



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Denali National Park and Preserve Backcountry [Day and Overnight] Hiker Experience Survey



Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: The National Park Service is authorized by the NPS Research Mandate (54 USC 100702) to collect this information. This information will be used by park managers to understand visitors' perceptions of bison-safety at Yellowstone National Park. Responses to this request are voluntary and anonymous. Your name will never be associated with your answers, and all contact information will be destroyed when the data collection is concluded. No action may be taken against you for refusing to supply the information requested. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number and expiration date.

BURDEN ESTIMATE: We estimate that it will take about 10 minutes to complete this questionnaire. You may send comments concerning the burden estimates or any aspect of this information collection to: Dr. Rose Keller, Denali National Park & Preserve Social Scientist; rose_keller@nps.gov (email).

Welcome to Denali National Park and Preserve! You have been selected to help park management to

understanding more about the experiences of backcountry hikers here at Denali. Now that you are returning from your adventure, we would like to hear from you, because your feedback is critical and this survey is the only way we will know if we are meeting the recreation goals, opportunities to explore, learn, and wildlife experiences you expected while visiting Denali. Your responses will provide us with insight that we may use in our backcountry management strategies. Please take the time to complete the survey and return it before you leave the bus ride.

SECTION 1: Background Information

1a. How many visits have you made to Denali National Park backcountry?

1a. ____ First visit , or ____ visits (write in #)

1b. From the options given, what is your primary motivation for visiting Denali?

1b. (choose best option)

____ to experience solitude and nature

____ to experience a sense of adventure/challenge

____ to view wildlife

____ to view scenery

____ to explore my sense of self

1c. What is your level of wilderness experience?

____ Novice (0-2 wilderness trips)

____ Somewhat experienced (3-5 trips)

____ Very experienced (6 or more trips)

SECTION 2: Backcountry Information

2a. Did you spend any time hiking on [named (maintained)] trails?

2a. Yes No

2a. If Yes, which one(s)? _____

2b. Would you prefer fewer or more maintained trails in the backcountry?

2b. Fewer More Same Don't know

2c. Did Denali National Park staff provide you with sufficient information to hike in the backcountry?

2c. Yes No

2d. Did you come to Denali specifically to hike off-trail?

2d. Yes No

2e. Did you rely on social media to plan your hike in the backcountry?

2e. Yes No

2f. If YES, which sources?

2f. Check all that apply

Magazine/online (write) _____

Online hiker/explorer forum

Facebook

Guide/Tour book (write) _____

Gaia GPS

GPS product support

iNaturalist

Geocaching Apps

Other (write) _____

NOTE: This version of this question will only appear in the DAY HIKER survey

2g. Check the box according to your best approximation of the number of times today you heard or saw each of the following items in the table below **Be sure to write in the Backcountry UNIT #(s) or trails you were on today.** (If needed the Survey interviewer has a reference map to help you to identify the Unit Numbers).

Day Hike	Number of encounters during your day				
Backcountry UNIT # (s) _____, _____ (write in)	0 times	1-2 times	3-5 times	5-10 times	Over 10 times
Motorized noise (Includes noise from construction, buses and other vehicles on park road. <u>Excludes</u> aircraft noise)					
Aircraft noise (Includes fly-overs, landings, takeoffs)					
Modern equipment (Includes bikes, equipment, chain saws, vehicles. <u>Excludes</u> backpacking equipment)					
Landscape modifications (Includes trails, rock cairns, trampled vegetation. <u>Excludes</u> park road)					
Other Park visitors (How often did you encounter other visitors, or groups smaller than 6 people?)					
Large Groups of Park visitors (Encounters with groups larger than 6 people)					
Rangers (How often did you encounter Park rangers?)					
Researchers/Research Teams (how often did you come across researchers?)					
Park Road (how much of your day did you see it?) CHECK one	<input type="checkbox"/> not at all	<input type="checkbox"/> some of the day	<input type="checkbox"/> most of the day	<input type="checkbox"/> all day	

At any time during the day did you see: Litter or Human Waste? Yes No




NOTE: The following two questions will be added and will only appear in the OVERNIGHT version of the survey. There will be three similar tables for the respondent to complete that account for at least three days in the backcountry.

Were you ABLE to Camp out of Sight of Others?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Did you WANT to camp out of sight of others?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

SECTION 3: The Denali Wilderness

3a. Our goal is to maintain the wilderness character of Denali. We would like for you to first tell us how important each of the following wilderness experiences are when you are in the backcountry (**Check the box** corresponding to how importance of each experience). Then **Check the box** to rate the quality the experience you had here

Wilderness Experiences			
	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Feeling of Solitude	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feeling of being in a pristine environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Viewing Wolves	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Viewing Bears	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Viewing Dall Sheep	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being away from noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Having unconfined Recreation: being able to travel freely, no designated campsites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being spiritually connected with nature	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fostering intimacy with close group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Undeveloped quality of nature: without modern human occupation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being surrounded by natural sounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feeling independent and self-reliant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Challenging myself/Adventure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Quality of the Experience		
High Quality	Decent Quality	Poor Quality
		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3b. If you selected the **feeling of solitude** as important in the table above, then tell us what would be the maximum number of people you could encounter per day to an overall feeling of solitude that would still rate as important?

