

Stillpoint Lodge: Frequently Asked Questions



General FAQs

Q: What's Lodge Capacity?

A: Based on room configuration and occupancy...

Up to 28 guests, double/triple/quad/quint cabin occupancy

Up to 15 guests, single occupancy bedrooms

Up to 9 couples with private bathroom

Q: What is the included transportation?

A: We arrange your scenic, round trip boat transportation from Homer Harbor to Stillpoint Lodge in Halibut Cove, Alaska aboard one of our lodge vessels. The voyage usually takes about 30-minutes and often includes stops for wildlife viewing along the way. Private vehicle transfer from Homer Airport to Homer Harbor is provided, if needed, and we can store your luggage while you explore the Homer Spit.

Q: Is the lodge handicap accessible?

A: There are no wheelchair ramps. Our staff uses golf carts to haul luggage. Guests are permitted to ride in carts when physical conditions limit mobility. Please notify us in advance so that we may accommodate your needs by special request. There are inherent risks in the steep ramps, boats, docks, boardwalks and terrain of Halibut Cove. There are 10-20 steps to get into the lodge and each cabin has at least 3 steps.

Q: Is it safe to park on the spit at the Homer Harbor? Is it free or paid parking?

A: Yes, we park our vehicles on the spit all summer and have never had any issues. There are some free parking spots and some paid parking spots, just be sure to read the signs in each parking lot.

Halibut Cove FAQs

Q: Is there an ATM at the lodge or in Halibut Cove?

A: No, there are no ATM machines at the lodge or in Halibut Cove. We do accept Venmo if needed.

Q: Are there any stores in Halibut Cove?

A: No. The closest town with stores is Homer. We do have boats coming and going to Homer several days a week if there is a special request. For urgent errands, a round trip water taxi to Homer is \$90/per person. In the lodge gift shop, we do have some logo gear, souvenirs, artwork, and books. Snacks are included during your stay and postcards and stamps are provided for your convenience to mail at Halibut Cove's iconic floating post office.

Q: Are there bears?

A: Yes, we are surrounded by wilderness and wildlife interactions are possible, including black bears. Our staff will notify you of recent wildlife sightings and best practices to avoid complications. It is Stillpoint policy for guests to never hike or kayak alone.

Q: What's the best time of the year to visit?

A: Stillpoint is open seasonally Memorial Day to Labor Day.

- Late May to early June is a quiet time in the cove when the bright green plants are starting to bud out and the season is just starting up. You'll see few tourists and lots of snow on the mountains, but this can be a warm and dry time to visit. Flotillas of sea otters still shelter in the cove protecting their young that are still learning to swim.
- June is when we celebrate the longest days of the year with 24 hours of light; the sun goes down but it never gets dark. The garden is really growing fast, halibut fishing is great and the king salmon start to return inland heading towards fresh water.
- July to early August is all about flowers, sun and salmon... which attract the bears, orcas and the people! The mountain trails are clear of snow and this is historically the least buggy time of the summer. Watch the commercial fishing boat with their nets just outside the cove.
- Late August to early September is the beginning of Fall in Alaska. The birch trees turn golden, the garden is in full harvest mode. We could have some foggy days but this is the best time for epic freshwater Coho silver salmon fishing via floatplane or helicopter.

Cabin FAQs

Q: Do the cabins and lodge have Wi-Fi?

A: Yes, We have excellent high-speed Wi-Fi throughout the property... but cellular reception is spotty. Ask our staff for the best cell signal locations.

Q: Do all the cabins have refrigerators?

A: No, only our suite cabins have mini-fridges (1BR Suite & VIP Suite) and the Hermitage one-bedroom deluxe cabin. If you need a fridge, please be sure to ask in advance as a special request on your guest information form.

Q: Do the cabins have telephones?

A: No. Guests can communicate on their own devices with included Wi-Fi.

Q: Do the cabins have televisions?

A: No. Guests can stream on their own devices with included Wi-Fi. We do have a projector and screen at the lodge that can be used for streaming during buyouts.

Q: Do you provide laundry?

A: Yes, Housekeeping, Laundry & Recycling services are included. To conserve resources, linens are changed by request. Daily housekeeping service is optional. Laundry is available for personal items as needed during your stay. To help us recycle, please look for recycling bins around the lodge or set empties next to your cabin trashcan.

Q: Do all the cabins have outdoor bathrooms?

