

# Denali Fact Sheet

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska



<b>Superintendent</b>	Don Striker		
<b>Established</b>	Feb. 26, 1917 (as Mount McKinley National Park)		
	Dec. 2, 1980 (increased in size and name changed to Denali National Park and Preserve)		
	Aug. 28, 2015 (name of mountain officially changed from Mount McKinley to Denali)		
<b>Size</b>	Park	4,704,911.16 acres	7,407.7 sq. miles
	Preserve	<u>1,334,117.80 acres</u>	<u>2,084.5 sq. miles</u>
		<b>6,075,028.96 acres</b>	<b>9,492.2 sq. miles</b>
			1,917,808 hectares
			<u>539,896 hectares</u>
			<b>2,457,704 hectares</b>

For comparison, New Hampshire = 9,351 sq. miles and Massachusetts = 10,555 sq. miles  
Wilderness designation (99 percent of original Mount McKinley National Park):

- 2,146,270 acres
- 3,353.6 sq. miles

<b>Visitation</b>	2017: 642,809
	2016: 587,412
	2015: 560,757

<b>Effects of 2017 Visitor Spending</b>	Spending: \$632 million
	Jobs: 8,154
	Economic Output: \$924 million

<b>Base Budget</b>	\$14.8 million
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<b>NPS Staffing</b>	Permanent: 124
	Term: 16
	Seasonal: 126
	Volunteers: 772
	Youth Conservation Corps: 7

<b>Campgrounds</b>	RVs or tents: 3 campgrounds (232 sites)
	Tents only: 3 campgrounds (42 sites)

<b>Roads and Trails</b>	Length of Denali Park Road	92 miles	148 kilometers
	Paved section	14.8 miles	23.8 kilometers
	Constructed trails	35.5 miles	57.1 kilometers

<b>Landmarks and Elevations</b>	Denali Visitor Center	
	Polychrome Overlook	
	Highway Pass	
	Eielson Visitor Center	
	Wonder Lake Campground	
	Mount Foraker	
	Lowest point (Yentna River at boundary)	

## Denali

-South Peak	20,310	6190
-North Peak	19,470	5934



## Elevations above sea level

1,746 feet	532 meters
3,700	1127
3,980	1213
3,733	1138
2,055	626
17,400	5303
223	68



## Wildlife Species

Amphibians	1 (wood frog)
Mammals	39
Birds	160 species recorded, 123 documented as breeding, and 15 recorded as accidental
Fish	14 (including three salmon species)
Reptiles	None

## Flora

Vascular plants: 758 species documented  
 Tree species: 8  
 Approximately 600 species of mosses, lichens and liverworts currently listed  
*Erioderma pedicellatum*, a lichen discovered in 2007, was previously known only from limited areas in Scandinavia and southeastern Canada. It is currently classified as Critically Endangered.

## Paleontology

Paleontologists found the first dinosaur bones in Denali National Park and Preserve during an expedition in July 2016. Thousands of trace fossils (tracks, foot or body prints) have been found since the first discovery of dinosaur prints in 2005, all dating from 65-72 million years ago. They include theropods, hadrosaurs, ceratopsians, and pterosaurs. *Myriospirifer breasei*, a species of extinct marine brachiopod that has been found only in Denali, is named after Phil Brease, park geologist from 1986 until his death in May 2010.

## Lakes and Streams

There are approximately 12,206 lakes and ponds in the park and preserve; and 18,679 miles of streams  
 Largest is Chilchukabena Lake: 2.6 miles long, 2 miles wide, 2,056 acres  
 Wonder Lake: 2.7 miles long, 1/2 mile wide, 649 acres, 280 foot maximum depth

## Glaciers

15.5 percent of park's land area is covered with glaciers  
 Largest: Kahiltna Glacier on the south side of Alaska Range (45 miles/72.4 km long)  
 Largest on north side of Alaska Range: Muldrow Glacier (34 miles/54.7 km long)  
 Deepest measured glacier: Ruth Glacier, 3,805 feet or 1160 meters

## Permafrost

Permanently frozen soils underlie about 50 percent of the park's landscape, and most of the low elevation northern portions of the Park and Preserve host continuous permafrost. Recent modelin (Panda et al. 2014) suggest that a warming climate over the next 100 year will reduce the extent of permafrost coverage to less than 1 percent of of the landscape.

## Weather

Average annual precipitation = 15 inches / 380 mm (park headquarters)  
 Wettest months are July, August, and June (in that order)  
 Average annual snowfall = 79 inches/201 cm (park headquarters)  
 Coldest temperature recorded at headquarters: -54° F/-48° C, Feb. 5, 1999  
 Coldest year on record: 1956  
 Highest temperature recorded at headquarters: 91° F/33° C, June 22, 1991  
 Warmest year on record: 1926  
 Average January temperature: 2.0° F/-17° C  
 Average July temperature: 55° F/13° C  
 Shortest day (Dec. 21): 4 hours, 21 minutes of daylight  
 Longest day (June 21): 20 hours, 49 minutes of daylight



### Earthquakes

Average number per year within park boundaries: about 3,000  
Depth: 60 percent between 0-20 km — the deepest are at approximately 200 km  
Largest recent earthquake is magnitude 5.2 (Jan. 23, 2011)  
A 7.9 magnitude quake on Nov. 3, 2002 is the largest recorded earthquake in the interior of Alaska  
Most events occur within the Kantishna seismic cluster, in the foothills north of Denali

### Sled Dog Kennels

Total number of dogs: 31 (15 males and 16 females)  
Miles patrolled by sled per winter: 3,000  
The kennels building was constructed in 1929, and sled dog demonstrations began in 1939  
Summer 2017 kennels visitation: 71,021

### Denali Mountaineering Statistics 2017

Number of climbers: 1,189  
Number that reached top or summit: 498  
Summit percentage: 42 percent  
Rescues: 14  
Fatalities: 1 (total number since 1932 = 126)

### Notable Ascents

First summit of South Peak (**true summit**): W. Harper, H. Karstens, H. Stuck, R. Tatum, June 7, 1913  
First summit of North Peak: Pete Anderson and Billy Taylor, April 3, 1910  
First woman to summit: Barbara Polk Washburn, June 6, 1947  
First solo ascent: Naomi Uemura, Aug. 26, 1970  
First winter ascent: Dave Johnston, Art Davidson and Ray Genet, Feb. 28, 1967  
First successful winter solo ascent: Vern Tejas, March 7, 1988  
Oldest person to summit: Tom Choate (age 78), June 28, 2013  
Youngest person to summit: Galen Johnston (age 11), June 17, 2001