

Glacier Bay, Alaska, USA

One of Alaska's most spectacular scenic cruising days — your ship glides past calving tidewater glaciers while NPS rangers narrate the show and humpback whales breach off the bow.

🚢 Scenic cruising only (no shore access from large ships)

🕒 Typical call: 8-10 hrs

💵 USD

🗣️ English

🌿 UNESCO World Heritage Site

👉 MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: No docking or tendering — large ships cruise through the bay only

Best For: Glacier viewing, whale watching, scenic photography from the decks

Permit limit: Only 2 large cruise ships allowed in the park per day

Don't Miss: Margerie Glacier — ships stop here; listen for the thunder of calving ice

🚗 Getting around:

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Glacier Viewing from the Deck** — The ship stops in front of Margerie Glacier — a 21-mile-long tidewater glacier that regularly calves massive chunks of ice into the bay with a...
- **Wildlife Watching on Board** — Glacier Bay is one of the richest marine wildlife corridors in Alaska.
- **Sea Kayaking at Bartlett Cove (Small Ships / Independents)** — Glacier Bay Sea Kayaks operates half-day and full-day guided paddles from Bartlett Cove, the only developed area of the park.
- **Glacier Bay Full-Day Tour Boat (Independents / Small Ships)** — The daily catamaran from Glacier Bay Lodge dock at Bartlett Cove travels 130 miles round-trip through the bay to the upper glaciers — narrated by an...
- **Huna Tribal House — Xunaa Shuká Hít** — At Bartlett Cove, the Huna Tlingit Tribal House (Xunaa Shuká Hít) celebrates the cultural heritage of the Huna Tlingit people who have lived in...

BEST WALKS

- **Forest Loop Trail, Bartlett Cove** 1 mile · Easy · 30-45 min — A flat loop through old-growth temperate rainforest down to the beach, with a viewing platform over Blackwater Pond.
- **Bartlett River Trail** 4 miles round-trip · Easy-Moderate · 2-3 hrs — Follows the shoreline and forest edge to the Bartlett River estuary — a prime spot for brown bear and moose sightings, especially at dawn and dusk.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

🌤️ CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		45°	35°	18d
Jun		58°	48°	15d
Aug		61°	53°	19d
Sep		56°	48°	20d
Oct		47°	40°	21d

🇺🇸 DAYLIGHT & 💵 MONEY

Apr 5:50AM–8:17PM · Jun 3:56AM–10:12PM · Aug 5:26AM–8:47PM · Sep 6:34AM–7:21PM · Oct 7:41AM–5:56PM