A: No. The Hermitage and our VIP Suite, Alaska's Presidential Chalet, have ensuite bathrooms. The rest of our cabins have beautifully appointed private bathrooms that are attached to the wraparound porch. Guests must take a few steps outside their bedroom, under a covered patio, to get to their attached bathrooms. It is all part of the adventure! Robes and slippers are provided, and all bathrooms are equipped with space heaters, on-demand hot water for unlimited hot water, high pressure showers, and eco-luxury toiletries. Many guests comment that they are pleasantly surprised at the special quiet moments they spent in nature headed back from the bathroom.

Q: Do any of the cabins have bathtubs?

A: No, all of our cabins just have showers. Our VIP Suite, Alaska's Presidential Chalet, has a private hot tub.

Included Activities FAQs

Q: Are guests able to take out kayaks and paddleboards without a guided tour?

A: Maybe... If you are experienced with cold-water paddlesports, please meet with our guides, learn about our gear and equipment, and get cleared to paddle with a friend in the calm waters of the cove.

Q: Is the yoga included in the rates a shared class? Does it run daily?

A: Maybe... private yoga is available as the included wellness option, so it depends on your choice. You can schedule your yoga with other guests, and/or ask for more yoga during your stay.

Q: For the massage that is included in the rates, do guests need to pre-reserve this?

A: No, we do not schedule wellness sessions prior to guest arrival. Wellness sessions, such as massage, will be scheduled onsite based on your scheduled excursions and weather.

Q: For the massage that is included in the rates, if one guest does not want their massage, can another guest in their party have the massage instead?

A: Yes, if time allows. All guests in house will be scheduled for their first massage before a second massage is available to be scheduled, based on other activities, excursions, and meal times.

Q: Can guests choose to stay without everything included?

A: No. All guest stays are all-inclusive.

Excursions FAQs



Q: Do you have set departure times for your excursions?

A: Departure times depend on tide, conditions, charter schedule, and pace of group.

- Fishing: usually around 7:30 am
- Bear Viewing: usually around 7:30 am
- Wildlife Photo-Safari: usually around 8 am or 2 pm
- Glacier Lake Kayaking & E-Biking: usually around 9-10 am

Q: Will there be other people on my excursions?

A: Maybe. In most cases, a few other lodge guests may be on your group excursions. Often, there are other people on the bear viewing plane who are not lodge guests in an effort to reduce carbon emissions and lower the rate. Private excursions may be available and must be reserved and paid in advance by buying out the other seats.

Q: Do excursions need to be booked in advance?

A: Yes. Included and à la carte excursions must be booked in advance to ensure availability. Some guided excursions may be available to be added after arrival. Any excursion that requires a floatplane or helicopter has limited availability, and the fishing boats may be sold out well in advance.

Q: Where do guests meet for their tours?

A: Meet at the Gear Cave. During orientation, you will get a map and a tour so you're sure not to miss anything.

Q: Does bear viewing require a good amount of physical fitness?

A: Not really. It depends on the location of the bears which changes throughout the season as the bears move through different terrain and upstream following the salmon. The ability to climb in and out of the aircraft and walk up to a mile in hip-waders is required.

Q: Are fishing licenses included?

A: Yes. Fishing licenses are included for those who choose fishing and are printed at the lodge the day before the fishing trip. Guests will need to provide their government ID number, address, and birthdate. We ask for this information in advance on our guest information form for convenience.

Q: Are there rules or limits on halibut and other types of fish?

A: Alaska's Dept. of Fish & Game and NOAA announce our area's halibut regulations each spring, so we must base our schedule on the regulation trends from the past few years. For 2023, the retention of halibut was not allowed for most Tuesdays and all Wednesdays throughout the summer. Anglers may keep one halibut of any size per day and one halibut that is no more than 28 inches in length.

In 2023, each angler was allowed:

- 2 halibut
- 1 king salmon, 3 silver salmon, 3 red or pink salmon
- 2 lingcod (opens July 1)
- 5 rockfish
- Unlimited on pacific cod and other fin fish

Q: Can I take the fish I catch home with me?

A: Yes. Your fish will be professionally filleted. For an additional fee, it will be vacuum sealed and frozen. You can pick it up on the way to the airport in Homer and take it with you on the plane, or call the processor and have it shipped overnight to your door when you return home.

Q: Do you have a separate cancellation for the chartered excursions? For example, if guests cancel their bear viewing excursion, but still come for their lodging, would you charge them a penalty?

A: Maybe. We handle this on a case by case basis considering the date of cancellation and any penalty from the charter operator.

Q: What happens if an excursion is canceled due to weather or other safety concerns?

A: Excursions occasionally cancel due to weather and other factors. We do our best to provide an alternate excursion, activity, or experience. There are no refunds for canceled excursions included in your package rate.