733-2273). The Talkeetna Denali Family Medical Clinic in downtown Talkeetna (907-733-2708) maintains office hours Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Located in the Tri-Valley Community Center, 13 miles north of the park and 1/2 mile east of Highway #3 on Healy Spur Road, is the Interior Community Health Center (907-683-2211). A physician's assistant and a nurse are on-call. The closest physicians and hospitals are in Fairbanks.

\* National Park Service:

Contact us at Denali National Park and Preserve, P.O. Box 9, Denali Park, AK 99755 907-683-2294 or visit www.nps.gov/dena.

\* Post Office: The Denali National Park Post Office is located next to Riley Creek Campground. Post offices are also located just off the Parks Highway in the communities of Healy, Cantwell, and Trapper

Creek, and on the Talkeetna Spur Road near Main Street in Talkeetna.

- \* Recycling Areas: Located at the Riley Creek Mercantile for aluminum, plastic, and batteries. Visitor centers, campgrounds, and rest stops have aluminum can receptacles.
- **\* Religious Services:** Please check at the Denali Visitor Center for times and locations of religious services in the park and in local communities.
- **\* Road Lottery:** This year's road lottery is September 14-17. Successful lottery winners (up to 400 vehicles per day) may drive the length of the Park Road in their personal vehicle. Details on how to apply for the 2007 Road Lottery will be released by June 2007. Please watch for news releases or visit www.nps.gov/dena. Entries must be postmarked between July 1 and July 31.
- \* Sewage Dump Station: Located adjacent to the Riley Creek Mercantile. Free to campers staying in the park; \$5.00 fee for others. Payable at the Riley Creek Mercantile.

# Enjoy a Hike

----- Horseshoe Lake Trail Length: 3 miles roundtrip Time: 1.5 hours roundtrip

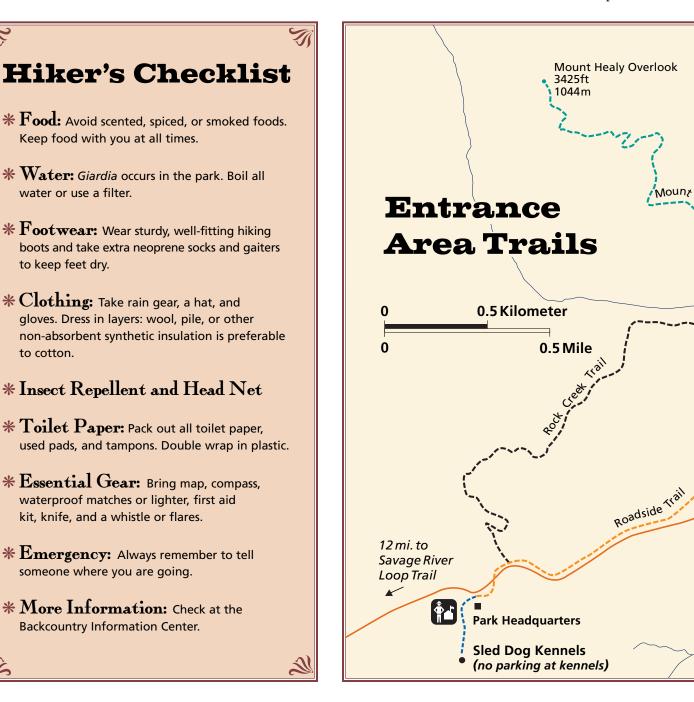
----- Taiga Trail Provides access for Rock Creek and Mount Healy trails. Length: 2 miles roundtrip Time: 1 hour roundtrip

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----- Rock Creek Trail Access via Taiga Trail Length: 4 miles roundtrip Time: 3 hours roundtrip

----- Roadside Trail Access via Denali Visitor Center Length: 2.6 miles roundtrip Time: 2.5 hours roundtrip ----- Meadow View Trail Connects Rock Creek Trail with Roadside Trail and offers spectacular views. Length: 0.3 miles Time: 1.5 hours roundtrip

