

History

Long before the Euroamericans set foot in this area, the Tlingit were here. They fished the salmon streams and the many productive inlets, channels, and bays. However, by the 1800s, the local Tlingit were familiar with the newcomers.

Kowee, a Tlingit of the Auk Tribe, responded to George Pilz's reward offer by showing some gold ore samples. Pilz sent Joe Juneau and Richard Harris with chief Kowee to locate the source of the gold, and by November 1880, the stampede started.

Juneau grew from a gold-mining boomtown into Alaska's seat of government. Today, though mining and fishing are still important, government and tourism are the main driving forces of Juneau's economy.

Wickersham State Historic Site became Juneau's first state park in 1984, a fact that illustrates how proud this area is of its role in Alaska's history.



Man identified as Chief Kowee with Tlingit women in Wrangell, Alaska, Copyright 1896
Alaska State Library, #P 10141
Winter and Pond Collection, 1893-1943

For More Information

Southeast Area Office:
400 Willoughby Avenue
Juneau, AK 99811-1071
(907) 465-4563

www.alaskastateparks.org
www.alaskastatetrails.org

To report an emergency, call 911.

Welcome to Juneau Area

Alaska State Parks

Welcome

Juneau Area's state parks are favorite recreational escapes among local residents, ranging from urban historic sites to road-accessible recreation areas and marine parks that are accessible only by boat. Attractions include public-use cabins for renting, trails for hiking, skiing, and snowshoeing, campsites for lingering, and scenery for viewing and photographing.

There is something for everyone to enjoy, whether you have a half hour, an afternoon, a day, a weekend, or an entire week. Come play in the grand outdoor stage surrounding Juneau, where you might encounter a moose, spot a bear from afar, or pass an Alaskan politician on the trails.

Backpacking

Berry Picking

Biking

Bird Watching

Boating

Camping

Canoeing

Climbing

Fishing

Glacier Traversing

Hiking

Horseback Riding

Hunting & Trapping

Kayaking

Mountaineering

Photography

Picnicking

Public-Use Cabins

Packrafting

Skiing

Snowshoeing

Tracking

Whale Watching

Wildlife Viewing

Blue mussels at Point Bridget State Park



Mist on the peaks of St. James Bay SMP
Photo courtesy of Kenneth Gill



Alaska State Parks

Juneau Area Highlights

Public-Use Cabins

To say that Alaska State Parks' rustic public-use cabins in the Juneau area are popular might be an understatement. With six cabins on or near the road system and another five accessible only by water or float plane, there is sure to be one that will pique your fancy and meet your recreational needs. Most are equipped with sleeping platforms or bunks, but no mattresses and are heated with kerosene-burning stoves.

Check for water availability before you go as you may have to pack water in or treat stream water. Toilets are available near all cabins.

Don't miss out on the fun! You can reserve one of these 11 public-use cabins online at dnr.alaska.gov/parks/cabins/south.htm.



Berry Patch Public-Use Cabin



Hump Meadows Public-Use Cabin



Cowee Meadow Public-Use Cabin

Camping

The road-accessible Eagle Beach Campground has the most developed camping of all the state parks nearby, with 18 campsites available for use, including three walk-in sites. Potable water can be obtained from the campground host site and toilets are also on site.

Camping is also allowed in Point Bridget State Park and suitable spots can be found near each of the public-use cabins and on gravel bars. If you choose to camp near a cabin, please be a respectful neighbor.

Campers are also invited to pitch their tents on the beaches of Saint James Bay State Marine Park (SMP) and Channel Islands SMP. Just be sure to choose a spot above the high tide line.

Wildlife Viewing

Wildlife abounds in the Juneau area and the nearby state parks are some of the best places to see these critters. Eagle Beach State Recreation Area is known for fabulous birding opportunities in spring and autumn when large flocks of migratory birds blanket the beach and fill the air.

Nearly all the area's state parks provide fishing opportunities, and where there are fish, bears are sure to follow. Admiralty Island, where Oliver Inlet SMP is located, is especially well known for its large bear population.

With so much krill-rich coastline, humpback whales are often seen and visitors might even see them "herd" krill or herring into a ball, surround it, and take turns swimming up through this ball of prey with mouths wide open.

Humpback whale
Photo courtesy of Mike Eberhardt

Kayaking

The Juneau area is a kayaker's dream, with plenty to see and explore from the water. Popular paddling trips include a water trail between Point Bridget and Oliver Inlet with various route options among the Channel Islands.

There are plenty of possibilities for day trips, overnight, multi-day expeditions, and a variety of skill and experience levels. Get your spray skirts ready and head out on the water to enjoy breathtaking views of magnificent glaciers and mountains, narrow fjords, lush forests, numerous islands, and incredible wildlife viewing opportunities, or just paddle out to your favorite beach and relax.



