



ALPENGLOW

VISITOR GUIDE



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Welcome to Denali National Park and Preserve!

There is much to look forward to this year, as we plan for the opening of a spectacular new facility and continue work on other projects that will enhance your visit to the park and help us protect this special place.

The new Eielson Visitor Center, which has been under construction for the past three years, will open to the public in June 2008. We will hold a grand opening event on August 12 to celebrate. This stunning building is much larger than its predecessor, yet blends in with the alpine landscape that surrounds it, as it emerges from the tundra and boulders on the hillside, making it almost invisible to approaching traffic. The interior space contains exciting new exhibits, an indoor program area, and a dining area, all designed to enrich the experience of the visitors who travel into the heart of the park.

From the very start, the park wanted the new visitor center to be sustainable and set the goal to earn the highest possible rating under the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System. If achieved, this building will be the first Platinum Certified building in the National Park Service.

Features contributing to the certification include sky lights to bring natural light into the building and use of hydroelectric power and photo-voltaic panels to provide

the power for the building. Use of local, regional, recycled, and rapidly renewable materials made construction of the building more sustainable as well.



The park received additional funding this year to assist in providing visitor services at Eielson Visitor Center and other parts of the park. We hired additional summer seasonal employees with these funds in the anticipation that they will make your visit more enjoyable. Besides answering questions in our visitor centers, these new employees will be leading hikes in the backcountry and helping to maintain our buildings and the Park Road.

We are confident that your visit to Denali will be an experience of a lifetime! Please enjoy the park safely and treat it with great care. Thank you for your assistance in preserving and protecting this amazing place, leaving it unimpaired for future generations to enjoy.

Elwood Lynn
Acting Superintendent

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Making the Most of Your Visit

IF YOU HAVE A HALF DAY...

attend one of the sled dog demonstrations or attend 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 10). 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 13).

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 4). Keep a lookout for moose, caribou, and wolves. On a clear day, Mount McKinley may be seen in the distance near mile 9.

TAKE a guided Natural History Tour of the park to Primrose Ridge (see page 4).

IF YOU HAVE A FULL DAY...

take a bus to Toklat or beyond. 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 13). You must sign up in advance at the Denali Visitor Center for Discovery Hikes. Group size is limited.

SIGN UP for an education program at the Murie Science and Learning Center.

TAKE a guided Tundra Wilderness Tour of the park to Toklat River (see page 4).

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.

TAKE a walk departing from the Denali Visitor Center.

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.

CHECK outside the park for activities including 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.



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 free 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	2 hours roundtrip	5-1/2 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 \$22.75 Young Adult Single Fare \$11.50 Youth Single Fare FREE	Adult Single Fare \$22.75 Young Adult Single Fare \$11.50 Youth Single Fare FREE

Shuttle Buses

Shuttle Buses are for transportation and wildlife viewing. All shuttle buses depart from the Wilderness Access Center (WAC) only. Passengers may get off along the Park Road and re-board later buses on a space available basis with a ticket for that day. Expect waits of up to an hour to re-board a shuttle bus.

Bring plenty of food, water, and adequate warm clothing. You may also want to bring field guides, binoculars, and a camera.

Fares are dependent on turn-around destination and do not include entrance fees, which are \$10.00 per person. Youth discounts apply.

Dates of Operation: May 20 through September 11, 2008. Departure times vary during shoulder season.



Tour Buses

Tundra Wilderness Tour

Wildlife viewing and narrated tour of the park to Toklat River (Mile 53). Tours depart in early morning and afternoon. A snack and hot beverage are served.

Length of Tour: 7-8 hours

Dates of Operation

Core Season May 20-September 11, 2008
Shoulder Season May 15-19 and September 12-20, 2008
Dates subject to change.

Natural History Tour

Narrated tour of the park to Primrose Ridge (Mile 17). Morning and afternoon departures available. A snack and beverage are provided.

Length of Tour: 4-1/2-5 hours

Kantishna Experience

Narrated tour to historic gold mining area of Kantishna located at the end of the Park Road (Mile 90). Meet a ranger for a walk and talk. Lunch and beverages included.

Length of Tour: 11-12 hours

Departure

Tour Buses depart from area hotels and the Wilderness Access Center.

For More Information visit www.nps.gov/dena

For Reservations: See page 6 or visit www.reservedenali.com

Weather: The start and end dates of all bus services are weather dependent.

Wheelchair Accessible Buses are available on all bus systems. Please advise staff of your needs when you make your reservation.

Children under 4 years or under 40 pounds must be in a carseat to ride on buses. Please make arrangements to bring your own carseat.

*Bus service starting dates vary to these locations.

Eielson Visitor Center* (Mile 66)	Wonder Lake* (Mile 85)	Kantishna* (Mile 90)	Camper Bus
The new Eielson Visitor Center is built into the tundra slopes. Its roof serves as an observation deck that provides outstanding opportunities for viewing wildlife, the tundra landscape, and Mount McKinley.	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, moose, and birds along the way.	Kantishna is primarily a destination for tour buses, lodge visitors, and backpackers for backcountry access. Please respect the private lands in this area.	Tent campers can access backcountry units or Sanctuary, Teklanika, Igloo, and Wonder Lake campgrounds by camper bus. Reserve a seat when making a camping reservation. Camper bus passes are good on any green bus, space available, for the entire time you are west of Mile 20.
8 hours roundtrip	11 hours roundtrip	13 hours roundtrip	Time dependent on destination
Adult Single Fare \$29.25 Young Adult Single Fare \$14.50 Youth Single Fare FREE	Adult Single Fare \$40.00 Young Adult Single Fare \$20.00 Youth Single Fare FREE	Adult Single Fare \$43.75 Young Adult Single Fare \$21.75 Youth Single Fare FREE	Adult Single Fare \$29.25 Young Adult Single Fare \$14.50 Youth Single Fare FREE