3b. Write in a maximum # of people/day : _____

NOTE: This question will only appear in the DAY HIKER SURVEY






3c. If offered, would you use a commercial (tour) service for day hiking in the Denali backcountry?
 ____Yes ____No

NOTE: This question will only appear OVERNIGHT SURVEY

3c. Did you get your first choice of unit for the backcountry? ____Yes ____No

3d. Would you use an online reservation system for overnight stays in the Denali backcountry?
 (Check one) ____Yes ____No

3e. Based upon your answers in question #2 Please tell us how each item below affected your overall enjoyment during your trip. (Check one)

How much did each of the following you experienced impact your overall enjoyment?	Very positively 	Positively 	Not at all 	Negatively 	Very negatively 
The amount of motorized noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The amount of aircraft noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seeing modern equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seeing trampled vegetation or rock cairns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seeing the Park road	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seeing other Park visitors (less than 6 per group)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seeing large groups of visitors (6 or more per group)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seeing/encountering Rangers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seeing/encountering Research Teams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Camping out of sight of others	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3f. How acceptable to you is each of the following potential events on your trip? (Please check one response).

	Never Acceptable	Sometimes Acceptable	Always Acceptable	Don't Know
Encounter more than 2 groups/day in wilderness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Encounter more than 2 groups/ day on trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Experience between 2-5 times/day aircraft noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Experience more than 5-times /day aircraft noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
See evidence of human impact in wilderness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
See evidence of human impact next to trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION 4: Personal Perspective

4a. Please tell us the level of support you have for each of the following actions. Check one box for each statement to indicate if you strongly oppose or strongly support the action in the first column. (Please select one response)

	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	Neither Support/Oppose	Support	Strongly Support
More scientific research in Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More guided/tourist activities in Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expanded Biking opportunities in the Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limiting visitor numbers in Denali's wilderness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mandatory wildlife safety and Leave No Trace talks for day hikers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New trail systems in Wonder Lake/Kantishna area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved relations with Subsistence users of the Park and Preserve	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve wildlife viewing opportunities. Check the most important animal you would like to view <input type="checkbox"/> Bear, <input type="checkbox"/> Caribou, <input type="checkbox"/> Dall Sheep, <input type="checkbox"/> Wolf, <input type="checkbox"/> Moose <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cooperate more closely with State to regulate sport hunting and trapping around park boundaries.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cooperate more closely with other federal, state and private lands to conserve natural and cultural resources.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4b Trust and Relevancy

Not at	A	Some	A lot	Don't
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How much do you trust the National Park Service?

Nationally
At [NPS SITE]?

all	little			know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

In your opinion, how relevant is the National Park Service:

Locally (specifically in your local area)
Nationally
Internationally

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Much worse	Worse	Stayed the same	Better	Much better
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In the last decade, how has your level of trust in National Park Service Management changed?

At Denali?
Locally (specifically in your local area)
At the national level?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

In the last decade, has your level of trust in other federal agencies (such as EPA, BLM, etc.,) changed

Nationally
Locally (specifically in your local area)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

In the last decade, has your level of trust in non-federal entities (such as NGOs, corporations etc.,) changed?

Nationally
Locally (specifically in your local area)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Demographic Questions

5a. What is your **gender**? (Please write in) _____

5b. In **what year** were you **born**? (Please write in) _____

5c. **For you only, are you** Hispanic or Latino

___ Yes ___ No

What is your **race**? (Check **all** that apply).

___ Alaskan Native or American Indian

___ Asian

___ Black or African American

___ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

___ White

5d. What is your primary **occupation**? (*write in*)

5e. What was your household's **total income** in the past 12 months? _____ (\$), or: what category fits best?

___ under 25,000

___ 70,000—99,999

___ 200,000 or more

___ 26,000—39,999

___ 100,000—150,000

___ prefer not to answer

___ 40,000– 69,999

___ 150,000—200,000

5f. How many people are in your household? _____ (number of people)

5g. What is the total anticipated **cost of this trip** to Denali from when you left home to when you return? (\$)_____

5h. **Where** are you **visiting from**? (Check one, and write in)

Alaska (*provide zip code*) _____

are you a year-round or seasonal resident? _____ Year-round / _____ Seasonal

Other U.S. State (*provide State*) _____

International (*provide Country*) _____

5i. What is your level of formal **education**? (Check one)

Some high school

High school graduate

Vocational/trade school certificate

Some college

Two-year college degree

Four-year college degree [or Bachelor's degree]

- Master's Degree [or Graduate degree]
- Ph.D., M.D., J.D., or equivalent

5j **How many** are in your **group**? (Write in) _____

5k. What **kind of group** are you travelling with this trip? (Check one)

- Family N/A
- Friends Family and Friends
- Guided tour (which one?) _____

(Please use the space on the back page to provide additional comments)

THANK YOU for your help and feedback. Your experience in Denali's Backcountry truly matters!