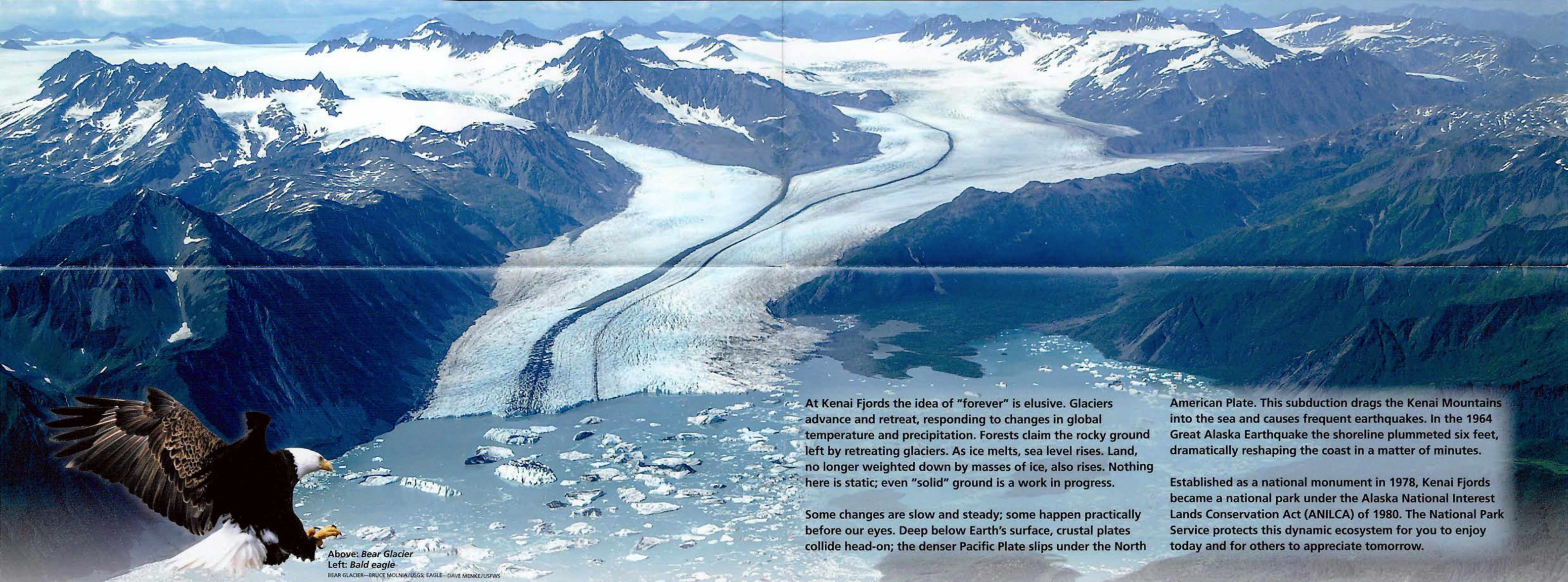




Above: Bear Glacier
Left: Bald eagle
BEAR GLACIER—BRUCE MOLNAR/USGS; EAGLE—DAVE MENKE/USFWS

Coastal Rainforest

You might be surprised to find so much greenery in this otherwise icy place. Until about 200 years ago, much of what is now green was covered by ice. As the glaciers retreated—and continue to retreat—lush temperate rainforest has taken hold.

Between the icefield and the fjords, the stages of plant succession are ongoing. Mosses, lichens, lupine, and fireweed colonize glacial till. Black cottonwoods, Sitka alders, and several species of willow mark the middle stage of this progression. Eventually pioneer species give way to conifers like mountain hemlock and Sitka

spruce. These giants of the temperate rainforest create a canopy for shade-loving ferns, shrubs, and mosses.

Each stage of plant succession creates habitat for different animals. Mountain goats pick their way on precipitous slopes. Moose browse hedges of willow and alder. You can see results of their foraging along trails. Bears—black and brown—search for grasses and berries, but also feed on salmon and carrion. Forest dwellers include wolverines, mar-mots, beavers, and snowshoe hares.

