Prince of Wales: A Different Kind of Southeast Alaska

Stand on the shore or take a boat tour to spot whales, sea otters and other marine mammals. Look for bears, eagles and other wildlife along streams, beaches and roads. Venture into a cave that has been used by wildlife for thousands of years. Watch salmon as they spawn in one of the island's many streams. Venture into a cave that has been used by wildlife for thousands of years. Watch salmon as they spawn in one of the island's many streams.

Wolves in Alaska primarily depend on protein-rich salmon for wolves, making up about 20% of their diet. Biologists have observed that protein-rich salmon may be especially critical feeding areas in estuaries on Prince of Wales Island to fish for salmon in July and August. Look for wolf sign like tracks and scat to discover if wolves are in the area. Wolves are elusive creatures, and it may take several trips to Prince of Wales before you're connected between these three destinations. For more information, visit www.alaskarainforestislands.com.

For a diverse animal bones), cultures, and old-fashioned Alaska hospitality, combine your Prince of Wales visit with trips to Wrangell Landscapes (from a tidewater glacier to caves with ancient thermals for eagles and hawks. Low tides expose tidepools and a wealth of food for birds and mammals. Wildlife species are most active. Midday warmth tells stories of wildlife in the area - what they are doing behaviors. Resist the temptation to try to attract their attention with sounds. If your presence is causing an animal to stop feeding or act restless, give it more space. Be especially respectful of nesting and critical feeding areas.

Wildlife Viewing Tips

- Enjoy watching animals' Tracks, droppings, trails and twigs with food, which can cause trouble. Human food can also make them sick.
- Be Considerate of Others.
- Never feed wild wildlife.
- Help Keep Wildlife Wild.
- People use and enjoy Alaska's wildlife in a variety of ways. Respect private space.
- Avoid disturbing wildlife viewing. Tracking books and workshops will tell stories of wildlife in the area - what they are doing natural behaviors. Resist the temptation to try to attract their attention with sounds. If your presence is causing an animal to stop feeding or act restless, give it more space. Be especially respectful of nesting and critical feeding areas.
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For information on tours and lodging, consult the Prince of Wales Chamber of Commerce. Visit their website at www.princeofwales.org or call (907) 735-1626. On the island, visit their office by the grocery store in Klawock.

For more information about the Alaska Coastal Wildlife Viewing Trail, or to browse through wildlife viewing sites in other communities, visit wildlifeviewing.alaska.gov.

www.wildlifeviewing.alaska.gov
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Watch Our Wildlife
Wildlife Viewing Tips

Keep a Low Profile. Enjoy watching animals’ natural behaviors. Resist the temptation to try to attract their attention with sounds. If your presence is causing an animal to stop feeding or act restless, give it more space. Be especially respectful of nesting and denning areas, rookeries and calving grounds, and critical feeding areas.

Time It Right. Dawn and dusk are when many wildlife species are most active. Midday warmth energizes dragonflies and butterflies and creates thermals for eagles and hawks. Low tides expose tidepools and a wealth of food for birds and mammals.

Look for Clues. Tracks, droppings, trails and twigs tell stories of wildlife in the area – what they are eating, where they live and when they passed through. Noticing and reading these clues adds richness to wildlife viewing. Tracking books and workshops will help you.

Help Keep Wildlife Wild. Never feed wild animals. Doing so can cause them to associate people with food, which can cause trouble. Human food can also make them sick.

Be Considerate of Others. People use and enjoy Alaska’s wildlife in a variety of ways. Respect private property and give hunters, anglers and others plenty of space.

A variety of wildlife, including Sitka black-tailed deer, may be seen anywhere along the road system on Prince of Wales Island.

Watchable Wildlife “Fun Facts”

Alaska’s Rainforest Islands: For a diverse complement of wildlife viewing, landforms (from a tidewater glacier to caves with ancient animal bones), cultures, and old-fashioned Alaska hospitality, combine your visit to Prince of Wales Island with trips to Wrangell and Petersburg. The new Inter-Island ferry offers convenient connections between these three destinations. For more information, visit www.alaskarainforestislands.com.

