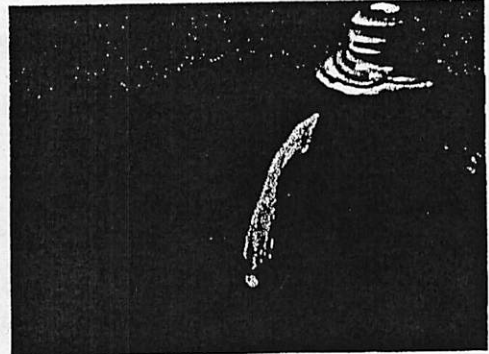
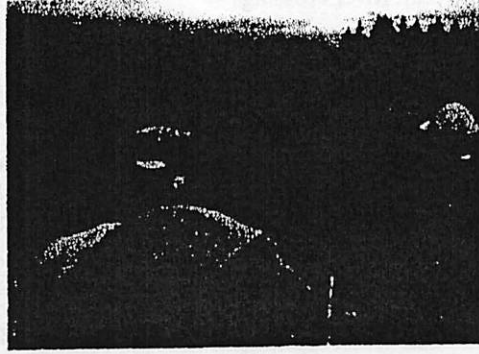




Wilderness Camping in Katmai



Are you ready for the challenge of the Katmai wilderness and the freedom to choose your own travel route in this vast trail-less backcountry? Any trip into Katmai requires a certain level of preparation to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience. The following information is intended to assist you with trip planning tips and safety information.

Regulations for Backcountry Travel

No permits are required for camping within Katmai National Park and Preserve.

Stay 50 yards away from bears or other large animals. Do not approach wild animals.

Food, garbage, and fish must be stored in approved bear resistant containers (BRC) or lockable sections of a vehicle, vessel, or aircraft. Coolers and Action Packers are NOT bear resistant.

BRCs are available for checkout (no charge) at the King Salmon Visitor Center or Brooks Camp Visitor Center.

Pack it in, pack it out. Do not burn or bury garbage.

Dispose of human body waste in 6 to 8 inch deep holes at least 200 feet from any freshwater source. Toilet paper must be packed out as garbage.

Do not disturb, deface, dig, or alter any features of any archeological sites or historical structures or remains.

Pumice and fossils are protected by state and federal laws. Leave them where you find them.

Edible fruits, berries, and nuts may be collected for personal consumption.

Camping is not permitted within the core meadows in Hallo Bay from April 1st to October 31st or within 1.5 miles of Brooks River Falls except in the designated campground on Naknek Lake.

Backcountry camping is limited to 14 consecutive nights in any one location. Your next camp must be two miles away.

Fish you keep should be immediately cleaned and consumed or stored in a bear resistant container. After cleaning fish, deposit remains in swift flowing or deep water. No fish may be cleaned at Big River or within 1.5 miles of Brooks Falls.

Campfires are permitted. Campfires leave lasting impacts, so please use a stove for cooking and a headlamp for light. Keep fires small, collect only dead & down wood, and completely break up fire rings when you leave.

You must possess a valid state license to hunt, fish, or clam. You must comply with all state and/or federal regulations that apply for the area.

No firearms, explosives, or fireworks are permitted in Katmai National Park. Firearms are allowed in Katmai National Preserve, the Alagnak Wild River and Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve.

Plan Ahead and Prepare

Know the regulations and concerns for the area you are planning to visit.

Giardia is found here. Treat or filter all drinking water.

Design your trip to match your skill level with the rugged environment and travelling safely in bear country.

This is bear country. Understand how to travel and camp safely. Know how to prevent and react to encounters with bears.

Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies. Weather along the Alaska Peninsula changes rapidly and can be very wet and cold at any time of the year. River crossings can be very dangerous.

Leave detailed trip plans and emergency information with a responsible person. The National Park Service will not initiate a search unless someone reports you as overdue.

Know the warning signs of hypothermia and how to treat them.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

When you travel and camp, confine use to durable surfaces that resist impact. These include established trails, campsites, rock, gravel or snow. In popular/impacted areas, concentrate use. In pristine areas, disperse use.

Avoid animal trails and animal food sources when choosing a campsite and sleep in a tent.

Whenever possible, do not camp within 100 feet of a lake or stream.

Separate your food storage, cooking and sleeping areas by at least 100 yards. Your basic camp set-up should resemble a triangle with food & cooking areas downwind of your tent.

Good campsites are found, not made. Do not dig, flatten or otherwise create a campsite.

Consider the use of electric fencing for camps.

Dispose of Waste Properly

If you pack it in, pack it out. Leave your campsite as clean or cleaner than when you found it.

Wash yourself and dishes at least 200 yards from lakes and streams.

Reduce trash by repackaging foods before you leave on your trip. Dispose of all trash properly.

Use biodegradable soap and scatter wash water.

Use bear resistant containers to store all items with an odor and keep your camp clean.

Bury solid human waste properly in 6 to 8 inch holes and pack out all toilet paper.

Leave What You Find

Minimize your impact on the wilderness around you. Leave only footprints, take only pictures.

Leave archeological and historical artifacts, rocks, bones, antlers, fossils, and other items of interest for others to enjoy.

Avoid damaging live plants, flowers, and trees.

Respect Wildlife



Be respectful of all wildlife and minimize any disturbance or impacts on them. Observe from a distance.

Avoid surprise encounters with bears. Make noise appropriately when travelling in areas with poor visibility. Give bears the right of way. Never run. Do not let bears get your food, garbage, or gear.

Do not follow or approach wildlife. If an animal reacts to your presence, you are too close.

Practice good catch and release techniques when fishing. Use barbless hooks and do not remove fish from the water before releasing them.

Avoid wildlife during sensitive times like mating, nesting and raising young.

Never feed animals. Feeding damages their health and alters natural behaviors.

When playing a fish, be prepared to break or cut your line when a bear approaches. Do not let a bear associate you with an easy meal!

Pets are not allowed within 1.5 miles of Brooks Falls. Elsewhere, control pets at all times, or leave them at home.

Report any unusual encounters, property damage or injuries involving bears or other wildlife to park service personnel.

Let nature's sounds prevail.