#### ----- McKinley Station Trail Begins at the Denali Visitor Center. Length: 2.6 miles roundtrip Time: 2 hours roundtrip



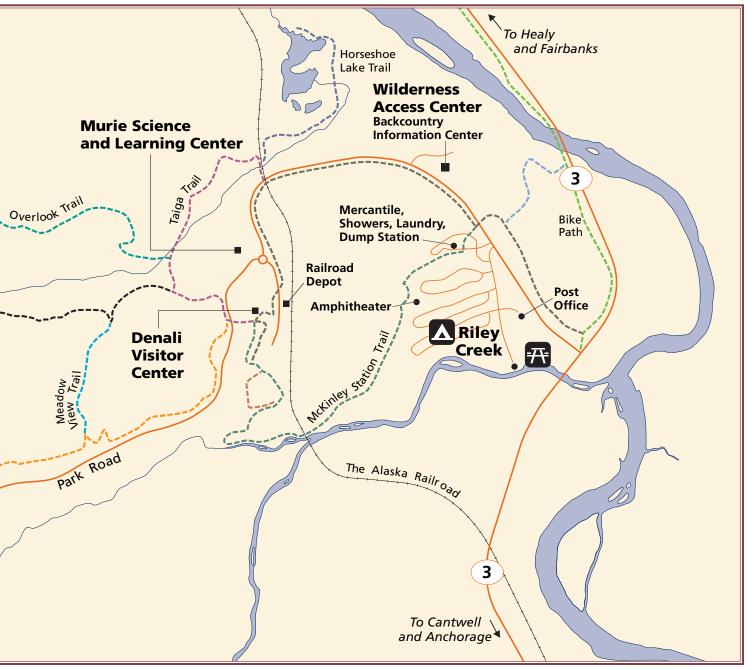
----- Mount Healy Trail Take the Taiga Trail for one mile and look for the Mount Healy trailhead at the first service road. Length: 4.5 miles roundtrip Time: 3-4 hours roundtrip

----- Bike Path Begins at the Denali Visitor Center.

#### Savage River Loop Trail

Begin at Mile 15 on the Park Road. First half mile is ADA accessible. Take the Savage River Shuttle Bus (see page 6). Parking is extremely limited. Length: 2-mile loop Time: 1 hour

Accessibility information is available at the Denali Visitor Center.



### Murie Science and Learning Center



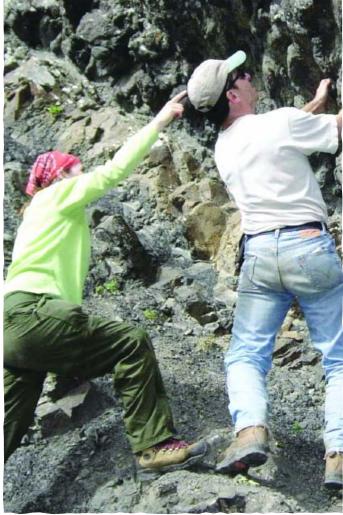
The Murie Science and Learning Center (MSLC) is part of a nationwide effort by the National Park Service to enhance science in national parks and to share research more effectively with the public. Located at the entrance of Denali National Park and Preserve,

the MSLC represents eight of Alaska's northern national parks and teams with a growing number of partners in research and educational activities. The building is open to the public year-round. It features an exhibit area, classroom, and office space for visiting scientists. It is the hub for a variety of educational offerings during the summer. It also serves as Denali's winter visitor center.

#### **Educational Offerings**

The Murie Science and Learning Center offers many small-group interactive courses throughout the summer, including park excursions, lectures, teacher trainings, field seminars, and youth camps. Partners include the Alaska Natural History Association and its education arm, the Alaska Natural History Institutes, Denali Education Center, Denali Borough School District, University of Alaska, and Doyon/ARAMARK Joint Venture.

To find out more about the 2007 summer schedule, please stop by the Murie Science and Learning Center near the Denali Visitor Center, visit www.murieslc.org, or call 907-683-1269, or toll-free 888-688-1269.



