

A photograph of a moose and two calves in a lush green field with purple lupines in the foreground and a forest in the background. The moose is on the left, looking towards the camera. Two calves are to its right, one slightly behind the other. The field is filled with tall green grass and numerous purple lupine flowers. In the background, there is a dense forest of tall, thin trees.

OFFICIAL GUIDE TO
ANCHORAGE
ALASKA
AND SURROUNDING AREAS



VISIT

anchorage

ALASKA



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**Anchorage, where awe-inspiring natural
spaces meet a dynamic city.
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urban & WILD



DENA'INA LAND

Anchorage is located on Dena'ina Ełnena, the traditional land of the Dena'ina Athabascan people and the Native Village of Eklutna.

We're grateful for their stewardship of this land and everything it holds.

TRADITIONAL PLACES

Nestled between the Chugach Mountains and Cook Inlet, the Anchorage area is home to many Dena'ina cultural sites – places used for fishing, trapping, hunting, berry picking, and more long before the city came to exist. They remain important parts of the local landscape to this day and are marked by the artistic signage of the Indigenous Place Names Project.

LEARN MORE

Find more information about the Indigenous Place Names Project at **anchorageparkfoundation.org**. Many museums, cultural centers, and parks in Anchorage teach visitors about Dena'ina history and contemporary culture. See [Our Story](#) on page 12 and [Museums, Culture & Heritage Centers](#) on page 71.





WEST

Idlughet
“By the Objects”
(Native Village of Eklutna)

Idlu Bena
“Plural Objects Lake”
(Eklutna Lake)

Dghelay Ka’a
“Big Mountain” (Denali)

Dghelishla
“Little Mountain” (Mount Susitna)

Nuk’elehitnu
“Fish Run Again Creek”
(Eagle River)

Dgheyay Tl’u
“Stickleback Headwaters”
(Arctic Valley; Headwaters of Ship Creek)

Dgheyay Kaq’
“Mouth of Stickleback Creek”
(Mouth of Ship Creek)

Chanshtnu
“Grass Creek” (Chester Creek)

K’ilkedi Aq’a
“Trapping Location”
(Area of Fourth Avenue and
Gambell Street)

Nen Ghilgedi
“Rotten Land” (Earthquake Park)

Nuch’ishtunt
“Place Protected From the Wind”
(Point Woronzof)

Nungge
“Upland Area”
(Nunaka Valley/Russian Jack)

Qin Cheghilnu
“Crying Ridge Creek” (Campbell Creek)

Qin Chegi
“Ridge Where We Cry”
(Tanaina Peak; Glen Alps)

Tikahtnu
“Big Water River” (Cook Inlet)

Hkaditali
“Drift Lumber”
(Potter Marsh)

Q’isqa Betnu
“Temporary Snowshoe Creek”
(McHugh Creek)



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Visit Anchorage

907-257-2326

✉ alocal@anchorage.net

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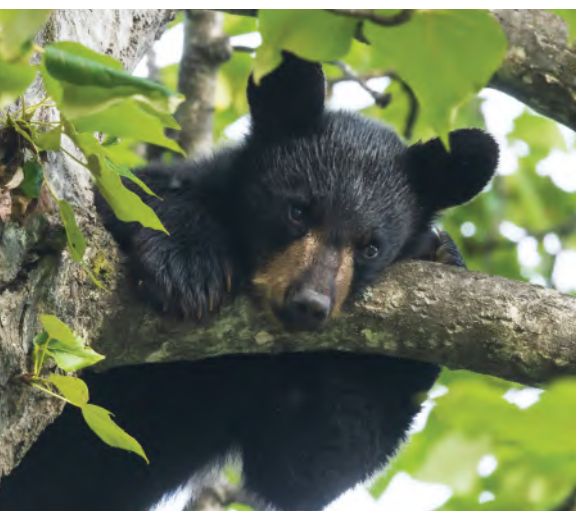
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WELCOME TO ANCHORAGE

Hike a mountain trail under the midnight sun or dine al fresco at a rooftop restaurant. Chase the northern lights or see a live stage performance. In Anchorage, urban pairs perfectly with wild. Welcome to the best of Alaska, all in one place.

7 SPECTACULAR REASONS TO LOVE ANCHORAGE

1 ONLY IN ANCHORAGE: Where else can you wander an art gallery during the day and chase the aurora by night? That's just the start when it comes to what makes Anchorage a one-of-a-kind destination: the only urban Chinook salmon fishery in the U.S., the world's busiest floatplane base, and one of the most powerful coastal tidal systems on the planet. Anchorage sparkles with the best and brightest. Spending time in the city means soaking up all the things that make the 49th state so special.

2 ABUNDANT WILDLIFE: Moose meander along city bike paths, beluga whales swim along the Cook Inlet coast, migratory birds flock to Potter Marsh, and black bears mosey through spacious parks and hillside berry patches. In Anchorage, you never need to travel far to spot some spectacular Alaska wildlife.

3 GLACIERS AND TRAILS GALORE: Hundreds of miles of trails, thousands of acres of parkland, and countless glaciers make Anchorage the perfect place to find secluded natural splendor. There's plenty of room to play with the Chugach National Forest and Chugach State Park providing Alaska-style solitude, and there are 60 glaciers within 50 miles of the city, offering easy access to icy exploration.

4 BRIGHT LIGHTS AND BIG SHOWS: There are endless options to take in shows, from national headliners to local rising stars. Catch some of the biggest names on stage at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, listen to a live band, walk through interactive outdoor art exhibits, or check out the monthly First Friday events at local galleries and cafes.

5 CULTURAL CROWN JEWEL: Shaped by the region's Dena'ina Athabascan roots, the history and heritage of Alaska's Indigenous peoples create a unique cultural experience found nowhere else in the world. Iconic local attractions like the Anchorage Museum, the Alaska Native Heritage Center, and a mix of museums, theater, and gallery spaces share the vibrant, varied culture of the city.

6 DINE, SIP, AND SAVOR: Take an appetizing adventure through Anchorage with an array of restaurants that reflect the city's global draw and diverse community. Fresh seafood is easy to find and is a mainstay on menus across town. Find the perfect food pairing with a craft cocktail or beer. Brewers say Alaska's clean, clear, glacial-fed water sets their suds apart. If you're looking for a different type of buzz, coffee is easily available in Anchorage with a cafe or coffee stand on nearly every corner.

7 ACCESSIBLE ALASKA: Getting to Anchorage is easy. Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (ANC) receives direct flights from dozens of U.S. hub cities. Cruise travelers start or end their voyages in the nearby port cities of Whittier or Seward, and Anchorage is at the center of rail, air, and road connections within the state.



ANCHORAGE

MAGNIFICENT IN EVERY MONTH

In Anchorage, every month offers something different – from seasonal natural wonders and unique holiday celebrations to sun-soaked summer adventures and cozy winter getaways under the glow of the northern lights.

APRIL

44°F / 7°C
16:20 hrs daylight

MAY

56°F / 13°C
19:55 hrs daylight

JUNE

63°F / 17°C
22:00 hrs daylight

JULY

65°F / 18°C
21:36 hrs daylight

AUGUST

64°F / 17°C
17:41 hrs daylight

SEPTEMBER

55°F / 13°C
14:25 hrs daylight

SPRING



APRIL – MID-MAY

By spring, Anchorage has more sunlight each day than in any of the other 49 states, so it's a prime time to play before summer arrives. Best for wildlife viewers, aurora chasers, and anyone hoping for a final dose of snow sports.

- Northern lights viewing
- Spring skiing and snowboarding
- Flightseeing
- Spring festivals



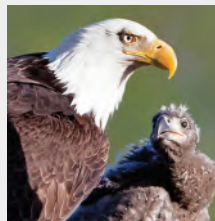
SUMMER



MID-MAY – MID-SEPTEMBER

Make the most of the midnight sun to enjoy classic Alaska sights and experiences. Summer is the most popular time to visit, with myriad ways to be immersed in nature, culture, and life in the Great Land.

- Hiking
- Biking
- Flightseeing
- Kayaking and rafting
- Glacier and wildlife day cruises
- Fishing
- ATV tours
- Dog sledding (cart or glacier)
- Bear viewing
- Whale watching
- Museums and cultural centers
- Paddleboarding
- Markets and festivals



BY SEASON

WHAT TO EXPECT

Summer days stretch toward midnight, and temperatures can climb into the 70s. In the winter months, mild temperatures are ideal for fun in the snow, and with 5.5 hours of daylight on the shortest day of the year, there's plenty of time for aurora hunting.

OCTOBER

40°F / 5°C

11:34 hrs daylight

NOVEMBER

28°F / -2°C

9:01 hrs daylight

DECEMBER

25°F / -4°C

5:28 hrs daylight

JANUARY

22°F / -5°C

8:16 hrs daylight

FEBRUARY

27°F / -3°C

10:34 hrs daylight

MARCH

34°F / 1°C

13:10 hrs daylight

FALL



MID-SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER

Green is a fall color in Alaska. Nighttime skies return, so auroras are once again visible. Stroll the hills for blueberries, enjoy the trails before snow flies, or catch a performance as the curtain goes up at local theaters.

- Hiking
- Biking
- Flightseeing
- Performing arts
- Northern lights viewing



WINTER



NOVEMBER – MARCH

Winter sparkles with plenty of snow and prime opportunity for aurora views. Anchorage boasts tons of fun to be found under blankets of white. If paradise is best explored on skis, skates, or sleds, this is the place to be.

- Skiing
- Skating
- Northern lights viewing
- Dog sledding
- Fat tire biking
- Ice fishing
- Snowmobiling
- Flightseeing
- Ice climbing
- Snowshoeing
- Wildlife viewing
- Performing arts
- Hey! Days
- Fur Rendezvous
- Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race



EXPLORE RESPONSIBLY

Follow these tips to travel smart and have a positive impact.



Anchorage is a special place, where natural beauty, rich cultures, resident wildlife, and unusual history have combined to shape the city into what it is today. Taking care of it means being mindful while exploring, so future visitors and residents alike can keep enjoying what makes Anchorage extraordinary.

Here's how you can join in:

KEEP ALASKA'S WILDLIFE WILD

Enjoy watching wildlife from afar with zoom lenses and binoculars – always give wild animals plenty of space. Be respectful of newborn animals and avoid areas where animals are raising their young.



Store food and trash properly, and pay attention to your snacks when you're outdoors. Even if an animal looks hungry, it's healthier for them to eat their natural diet.

Alaska is bear country, and Anchorage is no exception. Out on the trails, make noise, hike in groups, and consider carrying bear spray – and learning how to use it. Find more information in person at the **Alaska Public Lands Information Center** or safety tips online at adfg.alaska.gov.



PHOTO TOP: NATHANIEL WILDER; DONNA DEWHURST (2)



RESPECT NATURAL SPACES

Help keep Anchorage's parks and trails clean by packing out what you pack in. Apply the principles of leave no trace wherever you find yourself.

Be courteous and share the trail, and leave artifacts and natural objects where you find them. Make sure you're prepared for weather changes, and always hike with a buddy or share your plans with someone else. And if you're choosing a popular route, consider off-peak timing to help spread out trail use.

Follow posted trail signs and respect advisories and closures affecting the area you're exploring. Not only do they protect land and habitat, they keep you safe, too.