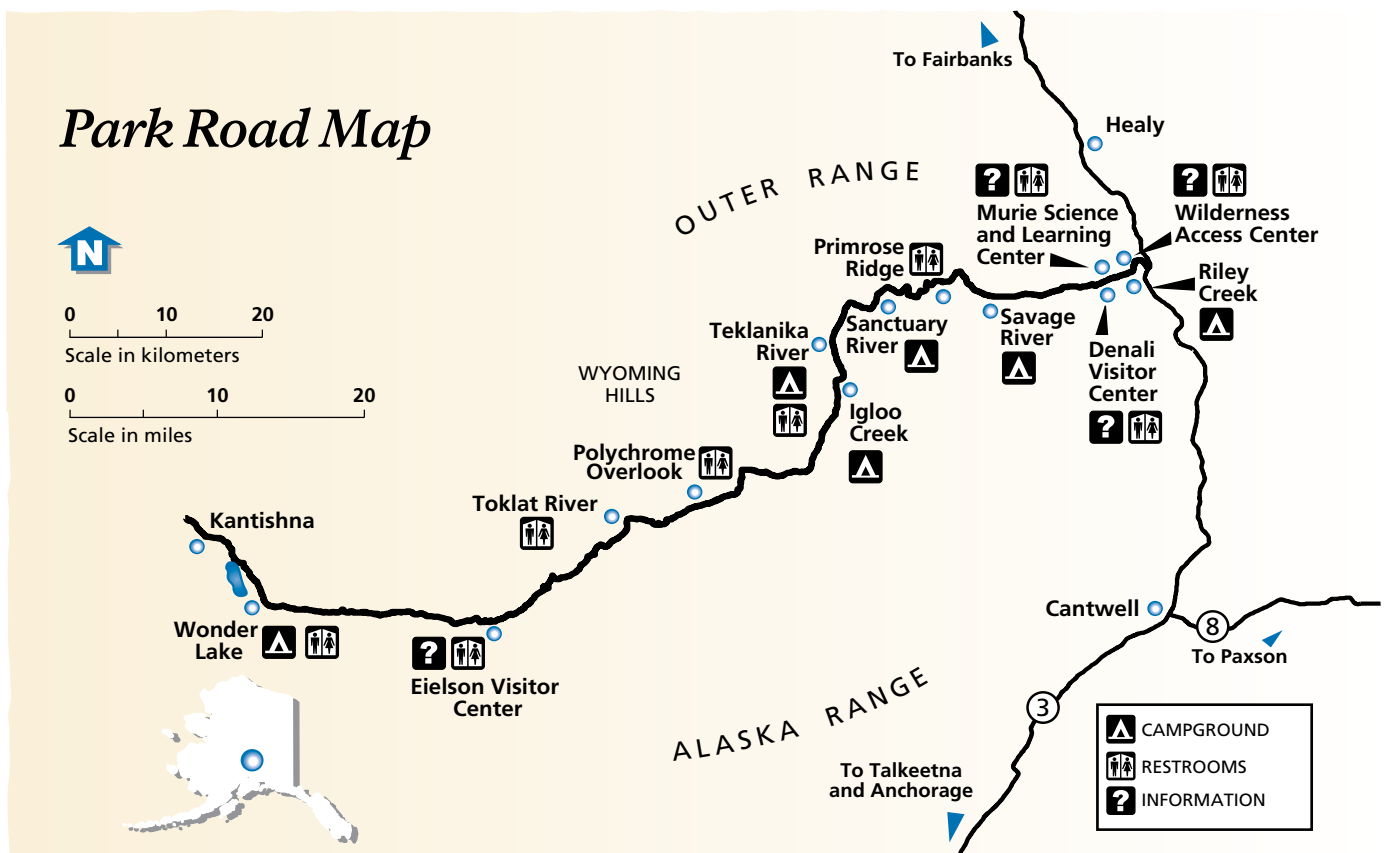
Entrance Area Buses

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 20 through September 11, 2008, weather permitting.

Wheelchair Accessible buses are available.

Riley Creek Loop Bus	Dog Sled Demo Bus
Free transportation around the entrance area of the park. Loops continuously throughout the day, see schedule at bus stops and visitor centers. Board at Riley Creek Campground, Wilderness Access Center, Denali Visitor Center bus stop, Murie Science and Learning Center, and Horseshoe Lake Trailhead.	Free, roundtrip transportation for each 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. dog demo. Board only at the Denali Visitor Center bus stop 40 minutes before demo . No parking at kennels area.
30 minutes roundtrip	1.5 hour roundtrip
FREE	FREE



Reservations for Buses and Campsites

ADVANCED RESERVATIONS for all bus services and campsites for the 2008 season are available through September 11, 2008. Each shuttle reservation may include a maximum of eight seats. Make reservations online or by phone, fax or mail.

PHONE LINES are open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Alaska Time) daily. 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
www.reservedenali.com

FAX AND MAIL-IN service begins December 1 and continues through August 31 each year. Fax and mail requests will be processed in the order received.

FAX 907-264-4684. Requests must be received no less than two days before travel. Download a fax form from www.nps.gov/dena to ensure you include all the necessary information.

MAIL your request to:

Doyon/ARAMARK Joint Venture
 2445 West Dunlap Ave.
 Phoenix, AZ 85021

Requests must be received 30 days before travel date.

When faxing or mailing reservation requests, include the name and age of each passenger, as youth discounts

do apply. It is always helpful to include alternate dates of travel.

FEES: In addition to the costs listed in the chart below, please include an entrance fee of \$10.00 per individual, \$15.00 per motorcycle or \$20.00 per vehicle. Payment can be made by credit card, check (received ten working days in advance), or money order. Cancellation fees apply.

REFUND POLICY: For each shuttle bus seat and/or campground site there is a \$4.00 cancellation fee. Shuttle 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. Tour Bus cancellations must be made seven days prior to departure. No refund within 7 days. A \$4.00 change fee is collected for any changes made to existing reservations.

TICKETS: Prepaid, reserved tickets may be picked up at the WAC. 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. 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.