Fishing Wolves?: Wolves in Alaska primarily depend on large mammals like moose, deer and caribou for their food. In Southeast Alaska, salmon are also an important food source for wolves, making up about 20% of their diet. Biologists have observed that protein-rich salmon may be especially important to young pups after they are weaned, when their role in the pack changes from offspring to pack members at the bottom of the hierarchy. Wolves come to estuaries and creeks on Prince of Wales Island to fish for salmon in July and August. Look for wolf sign like tracks and scat to discover if wolves are in the area. Wolves are elusive creatures, and it may take several trips to Prince of Wales before you’re lucky enough to see one.

Traveling Safely in Bear Country (All of Prince of Wales is bear country)

Making noise (sing, clap, talk) while you travel will reduce your chances of surprising a bear. Be alert along noisy streams, in thick brush, and when visibility is poor. Always keep your belongings (backpack, food, fish, etc.) with you or in bear-proof storage.

If you see a bear, stay calm. If the bear does not notice you, quietly leave, keeping your eyes on the bear. If it does notice you, face the bear, wave your arms and talk to it calmly. If it approaches you, stand your ground. Never run from a bear.

A bear surprised at close distance, it may feel threatened and act defensively, especially if it has cubs or food. Stay your ground! If the bear strikes or bites you, lie on your front, protect your face and neck and remain still. In rare instances, bears may be predatory. Fight back if the attack is prolonged.

STAY SAFE!
The mountains, trails, islands and waterways of the Alaska Coastal Wildlife Viewing Trail are wild lands. For safety, take a guided tour or take a companion, let someone know your plans and be prepared for emergencies with spare clothes, a first aid kit and a means of communication. Visit the Alaska State Parks’ Staying Safe web page for details: www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/safety.
Gravelly Creek is a day-use area three miles outside of Klawock, a rich feeding area that attracts humpback and killer whales, harbor seals, and Steller sea lions. Roadside pullouts offer good marine viewing. Watch for Sitka black-tailed deer year-round, and trumpeter swans at the Ratz Harbor estuary during fall migrations. The Sandy Bay Recreation Area is a great place to look for great blue herons, bald eagles and harbor seals. There is also good tidepooling here, with a chance to see live sand dollars at low tide.

Gravelly Creek has a run of pink salmon during August and September, making it a popular fishing spot for both people and black bears. Evening is the best time to see bears, when there is less human activity here. Sitka black-tailed deer roam along the short, wide gravel path between the parking area and the creek. Keep an eye out for bald eagles, red-breasted sapsuckers and many songbirds.

Gravelly Creek is a day-use area three miles outside of Klawock on FH 42.

Balls Lake 4 is near the center of Prince of Wales Island. Watch for waterfowl swimming in the lake. Listen for the melodies of forest songbirds in the spring. The forest around the lake provides habitat for Sitka black-tailed deer and black bears. Bald eagles are seen all year. Balls Lake is on FH 42, near the junction with FH 16, which leads to Klawock. A flat 1.5 mile trail, with some boardwalk planks and stairs, loops around the lake. The Eagle’s Nest campground here is one of the island’s few maintained camping areas.

Look for trumpeter swans at Big Salt Lake between October and January. Most rest and feed here for a few days to a few weeks during migrations; though some swans overwinter at the lake. Winter storms on the Pacific Ocean sometimes drive buffleheads, Barrow’s goldeneyes and other sea ducks to the lake. Big Salt Lake is on FH 49 about five miles north of Klawock on the pullouts along the road for swan viewing, especially if you have binoculars or a spotting scope.