A teacher discovers dinosaur footprints with paleoecologist Dr. Tony Fiorillo during a teacher training seminar.

### **Ranger Programs**

Program	Time	Description	How to Get There	Length
Sled Dog Demonstrations	10 a.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m.	Tour the park kennels, visit Denali's sled dogs, and observe rangers and dogs working together to demonstrate a traditional mode of travel.	Free buses depart from the Denali Visitor Center bus stop 40 minutes prior to demo. No late departures. No parking at kennels.	40 minute program 1.5 hours total including transportation time
Campground Programs	7:30 p.m. Riley Creek Savage River Teklanika Wonder Lake	Join a ranger for programs on anything from grizzly bears to glaciers. Check campground bulletin boards for schedule and topics.	Riley Creek: walk, drive, or catch a courtesy bus. Savage River: shuttle or personal vehicle. Teklanika: for Tek campers only. Wonder Lake: access by camper bus.	45 minutes

Check at the Denali Visitor Center for program dates and time changes.

# **Ranger-Led Walks and Hikes**

Wear hiking boots or comfortable walking shoes, take layers of clothing, and rain gear. Participants on the **Discovery Hike** must also carry food and water. An elevation change of over 1,000 feet (300 meters) is considered strenuous; less than 1,000 feet, moderate. Please consider your fitness level when planning a hike in the park.

Program	Description	How to Get There	Length	Difficulty
Discovery Hike	A great hike to explore the heart of Denali. Expect uneven terrain, small stream crossings, close encounters with dense vegetation, and unpredictable weather on this trailless wilderness hike. The locations of hikes change daily.	Please sign up at the Denali Visitor Center in person one or two days prior to the hike. Hikers must also purchase a \$28.75 Fish Creek ticket.	<ul> <li>3 - 5 hours</li> <li>1.5 - 6 miles</li> <li>(2.5-10 km)</li> <li>For hikes on the east side of the park, add a 2 - 5 hour roundtrip bus ride.</li> <li>For hikes on the west side, add a 5 - 8 hour roundtrip bus ride.</li> </ul>	Level of difficulty varies from level ground to an elevation gain of 1,500 feet.
Entrance Area Hikes and Strolls	Join a ranger on a walk along one of the entrance area trails. Hikes range from short loops in the spruce forest to longer explorations that interpret various park-related themes. Hikes will start in the morning, afternoon or evening. Check at the Denali Visitor Center or the Wilderness Access Center for the daily schedule.	Starts at the Denali Visitor Center.	Varies from .5 hour to 2.5 hours, .25 mile (.5 km) to 3 miles (4.8 km).	Varies from level ground to 500 feet (150 meters) elevation change.

Check at the Denali Visitor Center for program times and days offered.

# Kids' Programs

#### **Junior Ranger Program**

Get your free activity guide to learn more about the wildlife, wilderness, and people of Denali while training to be a Junior Ranger.

#### **Denali Discovery Pack**

Check out a backpack full of tools and activities for your whole family to learn together about Denali during your visit to the park. Only at the Denali Visitor Center.



A Junior Ranger proudly poses with a moose antler.

# **Backcountry Permits**

Overnight stays in the backcountry require a free backcountry permit, available at the Backcountry Information Center next to the Wilderness Access Center. Permits are issued in person, no more than one day in advance, and reservations are not accepted. Permits are not required for day hikes, but some areas are closed to entry. Hikers should stop at the Backcountry Information Center for a map and current information.

Denali's vast backcountry is divided into units, each of which has a daily quota for the number of people who may camp there. Because more popular units fill early, be flexible when planning your trip.

> Most units require the use of bear-resistant food containers, loaned free of charge with a permit. All food and garbage must be stored in these containers.

Follow these steps to obtain your permit (allow one hour at the Backcountry Information Center).

