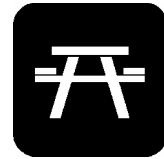


Recreation Opportunity Guide



SANDY BEACH PICNIC AREA

DESCRIPTION: A large day use, picnic area consisting of five fire rings, five picnic tables, a shelter, and toilet facilities nestled among a stand of sitka spruce and cedar. The beautiful sandy beach provides a source of enjoyment and recreation for all ages. The view of Clarence Strait from the picnic area is fantastic. Vegetation here is typical of southeast Alaska: skunk cabbage, devils club, and assorted ferns and mosses provide ground cover. Two parking areas are available.



LOCATION: From Thorne Bay, follow Sandy Beach Road/Forest Road 30 north for approximately six miles.

TERRAIN: Flat to gently sloping easterly towards the strait. There are some drift logs on the beach, causing difficult access for the less agile. It is one of the few truly "sandy" beaches on Prince of Wales Island.

CAUTIONS about Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning: While clams and mussels can be dug along the beach, caution is advised as the seas around the island are not monitored for paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP). PSP can occur at any time of the year, and if toxic shellfish are eaten, can result in numbness, paralysis, disorientation, and death. Testing programs in Alaska ensure that shellfish reaching the retail food market are safe, but recreational and subsistence harvests may be toxic.

SPECIAL FEATURES: There are excellent views of Clarence Strait and the adjacent islands. Cleveland Peninsula and Etohin Island lie across the strait to the east. The tidal community may include barnacles, mussels, clams, starfish, crab, abalone, and jelly fish. Many pleasant hours may be spent exploring the tidal area or "beach combing." The tides change every six and a half hours and during these changes there may be heavy currents. Orcas and humpback whales are frequently observed. Harbor seals and river otters may be in attendance from time to time also. Sitka black-tailed deer and black bear frequent the area in addition to other small furbearers. Waterfowl and sea birds may be observed. Bald eagles fish in the waters or scavenge along the shores.

For more information on this recreation site visit the [Nature Watch page](#).

SAFETY TIPS:

- ✓ *Discharging firearms is prohibited within 150 yards of buildings, campsites, developed recreation sites, or occupied areas*
- ✓ *Fireworks or other explosives are prohibited*
- ✓ *Use only fire rings provided by the Forest Service*
- ✓ *Be respectful of others and keep your pets under control*
- ✓ *Do NOT feed or approach bears!*
- ✓ *Water for consumption should be treated or boiled*





The Forest Service cannot assure the reliability or suitability of this information for a particular purpose. Original data was compiled from various sources and is the most current data available. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information may be updated, corrected, or otherwise modified without notification. For additional information about this data, contact Tongass National Forest, Thorne Bay Ranger District Office.

Plan ahead and prepare
Pack it in, pack it out
Leave what you find



Minimize campfire impacts
Be considerate of others
Respect wildlife