



# Kenai Fjords National Park Guide

## Your Complete Guide to One of Alaska's Most Incredible Wildlife & Glacier Destinations



Located just outside the coastal town of **Seward**, **Kenai Fjords National Park** is one of Alaska's most spectacular natural treasures. Covering nearly **670,000 acres**, the park protects towering glaciers, dramatic fjords, rugged coastline, ancient forests, and some of the richest marine wildlife habitats in North America.

Unlike Glacier Bay, which most visitors experience from a cruise ship, Kenai Fjords is best explored aboard a **small wildlife and glacier cruise**, allowing visitors to get remarkably close to glaciers, sea life, and towering cliffs filled with nesting seabirds.

Whether you're visiting before or after an Alaska cruise or as part of a CruiseTour, Kenai Fjords National Park is one of Alaska's must-see destinations.



## Where is Kenai Fjords National Park?



Kenai Fjords National Park is located on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula, just outside the town of Seward.

The park is approximately:

- 2½ hours from Anchorage
- Easily reached by:
  - Alaska Railroad
  - Rental car
  - Motorcoach
  - CruiseTour transportation

Seward serves as the primary gateway to the park.

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## Why Visit Kenai Fjords?

Kenai Fjords offers an incredible combination of:

- Tidewater glaciers
- Marine wildlife
- Coastal mountains
- Rainforests
- Fjords
- Hiking
- Boat tours

It's one of the few places where you can experience both glaciers and abundant marine life on the same excursion.

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## The Harding Icefield



At the heart of the park lies the massive **Harding Icefield**.

Highlights include:

- More than **700 square miles** of ice
- Source of nearly 40 glaciers

- One of the largest icefields entirely within the United States

It's often called the "crown jewel" of Kenai Fjords National Park.

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## ★ Top Things to Do

### 🚤 Wildlife & Glacier Cruise



This is the park's signature experience.

Most cruises include opportunities to see:

- Tidewater glaciers
- Whales
- Sea otters
- Puffins
- Sea lions
- Harbor seals
- Bald eagles

Many visitors consider this one of Alaska's best excursions.

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## Exit Glacier



One of the few glaciers in Alaska accessible by road.

Visitors can enjoy:

- Easy walking trails
- Ranger programs
- Scenic viewpoints
- Up-close glacier views

Perfect for families and travelers of all abilities.

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## Harding Icefield Trail



One of Alaska's most rewarding hikes.

The trail climbs to spectacular views overlooking the Harding Icefield.

This challenging hike is best suited for experienced hikers in good physical condition.

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## Whale Watching



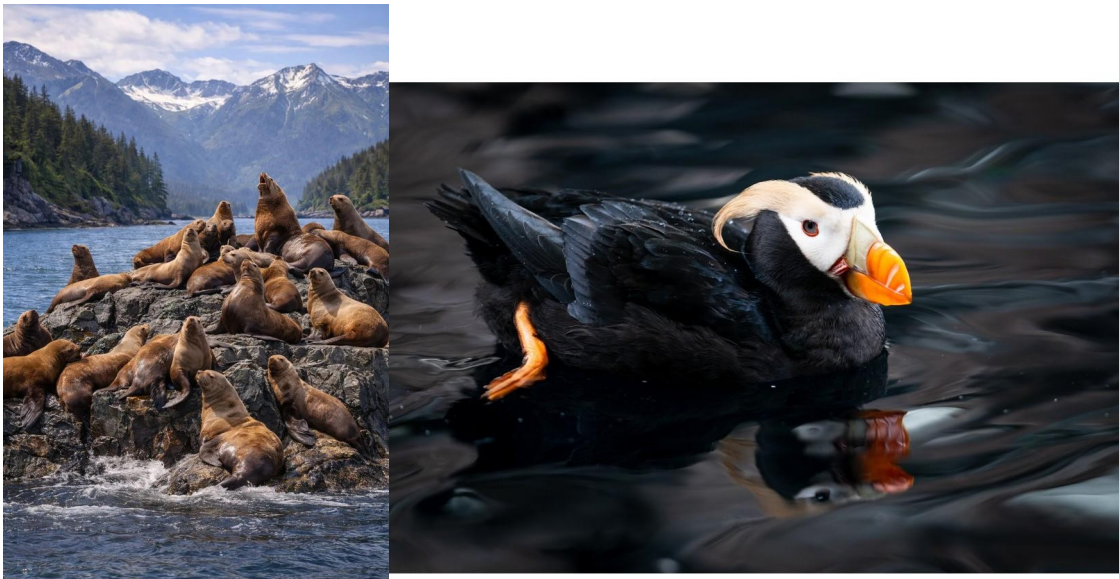
Depending on the season, visitors may see:

- Humpback whales
- Orcas
- Gray whales (occasionally)

Summer offers excellent opportunities for marine wildlife viewing.