From left: Black bear; hiker and fireweed along Harding Icefield trail; glacier-carved landscape, coastal rainforest, and fjord.
FROM LEFT: PHASE CALAMARI/MPG, © RON NEBRUSSE/ACCENT ALASKA, © QT UDONIS/TERRAGALLERIA



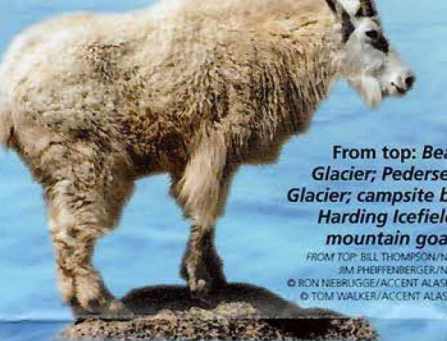
Rivers of Ice



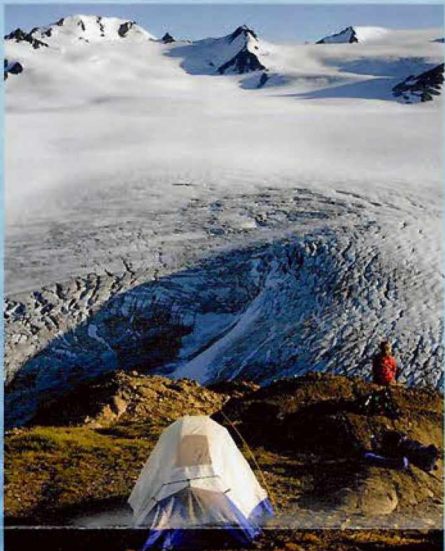
The Harding Icefield covers over half of 669,983-acre Kenai Fjords National Park and conceals a mountain range under more than a thousand feet of ice. A relic from the last glacial advance, the icefield gives us an idea of how much of North America may have looked in our planet's not-so-distant past.

Glaciers are still at work in Kenai Fjords today. Year-round storms can drop over 100 feet of snow on higher elevations. Snowflakes compact into dense glacial ice, feeding 38 glaciers that flow from the icefield. These slow-moving rivers of ice carve through the bedrock, exposing bowl-shaped cirques and broad, U-shaped valleys as they retreat.

At Exit Glacier, the only part of the park you can reach by road, follow the path of a retreating glacier and explore a landscape recently emerged from the ice. Enjoy glacier views and observe all warning signs. Falling ice and unstable ground at the edges of this active glacier are hazardous.



From top: Bear Glacier; Pedersen Glacier; campsite by Harding Icefield; mountain goat.
FROM TOP: BILL THOMPSON/USFWS, JIM PHILIPSEN/USFWS, © RON NEBRUSSE/ACCENT ALASKA, © TOM WALKER/ACCENT ALASKA



Glacial Fjords

Deep, glacier-scoured valleys fill with sea water to create the fjords. Massive icebergs crash from tidewater glaciers into the sea, adding fresh water and nutrients to the cold ocean. This mixture, further energized by long Alaskan summer days, creates one of the most productive ecosystems on Earth.

Kenai Fjords provides habitat for at least 191 species of birds. The black oystercatcher spends most of its time feeding in the rich intertidal zone. Tufted and horned puffins nest in rock crevices along the coast. Bald eagles

patrol the waters in search of salmon and other fish.

The park was established in part to protect marine mammals. The waters around Kenai Fjords provide habitat for several threatened or endangered species including humpback, sei, and gray whales and the Steller sea lion.

The orca—"killer whale"—is easy to recognize with its large dorsal fin and white markings. Though you can't tell by looking, there are three different populations of orcas in these waters: residents, transients, and offshore. Their diets vary from fish to other marine mammals, including whales and sharks.

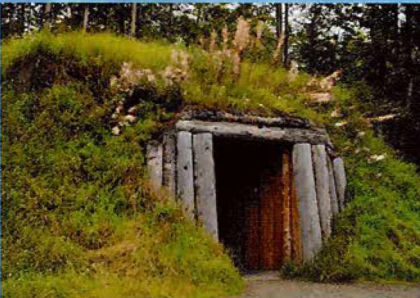
From left: Tour boat in fjord; horned puffins; sea otter; orcas.
FROM LEFT: © RON NEBRUSSE, © DONNA DEWHURST, © KEVIN SCHAFER, ALL PHOTOS—ACCENT ALASKA



At Home in Kenai Fjords

The oldest documented inhabitants of the Kenai Fjords area were the Sugpiaq, commonly known as the Alutiiq. Coastal hunters and gatherers, the Alutiiq subsisted on marine and land mammals, fish, birds, and a variety of edible plants. They lived in permanent villages and used outlying hunting and fishing camps seasonally. Today some of their descendants live in coastal fishing communities nearby.

