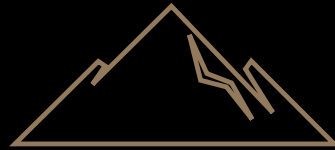




ALASKA 2015

Prasad Gunupati



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Skilak Lake

Skilak Lake is a large lake on the Kenai Peninsula, Alaska. The lake is part of the Kenai River system but also contains glacial runoff. The water is exceptionally clear with a mostly rocky bottom, relatively free of aquatic vegetation.

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The Bald Eagle

The bald eagle is the national bird of the USA, it is the only eagle unique to North America. The bald eagle's scientific name signifies a sea (halo) eagle (aetos) with a white (leukos) head. At one time, the word "bald" meant "white," not hairless. Bald eagles are found throughout most of North America, from Alaska and Canada to northern Mexico. About half of the world's 70,000 bald eagles live in Alaska. They flourish here in part because of the salmon.



FOREWORD

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The Killer Whale

Also referred to as the Orca whale or Orca, the Killer Whale (*Orcinus orca*), is known as the Blackfish or Grampus, it is a toothed whale belonging to the oceanic dolphin family, of which it is the largest member. Killer whales are found in all oceans, from the frigid Arctic and Antarctic regions to tropical seas. Killer Whales are regarded as apex predators, lacking natural predators.





ALASKA 2015

Alaska, on the northwest of Canada, is the largest and most sparsely populated U.S. state. It's known for its dramatic, diverse terrain of wide-open spaces, mountains and forests, with abundant wildlife and many small towns. It's a destination for outdoor activities including skiing, mountain biking and kayaking. Massive Denali National Park, home to Mt. McKinley (aka Denali), North America's highest peak, is a site of animal-viewing tours.


Alaska has over 430 species of birds, the largest population of bald eagles in the North America, and the largest carnivorous land mammal in the world the brown bear can be sighted here (the polar bear is considered a marine mammal). From pygmy shrews that weigh less than a penny to gray whales that weigh anywhere from 16 to 45 tons, Alaska is the Last Frontier for animals as well as people. Species endangered elsewhere are still abundant in Alaska.



Mount McKinley

Mount McKinley or Denali is the highest mountain peak in North America, with a summit elevation of 20,237 feet (6,168 m) above sea level. At some 18,000 feet (5,500 m), the base-to-peak rise is considered the largest of any mountain situated entirely above sea level.





The Gray Whale

The Grey Whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*) is a baleen whale that migrates between feeding and breeding grounds annually. It reaches a length of 14.9 meters (49 ft), weighs 36 tonnes (40 short tons), and lives between 55 and 70 years. The common name of the whale comes from the gray patches and white mottling on its dark skin.





Pinnipeds

Pinnipeds, commonly known as seals, are a widely distributed and diverse clade of fin-footed, semiaquatic marine mammals. They comprise the extant families Odobenidae (whose only living member is the walrus), Otariidae (the eared seals: sea lions and fur seals), and Phocidae (the earless, or true seals). There are 33 extant species of pinnipeds, and more than 50 extinct species have been described from fossils.











Brown Bear

Alaska contains about 98% of the U.S. brown bear population and 70% of the total North American population. An estimated 30,000 brown bears live in Alaska. Most brown bears in Alaska are grizzly bears (the subspecies of brown bear found throughout North America), but Kodiak Island is home to Kodiak bears, another subspecies that is the largest type of brown bear in the world.



Brown Bear

The density of brown bear populations in Alaska varies according to the availability of food. And in some places they are as high as one bear per square mile. Alaska's McNeil River Falls has one of the largest brown bear population densities in the state.

Brown bears can be dangerous if they are not treated with respect. Between the years 1998 and 2002, there were an average of 14.6 brown bear attacks per year. Brown bears are most dangerous when they have just made a fresh kill, and when a sow has cubs.





Alaskan Salmon


Salmon is the common name for several species of fish in the family of Salmonidae. Other fish in the same family include trout, char, grayling and whitefish. Salmon are native to tributaries of the North Atlantic (genus *Salmo*) and Pacific Ocean (genus *Oncorhynchus*)





Glacial ice is a different color from regular ice. It is so blue because the dense ice of the glacier absorbs every other color of the spectrum except blue - so blue is what we see. Sometimes the glacial ice appears almost turquoise. Its crystalline structure strongly scatters blue light.



A high-angle photograph showing a vast colony of white birds, identified as Glaucous-winged Gulls, scattered across a rugged, dark grey rock face. The rocks are layered and fractured, with patches of green and brownish vegetation growing in the crevices and on the surface. The birds are densely packed in some areas and more sparse in others, covering almost the entire visible rock surface.

Glaucous-Winged Gulls

Glaucous-winged gulls are the common “seagulls” familiar to many on the south coast of Alaska. Glaucous-winged gulls breed in Alaska from the British Columbia border to the end of the Aleutian chain and northward to Bristol Bay, western Nunivak Island, and the Pribilofs.















































Prasad Gunupati's instinct for life is well placed: A zealous traveller and an avid photographer, his activism and championship are rooted in his passion for wildlife. Shooting killer whales and grizzly bears, his concerns for Tiger conservation and promoting awareness against consumption of so called "exotic" foods like the shark fin soup or supporting the anti government agenda of protecting wildlife sanctuaries comes natural to him. He also happens to be the CEO of Dr. Reddy's Laboratories in Hyderabad.