💵 USD

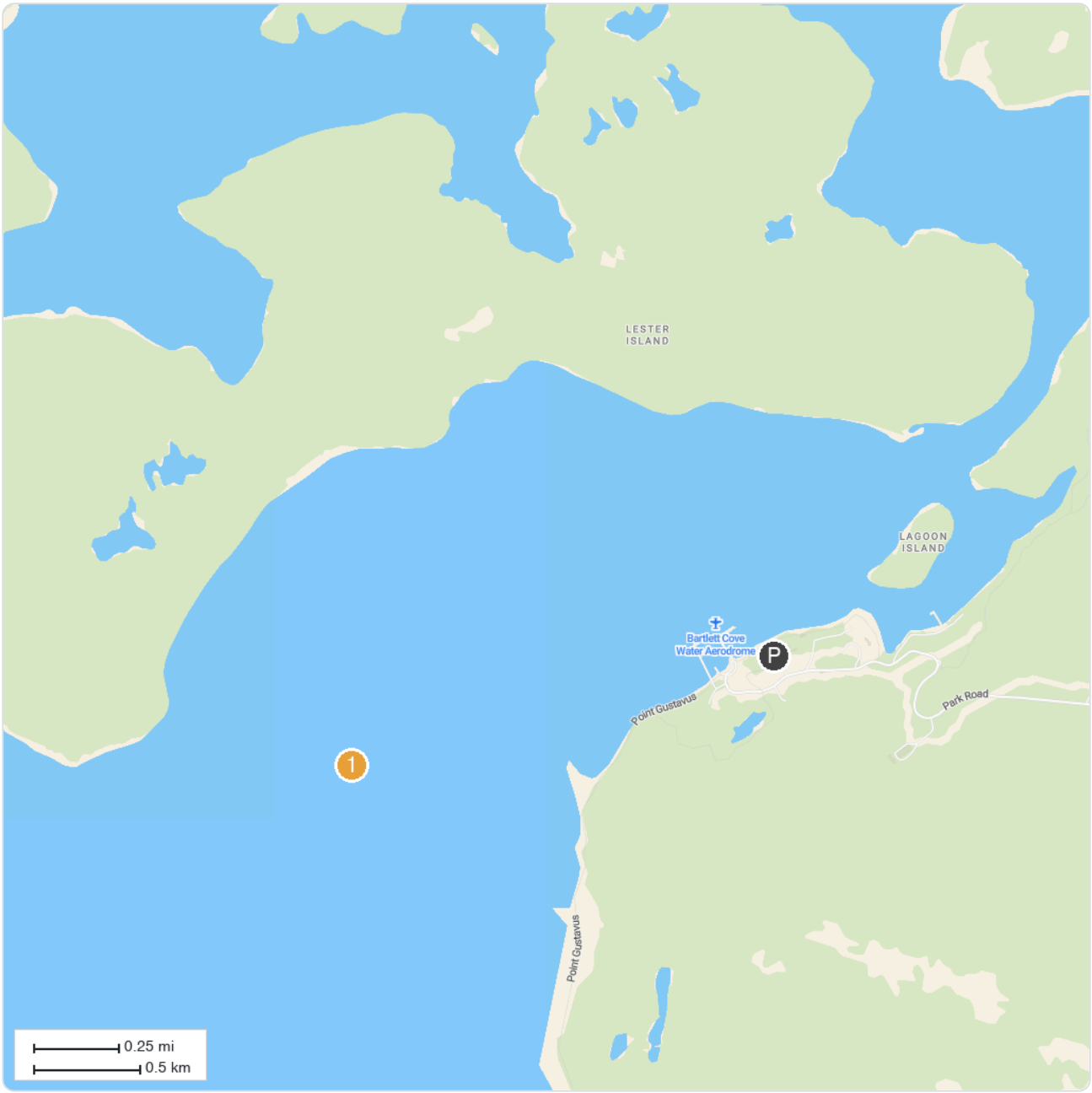
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Dress for cold, even in summer. Temperatures near the glaciers can drop sharply — wind chill on deck makes it feel sub-zero. Waterproof layers, gloves, and a hat are essential even on sunny July days.
- Position matters. The ship typically approaches Margerie Glacier on the starboard side — check with your ranger which side for the best glacier views on your specific sailing.
- Bring binoculars. Wildlife is often distant; binoculars transform a dot in the water into a humpback whale. South Marble Island is the seabird highlight — watch for puffins and sea lion colonies.
- Go to the ranger talk. NPS rangers board at Bartlett Cove and spend the whole day aboard. Their narration — on glacier science, wildlife ecology, and Huna Tlingit history — dramatically enriches the experience.
- Rain is normal. Glacier Bay averages over 60 inches of rain per year. A drizzly day is still spectacular — fog rolling past calving glaciers has its own drama. Don't let a grey sky keep you off the deck.
- Set an alarm. Ships often enter the bay in the early morning hours. Don't sleep through the entrance — the gradual reveal of the mountains as you sail in is part of the magic.

Glacier Bay, Alaska, USA — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



1 Bartlett Cove Park headquarters area with old-growth rainforest trails and the only dock in Glacier Bay National Park.

P Cruise port / terminal