The fish ladder at the Prince of Wales Hatchery is a good place to see large numbers of coho and sockeye salmon spawn in the Klawock River. The salmon attract bears throughout the summer and fall, especially in August when the run is at its peak. River otters follow the salmon in a search of a meal, and bald eagles perch in the trees along the creek. Early morning is the best time to look for wildlife here, before the activity of the day drives most animals away. The Prince of Wales Hatchery is two miles outside of Klawock on FH 6. Call 907-755-2231 to arrange a tour.

Fish and microorganisms in the Waters Near Craiy 5 attract marine mammals and sea birds to feed, in part due to the area’s proximity to the open Pacific Ocean. Look for sea otters tangled in help, humpback whale feeding close to shore, and harbor seals and Steller sea lions exploring the coves and inlets. Great blue herons fish on the shorelines and pelagic cormorants stand on rocks or buoys, spreading their wings to dry. Other birds seen here include surf scoters, pigeon guillemots, and rhinoceros auklets (rarely seen elsewhere in the Inside Passage). Boat tours depart from Craig’s harbor throughout the summer.

Cemetary Island or the Ballfield, both found south of Craig, offer good views of the water. A half hour boat ride outside of Craig, Point Amuranga is one of the best places to see sea otters

### Wildlife Viewing Sites

1. **Sandy Beach Road**
   - Gravelly Creek
   - Ballis Lake
   - Big Salt Lake
   - West of Sandy Beach Road

2. **Gravelly Creek**
   - Sandy Bay Recreation Area
   - Gravelly Creek
   - Big Salt Lake
   - Prince of Wales Hatchery
   - Sandy Beach Road

3. **Ballis Lake**
   - Sandy Bay Recreation Area
   - Gravelly Creek
   - Big Salt Lake
   - Prince of Wales Hatchery
   - Sandy Beach Road

4. **Big Salt Lake**
   - Sandy Bay Recreation Area
   - Gravelly Creek
   - Ballis Lake
   - Prince of Wales Hatchery
   - Sandy Beach Road

5. **Prince of Wales Hatchery**
   - Sandy Bay Recreation Area
   - Gravelly Creek
   - Ballis Lake
   - Big Salt Lake
   - Sandy Beach Road

6. **Waters near Craig**
   - Sandy Bay Recreation Area
   - Gravelly Creek
   - Ballis Lake
   - Big Salt Lake
   - Prince of Wales Hatchery
   - Sandy Beach Road

7. **Cable Creek Fishpass**
   - Sandy Bay Recreation Area
   - Gravelly Creek
   - Ballis Lake
   - Big Salt Lake
   - Prince of Wales Hatchery
   - Sandy Beach Road

8. **Twelve Mile Estuary**
   - Sandy Bay Recreation Area
   - Gravelly Creek
   - Ballis Lake
   - Big Salt Lake
   - Prince of Wales Hatchery
   - Sandy Beach Road

9. **Dog Salmon Fishpass**
   - Sandy Bay Recreation Area
   - Gravelly Creek
   - Ballis Lake
   - Big Salt Lake
   - Prince of Wales Hatchery
   - Sandy Beach Road

10. **Memorial Beach**
    - Sandy Bay Recreation Area
    - Gravelly Creek
    - Ballis Lake
    - Big Salt Lake
    - Prince of Wales Hatchery
    - Sandy Beach Road

11. **Sarkar Lakes area**
    - Sandy Bay Recreation Area
    - Gravelly Creek
    - Ballis Lake
    - Big Salt Lake
    - Prince of Wales Hatchery
    - Sandy Beach Road

12. **El Capitan Cave**
    - Sandy Bay Recreation Area
    - Gravelly Creek
    - Ballis Lake
    - Big Salt Lake
    - Prince of Wales Hatchery
    - Sandy Beach Road

13. **Market Beach**
    - Sandy Bay Recreation Area
    - Gravelly Creek
    - Ballis Lake
    - Big Salt Lake
    - Prince of Wales Hatchery
    - Sandy Beach Road