

Icy Strait Point



ICY STRAIT POINT

Old-growth forest dominates much of the port.

Tlingit Culture and the Great Outdoors

Far removed from all of Alaska's commercialized cities, Icy Strait Point provides the main waterway connection between Southeast Alaska and Seattle.

Nearby is Hoonah, Alaska's largest settlement of Tlingit people; their village once was located in Glacier Bay, but the advance of the mighty glaciers forced the people to relocate. Visitors can experience Tlingit culture, or enjoy thrills on land and water. A magnificent old-growth forest fills much of the port, and adventurers can take a turn on a 5,400-foot zipline. Fishermen are lured by the five species of salmon in its waters.

FAST FACTS

LOCATION The port is 22 miles southeast of Glacier Bay and just minutes from the small village of Hoonah.

POPULATION About 850 people live in Hoonah; 70 percent are of Native Alaskan heritage.

HISTORY NUGGET A 1944 fire destroyed much of Hoonah, including homes and priceless Tlingit cultural pieces. The U.S. government assisted in rebuilding by providing World War II housing that had been on its way to Hawaii. These "war houses" still stand in Hoonah's downtown.

WORTH A VISIT Tlingit people share their heritage at the Native Heritage Center Theater, through dance, interpretive song and storytelling. Costumed performers present the history of the Tlingit and celebrate their customs and legends.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF ICY STRAIT POINT

History on the Line



ABOVE: The Hoonah Packing Company. RIGHT: Inside the museum.

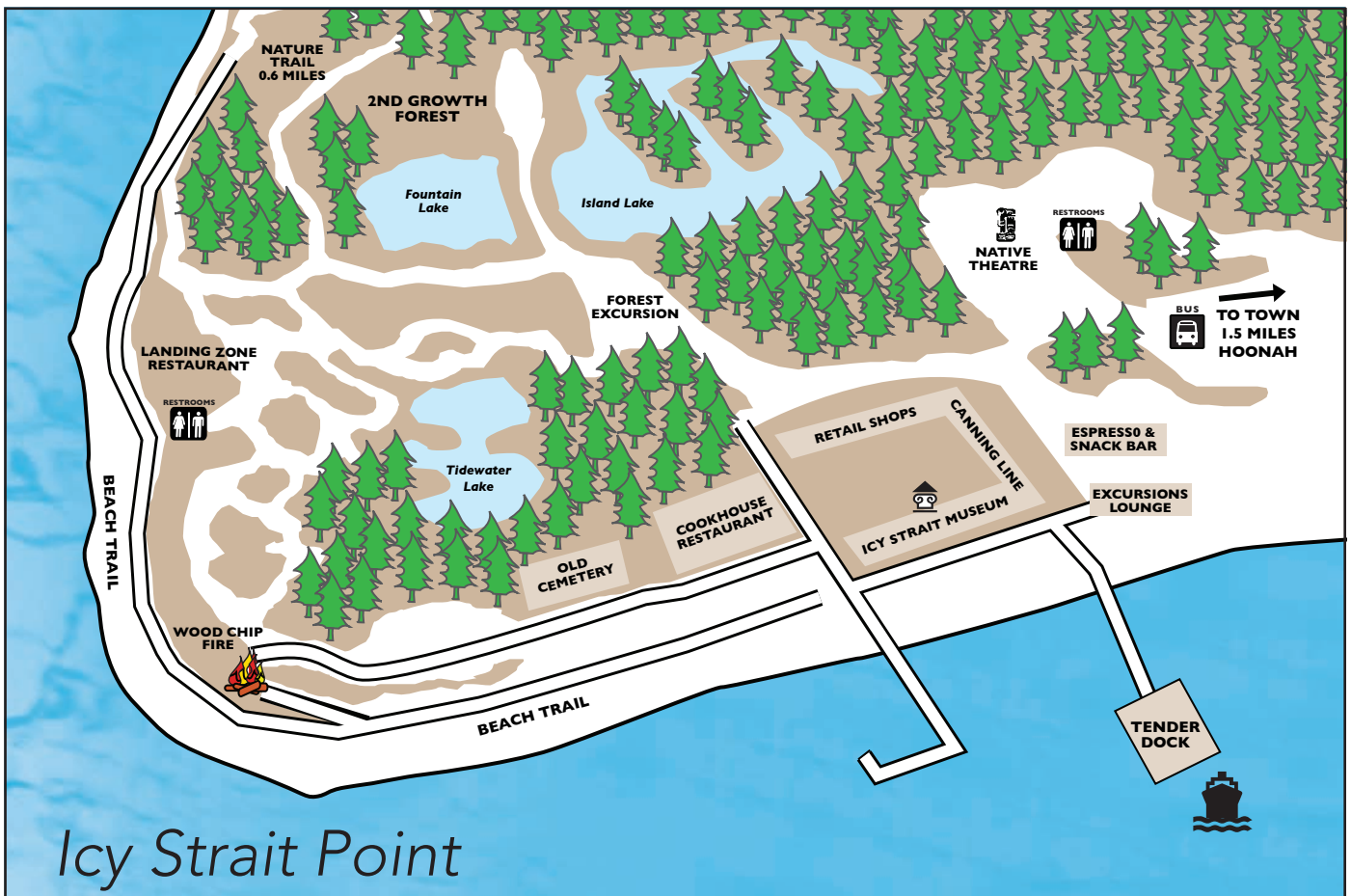
Icy Strait Point's salmon cannery has been central to the Icy Strait community for the last century. When the city of Hoonah burned to the ground on June 14, 1944, its residents took refuge in the cannery and lived in its buildings while Hoonah was rebuilt.

The Hoonah Packing Company opened in 1912, and within two years, the

company processed almost 2.4 million cans of salmon. All five species of Pacific salmon — chinook, sockeye, coho, pink and chum — were packaged and shipped across the United States until 1953, when the plant became a support facility for the local fishing fleet.

Once one of the world's most thriving and productive salmon canneries, it was

later re-created as a visitor attraction and museum. The museum's mid-1930s cannery line offers a glimpse of the production process. —B. C.



Icy Strait Point



Answers the question:

“What was the high point of your Alaska vacation?”

ICY STRAIT



—POINT—
HOONAH, ALASKA

Was it the rush of plunging 5,400 feet on the world's largest zip line? The authentic Tlingit dancing and storytelling? Maybe it was coming within a few feet of humpback whales or spotting a brown bear lunch on some wild salmon. Icy Strait Point is a photo album full of high points – 21 different excursions – all waiting to be discovered.

Step into an Alaska Experience.



NATIVE TLINGIT CULTURE. Most people who work here aren't just passing through. In fact, ninety-five percent of them are from Hoonah — Alaska's largest Tlingit village. They're the ones you'll see performing authentic Native dances. Or the ones grilling fresh alder-smoked Alaska salmon. All have colorful "local" stories to share and would love to show you their home.



UNSPOILED WILDERNESS. It's a perfectly natural setting. No wonder the Tlingit settled here thousands of years ago. And local whales, bears and eagles have been here even longer. One "wild" excursion guarantees you'll see humpback whales, and another takes you into one of the largest concentrations of brown bears in Alaska. Spectacular in every sense.



ALASKA-SIZED ADVENTURE. Even dining is an adventure here. Where else is the catch of the day — wild Alaska salmon — caught fresh in the very waters that surround you. And the tasty Alaska crab is cleaned and served while you watch, usually next to an ice-cold Alaska microbrew. Always fresh. Always festive.