THINK GREEN

- Bring a reusable water bottle and shopping bag. Plastic bags are no longer handed out at Anchorage shops; paper bags are available for a fee.
- Choose small and local businesses, and handmade arts and crafts. Check for the **Made in Alaska**, **Alaska Grown**, and **Silver Hand** emblems on goods and produce, or ask about the artist or crafter.
- Patronize companies that have committed to protecting wildlife, using locally sourced ingredients, respectfully engaging with local communities, and incorporating sustainable practices into their operations.
- Look for ways to give back, whether through volunteer opportunities or financial donations.



OUR STORY

Alaska's rich cultural heritage
dazzles in Anchorage.



VIBRANT CULTURES

Anchorage's story begins way before the city streets were mapped out in 1915. This region has long provided abundant fishing, hunting, and gathering grounds for the Dena'ina Athabascan people, and today Dena'ina roots remain strong.

Anchorage is on Dena'ina Ełhena, traditional land of the Dena'ina Athabascan people. Many local landmarks have traditional Dena'ina Athabascan names. Look for artistic signage – created by the Indigenous Place Names Project – installed at gathering places around town. **Chanshtnu**, the Dena'ina place name for Chester Creek, means “Grass Creek” and its marker can be found at Westchester Lagoon. Point Woronzof's name hints at part of the area's utility – **Nuch'ishtunt** means “the place protected from the wind.” North of downtown, explore Russian Orthodox and Dena'ina Athabascan history and culture at **Eklutna Historical Park**.

THE STORY CONTINUES

Today, Anchorage is home to Indigenous peoples from every part of the state, from coastal southeast communities to the Arctic and all points in between. Learn about Indigenous traditions at the **Alaska Native Heritage Center**. Engaging storytelling, authentic song and dance, and the finely hewn crafts of skilled artisans show just how vibrant Alaska Native cultures are in the Great Land.



Alaska Native Heritage Center

Discover history, extensive local art collections, and world-class exhibits with an emphasis on life in the north at the **Anchorage Museum** — the largest in the state. Dive into a treasure trove of 600 Alaska Native items at the museum's Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center.

Many cultural events take place in Anchorage every year. Each spring, the **NYO Games** brings Alaska school children together to compete in traditional Native games. The state's largest gathering of Indigenous peoples takes place every fall with the **Alaska Federation of Natives** convention. The **Charlotte Jensen Native Arts Market** is a big draw during Fur Rondy each winter.



The Anchorage Museum tells the story of Alaska and the Arctic. Open year-round, it features permanent and traveling exhibits, contemporary art, hands-on science programs for kids, and a robust event calendar.

CULTURE & PEOPLE

Adventure and tradition draw people from all around the world to Anchorage.



GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Adventure and ambition have led people from all over to make Anchorage home and flourish. Folks come to pursue their passions, chase their dreams, and reinvent themselves. As a result, Anchorage is home to approximately 40 percent of the state's population – nearly 300,000 people – and some of the most diverse census areas in the U.S.



Many fall in love with the community after an assignment in the military; learn about the lives of the state's men and women in uniform at the **Alaska Veterans Museum**. Talk to a bush pilot about the storied history of flying in the state, and let imagination take flight at the **Alaska Aviation Museum** with a close-up look at rare aircraft.

Explore some of the community's fascinating global cultural connections at the **Alaska Jewish Museum** and the **Little Lithuanian Museum & Library**.

TRADITIONS, ANCHORAGE STYLE

The festivals and fairs that have become city traditions honor Anchorage's diverse communities. Celebrate **Hmong Harvest Festival**, **Pridefest**, **Juneteenth**, and more. Learn more about cultural events at **VisitAnchorage.com**.

INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR

The traditions may come from across the globe, but we all meet over food.



Fresh ingredients go into a cuisine scene that covers familiar comfort food, with an appetite big enough to make room for Korean, Thai, Himalayan, Polynesian, Ethiopian, German, and all points in between.



"ANCHORAGE IS" A VIDEO SERIES

Each day, passionate artists, chefs, creators, culture-bearers, and experts are writing Anchorage's story in real time and enriching the experiences of visitors and locals alike. In the "Anchorage Is" video series, meet a few Anchorage residents pushing the boundaries of food, art, culture, and outdoor recreation while inspiring people to connect more deeply with what makes Anchorage a world-class destination.

Go to VisitAnchorage.com/anchorage-is to watch the full series.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Unique character, rich culture, diverse cuisine – Anchorage neighborhoods introduce locals and visitors alike to all the best parts of the city.

1 DOWNTOWN

Downtown and its surrounding neighborhoods bustle with hotels, restaurants, shops, historical landmarks, and artistic and cultural attractions.



2 NORTHEAST AREA

Home to some of Anchorage's best outdoor markets, tucked-away trailheads, family-favorite restaurants, and one of Alaska's premier cultural institutions – the Alaska Native Heritage Center.

4 MOUNTAIN VIEW AREA

Basketball courts lively with pickup games and the scent of barbecue drifting up from park pavilions characterize Mountain View in the summer. Year-round, restaurants ranging from Hawaiian to Japanese, Vietnamese to Mexican reflect the cultural diversity of the neighborhood.



3 GOVERNMENT HILL

Original government accommodations sit alongside modern architecture in Anchorage's first established neighborhood.



5 SAND LAKE AREA

Bountiful farmers markets with fresh Alaska ingredients share space with many locally loved lakes, waterways, and a coastal refuge.

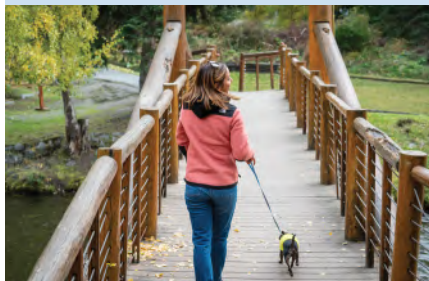


6 FAIRVIEW

One of Anchorage's four original neighborhoods, Fairview's baseball fields and ice rinks offer places to play year-round.

7 MIDTOWN AREA

Shopping plazas, hotels, office buildings, and eateries line the main roads; tucked-away parks and trail connections tie the neighborhood to other parts of town to the east and west.



9 HILLSIDE AREA

Hilltop Ski Area, Anchorage's in-town ski and terrain park, is a prominent feature of the Hillside and south Anchorage neighborhoods.



8 SPENARD AREA

This eclectic collection of small shops, bookstores, theaters, and family restaurants, along with the float planes at Lake Hood, are rich with Anchorage history.



10 GIRDWOOD AREA

The mountain community is an all-seasons destination: In winter, skiers flock to the world-class slopes, and in summer, downhill mountain biking offers even more adventure.



11 EAGLE RIVER AREA

It's easy to feel like you've left the city entirely in one of these communities, where residential areas are interspersed with swaths of undeveloped land and wide-open park space.

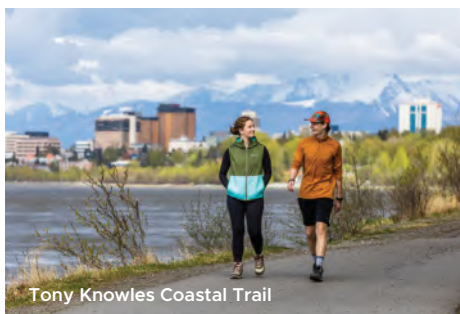


Pick up a guide to Anchorage neighborhoods at the Visitor Information Centers or find more information online at VisitAnchorage.com/neighborhoods.

PARKS & TRAILS

227 municipal parks | 135 miles of trails

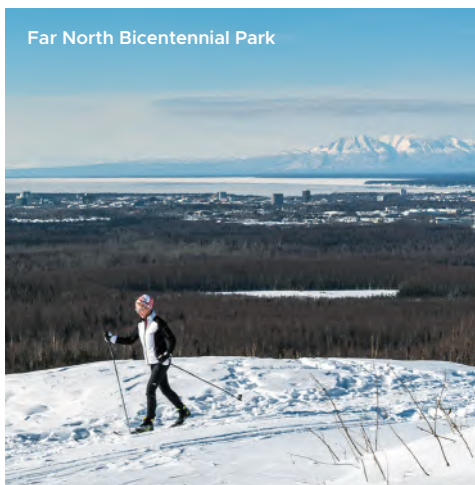




Tony Knowles Coastal Trail



Westchester Lagoon



Far North Bicentennial Park

TIP! Anchorage's 227 municipal parks amount to nearly 11,000 acres of parkland, with 86 playgrounds and 250+ miles of trails, including 135 miles of paved multiuse trails. [Find more trail and park info at VisitAnchorage.com/trails](#)

INTO THE WILD, INSIDE THE CITY

Anchorage is sandwiched between its two largest parks, so a whole day in nature is just a few minutes east or west.

Far North Bicentennial Park is Anchorage's largest city park, spread over 4,000 acres in the Chugach foothills. While trailheads dot neighborhoods and parks on the east side of town, **Campbell Creek Science Center** offers hands-on classes and special events to introduce newcomers to the park's natural appeals.

Jutting out into Cook Inlet, **Kincaid Park** holds nearly 40 miles of walking trails and 20 miles of singletrack bike trails. The drive into the park can seem like a wildlife safari; browsing moose are a regular sight, and even the occasional bear makes an appearance. Park visitors also get great views of Denali, Cook Inlet, Mount Susitna, and Fire Island.

In the winter, both parks play host to elite cross-country ski races, and all of those groomed trails are open to the public and free to use.

TOP TRAIL TOWN

The **Tony Knowles Coastal Trail** stretches 11 miles along the Cook Inlet shoreline between downtown and Kincaid Park. Just over a mile from downtown, the trail passes through **Westchester Lagoon**, an ideal spot for summer bird-watching and winter ice skating. The lagoon sits at the junction of the coastal trail and the **Chester Creek Trail**, which turns inland and runs east toward the mountains.

After 6 miles, the Chester Creek Trail skirts **Russian Jack Springs Park**, featuring tree-lined footpaths, singletrack mountain bike trails, picnic facilities, a playground, and a skate park. Heading south, the **Campbell Creek Trail** passes fish viewing platforms and creekside eateries before ending near Campbell Lake on the south side of town.

To the north, the 2.5-mile **Ship Creek Trail** connects downtown Anchorage with the neighborhood of Mountain View before reaching the Glenn Highway bike path leading north to Eagle River and beyond.



For an all-day adventure, rent a bike and set out on the 32-mile Moose Loop trail, which forms the shape of a moose's head over a map of the city. **See Bicycle Tours and Rentals on page 62.**



CHUGACH MOUNTAINS

Find sweeping views in Anchorage's favorite playground.

The Chugach Mountains form a dramatic backdrop for the city of Anchorage, but it doesn't take an expedition to enjoy the alpine air: A quick drive from the city center delivers you directly into world-class wilderness.

ANCHORAGE'S BACKYARD

Anchorage is bordered by one of the largest state parks in the nation, and just east of that is one of the largest national forests in the country. Together **Chugach State Park** and **Chugach National Forest** comprise more than 9,000 square miles of wilderness – 8,000-foot peaks, massive glaciers, deep lakes – and yet the closest access points are just 20 minutes from downtown.