- 1. Plan your itinerary
- 2. Watch the backcountry video
- 3. Attend the ranger safety talk
- 4. Mark your map
- 5. Obtain a camper bus ticket

Obtaining a backcountry permit and abiding by park regulations are only part of outdoor ethics. Many of your decisions in the backcountry go beyond rules and rely on your sense of responsibility for preserving wilderness. When in the field, you must weigh factors of safety, weather, wildlife encounters, and group dynamics along with your impact on the environment. We urge you to heighten your awareness and accept the challenges of Leave No Trace principles.

# Leave Denali As You Found It



Please obtain more detailed information at the Backcountry Information Center next to the Wilderness Access Center or buy a copy of Leave No Trace Outdoor Skills and Ethics: Alaskan Tundra from the bookstore.



## **Photography Ethics**

You are encouraged to enjoy Denali's wildlife, but we ask you to do it with respect and care.

- **RESPECT** the animals and their home. Remember that we are the visitors. The animals living here are engaged in a daily struggle to find food, shelter, and water necessary for survival.
- **RESIST** the temptation to approach animals. If an animal's behavior is interrupted by your presence, you are too close. Avoid stressing wildlife. Do not move to intercept an animal's path. Keep your distance.
- **RESPONSIBLE** visitors use binoculars or a telephoto lens to observe an animal's normal behavior. One of the most special wildlife experiences is the opportunity to view an animal "being wild."
- **REMIND** others of their ethical responsibility when photographing animals. Help protect and preserve the natural wonders of Denali for the future. It is up to all of us.

# Denali is home to wildlife

Please observe these distance rules to ensure their safety and yours.

- These are minimum distance restrictions. Any distance that alters the behavior of an animal is too close.
  - Maintain the distance rules at all times. Do not engage in photography if an animal moves closer than the minimum required distance.
  - Avoid wildlife during sensitive times such as when they are nesting, mating, or raising young.
  - Please don't follow an animal at close distance with your vehicle.
  - Motorists must stop and allow an animal to cross the road safely.



Caribou, moose, Dall sheep, wolves, active raptor nests, occupied den sites

# **Bear Safety**

#### AVOIDING ENCOUNTERS

Denali National Park and Preserve is home to both black bears and grizzly bears. Black bears inhabit the forested areas of the park, while grizzly bears mainly live on the open tundra. Almost all bears seen by visitors along the Park Road are grizzlies. The bears of Denali are wild creatures, free to behave as they wish. If annoyed, these solitary animals can be very dangerous to intruders. For your own protection, and to keep Denali bears healthy and wild, please carefully read and abide by these rules.

As visitors to this wildlife sanctuary, each of us has an obligation to respect bears and their habitat. These rules are strictly enforced in Denali. Failure to observe them may result in citations and fines.

- BE ALERT: Bears are active both day and night and can be anywhere. Watch for tracks and scat.
- DON'T SURPRISE: Bears may perceive you as a threat if you startle them.
- MAKE NOISE: Warn bears of your presence by making noise — sing, shout, talk. Be especially careful in dense brush where visibility is low, and along rivers where bears cannot hear you over the noise of the water.
- NEVER APPROACH: Bears should live as free from human interference as possible. Give them space.
   Maintain a minimum distance of 300 yards (275 meters).

For more information on human-bear encounters, read *Backcountry Bear Basics* by Dave Smith; or pick up a detailed handout from the Backcountry Information Center. Allowing a bear to obtain human food or garbage, even once, may cause it to seek out more human food. Eventually, if the bear becomes a threat to human safety, it will be killed. For this reason, it is against the law to feed bears in Denali, either purposely or by carelessly leaving food or garbage where bears can get it.

Please report all bear incidents and encounters to a ranger. Park rangers and biologists need this information to document bear behavior for research and management purposes.

#### IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BEAR

DO NOT RUN! Running may elicit a chase response. Bears can run faster than 30 mph (50 km/hr). You cannot outrun them. If the bear is unaware of you, detour quickly and quietly away. Give the bear plenty of room, allowing it to continue its activities undisturbed.