Campground Descriptions and Fees

Campground Name and Location	Season	Water	Facilities	Cost /Night Summer	Emergency	Reservations / Remarks
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 and vault toilets	\$12.00 walk-in \$20.00 drive-in	Pay phone near bus stop; call 911	Make reservations in advance, at the WAC, or at the Riley Creek Mercantile.
Savage River Mile 13, 33 sites for RVs and tents	May - Sept. Weather dependent	Yes	Flush and vault toilets	\$20.00	Contact camp host or Park Headquarters	Make reservations in advance, at the WAC, or at the Riley Creek Mercantile.
Savage Group Mile 13, 3 sites; tents only	May - Sept. Weather dependent	Yes	Vault toilet	\$40.00	Contact camp host or Park Headquarters	Make reservations only by calling the numbers listed above.
Sanctuary River Mile 23, 7 sites; tents only; no vehicles	May - Sept. Weather dependent	No	Vault toilet	\$9.00*	Contact Park Ranger or Park Headquarters	Make reservations in person within 2 days at the WAC or at the Riley Creek Mercantile.
Teklanika River Mile 29, 53 sites for RVs and tents	May - Sept. Weather dependent	Yes	Chemical toilet	\$16.00*	Contact camp host or Park Ranger	Make reservations in advance, at the WAC, or at the Riley Creek Mercantile.
Igloo Creek Mile 34, 7 sites; tents only; no vehicles	May - Sept. Weather dependent	No	Vault toilet	\$9.00*	Contact Park Ranger or Park Headquarters	Make reservations in person within 2 days at the WAC or at the Riley Creek Mercantile.
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, at the WAC, or at the Riley Creek Mercantile.

Teklanika Campground

Teklanika (“Tek”) campers may drive their vehicles to the campground with a minimum three-night stay. Dump your holding tanks, fill 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 farther 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	866-583-2696
Denali Rainbow RV Camping	1 N	77	907-683-7777
Denali Grizzly Bear Cabins and Campground	6 S	58	866-583-2696
Carlo Creek Lodge	13 S	25	907-683-2576
Cantwell RV Park	27 S	76	800-940-2210
Tatlanika Campground	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. Firewood may be purchased at the Riley Creek Mercantile. The use of 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 Campgrounds, generators may only be operated from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- ▲ 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.



Photo © Fabrice Simon



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 Geographic 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. 15, 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 and campground information
 Feature film
 Coffee cart
 Retail sales

BACKCOUNTRY INFORMATION CENTER

Mile 1 Park Road, adjacent to the Wilderness Access Center
 Open: May 15 to Sept. 16, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily
 Offers: Backcountry information and permits
 Bear-resistant food containers
 Maps

DENALI VISITOR CENTER

Mile 1.5 Park Road
 Open: May 15 to Sept. 16, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily
 Offers: Bus schedules
 General information
 Feature film
 Ranger-guided walks
 Interpretive programs
 Exhibits

DENALI VISITOR CENTER CAMPUS

Offers: Alaska Geographic Bookstore
 Morino Grill
 Bus stop
 Baggage check
 Lost and found (683-9275)

TOKLAT REST STOP

Mile 53 Park Road
 Open: May 15 to Sept. 15
 Offers: Alaska Geographic Bookstore
 Information

EIELSON VISITOR CENTER

Mile 66 Park Road
 Open: June 15 to Sept. 15, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily
 Offers: Information
 Ranger-guided walks
 Exhibits

Facilities and Services

▲ **Accessibility:** Most restrooms are wheelchair accessible. Savage Cabin Trail, the first ½ mile of Savage River Trail, and trails around Denali Visitor Center, Riley Creek Campground and Riley Creek are wheelchair accessible. Some tour and shuttle buses are wheelchair accessible; please advise staff of needs when making a reservation. The Denali Visitor Center and Wilderness Access Center feature films are open-captioned.

▲ **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.

▲ **Banks:** The closest bank is in Healy. ATM service is provided at the Denali Princess, McKinley Chalets, Northern Lights Gift Shop, and the Lynx Creek Store.

▲ **Gas and Propane:** On Highway #3 one mile north of the park entrance (summer); year-round in Healy, Cantwell, and Talkeetna (see map page 5).

▲ **Grocery, Laundry, and Showers:** At the Riley Creek Mercantile, located near the entrance of the park, adjacent to the Riley Creek Campground.

▲ **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 one mile north of the park entrance, at Mile 238 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).

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 is on-call. The closest physicians and hospitals are in Fairbanks.

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.

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

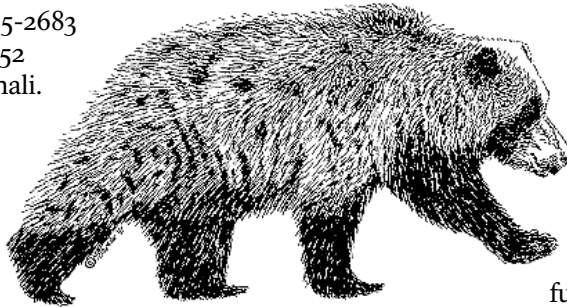
▲ **Post Office:** Located next to Riley Creek Campground.

▲ **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 12-15. Successful lottery winners (up to 400 vehicles per day) may drive the length of the Park Road in their personal vehicles. Submit applications between July 1 and July 31. All applications must be received by the park no later than August 8. Winners will be notified by August 15.

▲ **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.



In September, 400 vehicles per day may drive the Park Road during the annual Road Lottery.