ONE PLACE, MANY ADVENTURES

The ways to enjoy this Alaska-sized natural space are as varied as the landscape itself. Hiking, biking, kayaking, rafting, and fishing are all part of life in the Chugach. Hundreds of miles of trails wind through the forest, revealing secluded lakes and valleys carved methodically by glaciers or rushing mountain streams.



Rabbit Lake



Explorer Pond

PHOTO TOP: RALPH KRISTOPHER; FROM LEFT: MONICA WHITT (2)



Flattop

GO WITH THE PROS

Connecting with a guide can bring you to amazing places hidden amid the peaks. Rumble into the heart of it on an ATV tour, or soar over trees and kettle ponds on a flightseeing tour.



TIP! Not sure what to pack? Gear rental companies can lend fishing tackle, camping supplies, winter gear ... anything you need for a few days or a few weeks. **See Sporting Goods & Equipment Rentals on page 105.**

TOP 7 TRAILS IN THE CHUGACH



With hundreds of miles of trails, there's one for every age and ability. Here are a few of Alaskans' favorite hikes in the Chugach.

- 1 **Thunder Bird Falls** – The short, 2-mile trail has a big payoff: a waterfall roars at the far end of the out-and-back-route.
- 2 **Eagle River Nature Center** – The ¾-mile Rodak Nature Trail loop features salmon and beaver sightings from the viewing decks. Dew Mound Trail reaches back 6 miles into the mountains, with plenty of shorter options.
- 3 **Glen Alps** – Incredible views, even on arrival. Flattop is the most climbed mountain – and the most popular day hike – in the state. Powerline Pass and Hidden Lake trails also start here.
- 4 **Bird Ridge** – The 2.5-mile route climbs 3,400 feet above the waters of Turnagain Arm. The caloric burn earns a view usually reserved for Dall sheep.
- 5 **Winner Creek Trail** – The moderate 5-mile out-and-back hike in Girdwood has forested serenity, roaring rapids, and a mountain stream.
- 6 **Byron Glacier** – The easy stroll out to this valley glacier is one of the gems near the end of the Trail of Blue Ice.
- 7 **Portage Pass Trail** – The 4-mile round trip from Whittier to the lake shore has a cool treat – Portage Glacier looms large across the water.

Check out maps for these trails and more at VisitAnchorage.com/trail-maps



ADVENTURE

From city to stream to summit, Anchorage is the key to iconic Alaska adventures.

BACKPACK AND BACKCOUNTRY

The extended daylight of summer provides ample time for daylong and multiday hikes. The 23-mile **Crow Pass Trail** between Girdwood and Eagle River includes glacier views and a river crossing, and is a popular overnight for both locals and visitors.

PEDALS AND SPOKES

Choose between views of shoreline or city and stack up the vertical miles with lift-assisted biking at **Alyeska** or **Hilltop Bike Parks**. Extensive trail systems mean that everyone from beginner to advanced can find the right terrain. Tree-lined singletrack can be found in several of the city's parks, and fat tire biking opens up a winter wonderland to cyclists.



PADDLE POWERED

With the longest coastline of any state, 3 million lakes, and 12,000 rivers, Alaska waters encompass the right conditions for paddle sports at any level of ability. Kayaking, rafting, canoeing, and paddleboarding take advantage of all the H₂O. **Eklutna Lake**, Resurrection Bay, and Prince William Sound sparkle for kayakers. Lakes near Portage are a perfect spot for stand up paddleboarding. Raft the wide, lazy Chulitna River in full view of the Alaska Range, or put in above Class V rapids on **Sixmile Creek**.



PHOTO TOP: RALPH KRISTOPHER; FROM LEFT: ALYESKA RESORT, RALPH KRISTOPHER



ASK a LOCAL

Q. What's your favorite part about spending time in the mountains?

A. All our senses come into play when we go outside. You can't escape the gritty feel of a loose dirt trail underfoot, the tangy taste of an almost-ripe blueberry, or the cheerful twittering sounds of birds claiming territory. – Lisa M

EPIC ASCENT

Crampons? Check. Rope? Check. 27-mile long glacier? Definitely a check! Mountaineering ranges from bouldering and rock climbing to ice trekking and glacier hiking. Vertical exploration reveals mountains and valleys carved out by the awesome power of glaciers and rivers. Even novices will find experienced guides to “show them the ropes” and get out on the ice.

For a different kind of ascent, head to **Girdwood** and step out onto the Veilbreaker Skybridges. Two bridges suspended 2,500 feet above the valley floor between the ridgelines of Mount Alyeska offer heart-pumping adventure alongside heart-stopping views.



Access world-class ice climbing right here in Anchorage, from Portage to the ever-popular Eklutna Canyon.



GRAVITY GUIDED

All these slopes are good for more than just climbing. They go the other way too. From Girdwood, legendary Chugach snowcat and heli-skiing is accessible all winter long. Or explore the Tordrillo or Talkeetna mountains from a remote lodge.



Everyone's level of adventure is different. Check with Alaska Public Lands Information Centers or a local guide to find the right experience for you.



GLACIERS

Giant glaciers line the land around Anchorage, and visitors are treated to an up close view.

Glaciers are one of Alaska's most awe-inspiring sights, and with dozens of them located within just 50 miles of the city, it's easy to see these crystal blue ice formations firsthand.

ICY MARVELS

Start your glacial exploration on Anchorage's southern edge at Portage Lake. Weave around icebergs on a one-hour cruise to the face of **Portage Glacier** aboard the MV Ptarmigan. Stroll along the lakeshore or take an interpretive walk from **Begich, Boggs Visitor Center** to nearby **Byron Glacier**, for a close-up view.

TIP! Follow the Trail of Blue Ice on bike or foot through Portage Valley to catch glimpses of several hanging glaciers and to see how these rivers of ice formed the landscape.

Just 15 minutes north of Portage, an aerial tram ride up Mount Alyeska offers 360-degree views of hanging glaciers in the **Girdwood** valley. At the top, the posh **Seven Glaciers Restaurant** pairs fine dining with a spectacular glacier and ocean panorama.

ROADSIDE WONDER

In this part of Alaska, even highways have scenic glacier views. North of Anchorage, stop along the Glenn Highway to spot the mighty **Matanuska Glacier**, or get a closer look on a guided hike. South of Anchorage, views line the drive to **Exit Glacier** near Seward, and a scenic trail from the visitor center leads to the toe of the glacier.



PHOTO TOP: NATHANIEL WILDER; BOTTOM: DONNA DEWHURST



Byron Glacier

BY AIR AND SEA

Grab a seat in a helicopter and race along the terminus of **Knik Glacier** or touch down for some glacier-pool paddleboarding. Hop out at a camp high atop **Punch Bowl Glacier** for a summer dog sledding adventure. Ski-equipped planes are another aerial way to explore Alaska's ice; land on one in the shadow of Denali for a mid-summer snowball fight.

Rather float than fly? Head for the protected waters of **Prince William Sound** for the day and cruise the many glaciers of College Fjord and Blackstone Bay. Or venture deep into **Kenai Fjords National Park** for a view of Aialik or

Holgate glaciers coupled with an afternoon of marine wildlife sightings.

For paddling, hiking, or rafting at **Spencer Glacier**, the Alaska Railroad is the ticket to adventure. Once the train pulls away from the whistle stop, spend quality time with your fellow travelers and an Alaska glacier for the day.



Today was pretty cool.
@big_dipper_adventures
Chugach Mountains



Portage Glacier



WILDLIFE

1,500 moose | 330 beluga whales
250 black bears



There are plenty of opportunities to spot Alaska's feathered, furry, or finned friends year-round. Anchorage's abundant wildlife roam city parks, flock to local coastlines, and teem in nearby waterways. Follow the lifecycle of Chinook salmon as they make their way up Ship Creek. Watch for moose browsing through the brush along local bike trails, and keep an eye out for bears foraging in bogs and berry patches.

THE WILDLIFE HAVEN

Hundreds of bird species call Anchorage home or stop in the city during annual migrations. Spot loons, pintails, terns, and swans from the boardwalks at **Potter Marsh**. It's not just an aviary attraction; the marsh is a favorite spot for beavers and moose, too.

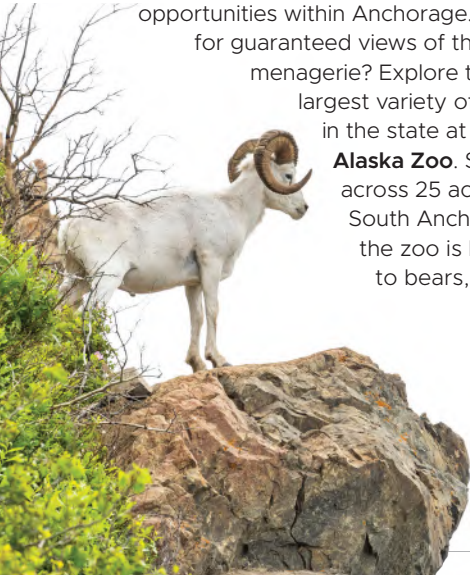
Why end the expedition there? Drive south along the scenic Seward Highway for more wildlife sightings. Dall sheep dot the rocky cliffs on one side of the road while beluga whales swim Turnagain Arm on the other.



Find Alaska's creatures in the wild with a guided tour by boat, plane, helicopter, train, or car. Plenty of tours delve deep into national and state parks, providing visitors with once-in-a-lifetime viewing experiences.

A SURE THING

Hundreds of miles of trails and huge parks offer convenient wildlife-viewing opportunities within Anchorage. Looking for guaranteed views of the state's menagerie? Explore the largest variety of wildlife in the state at the **Alaska Zoo**. Spread across 25 acres in South Anchorage, the zoo is home to bears, moose,



Remember Anchorage's wild animals are just that: wild. Give them plenty of room. Find more wildlife safety information on page 10.

caribou, musk oxen, arctic fox, polar bears, and more. It's the perfect place for the whole family to enjoy Alaska's wild things.

Snap an unforgettable photo of the brown bears, wood bison, lynx, and elk at the **Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center** in Portage. The center provides spacious enclosures and also quality care for injured and orphaned animals in its 200-acre park.

TOP 4 SPOTS TO SEE A MOOSE

📍 **Kincaid Park** – The lush forest and quiet setting is an oasis for big herbivores.

📍 **Tony Knowles Coastal Trail** – Follow the forested Cook Inlet coast – plenty of moose do, and the trail starts downtown.

📍 **Potter Marsh** – Though best known for birds, the wetlands are a fave feeding ground for bigger critters as well.



📍 **Chugach State Park** – The foothills of this vast natural park are filled with good access points. Try Glen Alps Trailhead, Eagle River Nature Center, or McHugh Creek for starters.

FISHING

Anglers of all skill levels can find a fishing hole any time of the year.