Russian fur traders arrived in the late 1700s, followed by other Europeans and Americans in search of wealth. The 1800s and early 1900s saw commercial fisheries, homesteaders, and gold-seekers. American painter Rockwell Kent lived and worked here 1918–19. Today visitors from all over the world come to marvel at the scenery and wildlife in this setting where mountains, ice, and ocean meet.



Alutiiq village site, Alaska Native Heritage Center
ABOVE: © SPIN ERIKSON
BACKGROUND: © WAYDE CARROLL / ACCENT ALASKA

Get Set to Explore Kenai Fjords

VISITOR INFORMATION
The visitor center in Seward has exhibits, films, maps, publications, and information. Open daily in summer. The Exit Glacier Nature Center offers exhibits, publications, information, maps, and ranger-led hikes in summer. See map below for more about Exit Glacier.

The nonprofit Alaska Geographic Association sells detailed maps and publications at the visitor and nature centers.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO
In summer boat tours travel along the coast. You may see calving glaciers, seabirds, and marine mammals.

Boat charters offer overnight fjord trips and fishing trips to the fjords and Resurrection Bay.

Authorized commercial guide services offer camping, fishing, and kayaking experiences. Air charters from Seward or Homer fly over the coast for sightseeing and access to the fjords.

ACCOMMODATIONS
Seward offers visitor services and campgrounds. Exit Glacier has walk-in, summer-use campsites. Two summer-use, backcountry, public-use cabins in the fjords at Holgate Arm and Aialik Bay can be reached by boat, kayak, or float plane. In winter, a public-use cabin at Exit Glacier is available. Public-use

cabins have a three-day stay limit. Reservations are first-come, first-served, starting in January. Contact Alaska Public Lands Information Center, 605 West Fourth Ave., Suite 105, Anchorage, AK 99501; 866-869-6887.

IN THE BACKCOUNTRY
You need to be in good physical condition, use proper equipment, and take reasonable precautions. If you are planning a backcountry trip with no guide, get current, specific information from park staff before setting out.

On the Harding Icefield you must prepare for sudden storms, high winds, blinding sunlight, and extreme changes in temperature.

At Exit Glacier in winter you may face deep snow and cold temperatures. Know hypothermia symptoms and their treatment.

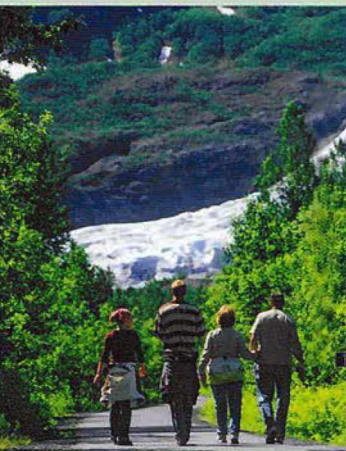
STAY SAFE, PROTECT THE PARK
Hunting and Fishing All lands and waters in the national park are closed to hunting and trapping. Alaska state fishing licenses are required. Drone use is prohibited.

Boating All federal and state boating regulations apply. A seaworthy craft and rough-water boating experience are absolutely necessary. Know your boat and its operation. Carry a maritime radio, signal equipment, and a survival kit that includes shelter, warm clothing, and extra food. Icy waters can lead to hypothermia and death in minutes. File a float plan with a responsible person.

Kayak travel in the fjords is recommended only for experienced paddlers because of rough seas and strong tidal currents. Glaciers calve without warning, posing extreme danger from falling ice and cresting waves. Never approach within ¼ mile of a tidewater glacier. Although very experienced paddlers can travel to the fjords from Seward, most kayakers arrange charter boat drop-offs and pick-ups.

Pets At Exit Glacier dogs are allowed only in the parking lot, on a leash no longer than six feet. Pets (other than service animals) are prohibited on park trails.

Camping and Parking Campers in the tents-only campground must camp in established sites. There is no overflow camping. Sleeping in vehicles is prohibited.



Family walking toward Exit Glacier

Wildlife Bear and moose are commonly seen in the park. Treat them with respect for your safety and theirs. Do not approach, disturb, or feed wildlife. Travel in groups and

make noise while hiking to avoid surprising animals. Do not take pets on trails or beaches. In the backcountry, carry and know how to use bear pepper spray. Ask staff about wildlife safety, and report encounters with bear or moose.