BACK AWAY SLOWLY IF THE BEAR IS AWARE OF YOU! Speak in a low, calm voice while waving your arms slowly above your head. Bears that stand up on their hind legs are not threatening you,

but merely trying to identify you.

SHOULD A BEAR APPROACH OR CHARGE YOU—DO NOT RUN, DO NOT DROP YOUR PACK!



#### Campgrounds

- All food, food containers, coolers, and dirty cooking utensils must be stored in a closed, hard-sided vehicle or in campground food-storage lockers whenever they are not in use. This includes freeze-dried and canned foods, as well as beverages and odorous items, such as soap, toothpaste, and sunscreen.
- Keep a clean camp. Trash and garbage must be disposed of in bear-resistant food containers or trash dumpsters available at campgrounds. Scrape unwanted food from pots and plates and place in trash container.
- Never leave food, containers, or garbage unattended even for just a few minutes.



Bears sometimes charge, coming within ten feet of a person before stopping or veering off. Dropping a pack may encourage the bear to approach people for food. STAND STILL until the bear moves away, then slowly back off.

IF A GRIZZLY MAKES CONTACT WITH YOU, PLAY DEAD. Curl up into a ball with your knees tucked into your stomach and your hands laced around the back of your neck. Leave your pack on

to protect your back. If the attack is prolonged, fight back vigorously.

IF A BLACK BEAR MAKES CONTACT WITH YOU, FIGHT BACK.

#### **Backcountry**

The Backcountry Information Center issues bear-resistant food containers

with your backcountry permit. These containers are lightweight, cylindrical canisters specifically designed to keep bears from obtaining food and garbage. Since the introduction of mandatory bear-resistant trash cans in 1984, there has been a 95% reduction in bears obtaining backpackers' food and an 88% decrease in property damage.

- All food, including freeze-dried and canned foods, beverages, and odorous items, such as soap and sunscreen, must be kept in the bear-resistant food containers when not in use.
- Cook and store food at least 300 feet downwind from your tent in an area with good visibility in all directions. Keep an eye out for approaching bears. Be prepared to put food away in a hurry.
- Avoid cooking greasy or odorous foods. Do not sleep in the same clothes you wore while cooking.
- Keep a clean camp. Pack out all garbage.

#### **Pepper Spray**

The use of pepper spray as a bear deterrent is a personal choice. If you decide to carry it, be aware that wind, spray distance, rain, and product shelf life all influence its effectiveness. When traveling on buses, tell the driver you have pepper spray so it can be secured appropriately.

# Denali-Then and Now

By Ingrid Nixon

By the early 1920s, Mount McKinley National Park was on the list of must-sees for adventuresome tourists. In 1922, park officials recorded seven visitors, but the number grew steadily from year to year. Today, over 400,000 visitors come to what is now known as Denali National Park and Preserve. How would a summer visit back then compare to a visit today?

**Length of visit:** Today's visitors traveling on a package tour may pause to experience the park for 24 to 48 hours. There were also "24-hour guests" and "48-hour guests" at the Savage Tourist Camp, which operated near the present-day location of the Savage River Campground from 1923 through 1939. Some visitors stayed longer to do an extended trip into the park via horseback.

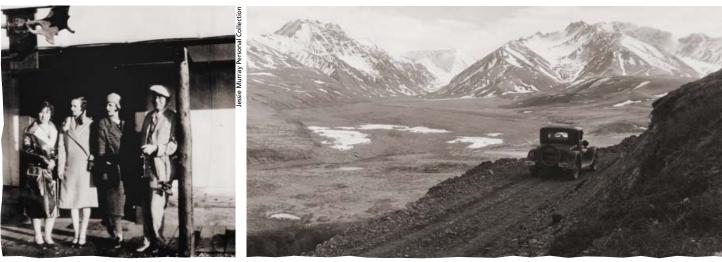
**Arrival:** The Alaska Railroad began delivering passengers to Mount McKinley National Park in 1922. Until completion of the Parks Highway in 1972, it was the "only" way to get here other than flying, overland trail or river. Today, the railroad continues to be a major transportation link to the park as evidenced by the bustling daily activity around the depot throughout the summer.