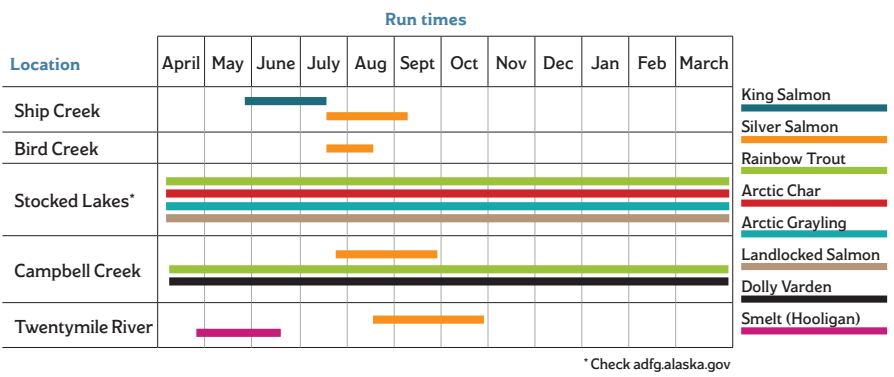


ASK a LOCAL

Q. When is the best time to catch a salmon?

A. All summer long! Ship Creek is right downtown – you can fish for king salmon (Chinook) late May to July. Later in July, the silvers (coho) start running and stay into September. Locals can take a fishing break, catch dinner, and then go back to work. – Teri H

Anchorage Fish Runs



LOCAL WATERS

The dream of landing a trophy fish lures people from around the globe to Anchorage, where it all starts just a stone’s throw from downtown. Land a monster salmon in **Ship Creek** in the shadow of Anchorage high-rises. Didn’t bring a rod and tackle? Rentals and recommendations are available at **The Bait Shack**.

Join the **Slam’n Salm’n Derby**, held annually in June, for a chance to win prizes for biggest fish caught during the peak of the Chinook salmon run. Later in the summer, the Coho Rodeo Derby sends anglers scrambling for the winning silver. Want to stay on shore? Size up salmon from the viewing platform on the banks of the creek or head for the **William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery**.

A short drive south of Anchorage, toss a line into **Bird Creek** for cohos and pinks. Rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, and arctic char thrive in **Little Campbell Lake, Sand Lake, Jewel Lake**, and other bodies of water across the city. Not all anglers wear waders – some wear fur. Keep a respectable distance from bears looking for a catch of their own.

Fishing doesn’t stop when the weather gets cold – trout, landlocked salmon, and arctic char swim beneath the ice, and local outfitters have all the gear to get you out there.

GONE FISHIN’

More of Alaska’s legendary fishing spots are within a day’s drive from downtown Anchorage. Catch moments of serenity while casting for one of the five species of salmon; there are dozens of small, secluded streams and lakes to be found nearby.

Head north to the **Deshka and Susitna Rivers** for salmon, or cast for grayling and rainbows in Mat-Su area lakes.

To the south, the **Kenai and Russian Rivers** teem with salmon, and in the deep waters near Whittier and Seward, huge halibut lie in wait. Hook up with a charter service or guide and spend a few hours or a whole weekend on the water.

When the trip is done, go home with more than just fish tales. Local processors can prepare and ship fish home – fresh from Alaska waters to the table.



PHOTO OPPOSITE PAGE: CLARK MISHLER; INSET: TERI HENDRICKS; THIS PAGE: DONNA DEWHURST

DAY TOURS

There's no shortage of activity in Anchorage.



Portage Lake

Go biking in the morning, visit a glacier at lunch, then be back in the city in time for dinner. Anchorage offers plenty of ways to pack a day with only-in-Alaska adventure.

STEP BY STEP

Start with a stop at the downtown **Visitor Information Center**. Find local advice and travel tips from the pros, as well as free transportation to top attractions. Visit the **Alaska Public Lands Information Center** for informative exhibits, movies, and tips for outdoor recreation. Downtown walking tours – guided and self-guided – give you an overview of Anchorage's history, arts and culture, and culinary scene. Take a stroll or rent a bike and ride along the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail, or catch the **Flattop Mountain Shuttle** to the Glen Alps Trailhead and hike one of Alaska's most iconic mountains.



BEHIND THE WHEEL

Tours and shuttles are an inexpensive way to spend time outside the city center.

Anchorage Trolley Tours offers one-hour sightseeing tours that start and end downtown. Other tour companies head farther afield and focus on wildlife viewing, photography, city history, or even the craft breweries of Anchorage.

Renting a car opens up even more options. An amazing number of glaciers are within driving distance. Visiting one can be as easy as stopping roadside for a few minutes or as exhilarating as a day spent hiking or climbing. If you prefer gold over glaciers, **Crow Creek Mine** allows visitors to pan at historic strikes.



PHOTO TOP: MONICA WHITT; FROM LEFT: CARL JOHNSON, ASHLEY HEIMBIGNER



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Flightseeing tours depart Anchorage to places that will take your breath away. North America's tallest mountain looms large and day trips aboard bush planes put Denali in sight for visitors of all types. Many planes are equipped with skis that allow for glacier landings amid the giant peaks of the Alaska Range.

EXCITEMENT BY TRAIN

Catch trains headed north and south from the historic **Alaska Railroad** depot downtown. Head to Whittier for a day of fishing, glacier viewing, or kayaking in Prince William Sound. Explore the historic Loop District or board the Coastal Classic for a trip to Seward and Kenai Fjords National Park. Day trippers with a ticket northbound can explore the quaint town of Talkeetna, a base camp for Denali adventures.

OUTDOOR OASIS

The **Alyeska Nordic Spa** in Girdwood is the ultimate relaxation destination. This stunning 50,000-square-foot facility is nestled in the Chugach Mountains and features hydrotherapy pools, barrel saunas, massage rooms, and more.

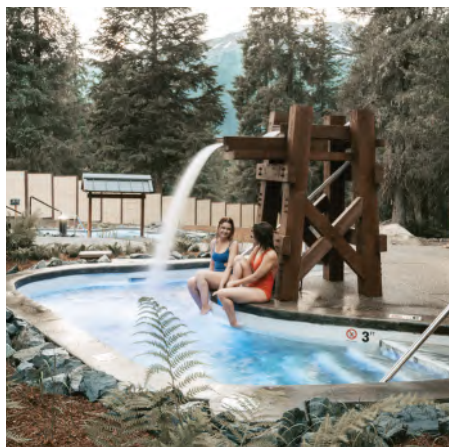


Many tours, trips, and shuttles pick up near the visitor center downtown.



ANCHORAGE IN BLOOM

Anchorage plants tens of thousands of flowers in hundreds of beds and baskets throughout town, earning its reputation as a hanging basket capital of the world. Stop and smell the roses in the **Centennial Rose Garden**, and the geraniums, dahlias, and begonias in the public parks around town, or learn more about local flora at the **Alaska Botanical Garden**.





EAGLE RIVER – EKLUTNA AREA – KNIK GLACIER AREA

Head north on the Glenn Highway for secluded valleys, glacial lakes, and access to one of the largest glaciers in the region.



Eagle River: 20 minutes by car

- The community of Eagle River offers plenty of outdoor activities, flightseeing, museums, dining, breweries, lodging, and markets. Guided hikes to waterfalls are a great way to explore the area.
- The mountains call at **Eagle River Nature Center**. The river cut a stunning valley through towering peaks, leading a survey team in the 1900s to call it “a miniature Yosemite.”

Hike trails that range from short loops to longer backcountry routes, or join one of the educational talks and workshops at the center year-round.



Eklutna area: 35 minutes by car

- One of Anchorage’s most popular waterfall hikes, the easy Thunder Bird Falls trail leads to a viewing platform with a broad view of the falls.
- Kayak, bike, or ride an ATV along a stretch of the 11-mile-long **Eklutna Lake**. The glacier-fed waters reach back into the mountains.
- Before returning to Anchorage, stop at the nearby Eklutna Historical Park. The log church dates to the middle 1800s and is the oldest building in the region.

Walk the churchyard to see spirit houses. The brightly painted gravesites are a blend of Athabascan custom and Russian Orthodox tradition.



Knik Glacier area: 1 hour by car

- Tucked back in the Chugach Mountains, the magnificent Knik Glacier can be accessed via airboat, ATV, plane, or helicopter tour.

All drive times are estimates from city center.



TURNAGAIN ARM – GIRDWOOD – PORTAGE VALLEY – WHITTIER

Head south on the Seward Highway, a Scenic Byway, where you'll discover incredible landscapes, iconic wildlife, and fun-filled activities along Turnagain Arm.



Turnagain Arm: 20-40 minutes by car

- Walk the boardwalk at **Potter Marsh**, part of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge. It's a favorite for geese, arctic terns, spawning salmon, and browsing moose.
- **Bird and Beluga Points** offer great Turnagain Arm views. Watch for beluga whales and the bore tide.
- Stop at Bird Creek to watch skilled anglers catch wild coho salmon.



Girdwood: 45 minutes by car

- No matter the month, Girdwood is easy to fall in love with. This mountain town is an accessible gateway to the outdoors with downhill skiing, mountain biking, and hiking.
- Take a flight to a glacier for a dog sled ride, explore **Crow Creek Gold Mine**, or take an ATV adventure.
- Unwind with the flavors of Alaska, the Mediterranean, and New Orleans at some of Alaska's favorite restaurants.

Portage Valley: 60 minutes by car

- The **Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center** is a great place to see moose, bears, musk oxen, and a whole ark of Alaska animals up close.
- The Begich, Boggs Visitor Center explains Portage Valley's main appeal – glaciers. See **Portage Glacier** up close with one-hour summer cruises. Take an easy hike on the **Trail of Blue Ice** or **Byron Glacier Trail** for a glimpse of alpine glaciers.



Whittier: 90 minutes by car (via timed one-way tunnel)

- The port of Whittier is a gateway to **Prince William Sound** – explore more than two dozen glaciers and wildlife in this area by day cruise, kayak, or jet ski.

NATIONAL PARKS

Find convenient connections to five of Alaska's national parks.



ASK a LOCAL

Q. Denali's on my bucket list: How do I get there from Anchorage, and what's the best way to experience the park?

A. There are four main ways to get to Denali National Park: Rent a car in Anchorage for the five-hour drive to the park entrance, or consider the Alaska Railroad. Commercial bus lines and charter air services also connect the city and the park. Once there, two types of tour buses go into Denali. The non-narrated transit buses cost less and will let you off anywhere along the Denali Park Road. — Peter C

Visit [nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov) for updates on the Denali Park Road.

NATIONAL TREASURES

By area, Alaska has more than 50 percent of the national parkland in the United States, and many of the most famous parks are close to Anchorage.

There are few places as synonymous with Alaska as **Denali National Park & Preserve**. The first place in Alaska to be designated a national park, it's home to the the tallest peak in North America, Denali. Even from Anchorage, Denali is visible on the horizon. Soar above the peaks over the frozen course of glaciers on a flightseeing excursion or drive north and board a bus tour into the park to spot bears, caribou, wolves, and other animals.

America's largest park, **Wrangell-St. Elias National Park**, is filled with adventure. With more than 20,000 square miles of land, the park has limitless backcountry possibilities but holds other surprises, as well. Malaspina Glacier stretches more than 1,500 square miles and is North America's largest piedmont glacier. Explore one of the best examples of early 20th century copper mining at Kennecott Mines.

For marine wildlife and glacier views, **Kenai Fjords National Park** near Seward is a must. Explore the waters of the park on a day cruise and watch gray, humpback, and minke whales feed in the nutrient-rich waters. Gulls, puffins, and

murres are drawn to massive rookeries on rocky cliffs to hatch and raise their young. Sea lions and seals haul out on the rocks near shore, and in coves and bays, chunks of ice thunder into the water as tidewater glaciers calve into the sea.