To minimize bear encounters in the campground, cooking is permitted only at the central cooking area. Food must be secured in the bear-proof storage locker provided. Proper food storage is mandatory in the park. All food or anything that contains food odors, including fishing catch, garbage, containers, and utensils, must be stored in a bear-resistant container. Ask park staff or check the park website for more information.

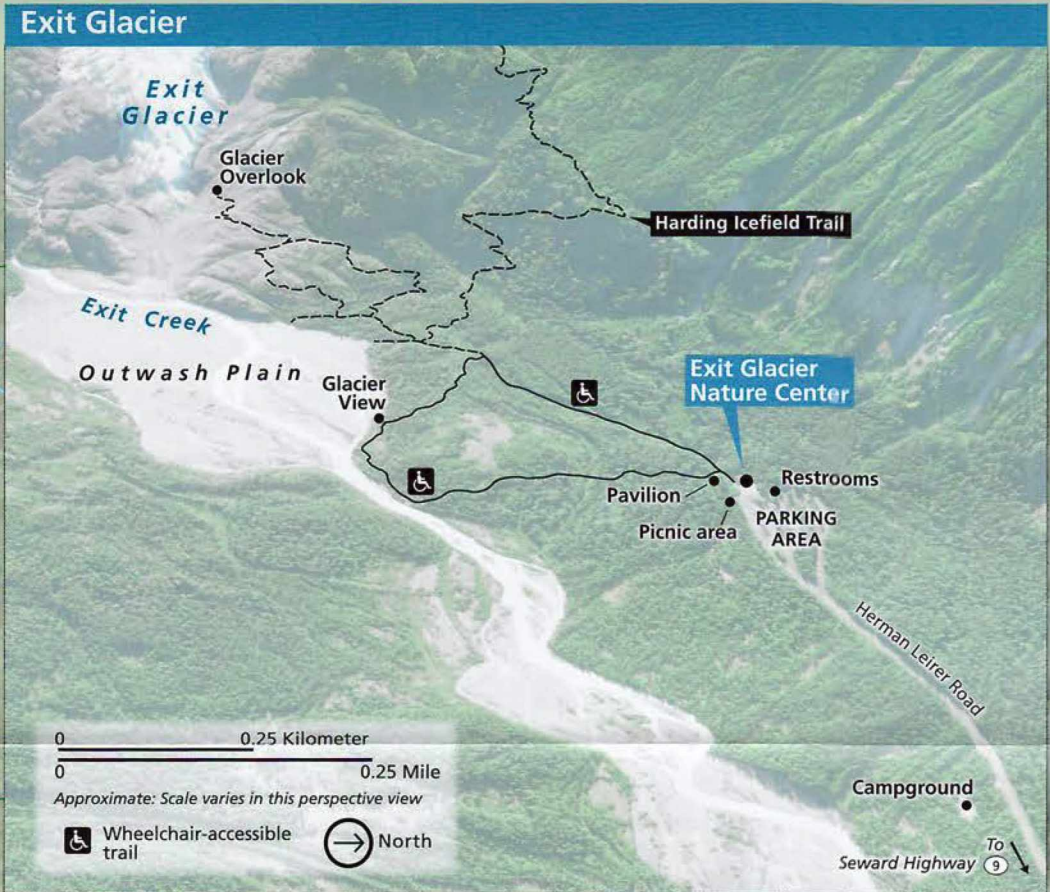
Emergencies call 911 (Seward area)
On the coast: call the Coast Guard, Marine Channel 16. Rangers patrol Nuka and Aialik bays in summer; Marine Channel 16.

MORE INFORMATION
Kenai Fjords National Park is one of over 400 parks in the National Park System. Learn more at www.nps.gov.

Kenai Fjords National Park
PO Box 1727
Seward, AK 99664
907-422-0500
www.nps.gov/kefj
Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, and other social media.