Photo © Fabrice Simon

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

--- 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

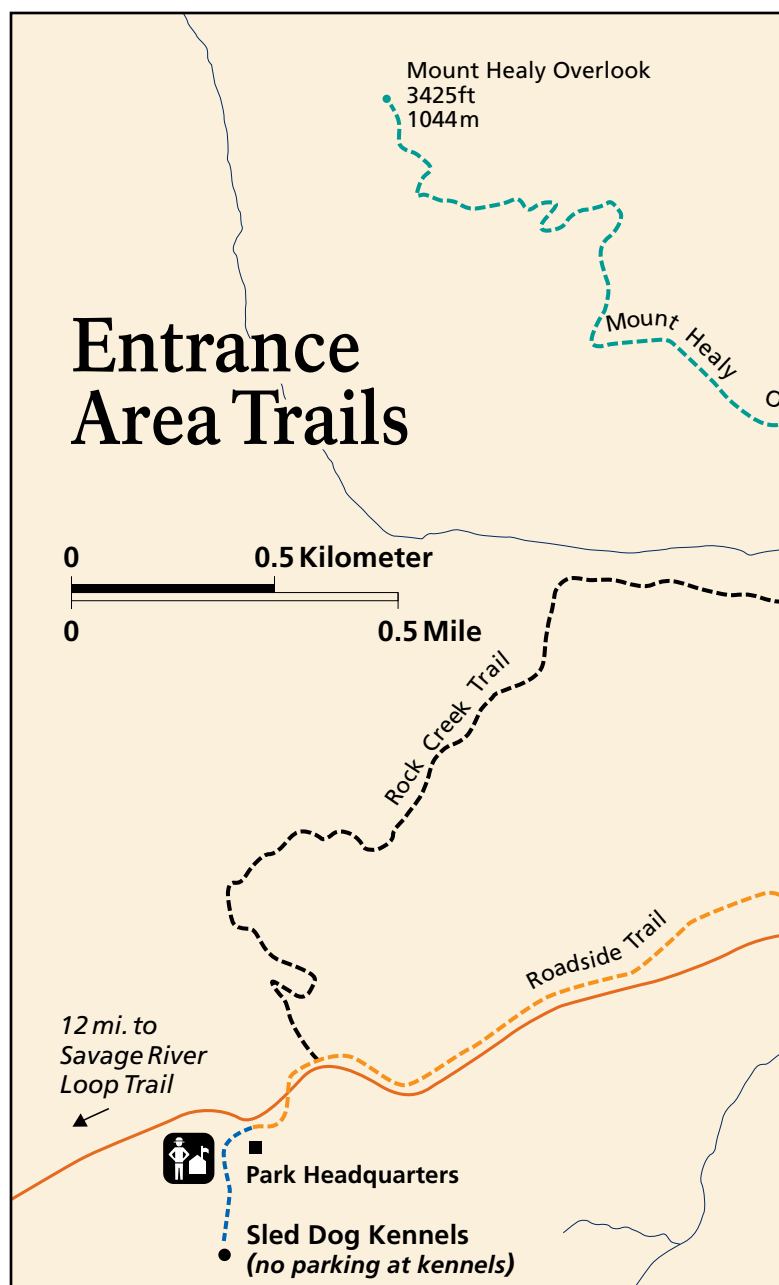
Begins at the Denali Visitor Center.

Length: 2.6 miles roundtrip

Time: 2 hours roundtrip

Hiker's Checklist

- **Food:** Avoid scented, spiced, or smoked foods. Keep food with you at all times.
- **Water:** *Giardia* occurs in the park. Boil all water or use a filter.
- **Footwear:** Wear sturdy, well-fitting hiking boots and take extra neoprene socks and gaiters to keep feet dry.
- **Clothing:** Take rain gear, a hat, and gloves. Dress in layers: wool, pile, or other non-absorbent synthetic insulation is preferable to cotton.
- **Insect Repellent and Head Net**
- **Toilet Paper:** Pack out all toilet paper, used pads, and tampons. Double wrap in plastic.
- **Essential Gear:** Bring map, compass, waterproof matches or lighter, first aid kit, knife, and a whistle or flares.
- **Emergency:** Always remember to tell someone where you are going.
- **More Information:** Check at the Backcountry Information Center.



----- 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.

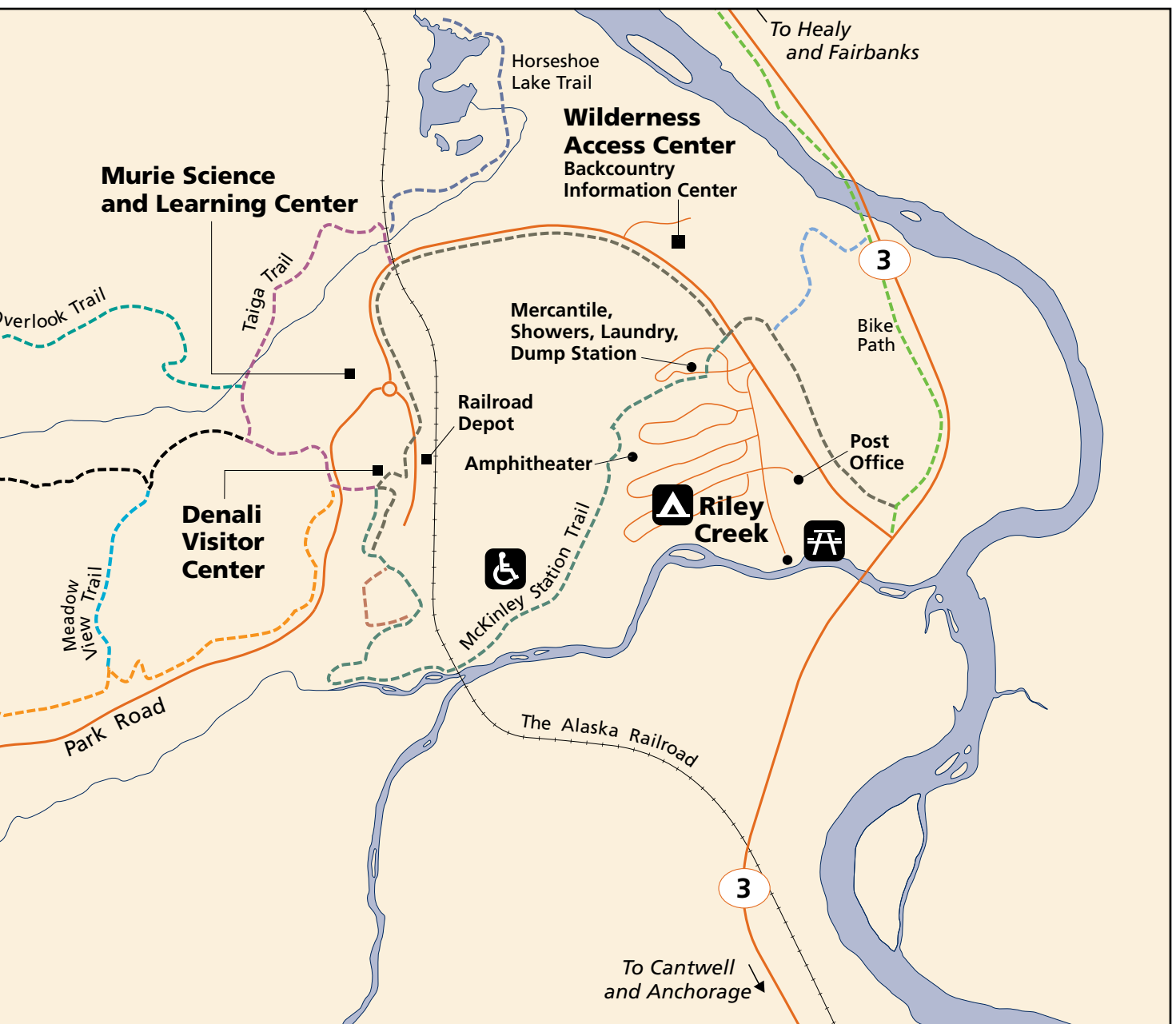
Savage River Loop Trail

Begins at Mile 15 on the Park Road. First half mile is ADA accessible. Take the Savage River Shuttle Bus (see page 4). Parking is extremely limited.