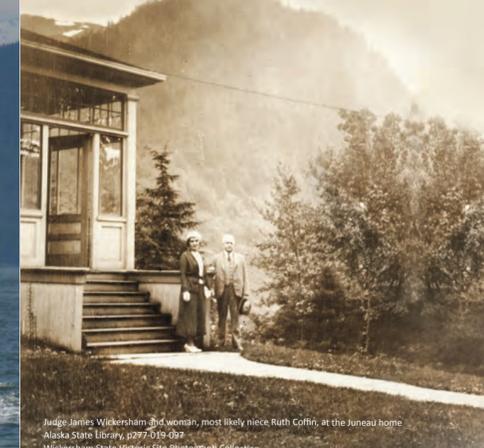
Kayakers relax on the North Island beach within Channel Islands SMP.
Photo courtesy of Mike Eberhardt

Wickersham's House and Collections

Judge James Wickersham (1857-1939) was one of the most influential people in the development of 20th Century Alaska. This house was his home between 1928 and 1939 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The state acquired the house and its contents including furnishings, personal belongings, ethnographic artifacts, and a library containing invaluable archives in 1984.

Today, visitors are invited to visit his home. The Wickersham House still contains much of the Judge's varied collections, allowing visitors the opportunity to get a glimpse of a man who once walked, mushed, and boarded steamers to get around his court circuits—a man who gained a reputation as a just and tireless protector of the people's rights over the course of his lifetime.

For more information call (907) 586-9001.



Judge James Wickersham and woman, most likely niece Ruth Coffin, at the Juneau home
Alaska State Library, #P77019-082
Wickersham State Historic Site Photograph Collection



Oliver Inlet Tram
Photos courtesy of Mike Eberhardt

Oliver Inlet Tram

When visiting the parks near Juneau, make time for a trip to Oliver Inlet SMP. A 0.75-mile tramway and boardwalk cross an isthmus of Admiralty Island and connect Oliver Inlet and Seymour Canal.

The tram system, originally built by local sportsman from rail system remnants of the Alaska-Juneau Mine, provides an easy way to move personal gear and kayaks—in pushcarts on rails! It is a unique way to experience Admiralty Island, also known as *Kootnoowoo*, which is Tlingit for "Fortress of the Bears."

The tram starts on the west side of the southernmost part of Oliver Inlet and ends near the Seymour Canal Public-Use Cabin.

Background photo: Cowee meadow in Point Bridget State Park

State Marine Parks

Saint James Bay SMP ¹

This 1,002-acre state marine park is located on the west side of Lynn Canal. The park has many protected anchorages, large concentrations of fish and wildlife, and beach landing areas. The bay is a popular area for wildlife viewing, photography, waterfowl and big game hunting, sport fishing, boating, kayaking, and camping. St. James Bay also boasts a public-use cabin. A short trail at the north side of the head of the bay leads to Boat Harbor, a beautiful and quiet inlet off Lynn Canal.

Channel Islands SMP ²

This park consists of 14 islands in Lynn Canal, approximately 25 miles northwest of downtown Juneau and is a kayaker's and small skiff operator's paradise. It is easily accessed by several local launch sites including North Douglas, Auke Bay, Amalga Harbor, and Echo Cove. Two public-use cabins tempt visitors to spend the night in comfort.

Park visitors enjoy wildlife viewing, photography, waterfowl and big game hunting, sport fishing, boating, kayaking, beach camping, and picnicking. Access by floatplane is also readily available. North Pass is a favorite fishing location for salmon and halibut and a popular whale-viewing location.

Oliver Inlet SMP ³

Oliver Inlet SMP is located on Admiralty Island southwest of Juneau. The park borders Oliver Inlet and Seymour Canal, with a 0.75-mile tramway/boardwalk connecting the two waterways. Seymour Canal has the greatest known concentration of nesting bald eagles in the world and one of the largest brown bear populations in Southeast Alaska.

Humpback and killer whales, seals, sea lions, porpoises, and Sitka black-tailed deer can also be seen there throughout the year. Trumpeter and tundra swans and other migrating waterfowl rest along the canal.

The narrow entrance to Oliver Inlet becomes an outflowing waterfall at medium tides and below, so always use caution when passing through.

Taku Harbor SMP ⁴

Taku Harbor is a natural, bowl-shaped harbor that was once home to a major salmon cannery and might have been the first outpost of the Hudson Bay Company on the west coast. Taku Harbor is frequently used as a night anchorage by commercial fishing boats and small tour ships. With its large public-use dock, it is also a popular destination point for Juneau recreational boaters. This area offers lots of fishing, hunting, and crabbing opportunities, and a public-use cabin near the dock.