**Visitor Centers:** Park officials have always sought to address the questions of eager visitors. In the park's early days, folks stopped by the superintendent's office to chat. Today's visitors can talk with staff and peruse exhibits at the Denali Visitor Center and the Murie Science and Learning Center. Park rangers also staff a temporary exhibit area at Toklat (Mile 53) during reconstruction of the Eielson Visitor Center (Mile 66), which is slated to open in 2008.

**Conveyances:** By the late 1920s, touring cars bumped and jostled visitors from the depot to Savage River Tourist Camp and beyond. Guests could also do the Big Game Drive via stagecoach up the Savage River valley and multi-day saddle horse trips to Copper Mountain. Over time, horses were phased out and touring cars gave way to buses, which have shown steady improvement in passenger comfort and safety.

**Park Road:** Between 1922 and 1938, the Alaska Road Commission (ARC) constructed a 90-mile ribbon of road into the heart of the park. Acting NPS Director Arno Cammerer asked the ARC to select the road route in order to "allow the visitor going over the road the best possible views and vistas ... avoiding a straight line ...(and) care be taken in clearing for the

inces Erickson Collection, Denali National Park and Preserve





roadbed by protecting the trees and shrubbery, springs or beautiful rock formations ..." Through the years the Park Road has changed some. Yet, it continues to serve as a portal to Denali's wilderness.

Wilderness: Since its formation, Denali has provided visitors the opportunity to discover wildness. By seeking to protect the elements of a vast landscape and by understanding the need for limits, park managers and visitors continue to help preserve experiences that are increasingly rare elsewhere on the planet. Whether it is sighting wild grizzlies or attempting to reach the highest point of North America or finding solitude on a short walk, Denali provides the chance to connect with the primeval landscape.



A driver and his touring car, circa 1930.

Visitors pose with caribou antlers outside the superintendent's office.

Visitors on an outing at Sable Pass, 1928.



### **Sunday Quiet Nights**

This summer things will be a little quieter along the park road corridor on Sunday nights. As part of the ongoing study of the impacts of road traffic to park resources, all road permit holders are being asked to

not travel between the Savage River check station and Wonder Lake on Sunday nights throughout the summer. This includes professional photographers and Teklanika campers.

The reduced traffic time will start at 10 p.m. on Sunday and end at 6 a.m. on Monday from May 20 to September 9. Emergency travel should be noted on the clipboard at the Savage River check station.

This "quiet night" will help researchers evaluate the behavior of collared wildlife in relationship to road traffic levels. Movements of collared animals on quiet nights with little or no traffic will be compared to movements on nights of unrestricted traffic.

Results of the study will help

park managers better understand what effects, if any, vehicle numbers have on wildlife along the road corridor and the visitor experience. Results are expected to be available in 2008.





Bicycles are permitted on the Park Road and can be transported on camper shuttle buses on a space available basis with reservations. Catch the bus at Riley Creek bus stop. Maximum of two bikes per bus. Before traveling into the park on your bike, please stop by the Backcountry Information Center, Wilderness Access Center or the Denali Visitor Center for more information.

# **Park Partners**



Look to the Alaska Natural History Association for more information on Denali National Park and Preserve's wildlife, geology, trails, and history. As the principal nonprofit educational

Natural History

partner of Denali, Alaska Natural History operates bookstores with an extensive collection of materials on the natural and cultural heritage of Denali National Park and Preserve. Your purchases support educational programs offered by park rangers, visitor center exhibits, volunteer programs, this visitor guide, and other services. Drop by the Denali bookstore located next to the Denali Visitor Center.

Alaska Natural History partners with more than thirty public lands across Alaska. Members receive discounts on purchases made at bookstores throughout Alaska and on-line. For more information call 907-274-8440 or toll-free 866-AK PARKS, or visit us on the web at www.alaskanha.org.