Length: 2-mile loop

Time: 1 hour

Accessibility information is available at the Denali Visitor Center or at www.nps.gov/dena



Murie Science and Learning Center



The Murie Science and Learning Center (MSLC) is part of a nationwide effort 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. The building is open to the public year-round. It features an exhibit area highlighting current park science, a classroom, and office space for visiting scientists. A team of non-governmental partners provides more than a half million dollars annually to support the center's research and educational activities. Please see page 23 for a list of partners.



Dan Irelan explores Denali's microhabitats with a participant in a Family Field Seminar.

Educational Offerings

In the summer months, the MSLC is the hub for a variety of educational offerings. Multi-day programs such as field seminars, teacher trainings, and youth camps provide a unique small-group experience in the park. At the center visitors can explore the exhibit area, join a science activity, or hear a lecture.

To find out more about the 2008 summer schedule, please stop by the Murie Science and Learning Center, look for posted information at the Denali Visitor Center or Wilderness Access Center, visit www.murieslc.org, or call 907-683-1269.

Ranger Programs

Program	Time	Description	How to Get There	Length
Sled Dog Demonstrations	10 a.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m. Limited schedule in shoulder season.	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 demonstration . No late departures. No parking at kennels.	40-minute program 1-1/2 hours total including transportation time
Campground Programs	7:30 p.m. Riley Creek Savage River Teklanika Wonder Lake	Join a ranger for this program on anything from grizzly bears to glaciers.	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.	Hikers must sign up in person at the Denali Visitor Center one or two days prior to the hike. Hikers must also purchase a \$29.25 Discovery Hike bus ticket. Group size is limited.	3-5 hours 1.5-6 miles (2.5-10 km) For hikes on the east side of the park, add a 2-5 hour roundtrip bus ride. For hikes on the west side, add a 5-8 hour roundtrip bus ride.	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. Sign-ups are not required.	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 dates and time changes.

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 may be 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.

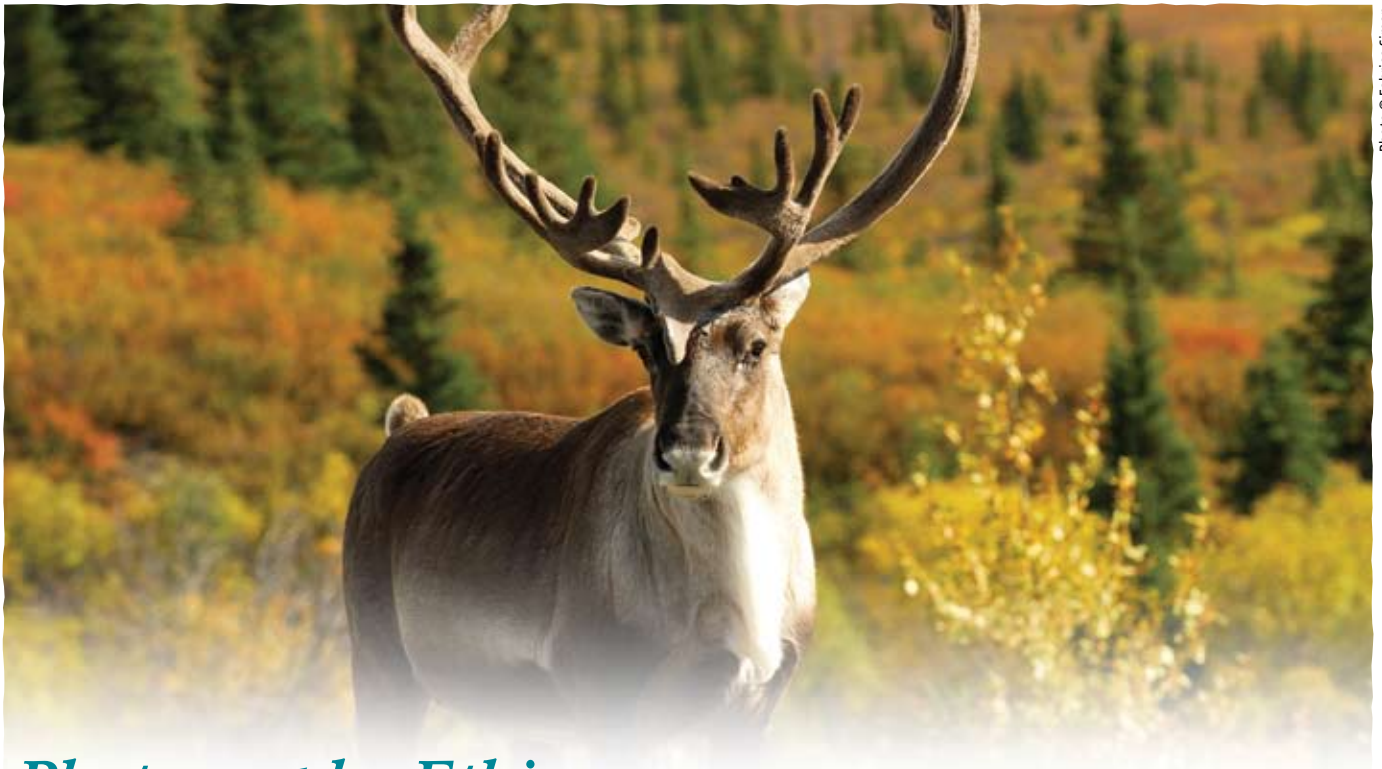
Leave Denali As You Found It

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Camp and Travel on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Others



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.”

REMINDE 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, Lynx, Wolf, Fox, Coyote, Bird Nests, Baby Birds, Animal Dens


Bear


Be Bear Aware


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, behaving naturally. 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).