Crabber on St. James Bay
Photo courtesy of Kenneth Gill



Sunset at Bridget Point
Photo courtesy of Mike Eberhardt

Road-Accessible State Parks

Wickersham State Historic Site ⁵

Between 1928 and 1939, this was the home of James Wickersham, lawyer, judge, delegate to Congress, collector, and author. The first floor, which is managed as a seasonal museum, is open to the public between mid-May and mid-September. For hours of operation, call the Wickersham House at (907) 586-9001 or Alaska State Parks' Southeast Area Office at (907) 465-4563.

Ernest Gruening State Historical Park ⁶

The site of Territorial Governor Ernest Gruening's former rustic summer home, Ernest Gruening State Historical Park features Gruening's cabin, a lush forest, breathtaking views of Lynn Canal, a salt chuck with one of the few road-accessible reversible waterfalls in North America, and excellent wildlife viewing.

Eagle Beach State Recreation Area ⁷

This recreation area is located at the saltwater confluence of the Eagle and Hebert rivers and encompasses about 600 acres with forested areas, a white sand beach, and extensive intertidal areas. Large numbers of migratory birds use this intertidal area as a resting and feeding place in the spring and fall, making Eagle Beach a birding haven.

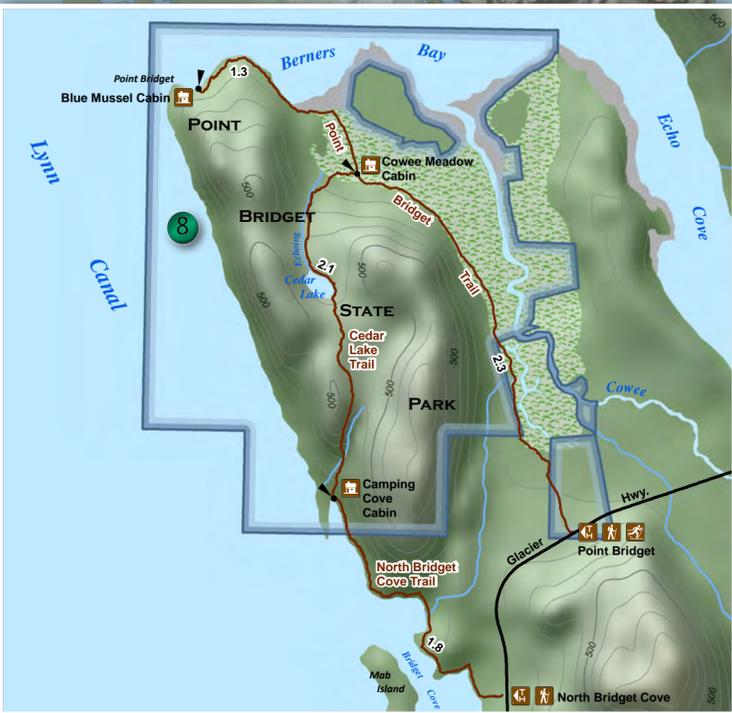
Shelters can be reserved by contacting the Alaska State Parks Southeast Area office at (907) 465-4563.

Point Bridget State Park ⁸

Captain James Cook named Point Bridget in 1794, long before this area was a state park. Today, visitors to this beautiful, 2,850-acre park can enjoy the open meadows, beaver ponds, oceanfront cliffs, salmon streams, rocky beaches, and more. The six-mile trail system leads you through the lush temperate rainforest with old growth trees to the meadows, small lakes, ponds, and streams that cover the landscape.



Dinner with a view in Oliver Inlet SMP
Photo courtesy of Leta Simons



Legend

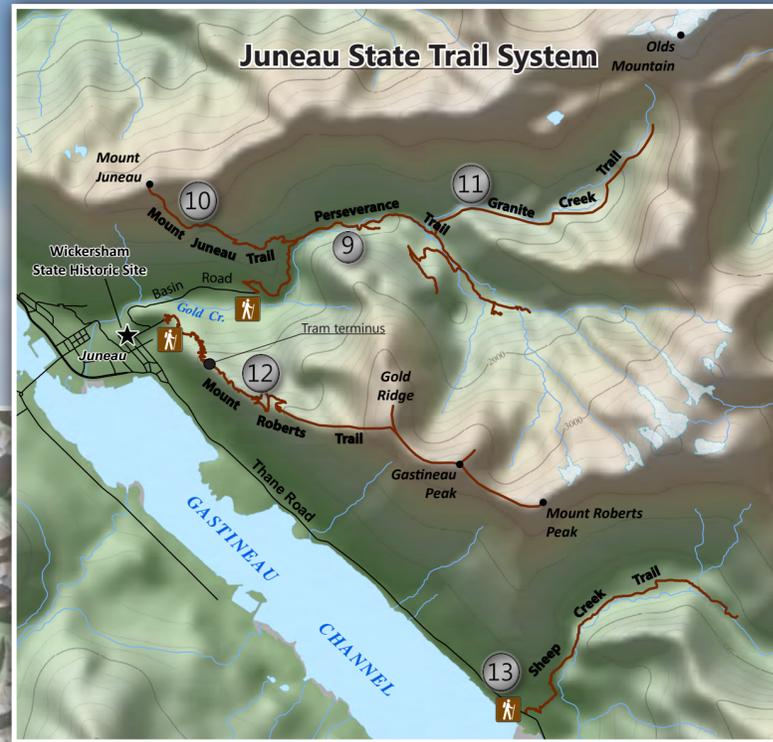
Public-Use Cabin	Hand Boat Launch	Hunting	Wildlife Viewing
RV Camping	Hiking	Fishing	Scenery
Tent Camping	Skiing	Oliver Inlet Tram	Information
Picnic Shelter	Boating	Toilet	Historical Features/Museum
Beach Access	Kayaking	Water	