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## Incredible Wildlife



Kenai Fjords is one of Alaska's premier wildlife destinations.

Common sightings include:

## **Sea Otters**

Often floating on their backs in protected bays.

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## **Harbor Seals**

Frequently resting on floating glacial ice.

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## **Steller Sea Lions**

Often gathered on rocky islands.

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## **Puffins**

Colorful seabirds nesting along coastal cliffs during summer.

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## **Bald Eagles**

Common throughout the park.

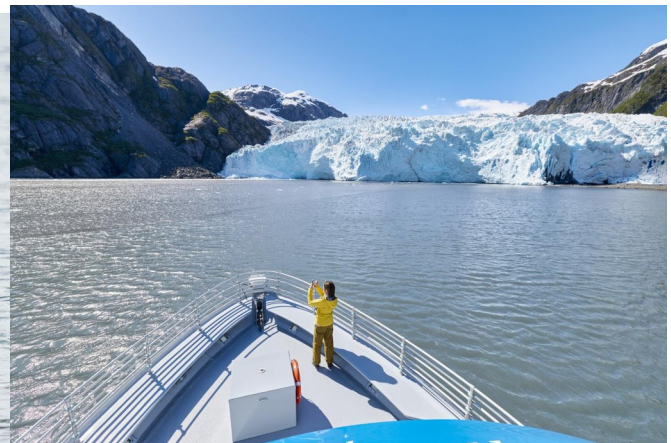
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## **Whales**

Humpbacks are frequently seen feeding in the fjords.

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## **Photography Tips**



Bring:

- ✓ Camera
- ✓ Binoculars

- ✓ Zoom lens
- ✓ Waterproof jacket
- ✓ Extra batteries
- ✓ Extra memory cards

Boat tours offer excellent opportunities for wildlife photography.

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## Weather

Summer temperatures generally range from:

45–65°F (7–18°C)

Expect:

- Rain showers
- Cool breezes
- Wind on boat tours

Dress in layers and bring waterproof clothing.

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## Getting Around

Most visitors explore the park by:

- Wildlife cruise
- Hiking trails
- Shuttle services
- Personal vehicle (Exit Glacier area)

Large portions of the park are accessible only by boat or aircraft.

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## What to Pack

Bring:

- ✓ Waterproof rain jacket
- ✓ Comfortable walking shoes
- ✓ Binoculars
- ✓ Camera
- ✓ Gloves

- ✓ Sunglasses
  - ✓ Small backpack
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## Premium Travel Group Tip

If your Alaska vacation includes time in Seward, don't skip a Kenai Fjords wildlife cruise. While Glacier Bay and Hubbard Glacier are incredible from a cruise ship, a smaller sightseeing vessel allows you to experience Alaska from a completely different perspective. You'll often get much closer to wildlife, glaciers, and dramatic coastal scenery than you can from a large cruise ship.

If you're choosing between a morning or afternoon cruise, morning departures often offer calmer waters and excellent wildlife viewing.

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## Continue Exploring Alaska

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  - [Alaska Packing Guide](#)
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  - [Seward Guide](#)
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  - [Denali National Park Guide](#)
  - [Glacier Bay National Park Guide](#)
  - [Hubbard Glacier Guide](#)
  - [Endicott Arm & Dawes Glacier Guide](#)
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## Why Visit Kenai Fjords National Park?

Kenai Fjords National Park showcases Alaska at its finest. Towering glaciers, dramatic coastlines, abundant marine wildlife, and unforgettable boat excursions combine to create an experience unlike anywhere else in the state. Whether you're watching a humpback whale breach, photographing a puffin perched on a cliff, or listening to the thunder of a glacier calving into the sea, Kenai Fjords reminds you why Alaska is one of the world's greatest wilderness destinations.

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## **Joe's Logbook**

If you're adding time before or after your Alaska cruise, Kenai Fjords National Park is one of the places I recommend most often. It complements an Alaska cruise perfectly because it gives you a completely different perspective.

On a large cruise ship you'll enjoy incredible scenic cruising, but in Kenai Fjords you're out on a much smaller boat, weaving through the fjords, getting closer to glaciers, and often finding yourself surrounded by wildlife. I've heard countless travelers say that seeing sea otters floating nearby or watching humpback whales surface just yards away became one of the highlights of their entire Alaska vacation.

One final tip: bring binoculars and a camera, but don't spend the whole trip looking through the lens. Take a few moments to simply enjoy the sounds of the waves, the cries of seabirds, and the quiet beauty of this remarkable place. Those are the memories that tend to last the longest.