Standing your ground to allow a bear to approach for photographs is prohibited. If a bear changes its behavior due to your presence, you are too close.

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 may be killed. For this reason, it is against the law to feed bears in Denali or elsewhere in Alaska, 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.

AVOIDING ENCOUNTERS

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!

Bears sometimes charge to within a few feet of a person before stopping or veering off. Dropping a pack may pique a bear's curiosity, causing it to investigate. **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 IMMEDIATELY.



Photo © Kennan Ward

Campgrounds

All food, food containers, coolers, and dirty cooking utensils must be stored in a closed, hard-sided vehicle or in a campground food-storage locker whenever they are not in use. This includes freeze-dried and canned food, as well as beverages and odorous items, such as soap, toothpaste, and sunscreen.

Keep a clean camp. Dispose of trash in a bear-resistant trash can or dumpster, available at campgrounds. Scrape unwanted food from pots and plates and place in trash container. Be sure dumpster lids are closed and latched. Do not leave items lying around your campsite.

Never leave food, containers, or garbage unattended even for just a few minutes.

Backcountry

The Backcountry Information Center issues bear-resistant food containers

with your backcountry permit. These containers are lightweight, cylindrical canisters designed to keep bears from obtaining human food and trash. Since the introduction of bear-resistant food containers in 1984, there has been a 95 percent reduction in bears obtaining backpackers' food and an 88 percent 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 100 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 and tidy camp. Pack out all trash.

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.



Why Sustainability in National Parks?

By Marisa S. James

There's a lot of talk these days about "sustainability," the ability of something to continue its existence over time. It's a hot topic because there is a growing understanding that *everything is connected* and the damage we have done to the natural world is damaging human civilization. If the human community is to sustain itself, it appears we must learn to live in such a way that the natural systems on which we depend are allowed to thrive. How do we do that?

When Americans created Mount McKinley National Park in 1917 to be preserved and protected for future generations, we also created a source of answers to that very question. Visitors to Denali will hear about its "ecosystem" and the fact that Denali's is healthy and intact. An ecosystem is a sustainable community of living organisms functioning together with all of the nonliving physical parts of an environment. By studying ecosystems, including Denali's, we can observe patterns and glean key principles by which these systems function so successfully over time. If we can begin to apply these lessons to all aspects of everyday *human* life, we can mimic the strategies of successful natural communities and enjoy all the beauty, resilience, and sustainability they demonstrate. Some call this "ecological literacy" or "ecoliteracy," a recognized field of study, and Denali's healthy wilderness is just the kind of place to begin attaining this kind of literacy.

Denali's intact ecosystem is still available for study because for the last 91 years, the National Park Service has worked hard to keep it that way. However, as global environmental trends such as climate change, habitat loss, and the proliferation of various toxins in the environment continue to unfold, there has been a growing recognition that boundaries alone will no longer preserve any national park, no matter how big its area or how well its boundaries are protected. Migratory birds that leave Denali for the winter may never return if they cannot survive in their winter home. Climate change can irrevocably change the

“The character of a society is the cumulative result of countless small actions, day in and day out, of millions of people.” – Duane Elgin

conditions of a protected area to the point that it cannot support the very ecosystem it was created to protect.

As exhibits in the new Denali Visitor Center point out, Denali is connected to the rest of the world. Everything is connected! Wilderness cannot stand alone and stranded in a sea of broken ecosystems. It is dependent on the healthy functioning of the whole planet, the bigger ecosystem of which it is a part.

So, the National Park Service cannot preserve healthy ecosystems within its boundaries while ignoring issues beyond its boundaries that, if left unresolved, will ultimately undo decades of its hard work. Consequently, operating infrastructure in national parks in a sustainable way is an important new initiative in the park service’s efforts to fulfill its mission. Denali has made great strides in waste and energy management, recycling everything from paper and aluminum to old asphalt, used anti-freeze, dog manure from the park kennels and even old buildings! Denali has converted many vehicles and buildings to alternative and renewable fuels and is in the process of completing new LEED-certified buildings such as the award-winning visitor center at the park entrance and the new Eielson Visitor Center (see article on page 20). These sustainable practices directly impact the land in Denali by minimizing toxins that would otherwise end up in the air, water, and soil in and around human-built structures. Perhaps more importantly, we hope these practices will help serve as a model of what is possible, normalizing the idea of model-



We remove cracked and rutted asphalt and crush it for later reuse. In 2005, 700 cubic yards of asphalt were recycled.

Recycled asphalt is in use at the Murie Science and Learning Center, Toklat Rest Area, our Buildings and Utilities yard, and other administrative parking areas.

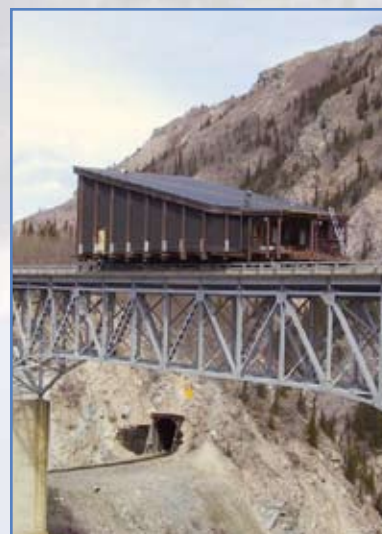
ing human practices on ecosystem principles, ultimately promoting the healthy ecosystems everywhere on which both Denali and human life depend.

Operating the park sustainably is both an expression of our understanding of how Denali’s ecosystem stays healthy and an



Anti-freeze recycler

important part of the solution to keep it that way. Fortunately for Denali’s future, the park service’s effort to be ecologically sensitive is only one sign of a much bigger trend. People around the globe are recognizing the connections between healthy lands and healthy people, and that working to promote one promotes the other. In the process of discovering how to sustain ourselves and our planet, we may even redefine what it means to live “the good life.” May Denali continue to be a healthy ecosystem far into the future, providing hope, inspiration and knowledge in our quest for that new “good life.”



Surplus buildings which are still structurally sound are often moved and used elsewhere. With years of service left, the old park theater was sold and moved to a church twelve miles north of the park entrance to be used for church activities and events.