Lake Clark and Katmai National Parks are home to famous bear-viewing spots along waterfalls and the Cook Inlet coast. For a few months during the summer, massive bears camp out along the waterways in search of returning salmon. Remote lodges welcome visitors, and each park is easily accessible by air from Lake Hood Seaplane Base in Anchorage.

TIP! Make it a day trip: Flightseeing tours, train rides, and day cruises are great ways to explore nearby national parks and be back in Anchorage in time for dinner. [Learn more about Alaska's national parks at VisitAnchorage.com or refer to maps on page 118.](#)



A paddler's paradise, Alaska has more coastline than the rest of the U.S. combined.

FAMILY TRAVEL

Make Alaska memories to last a lifetime.



Eklutna Lake

Make the next family occasion truly unforgettable. In a state this large, there are lots of adventures for kids of all ages.

FUN FOR ALL

Visit the **Discovery Center** at the Anchorage Museum to explore the science behind tsunamis, northern lights, earthquakes, and other natural phenomena.

Slide, swing, skate, and play at Russian Jack Springs Park, blast off in a space-themed playground at **Valley of the Moon Park**, or grab a picnic at another of Anchorage's 227 city parks.

Stretch out on sandy beaches at **Goose Lake** or **Jewel Lake**, or get moving on a trail — **Eagle River Nature Center** is the perfect starting point for exploring forests and watching for wildlife in the Eagle River Valley.

For more animal encounters, visit the **Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center** and the **Alaska Zoo**.

Tomorrow's major-league sluggers step up to the plate at Mulcahy Stadium or Loretta French Park during the **Alaska Baseball League** summer schedule. Or race against time to find clues and break loose with **Alaska Escape Rooms**.

When the snow flies, try tubing at **Arctic Valley Ski Area**, or lace up your skates for a spin at **Westchester Lagoon** or **Cuddy Family Midtown Park**.



PHOTO FROM TOP: ELISE GIORDANO, ARCTIC VALLEY SKI AREA

FAR-OUT FIELD TRIPS

Plan an outing your family will never forget: Anchorage offers copious kid-friendly ways to learn more about Alaska's unique culture and natural history.

Take to The Skies:

Start with a scenic drive around **Lake Hood**, where seaplanes buzz overhead. Then touch down at the **Alaska Aviation Museum** for a hands-on tour of historic planes and war memorabilia.

Set Out on an Urban Safari:

Anchorage is home to hundreds of urban moose — hit the road for a city safari. Drive out to Point Woronzof and Kincaid Park, down to Potter Marsh, and up to Glen Alps. You're sure to find a four-legged friend somewhere along the way. Just remember to observe from a respectful distance.

Find Fresh Air Fun:

Run and play in the heart of downtown at the **Delaney Park Strip**. Fly a kite, join a yoga class, watch a tennis match, or climb on an old locomotive. Stop and smell the roses — literally — at the **Centennial Rose Garden** on the western end of the park.



Play time isn't just for kids. Visit one of Anchorage's many **inclusive playgrounds** built for children and adults of all abilities.

TOP 4 FAMILY FESTIVITIES



Alaskans know how to celebrate. Plan a trip around one of these favorite annual festivities for guaranteed family fun.

1 Summer Solstice – The longest day of the year is plenty of reason to celebrate, and festivities take place all around town. Events include the Anchorage Mayor's Marathon with a course that covers several popular multiuse trails, and the Downtown Summer Solstice Festival, with vendor booths, food trucks, roller derby and skateboarding demonstrations, live music, and more. *Late June.*

2 Girdwood Forest Fair – Locals flock to the woods where vendors sell an array of handmade arts and crafts, food booths serve Alaska-grown snacks, and entertainers perform on multiple stages throughout the forest. *Early July.*

3 Fourth of July – Delaney Park Strip transforms into carnival central for the big celebration, starting with a parade of handmade floats, marching musical performers, festive displays representing Anchorage's dozens of diverse cultures, and a heavy dose of Alaska history. *July 4.*



4 Bear Paw Festival – With a carnival, a classic car show, a human foosball tournament, and the iconic Slippery Salmon Olympics, there's something for everyone in the family at the annual Eagle River event. *Mid-July.*

Find detailed event information at VisitAnchorage.com/events

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Live performances, inspiring art, unforgettable experiences.



THE ARTS IN ANCHORAGE

Anchorage Concert Association and resident arts companies bring renowned theater, opera, symphony, dance, live music, and visual arts to the **Alaska Center for the Performing Arts**. Community theater organizations like **Cyrano's Theatre Company** add independent performances and interactive experiences.

Anchorage's stand-up comedy scene is growing. Catch up-and-coming local comics at both large and intimate venues around town, or get a full week of laughs during the Alaska B4UDie Comedy Festival each spring.

ALL-AGES EXCITEMENT

Even the traditional movie night out has a distinct flair in Anchorage. Watch a film, sip a local brew, and tear into a fresh

burrito all inside **Bear Tooth Theatrepub**. Stargazers can journey to distant galaxies during a planetarium show at the Anchorage Museum or University of Alaska Anchorage.

ART AROUND TOWN

Anchorage's murals and public art celebrate the culture and heritage of Alaska Native artists and local creators. From the Grandma Olga statue and cultural installation at the Ship Creek small boat launch to the wraparound murals at Anchorage Museum's SEED Lab, Anchorage is full of colorful, thought-provoking pieces that paint a vivid picture of community life.

See a full list of murals and public art pieces, and download maps for self-guided art tours at **VisitAnchorage.com/art**.



PHOTO TOP: ANCHORAGE CONCERT ASSOCIATION/JASON QUIGLEY; BOTTOM: WAYDE CARROLL



AFTER HOURS

During summer, catch live music from local favorites and popular artists at outdoor concerts across Anchorage, from Girdwood to Eagle River. Any time of year, enjoy drinks, dancing, cabaret shows, and more at bars, pubs, nightclubs, and lounges — or try karaoke and lively drag shows for a night to remember.



RECURRING EVENTS

First Friday Art Walk

Monthly, year-round: Museums, galleries, shops, and cafes feature local art and opportunities to meet the artists.

Summer Concert Series

Thursdays, June and July: Free evening concerts held at various parks around Anchorage.

Live After Five

Thursdays, June through mid-August: Free live music, good eats, and beer and wine garden in downtown Anchorage.

Fridays on 4th

Fridays, June through mid-August: Free noon-hour concerts.

Find more events at
VisitAnchorage.com/events



Q. What's the best way to spend First Friday?

A. I always find myself starting First Friday at the Anchorage Museum. Check out the new exhibits of the month before heading over to the International Gallery of Art on D Street for some cool local contemporary art. — Zakiya M





DINING

Harvested, fresh-caught, or foraged, Anchorage serves Alaska's finest flavors.

FIND IT FRESH

From Alaska waters directly to your plate, you can't find fresher seafood anywhere else. Just a dash of salt and lemon on the side is all you need to zhuzh up some wild Alaska salmon. Halibut and rockfish dress up creative dishes, while king crab, clams, scallops, prawns, and oysters are the stars of the show at many local restaurants.

FROM THE SOURCE

Farmers from just north of Anchorage deliver fresh greens and root veggies straight to local menus. Even forests and mountains can yield tasty surprises: imagine spruce tips in your ice cream, or syrup and caramel cream from Alaska birch trees. Sweet and tart berries are turned into jelly candies and jars of jam. Enjoy them in Anchorage, or pack some to take home. The treats may not last, but the memories will.

PALATE WORLD TOUR

Craving Himalayan? Hungry for Thai or sushi? Curious about Filipino or Mediterranean? Anchorage is home to a

diverse range of flavors from all around the world; let it be your passport to global flavors.

Plan a stop at an Anchorage food truck, where you can find everything from cozy Russian dumplings to crisp salmon quesadillas.

WHAT'S BREWING

Anchorage, home to 18 breweries and ranked a top tier city for craft beer spots per capita, plays a major role in Alaska's brewery scene. Between tasting rooms, bars and restaurants, most Alaska beers, ciders, and seltzers can be found on tap in the city, with local breweries and distilleries offering tours and tastings for curious and thirsty travelers.

Beer isn't the only popular brew in town. Drive-thru coffee huts mark almost every block, fueling locals with everything from seasonal blends to kickstart smoothies. With one of the highest concentrations of java shops and stands in the country, Anchorage's coffee scene is as strong as its espresso shots.

FLAVORS OF ANCHORAGE

No dining adventure in Anchorage is complete without a hearty helping of the classics.



REINDEER SAUSAGE – In the summer, hot dog carts dot downtown and fill the air with the sizzle of this homegrown delicacy.



SEAFOOD – There's always something in season – salmon, halibut, cod, crab, or shrimp can be found on local menus year-round.



WILD BERRIES – Find blueberries and cranberries on mountain slopes, and raspberries lining sidewalks and alleys around the city.



BIRCH – Like maples, birch trees are tapped each spring to produce a supply of syrup for pancakes or other sweet treats.



SOURDOUGH – During Alaska's gold rush days, other yeasts were difficult to ship and store, so hardy sourdough became the staple of the state.

NORTHERN LIGHTS

Visible throughout the fall, winter, and spring, the glowing aurora dances across the Anchorage sky.

BRIGHT LIGHTS IN THE BIG CITY

The northern lights, or aurora borealis, form often in the skies above Alaska. Solar particles collide with Earth's atmosphere, powering this natural and amazing wonder. Witnessing the northern lights takes a dash of planning, some serendipity, and a little patience.

AURORAS IN ANCHORAGE

Anchorage is a great base to chase aurora. Many of the prime locations are easily accessed from the city. There are plenty of Anchorage tour guides with an eye for those magical lights. Mild winter temperatures keep everyone comfy. And once the sun rises, Anchorage offers plenty of other ways to wow.

TOP 4 SPOTS TO SEE THE LIGHTS

- 1 **Glen Alps** – The trailhead parking lot is a high elevation vantage point for northern lights above the city.
- 2 **Point Woronzof** – At the northwestern edge of the city, this coastal park has great northern exposure along the shores of Cook Inlet.
- 3 **Girdwood** – This quaint ski town has multiple aurora viewing vantage points, and Alyeska Resort offers a northern lights wake-up call.
- 4 **Eagle River Nature Center** – At the end of Eagle River Road, this entrance point to Chugach State Park is a serene spot that seems a world away from daily life.

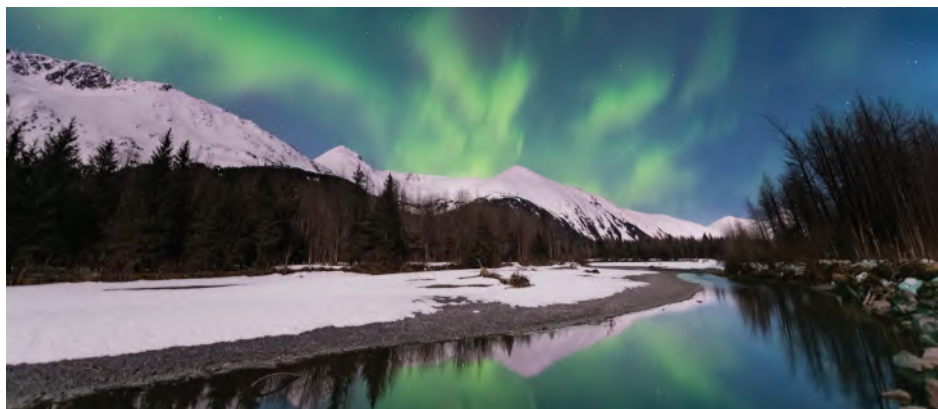


PHOTO TOP: MONICA WHITT; BOTTOM: CARL JOHNSON



Glen Alps

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Visit between mid-August and April – that’s when Anchorage skies are dark enough to see the northern lights.

