

Denali 2017 Fact Sheet

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska



Superintendent

Don Striker

Established

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)

Size

Park	4,704,911.16 acres	7,407.7 sq. miles	1,917,808 hectares
Preserve	<u>1,334,117.80 acres</u>	<u>2,084.5 sq. miles</u>	<u>539,896 hectares</u>
	6,075,028.96 acres	9,492.2 sq. miles	2,457,704 hectares

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

Visitation

2016: 599,822

2015: 589,450

2014: 531,315



Effects of 2016 Visitor Spending

Spending: \$604.8 million

Jobs: 7,744

Economic Output: \$864.4 million

Base Budget

\$14.3 million

NPS Staffing

Permanent:	113
Term:	27
Seasonal:	170
Volunteers:	1,061 (56,863 hours)

Campgrounds

RVs or tents: 3 campgrounds (232 sites)

Tents only: 3 campgrounds (42 sites)

Roads and Trails

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

Landmarks and Elevations

	<u>Elevations above sea level</u>	
Denali Visitor Center	1,746 feet	532 meters
Polychrome Overlook	3,700	1127
Highway Pass	3,980	1213
Eielson Visitor Center	3,733	1138
Wonder Lake Campground	2,055	626
Mount Foraker	17,400	5303
Lowest point (Yentna River at boundary)	223	68
Denali		
-South Peak	20,310	6190
-North Peak	19,470	5934



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 <i>Erioderma pedicellatum</i> , 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. <i>Myiospirifer breasei</i> , 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 modeling (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 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: 34 (18 males and 16 females)
Miles patrolled by sled per winter: 3,000
The kennels building was constructed in 1929 and sled dog demonstration began in 1939
2016 kennels visitation: 65,133

Denali Mountaineering Statistics 2016

Number of climbers: 1,131
Number that reached top or summit: 675
Summit percentage: 60 percent (Avg. = 52 percent)
Rescues: 11
Fatalities: 2 (total number since 1932 = 125)

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