The New Eielson: Walking the Talk

This summer, Denali celebrates the opening of the new Eielson Visitor Center. Created to replace an aging facility that could no longer accommodate the park's growing number of visitors, the new facility serves as an example of the park's commitment to sustainable practices. All of its environmentally friendly qualities might not be so obvious.

Building into the hillside on top of the old visitor center site minimizes disturbance to the area and allows visitors to see more tundra and mountains. Landscape rocks, concrete blocks, and other building

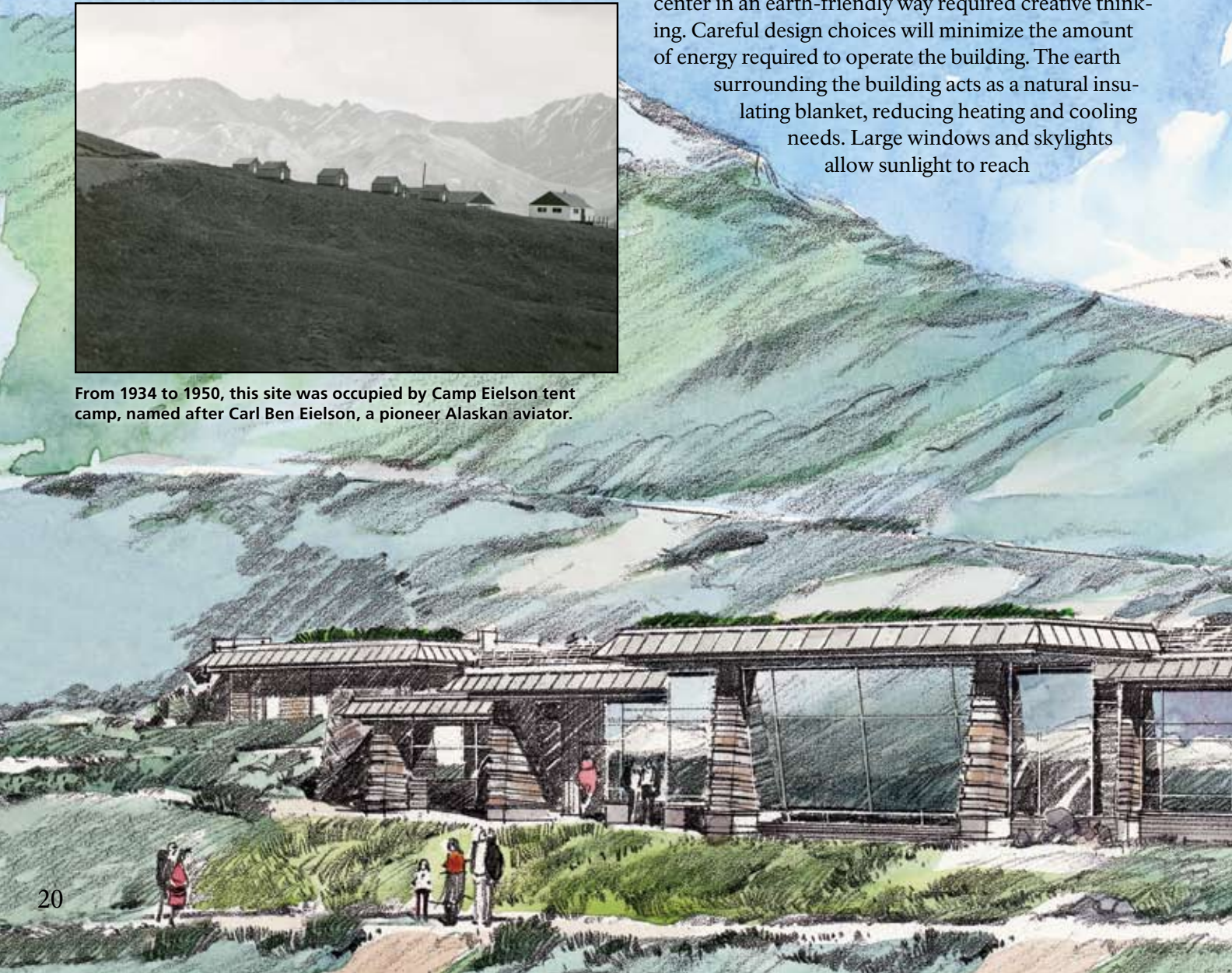
materials originated within 500 miles of the site, which reduced transportation and fuel use during construction. Materials from the old building have been re-used wherever possible.

Native tundra plants salvaged from the construction site will be replanted around the center, helping the building blend into the landscape. These plants and porous gravel surfaces around the building will help minimize runoff and erosion by allowing water to seep into the ground.

Eielson is "off the grid" so powering this remote visitor center in an earth-friendly way required creative thinking. Careful design choices will minimize the amount of energy required to operate the building. The earth surrounding the building acts as a natural insulating blanket, reducing heating and cooling needs. Large windows and skylights allow sunlight to reach



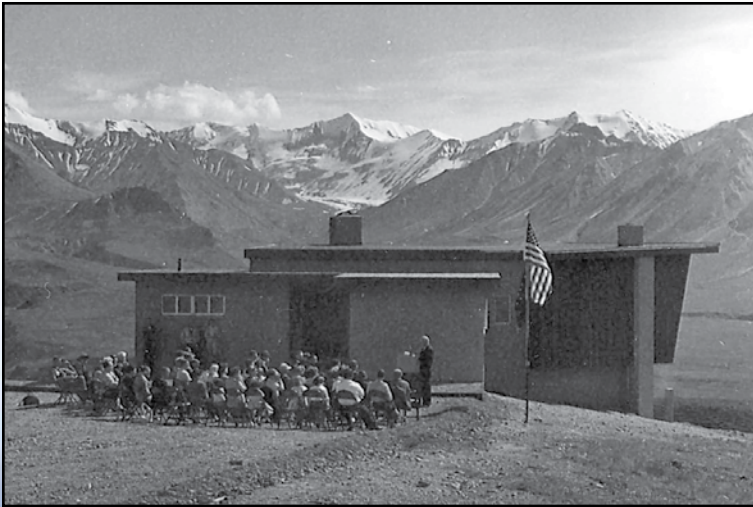
From 1934 to 1950, this site was occupied by Camp Eielson tent camp, named after Carl Ben Eielson, a pioneer Alaskan aviator.