Plan enough time: Maximize your opportunities by scheduling several consecutive nights for the northern lights. Even if you don’t go out every night, having more than a single night allows adjustments for weather changes and the best aurora conditions.

Check the forecast: Clear nights are essential, better still if there’s not much moonlight. You can also check the nightly aurora forecast produced by UAF’s Geophysical Institute. A rating of three or above is a prime aurora night – the higher, the better.

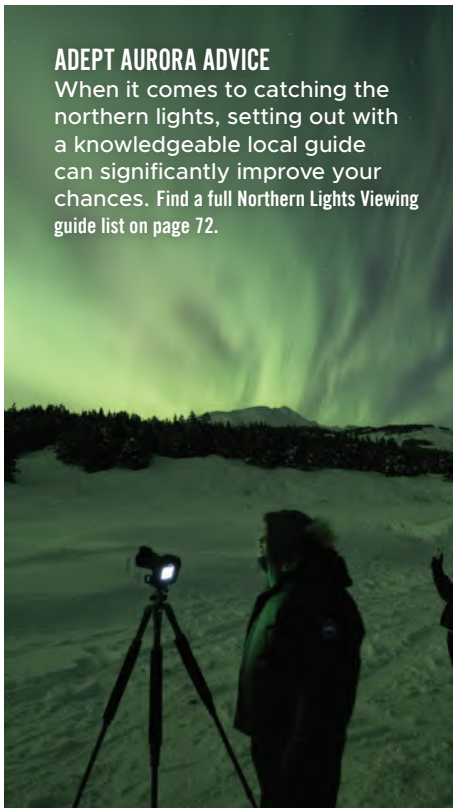
Avoid man-made light: Just like stargazing, the best aurora views avoid streetlights and other bright light sources.



Eagle River

ADEPT AURORA ADVICE

When it comes to catching the northern lights, setting out with a knowledgeable local guide can significantly improve your chances. Find a full Northern Lights Viewing guide list on page 72.



TIP! Summer is too bright for the northern lights, but you can still spot the aurora: Watch for planetarium shows and video productions on view at the Anchorage Museum and the University of Alaska Anchorage.

EXPERIENCE WINTER

Anchorage transforms into the ultimate winter wonderland.

With Alaska's biggest ski resort, hundreds of miles of trails, and plenty of fresh powder, snow fun lives in Anchorage. Whether you want to sled, skate, ski, or just curl up with a cocoa next to the fireplace, this is the perfect place for winter.

ALPINE AFFINITY

Carve fresh tracks at one of Anchorage's downhill ski and snowboard spots. Right in town, **Hilltop Ski Area** has 30 acres of convenient, accessible terrain. The wide, high bowls of **Arctic Valley Ski Area** beckon from the north. To the south, **Alyeska Resort** is the state's premier alpine ski destination. Powder hounds can find endless backcountry skiing opportunities in the Chugach Mountains,

with heli-skiing operations taking off from Girdwood.

MAKE TRACKS

Trails in Anchorage are an all-season affair. Fat tire biking is the perfect way to roll through a winter wonderland. The wide, oversize tires make them a prime option for a wilderness ride or a trip down maintained trails stretching all over the city.

More than 100 miles of groomed trails wind through the city, and lighted pathways make any time the right time for a quick cross-country jaunt. Ski the world-renowned courses that have hosted national and international champions.

Kincaid Park is recognized as one of the nation's finest cross-country ski areas and is free and open to the public.



Less than an hour from downtown Anchorage, Alyeska Resort averages more than 600 inches of snow at the summit annually and boasts North America's longest continuous double-black-diamond ski run.





Tony Knowles Coastal Trail



ASK a LOCAL

Q. What do I need to pack for a winter visit to Anchorage?

A. Layers! Lightweight base pieces, a fleece top, and a weather-resistant shell will cover most activities. Insulated jackets, pants, and boots keep out colder temps. Don't forget a cozy hat, mittens, or gloves, and a neck wrap. – Russ S



Westchester Lagoon

ON FROZEN POND

Make figure eights or practice wrist shots at local skating ponds and rinks. The UAA Seawolves and Anchorage Wolverines hockey games might inspire your next goal. It's the perfect way to stay on the cutting edge of winter fun.

POWER IN POWDER

Rev up for adventures on snowmobile tours. The ride is a rush and leads to amazing Alaska locations that can't be reached easily on foot. Zip through wooded trails or explore the deep blue ice of a glacier in the Chugach Mountains. Alaskans call them snowmachines, but you can just call 'em fun!



WINTER FACTS

The average winter temperature in Anchorage is 26°F/-3°C.

The city receives an average of 70 inches of snow every year.

On winter solstice, the shortest day of the year, Anchorage still sees more than five hours of daylight.

SLED DOG DAYS

A reliable dog team and well-crafted sled were vital for Alaska's Indigenous peoples and gold-seeking sourdoughs. Today, dog sledding is preserved as **Alaska's state sport**. Hop in the basket for a ride or learn the secrets of running a dog team during a half-, full-, or multiday trip with experienced mushers. The **Anchorage Mushing District** brings tales from the trails downtown.





WINTER EVENTS

In Anchorage, winter is its own reason to celebrate.

Winter is just more fun here. A little snow doesn't stop the festivities – in fact, it's the biggest reason to celebrate.

HEYI DAYS

Ushering in the winter season is **Heyi Days**, lasting from late November through the end of December. Join Anchorage in honoring the area's first people ("Heyi" means "winter" in Dena'ina Athabaskan) and celebrating community events, film festivals, fairs, markets, and more that show off the city's winter best.



LET'S RONDY

The rollicking **Anchorage Fur Rendezvous** began in 1936 as a 3-day winter carnival celebrating Alaska miners and trappers. "Rondy," as it's affectionately known, now spans two weekends from the end of February through the beginning of March.

Catch the sprint-style **World Championship Sled Dog Races** on opening weekend. See the arctic artistry of the giant snow sculptures, or the Charlotte Jensen Native Arts Market. Cheer on the drag-race-style outhouse races. Launch friends skyward in the blanket toss, an age-old Alaska Native tradition. Dash downtown in

the 5K Frostbite Footrace, or join in the Running of the Reindeer, a madcap sprint down Fourth Avenue featuring humans and reindeer alike.



PHOTO TOP: HAGE PHOTO; MIDDLE: WAYDE CARROLL; INSET: WAYDE CARROLL.



Ceremonial start of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race

MUSH!

The Mushing District on Fourth Avenue in downtown Anchorage is the perfect spot to catch the ceremonial start of the **Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race**. Teams prepare for the 1,000-mile journey to Nome with an 11-mile jaunt through the city. The fun begins the first Saturday in March.



Described as “Alaska’s wackiest race,” the Running of the Reindeer has been a local favorite since 2008.

TOUR OF ANCHORAGE

The day after Anchorage trails go to the dogs, the **Tour of Anchorage** cross-country ski marathon slides into Anchorage. Cheer on top athletes – Anchorage has minted many Olympic skiers – and amateurs alike. There’s also an option to pedal the course in the fat bike division.



TIP! Planning a winter trip at the end of February and beginning of March offers the opportunity to enjoy several of Anchorage’s most popular seasonal fairs and festivals.

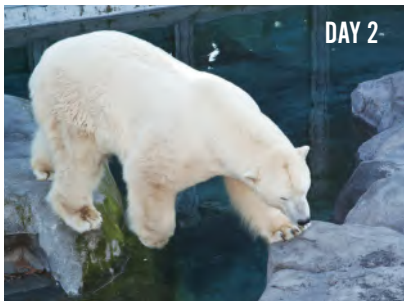
DAY 3



DAY 1



DAY 2



DAY 2



DAY 5



DAY 4



DAY 6



DAY 6



DAY 7



DAY 7



ULTIMATE ITINERARY

Immersive Alaska experiences for every schedule.

Whether you have 24 hours or a full week, Anchorage is filled with wonder. This ultimate itinerary can be followed in any season. Just start with Day 1 and follow it for as much time as you have in the city.

DAY 1

Board **Anchorage Trolley Tours** for a one-hour circuit packed with local history, off-the-radar quirks, and plenty of Alaska anecdotes. Dive into Alaska Native design, historic and contemporary art, and engaging exhibits at the **Anchorage Museum**. Downtown draws more than people. Rent a rod and cast for Chinook or coho salmon at **Ship Creek**, or try ice fishing for rainbow trout or Dolly Varden on a local lake.

DAY 2

Start at the **Glen Alps Trailhead** to get a panoramic view of the city, the inlet, and even Denali on a clear day. Meet local creatures like moose, polar bears, and musk oxen at the **Alaska Zoo** or take a self-guided moose-spotting safari to Kincaid Park. Stop in and toast one of 18 members of the city's diverse brewery and distillery scene. **Midnight Sun Brewing Co.**, **Odd Man Rush Brewing**, and **Glacier BrewHouse** are sure to satisfy.

DAY 3

Explore the mountain town of Girdwood, locally known as "Glacier City" for the seven glaciers surrounding the valley. The aerial tram at **Alyeska Resort** ascends steep slopes for Turnagain Arm and glacier views. Follow **Winner Creek Trail** through the coastal rainforest. Local shops offer diverse choices like handmade art, clothing, gift items, and ski gear. Or simply relax at the Alyeska Nordic Spa.

DAY 4

The **Alaska Native Heritage Center** shares Indigenous cultures from the Arctic to the Alaska Panhandle. Bike or ski the **Tony Knowles Coastal Trail** for shore views, then stop for bird-watching or ice skating at **Westchester Lagoon**, an urban oasis surrounded by paved trails.

DAY 5

Take off for adventure with a flightseeing tour. Glide between Chugach peaks, soar above glaciers, visit iconic bear-viewing spots, or circle Denali in a day. Discover pioneering aircraft at the **Alaska Aviation Museum** on the shores of Lake Hood.

DAY 6

Head to **McHugh Creek Trailhead** for views of waterfalls and links to nearby trails. Stroll through the **Alaska Botanical Garden** and revel in perennials, or delight in the seasonal light displays throughout the winter. Wrap up your week with live music at a local venue or, in summer, an outdoor show at an Anchorage park.

DAY 7

SUMMER: Take the Alaska Railroad to the **Spencer Glacier Whistle Stop**, where the paddle and hike combo adventure will feel like getting your own private glacier for the day.

WINTER: A good pair of snowshoes will get you out on the trails no matter the weather. Hike into the Chugach on the **Powerline Pass** or **Eklutna Lakeside Trails**, or join a tour to see some hidden gems.

TIP! The handy pull-out map in the back of the guide is a great tool for planning your own ultimate itinerary.