Alaska Natural History offers hands-on learning programs at the Murie Science and Learning Center through its institute. Visit www.murieslc.org.

The Denali Education Center partners with the National Park Service through the Murie Science and Learning Center on educational programs for adults and children. Visit www.denali.org.





Denali Borough School District

The Denali Borough School District provides technical support and equipment to Denali National Park and Preserve, has donated a state-of-the-art video conferencing unit for park use, and is a frequent partner in grant writing opportunities that make many park programs possible. Visit http://denali.ak.schoolwebpages.com.

The University of Alaska partners with Denali National Park and Preserve in research and educational activities. For information visit www.uaf.edu.

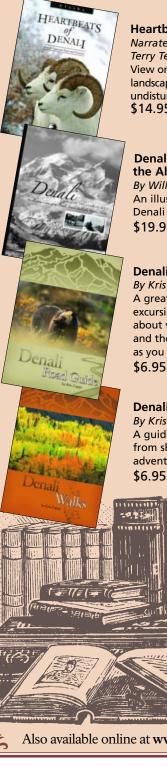




The National Park Foundation provides support to parks throughout the United States, including Alaska. For more information visit www.nationalparks.org.

Visit the bookstore near the Denali Visitor Center to find these useful guides. In addition to books, visitors will also find maps, journals, posters, field bags, and more.

### **Planning Your Trip**



#### Heartbeats of Denali

Narrated by Terry Tempest Williams View one of America's wildest landscapes and experience nature undisturbed. DVD 28 minutes. \$14.95

Denali: Symbol of the Alaskan Wild By William E. Brown An illustrated history of Denali National Park. \$19.95

Denali Road Guide

By Kris Capps A great companion for your excursion into the park. Learn about wildlife, habitats, geology and the human history of Denali as you travel the Park Road. \$6.95

#### Denali Walks

By Kris Capps A guide to twenty trails, from short walks to day adventures in Denali.

Also available online at www.alaskanha.org

## Contact Information

#### Phone

Alaska Division of Tourism	907-465-2012
Alaska Natural History Association	907-683-1272
Alaska Railroad	800-544-0552
Denali Park Headquarters	907-683-2294
Healy/Denali Chamber of Commerce	907-683-4636
Lost and Found	907-683-9275
Shuttle & Campground Reservations	800-622-7275
Talkeetna Chamber of Commerce	907-733-2330
Talkeetna Ranger Station	907-733-2231

#### **Alaska Public Lands Information Centers**

Anchorage	
Fairbanks	
Ketchikan	
Tok	

#### For Topographical Maps and Other Publications

Alaska Natural History Association P.O. Box 230, Denali Park, AK 99755 phone: 907-683-1272 or www.alaskanha.org

### **Please Contact Us**

Denali National Park and Preserve P.O. Box 9, Denali Park, AK 99755 phone: 907-683-2294 e-mail: DENA\_Info@nps.gov www.nps.gov/dena

# Emergencies– Dial 911

Be prepared to give your location as Denali National Park. Call to report accidents, fires, or life-threatening emergencies. Since there are no phones west of Park Headquarters, emergencies should be reported to rangers on patrol, campground hosts, bus drivers, or to staff at ranger stations or Toklat Contact Station.

## What's Burning?

The smoke that you see or smell originates from fires burning in the boreal forest of the park. Lightning ignites a highly flammable black spruce and fire quickly consumes the tree. The intense heat opens serotinous cones and disperses new seeds onto the forest floor, thus continuing the evolutionary cycle that has gone on for 10,000 years. Fire is a constant force of regeneration. When you experience smoke, stop and think about the value of fires to the boreal forest of Denali National Park and Preserve.

🕅 Entrance Fees	IS.
7 Day Pass — Individual	\$10
7 Day Pass — Vehicle	\$20
Denali National Park & Preserve Annual Pass	\$40
110	

America Beautiful Interagency Passes

nnual	 \$80
nior	 \$10
cess	 Free
	Í.
	 Free