

ANAN INFORMATION

The bear observatory is accessed by a half-mile, two-foot wide elevated boardwalk trail. The total trip to the observatory and back is one mile.

There are sections of the trail that have loose gravel, mud, and uneven ground. There are over 300 stairs from the Anan trailhead to the observatory deck. In addition, the photo blind, which is located at the bear observatory, is accessed through a stairway that is equivalent to three stories high.

You **MUST** be physically fit enough to walk the trail/stairs unaided and keep up with the guide and group.

Anan is remote and isolated. It can only be accessed by float plane or boat.

Whether you arrive by float plane, you will disembark in a tidal area. There are large, slippery rocks to traverse before you reach the trailhead.

What to Expect:

During the peak viewing season of July and August, Forest Service interpreters are onsite to provide current information on bear safety, trail conditions, bear activity, and to interpret the natural surroundings and the wildlife of Anan. You will need to present your day use permit to the Forest Service personnel upon arrival.

Visiting hours from July 5-August 25 are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The wet environment of southeast Alaska creates very slippery and muddy trail conditions. The trail and conditions can be arduous and it can be common to encounter bears along the trail.

If visiting Anan by private boat the anchoring can be tricky as Anan features a large tidal flat, a step drop off, and sandy ocean floor bottom.

What to Bring:

- Rain gear, extra layers, and water proof foot wear. Even on sunny days, the weather can quickly change to cold and rain.
- Plenty of water to last throughout the day.
- Lunch and any additional food items. Food will need to be stored in the bear proof locker at the trailhead while visiting the observatory deck.
- Bear spray if not accompanied by a guide.
- Your camera!

Facilities:

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The Anan area has a trail system, recreational cabin, trailhead with trailhead shelter, several outhouses, and an observatory deck overlooking the falls where the bears congregate.

The Anan Wildlife Observatory deck consists of a covered viewing shelter, decks, photo blind, and a detached outhouse.

Rules and Regulations:

From July 5 through August 25, a day permit is required for all visitors to the observatory.

Per Order of Forest Supervisor, Order No. 96-01 the following activities are prohibited within the Anan Wildlife Viewing Area. Restrictions apply to all visitors between June 15 and September 15, annually.

- a. Possessing, preparing or storing any food or food refuse within the area, with the exception of placing such in the designated food cache located at the Anan Creek Trailhead, or in conjunction with authorized use of Anan Creek Trailhead, or in conjunction with authorized use of the Anan Public Recreation Cabin [36 CFR 261.58 (cc)].
- b. Camping [36 CFR 261.58 9e)]. Camping is prohibited within one-half mile of Anan Creek (north shore boundary is power line right-of-way, southern shore boundary is cliffs south of the sandy beach).
- c. Possessing, storing or transporting any dog, including any of the various animals of the Canidae family [36 CFR 261.58 (s)]. Dogs are prohibited within one-half mile of Anan Creek (north shore boundary is power line right-of-way; southern shore boundary is cliffs south of the sandy beach).
- d. Public use on all National Forest System lands within 1/2 mile of the Anan Creek Trail (Trail #448) beginning at the Anan Bay Public Recreation Cabin and ending at the Upper Falls Observatory, the exception of:
 - 1) the Anan Bay Public Recreation site,
 - 2) the Anan Creek Trailhead,
 - 3) the Anan Creek Trail, and
 - 4) the Lower Observatory Deck (including viewing blind and outhouse).