YEAR-ROUND ACTIVITIES

SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

Whether in a state park, in the city, on a mountain, or under the northern lights, there are endless ways to experience Anchorage.

ANCHORAGE

Year-Round

- 135 miles (217 km) of multiuse trails
- Wildlife viewing
- Chugach State Park and Glen Alps Trailhead
- Helicopter and fixed-wing flightseeing tours
- Diverse dining
- Events and nightlife
- Exciting arts and entertainment scene
- 18 breweries, two distilleries, and a winery
- Hiking and biking
- Sled dog and kennel tours
- City tours
- Photography tours
- Art galleries
- Tax-free shopping

Attractions

- Alaska Botanical Garden
- Alaska Native Heritage Center
- Alaska Public Lands Information Center
- Alaska Railroad
- Alaska Zoo
- Anchorage Museum

Summer

- Downtown salmon fishing and viewing
- Golf with tee times until 10 p.m.
- Fly-out fishing
- ATV tours
- Horse adventures
- Kayaking, canoeing, and SUP
- Mountain biking

Winter

- Northern lights viewing (mid-August through April)
- Cross-country skiing
- Fat tire biking
- Snowshoeing
- Downhill skiing and snowboarding
- Ice skating (indoor and outdoor)
- Arctic Valley Ski Area & Tube Park
- Sleigh rides
- Ice fishing
- Ice climbing
- Anchorage Fur Rendezvous
- Anchorage International Film Festival
- Dark Daze Music Fest
- Hey! Days
- Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race ceremonial start

Innoko National
Wildlife Refuge

SOUTHWEST

Wood-Tikchik
State Park

Lake Clark
National Park
and Preserve

Katmai National
Park and Preserve

Kodiak National
Wildlife Refuge

Kodiak
Kodiak
Island



CHUGIAK-EAGLE RIVER & EKLUTNA

Year-Round

- Eagle River Nature Center – visitor center and trails
- Eklutna Lake
- Thunder Bird Falls Trail
- Historic Iditarod Trail access
- Breweries, dining

Summer

- Eklutna Lake biking, kayaking, ATV
- Little Lithuanian Museum & Library

Winter

- Fat tire biking and snowshoeing
- Sleigh rides

GIRDWOOD & TURNAGAIN ARM

Year-Round

- Alyeska Resort and Nordic Spa
- Alyeska Aerial Tram
- Chugach State Park and Chugach National Forest access
- Brewery, fine dining
- Helicopter flightseeing
- Sled dog and kennel tours
- Winner Creek Trail

Summer

- Beluga whale viewing
- Turnagain Arm bore tide
- Veilbreaker Skybridges
- Crow Creek Gold Mine
- Indian Valley Mine
- Hiking
- Downhill mountain biking
- Berry picking
- Salmon fishing and viewing

Winter

- Downhill skiing and snowboarding
- Cross-country skiing
- Snowmobiling
- Snowcat and heli-skiing
- Northern lights viewing

PORTAGE

Year-Round

- Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center
- Trail of Blue Ice
- Chugach National Forest

Summer

- Byron Glacier
- Float trips
- Portage Glacier cruise
- Begich, Boggs Visitor Center
- Salmon viewing
- Alaska Railroad depot for Spencer Glacier activities

PLAN YOUR ADVENTURE

The possibilities are nearly endless. Use the ideas below to build the perfect Anchorage trip, all on your schedule. Fill a day, a weekend, or a week by mixing and matching Alaska's favorite activities.

3 HOURS

6 HOURS

ALL DAY

These are approximate times and may not include travel to and from locations.

4-WHEELING/ATV TOURS

Experience Chugach State Park on tours from Bird Creek or Eagle River.	Guided and unguided trips along Eklutna Lakeside Trail lead to stunning views.	Go all out on a multiday adventure into the lush Chugach Mountains.
--	--	---

ALPINE SKIING/SNOWBOARDING

Carve turns with city views at in-town Arctic Valley or Hilltop Ski Areas.	Mount Alyeska in Girdwood is 2,500 vertical feet of powder-packed heaven.	Go extreme and heli-ski the pristine terrain of the Chugach Range.
--	---	--

BICYCLING

Rent a bike for a scenic ride around Anchorage's extensive paved bike paths.	The 12-mile "Bird to Gird" pathway along Turnagain Arm has ocean, mountain, and glacier views.
--	--

BIRD-WATCHING

In the heart of Anchorage, Westchester Lagoon is a waterfowl wonderland.	Spot several nesting species via the boardwalk at Potter Marsh Bird Sanctuary.
--	--

CITY TOUR/SIGHTSEEING

Discover Anchorage art and history on a guided walking tour of downtown.	Find your perfect photo op on a van tour along Turnagain Arm.
--	---

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Groomed trails at city parks beckon skiers for a quick tour or an extensive workout.	Chugach State Park offers backcountry skiing on ungroomed but well-tracked trails.
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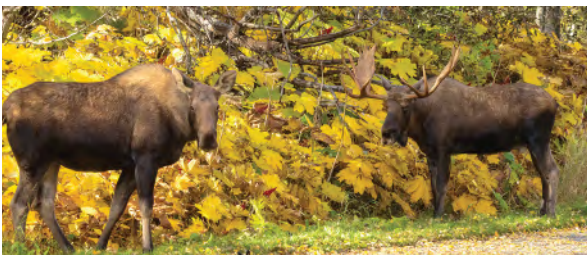
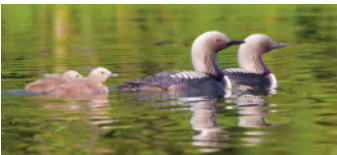
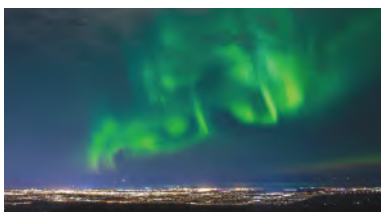


PHOTO CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: DONNA DEWHURST, JODYO PHOTOS, MONICA WHITT, NICOLE GEILS



DOG SLEDDING

Experience the Iditarod or Fur Rondy sled dog races from the Mushing District.

In summer, mush in a wheeled cart through the forest or on a sled on top of a glacier.

Head north or south to spend a day at an Iditarod champion's kennel.

FISHING

Do some urban angling at Ship Creek for salmon or local lakes for trout and char.

Wet your line in Bird Creek or Twentymile River south of Anchorage.

Join a fishing charter from Whittier or Seward, or fly out to a remote lake.

FLIGHTSEEING

Soar above the Chugach or circle Denali on a flight from Lake Hood.

Capture the grandeur of Alaska on a fly-in fishing or bear viewing tour.

GLACIER VIEWING

Head south to the area's most accessible glaciers – Portage and Byron.

Ride the aerial tram in Girdwood for views of several hanging glaciers.

View tidewater glaciers and glimpse wildlife on boat tours from Seward or Whittier.

HIKING

Get great views from Flattop Mountain, Anchorage's most popular day hike.

Try an out-and-back trek into Chugach State Park from a nearby trailhead.

Traverse from Girdwood to Eagle River on the Crow Pass Trail for a multiday adrenaline rush.

MUSEUM/CULTURAL CENTERS

See Alaska's art, history, and cultures come to life at Anchorage museums and cultural centers, dedicated to all aspects of life in the city.

NORTHERN LIGHTS VIEWING

Drive to a park or trailhead in Anchorage and take in the awe-inspiring light show.

A night of aurora chasing is a cinch with an experienced guide taking care of transportation and creature comforts.

RAILROAD TOURS

Ride the rails to Spencer Glacier and glide among the icebergs of Spencer Lake.

Punch your ticket for Talkeetna or Seward and enjoy picturesque Alaska towns for the day.

WATER ADVENTURES

Enjoy family time in or on the water at Westchester Lagoon or local lakes.

Paddle your way across Eklutna Lake or take to the sea in Prince William Sound.

Find adventure on a jet boat, airboat, jet skiing, or river rafting tour.

WILDLIFE VIEWING

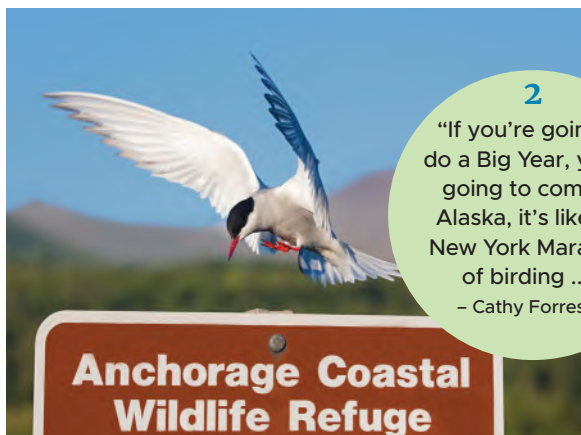
Drive the Seward Highway and look for Dall sheep, eagles, and beluga whales.

Find guaranteed views at the Alaska Zoo and Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center.

See brown bears in Katmai or Lake Clark on a fly-out excursion.

INSIDE & OUT

Find what to do and where to go from a local's perspective. From farmers markets to berry picking, whale watching to plane spotting, and happy hour to golden hour, there are many ways to experience the city.



2

"If you're going to do a Big Year, you're going to come to Alaska, it's like the New York Marathon of birding ... "

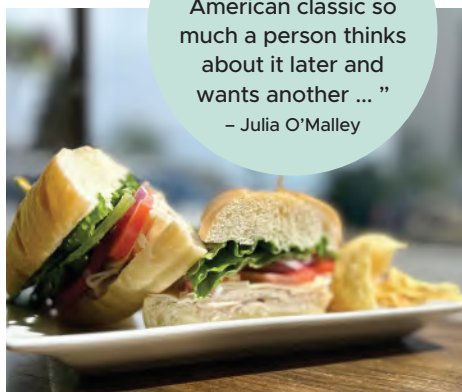
– Cathy Forrester



5

"It takes talent to elevate a ho-hum American classic so much a person thinks about it later and wants another ... "

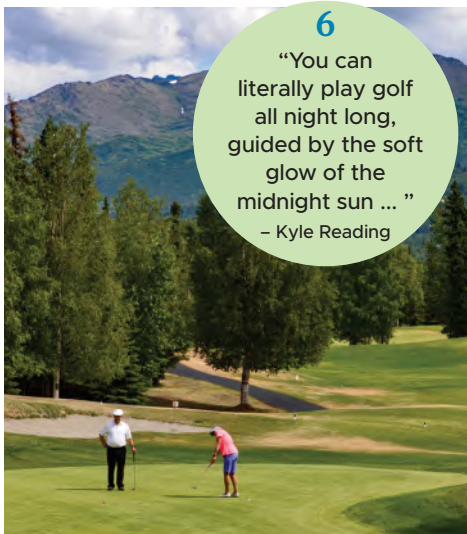
– Julia O'Malley



6

"You can literally play golf all night long, guided by the soft glow of the midnight sun ... "

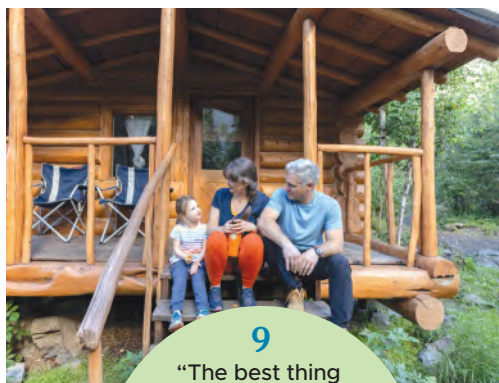
– Kyle Reading



10

"November and into December is a good time to catch Dall sheep rams head butting over the ladies (ewes) ... "

– Donna Dewhurst



9

"The best thing about living in Alaska is that you can get outdoors year-round, and camping in Anchorage in the spring is a hidden gem ... "

– Kristin Kupperman



PHOTO THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE PAGE: 1: MONICA WHITT; 2: DONNA DEWHURST; 3: DONNA DEWHURST; 4: WAYDE CARROLL; 5: PATRICK ENSLOW; 6: DONNA DEWHURST; 7: TERI HENDRICKS; 8: MONICA WHITT; 9: NATHANIEL WILDER; 10: DONNA DEWHURST; 11: WAYDE CARROLL



1

"I came up here one time in January and sat for an hour in near total silence while the aurora danced over the city lights of Anchorage ..."

