

Tlingit Place Names of the Huna Káawu

Lower Glacier Bay



Hidden in these names lie clues to ancient Tlingit history. Whether recalling an important event, referring to spiritual ownership (Ghaat Heeni: river that belongs to the sockeye), or providing a vivid description of a specific location (L'eiwx'áati: Glacial Sand's Island), each place name tells a story of the homeland of the Huna Tlingit.

"If you do not know the names, your
Tlingit way of life will drift away."

Tlingit proverb



The Four Glacier Bay Clans	Phonetic	Moieté	Clan Crest
Chookaneidi	"Chew-ka-NAY-dee"	Eagle	Porpoise
Kaagwaantaan	"Kah-gwon-TAWN"	Eagle	Wolf
Wooshkeetaan	"Whoosh-key-TAWN"	Eagle	Shark
T'akdeintaan	"T-OCK-dane-tawn"	Raven	Kittiwake



1. Glacier Bay has three Tlingit names, each reflects different geological conditions, as the glacier advanced and retreated:

S'é Shuyee "T-seh-shoe-yee"

"Edge of the glacial silt"

Former Glacial Outwash plain. Glacier is distant.

Xáatl Tú "Halked-TOO"

"Among the ice" Refers to navigating among the ice bergs during the time of glacial retreat.

Sít' Eeti Gheiyí "Sit-ee-tea-gay-YEE"

"The bay in place of the glacier"

Describes the bay left behind by glacial retreat.

2. **L'eiw Shaa Shaki Aan** "Clay-oh-shaw-shuh-KEY-on"

"Sand Mountain Village" Now Bartlett Cove

3. **Ghaat Héeni** "Got-HEENY"

"Sockeye's River"

Early village place of Kaagwaantaan, Wooshkeetaan, and T'akdeintaan clans.

4. **T'ooch' Ghíl'i** "Ta-ooch-git-LEE"

"Cliff of Black/Black Cliffs" Now Rush Point

Chookaneidi Clan village before the glacial advance

5. **L'eiwx'áati** "Clay-oh-CAUGHT-he"

"Glacial Sand's Island" Strawberry picking place

6. **Chookanhéeni** "Chew-con-HEENY"

"Grass' river, Berg Bay"

Chookaneidi Clan village after glacier retreat

7. **Shaltláaxh Tlein** "Shawth-CLAWTH-clane"

"Big rock island covered with lichen"

Prior to tree growth this was a gull egg gathering place

8. **Íxdé Néexh' X'áat'i** "Ick-day-nee-uck-AWE-tee"