LEEDing the Way

Just how earth-friendly is this visitor center?

Throughout design and construction, the National Park Service made sustainability a primary goal, striving for high marks under the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System. The building design team set the goal of earning a Platinum rating, the highest rating possible. If attained, this building will be the first such building in the National Park Service. The Denali Visitor Center, near the park entrance, earned a Silver certification in 2005.



In 1960, the park unveiled the first Eielson Visitor Center, which was doubled in size in 1976.

the darkest areas of the building, reducing the need for electric lights. South-facing windows and a concrete floor in the viewing area capture heat from the sun, which helps warm the building.

For power, building designers took a three-pronged approach. A small hydroelectric generator in a creek

nearby provides electricity. Solar panels capture sunlight when available. These renewable energy sources will be augmented by use of a propane-fired generator—a clean burning fossil fuel. Energy from these three sources is stored in batteries until power is needed.



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.

<i>I'd enjoy...</i>	Shuttle Bus	Camper Bus	Kantishna Experience Tour	Natural History Tour	Tundra Wilderness Tour
... a hike	■				
... 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.

CAMPFIRES are allowed in Riley, Savage, and Teklanika campgrounds. Firewood is available at Riley Creek Mercantile.

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

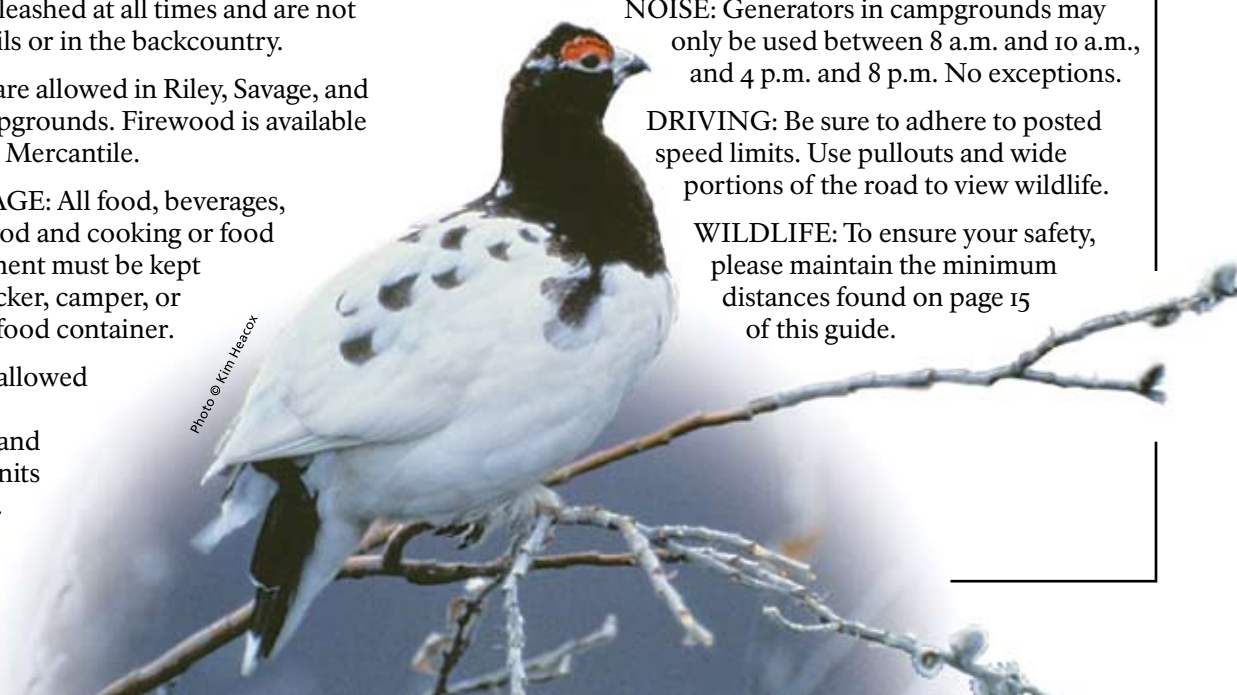
CAMPING is allowed at established campgrounds and backcountry units by permit only.

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 15 of this guide.

Photo © Kim Heercox



Park Partners



Alaska
Geographic

Look to the Alaska Geographic Association for more information on Denali National Park and Preserve's wildlife, geology, trails, and history. As the principal nonprofit educational partner of Denali, Alaska Geographic 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 bookstore located next to the Denali Visitor Center or the Toklat Rest Stop along the Park Road.

Alaska Geographic partners with more than 30 public lands across Alaska. Members receive discounts on purchases made at bookstores throughout Alaska and online. For more information call 907-274-8440 or toll-free 866-AK PARKS, or visit us on the web at www.alaskageographic.org

Alaska Geographic offers hands-on learning programs at the Murie Science and Learning Center through its Institute. Visit www.mslc.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

Doyon/ARAMARK Joint Venture is Denali's concessioner and provides its support to many park programs and events.



DOYON, LIMITED



Denali National Park Concession Joint Venture



Denali Borough School District

The Denali Borough School District provides technical support and equipment to Denali 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 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 or at the Toklat Rest Stop 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.

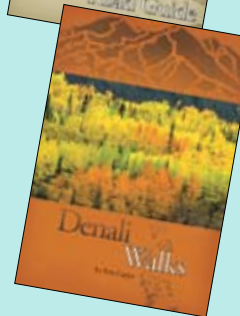
\$19.95



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.

\$6.95



Also available online at www.alaskageographic.org

Contact Information

Phone

Alaska Division of Tourism..... 907-465-2012
Alaska Geographic Park Bookstore..... 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..... 907-271-2737
Fairbanks..... 907-456-0527
Ketchikan.....907-228-6220
Tok..... 907-883-5667

For Topographical Maps and Other Publications

Alaska Geographic Association
P.O. Box 230, Denali Park, AK 99755
phone: 907-683-1272 or www.alaskageographic.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 Eielson Visitor Center or Toklat Rest Stop.

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

7 Day Pass — Individual.....	\$10
7 Day Pass — Vehicle.....	\$20
7 Day Pass — Motorcycle.....	\$15
Denali National Park & Preserve Annual Pass.....	\$40

America the Beautiful Interagency Passes

Annual.....	\$80
Senior.....	\$10
Access.....	Free