National Park Foundation
Join the park community.
www.nationalparks.org

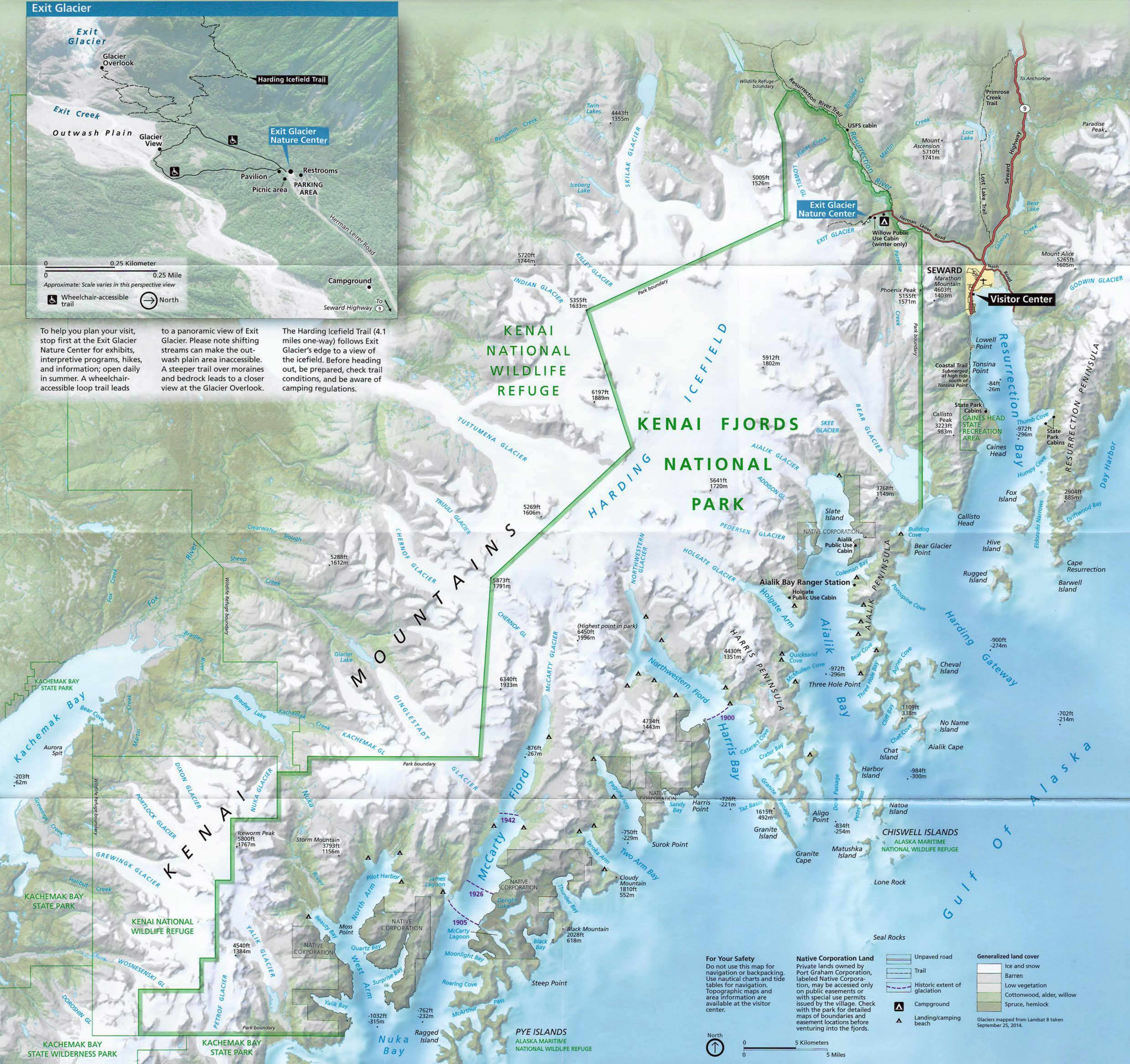
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To help you plan your visit, stop first at the Exit Glacier Nature Center for exhibits, interpretive programs, hikes, and information; open daily in summer. A wheelchair-accessible loop trail leads

to a panoramic view of Exit Glacier. Please note shifting streams can make the outwash plain area inaccessible. A steeper trail over moraines and bedrock leads to a closer view at the Glacier Overlook.

The Harding Icefield Trail (4.1 miles one-way) follows Exit Glacier's edge to a view of the icefield. Before heading out, be prepared, check trail conditions, and be aware of camping regulations.



For Your Safety
Do not use this map for navigation or backpacking. Use nautical charts and tide tables for navigation. Topographic maps and area information are available at the visitor center.

Native Corporation Land
Private lands owned by Port Graham Corporation, labeled Native Corporation, may be accessed only on public easements or with special use permits issued by the village. Check with the park for detailed maps of boundaries and easement locations before venturing into the fjords.

- Unpaved road
- Trail
- Historic extent of glaciation
- Campground
- Landing/camping beach

- Generalized land cover**
- Ice and snow
 - Barren
 - Low vegetation
 - Cottonwood, alder, willow
 - Spruce, hemlock
- Glaciers mapped from Landsat 8 taken September 25, 2014.