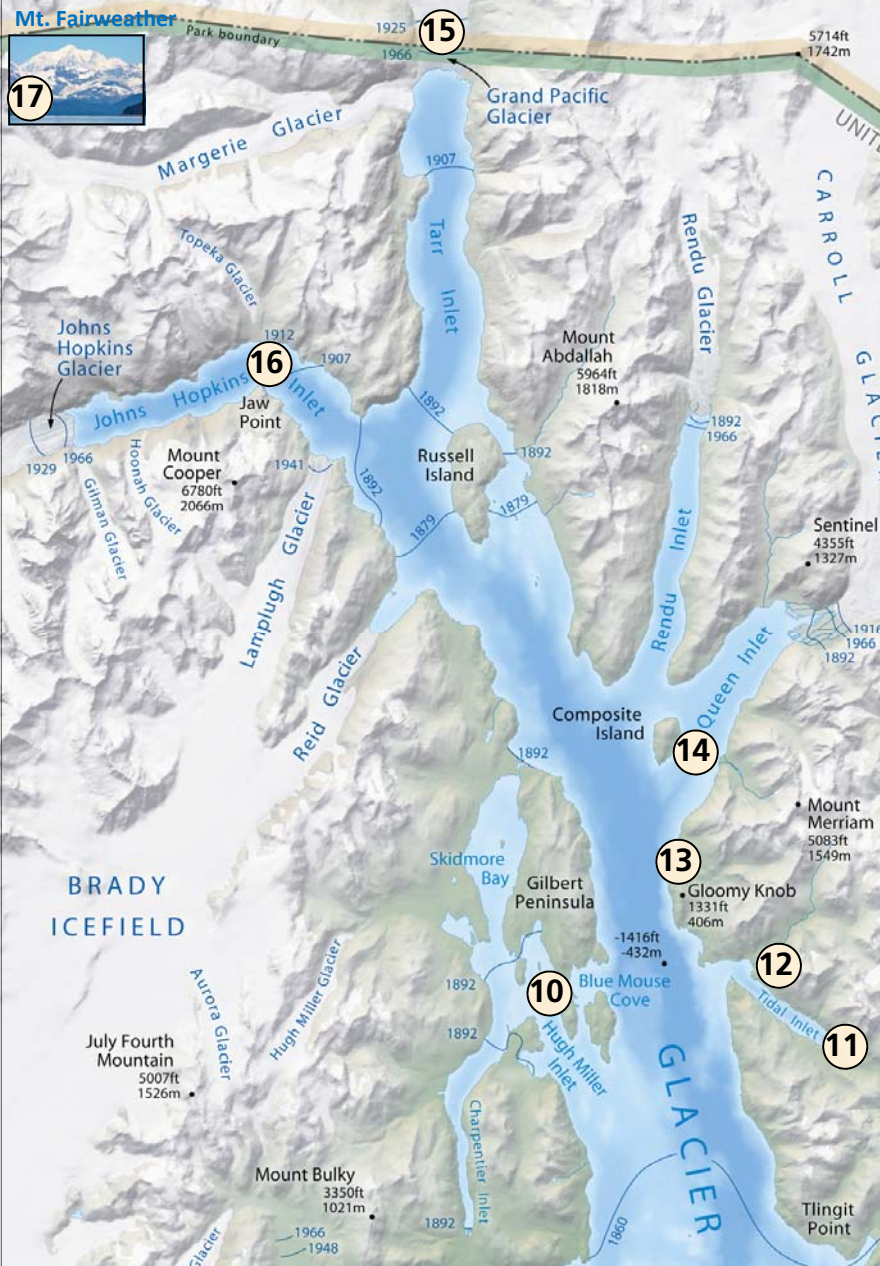
"South Marble's Island" gull egg gathering place

9. **Wudzidughu Yé** "Woodsy-dook-oh-YUH"

"Place heavily wooded with cottonwood"

Tlingit Place Names of the Huna Káawu

Upper Glacier Bay



10. Anaxkhuyaawal'ix'i Yé

"Ah-nock-coo-yah-wah-click-ee-YEH"
"Place where the glacier broke through"

11. Tsalgi Gheiyí

"T-suth-gee-gay-YEE"
"Ground Squirrel's Bay"

12. Gus'kee Khwáan Gheiyi

"goots-key-kwon-gay-YEE"
"People From Under the Clouds' Bay"
Once a campsite of the "people from under the clouds."

13. Janwu Aani

"John-woo-on-KNEE"
"Mountain Goat's Land"
Traditional hunting area for goats

14. T'ooch' Gheiyi

"Ta-ooch-gay-YEE"
"Bay of Black, Dirty Glacier Bay"

15. Sit' Tlein

"sit-CLANE"
"Large Glacier"
Grand Pacific is believed to be the main glacier that forced Huna Tlingit out of their homeland.

16. Tsalxhaan Niyaadé Wool'éexi Yé

"T-suth-hon-knee-yah-day-WOO-clee-key-YEH"
"Passage that broke through towards Mt. Fairweather"

17. Tsalxhaan

"Tsuth-hon"
"Ground Squirrel Land, Mount Fairweather"
Mt. Fairweather is the sacred mountain of the T'akdeintaan Clan. Out of respect, the Huna Tlingit do not point at the mountain.

Learn More!



A wall map filled with hundreds of Huna Tlingit place names is available.

Hoonah Indian Association

PO Box 602

Hoonah, AK 99829

(907) 945-3545