Projected Coordinate System:
NAD 83 State Plane Zone 1
1:300,000

0 2.5 5 7.5 10 Miles

Not for navigational purposes



Point Bridget State Park ⁸

Saint James Bay State Marine Park ¹

Channel Islands State Marine Park ²

Eagle Beach State Recreation Area ⁷

Ernest Gruening State Historical Park ⁶

Wickersham House State Historical Site ⁵

Juneau State Trail System

Oliver Inlet State Marine Park ³

Taku Harbor State Marine Park ⁴



Lupine blooms in St. James Bay SMP
Photo courtesy of Kenneth Gill



Fishing in Bridget Point State Park
Photo courtesy of Jarrod Sowa

Juneau State Trail System

Trails accessed from Basin Road should be avoided during the winter due to extreme avalanche danger. For more information on trails in the Juneau State Trail System, including detailed camping and water availability, visit www.alaskastateparks.org and www.alaskastatetrails.org.

Perseverance Trail ⁹

Access: From downtown Juneau take Gold St. to Basin Rd. Follow it to the end.
Travel Means: Foot
Distance: 3 miles one way
Elevation gain: 1000 feet

Perseverance Trail is one of the most scenic and well-used trails in Juneau with magnificent mountain views, a good view of Ebner Falls, and old mining ruins. It also has historic value comparable to the Iditarod Trail and the Chilkoot Trail. Alaska Natives first used this route for goat hunting, fishing, and berry picking; eventually, it became Juneau's first road.

Mt. Juneau Trail ¹⁰

Access: Approximately one mile up Perseverance Trail at the end of Basin Rd.
Travel Means: Foot
Distance: 3 miles one way
Elevation gain: 3,500 feet

This trail is not for the faint of heart or the inexperienced hiker; it is a strenuous, steep hike with many slick spots that require scrambling. For this same reason, hiking during wet conditions is strongly discouraged. This hike can take from 7 to 10 hours to complete, but might reward the hiker with colorful wildflowers, glimpses of hoary marmots, spruce grouse, and sweeping views from Mt. Juneau.

Granite Creek Trail ¹¹

Access: A marked trail intersection approximately two miles up Perseverance Trail at the end of Basin Rd.
Travel Means: Foot
Distance: 3.5 miles one way from the start of Perseverance Trail
Elevation gain: 1,800 feet

This trail features wildflowers and berries, alpine lakes, and spectacular waterfalls. At the end of the trail, hikers are rewarded with the opportunity to explore a beautiful basin.

Mt. Roberts Trail ¹²

Access: Basin Rd., just beyond the wooden trestle bridge
Travel Means: Foot
Distance: 4.5 miles to Mt. Roberts Peak, 2.5 miles to Cross, 3 miles to Gastineau Peak
Elevation gain: 3,800 feet to Mt. Roberts Peak, 2,200 feet to Cross

The trail features views of Lynn Canal, plenty of wildlife viewing opportunities, and wildflowers. If you want to skip the lower 1,700 feet, hop in the Mt. Roberts Tramway and cover the distance the easy way. The trail continues from the upper terminal to Gastineau Peak and Mt. Roberts Peak.

Sheep Creek Trail ¹³

Access: Mile 4 of Thane Rd.
Travel Means: Foot
Distance: 3 miles one way
Elevation gain: 700-800 feet to valley, 3,500 feet to ridge

The first half of the trail, though wide, is steep with stair steps installed in some sections. However, it soon levels out as it follows power lines down to the creek with only a few changes in elevation. After three miles, the trail becomes a primitive path that leads to Powerline Ridge with access to Sheep Mountain and Hawthorne Peak. During the growing season, hikers may spot mountain goats, black bears, and other wildlife, berries, and a host of wildflowers.