– Matt Tunseth

4

"Creating a mural is wonderful because it doesn't belong to any one individual, it belongs to a community ..."

– Crystal Worl



3

"Fall color starts in the mountains, with the highest peaks getting caps of white snow called 'termination dust,' meaning the end of summer ..."

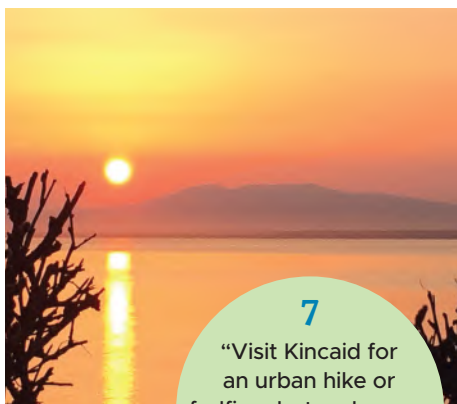
– Donna Dewhurst



8

"The summer mountains smell good ..."

– Lisa Maloney



7

"Visit Kincaid for an urban hike or frofing, but make sure you snap a photo of Sleeping Lady ..."

– Kirsten Swann



11

"I like to eat outdoors when possible, so a reindeer dog is usually my go-to move ..."

– Matt Tunseth

Read the full stories and check out the latest and greatest tips from locals at VisitAnchorage.com/blog

- 1 On the Lookout for Adventure at Glen Alps
- 2 Why Anchorage Is a Must-See Destination for a Birder's Big Year
- 3 Autumn in Anchorage
- 4 A Mural to Honor Dena'ina Etnena
- 5 Seven Super-(Sorta)-Secret Sandwiches To Eat This Summer in Anchorage
- 6 Exploring Golf in Anchorage
- 7 Top 10 Instagrammable Spots in Anchorage
- 8 Trail Time: Some of the Best Hikes in and Near Anchorage, Alaska
- 9 Four Places to Kick Off Camping Season In Anchorage
- 10 Anchorage Winter Wildlife Viewing
- 11 24 Hours in Anchorage: The City That Never Sleeps In

AFFORDABLE ANCHORAGE

Big experiences for less in Anchorage.



Girdwood Forest Fair

With plenty of free and low-cost things to do in and around the city, a trip to Anchorage can be easy on your wallet.

FREE AND FUN

The outdoors are always free, and Anchorage has a plethora of parks and trails that are open to the public and accessible from around town. Watch for wildlife as you wander through the city; Anchorage's moose love trails just as much as its humans do. Or take an artwalk through the murals and sculptures dotted around the city. Stop at the Visitor Information Center for free self-guided walking tour maps.

Every month, galleries and museums open their doors for First Friday events, and many offer extended hours and waived admission fees for the night.

Throughout the summer, catch live music outdoors for free as the weekly **Summer Concert Series** and **Live After Five** events bring concerts to parks around the city.

Many summer festivals also feature live music, including Girdwood Forest Fair, Downtown Summer Solstice Festival, and more, and entry is always free.



PHOTO TOP: RALPH KRISTOPHER; FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: NATHANIEL WILDER, DONNA DEWHURST



The **Delaney Park Strip** often serves as a center of activity in the city. Events like Yoga in the Park draw residents and visitors alike to the open space. Check [VisitAnchorage.com/events](https://www.visitanchorage.com/events) for more ideas.

LOW COST ADVENTURES

Plenty of tours and activities are available for less than \$25 per person, and the options vary with each interest. Want to learn the history of the city? **Anchorage Trolley Tours** takes you to the hidden gems around town. Wildlife? The **Alaska Zoo** has many arctic animals in its care. Flowers? The **Alaska Botanical Garden** is a standout of northern horticulture. Movies? The **Bear Tooth Theatrepub** shows second-run and classic movies.

Getting around town doesn't always have to include a car rental. Many tours offer transportation to and from area hotels, and the **Anchorage People Mover** bus system covers many in-town attractions. Local bike shops offer multiday rentals, and Anchorage's world-class trail system means you'll always be able to get where you need to go.

For those experiences that might feel just out of reach, spring and fall shoulder seasons often see lower prices or short-term sales that bring overall costs down significantly. Likewise, monitoring the Anchorage Travel Deals page is a good way to catch an early-bird sale or seasonal special. Check [VisitAnchorage.com/deals](https://www.visitanchorage.com/deals) when you plan your trip.



ANCHORAGE TODAY & TOMORROW

Anchorage is a compelling northern city that continues to invest in itself with improvements to infrastructure, new and updated businesses, and a focus on Alaska Native traditions and global cultures.

KNITTING TOGETHER PARKS & TRAILS

Anchorage isn't resting on its laurels when it comes to parks and trails. The community is weaving together existing trails and building new ones. Highlights include the coming connection of two of Anchorage's popular multiuse trails – the Ship Creek and Tony Knowles Coastal Trails – as well as construction of the new Beach Lake Trail in Chugiak. There are also plans in the works for a refresh of the Russian Jack Springs Park trails. Town Square Park is one of many civic spots with a reno in the works. Altogether, Anchorage is looking at a total of \$50 million invested in outdoor infrastructure over the next six years.

INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES

Alaska Native organizations are bringing culture to the forefront of tourism development. The Alaska Native Heritage Center's recent renovations and new exhibits are just the first step in a master plan for one of Alaska's premier cultural attractions. The Huna Totem Corporation led port expansion in nearby Whittier,

and its subsidiary Na-Dena' now operates Portage Glacier Cruises. And across Anchorage, more Indigenous Place Names markers are added every year on the way to 32 total.

BEIGE IS BLASÉ

Anchorage is a riot of color as public art creeps up walls and buildings. Alaska Native artists Drew Michael, Crystal Worl, and Arielo "Bisco" Taylor have added their creative touch to the city through large scale murals, and more are planned in the next several years.

INVESTING IN OURSELVES

There's more than a fresh coat of paint at many venues around town. New places to stay include The Wildbirch Hotel, Snob Hollow Inn, and BlueWater BaseCamp, and Alyeska Resort has added new attractions including the Nordic Spa and Veilbreaker Skybridges in Girdwood. The Anchorage Hilton and Hotel Captain Cook are both unveiling extensive makeovers, and new and newly expanded restaurants like the Eye Tooth Tavern & Eatery, Serrano's downtown, and Alaska Chopped & Chowdered have recently opened. Anchorage's entrepreneurial spirit has fostered a wave of new business, and the result is new ways to enjoy it all.



PHOTO CARL JOHNSON

Business Directory

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THINGS TO DO

Your dream Alaska experience is waiting.



START YOUR ENGINES

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PADDLE POWER

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CITY LIGHTS

Northern Lights Viewing p. 72



It's all in a 365-million-acre backyard. From fishing to float trips, gold panning to golf, Alaska is loaded with outdoor adventures. Take full advantage of the midnight sun; explore Denali from the air, race across a glacier with a dog team, or traverse hidden valleys on horseback. Discover Anchorage's history, science, and diverse cultures in entertaining and engaging museums, nature parks, and gardens. Paddle pristine lakes and rivers, or pedal mountain paths and city trails. Zip across pure white clearings on a snowmobile or break fresh powder in the backcountry of the towering Chugach Mountains.

TIP! Many Anchorage-area activities fit together easily. Guides and tour operators can mix, match, or combine multiple experiences in a single day, trip, or tour.

4-Wheeling

ANCHORAGE

49TH STATE MOTOR TOURS

49smt.com

see listing this page

ALASKA ATV ADVENTURES

alaskaatvadventures.com

Spectacular wildlife! Guided ATV and quad tours. Bird Valley Trailhead, Konikson Rd, Bird Creek (907) 320-0007 (907) 694-4294

ALASKA BACKCOUNTRY ADVENTURE TOURS

youralaskavacation.com

see listing this page

HATCHER PASS ATV TOURS

hatcherpasstour.com

see listing this page

SNOWHOOK ADVENTURE GUIDES OF ALASKA

snowhookadventures.com

see listing page 64

MAT-SU AREA



49TH STATE MOTOR TOURS

49smt.com

5-star ATV adventures for all skill levels! An authentic Alaska experience like no other. Roll over silt dunes, splash through water crossings, weave through forest trails and have lunch by a glacier. 17700 Sullivan Ave, Palmer (907) 278-0157

ALASKA BACKCOUNTRY ADVENTURE TOURS

youralaskavacation.com

Visit glaciers, view wildlife aboard your own ATV. Palmer • (907) 745-2505

ALASKA'S GOLD BUCKLE TOURS LLC

alaskasgoldbuckle.com

Fully enclosed side-by-side tours to the Knik. 1375 E Mulchatna, Wasilla (907) 232-5177

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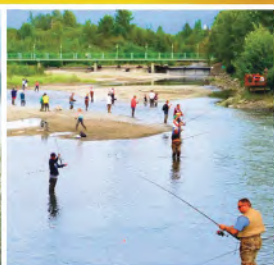


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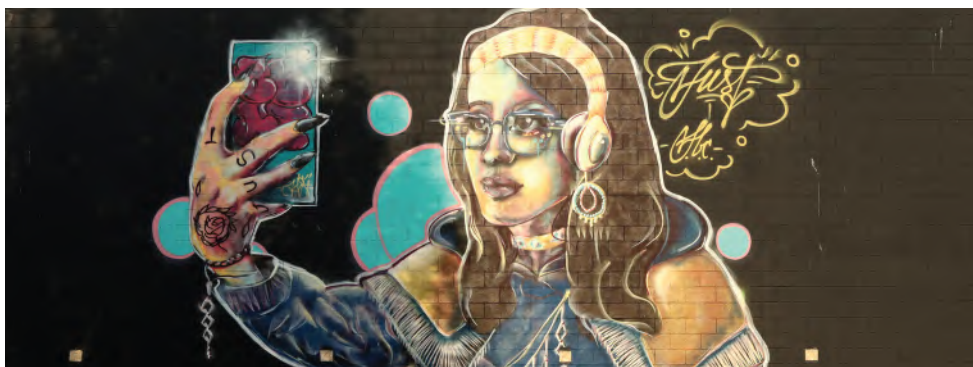
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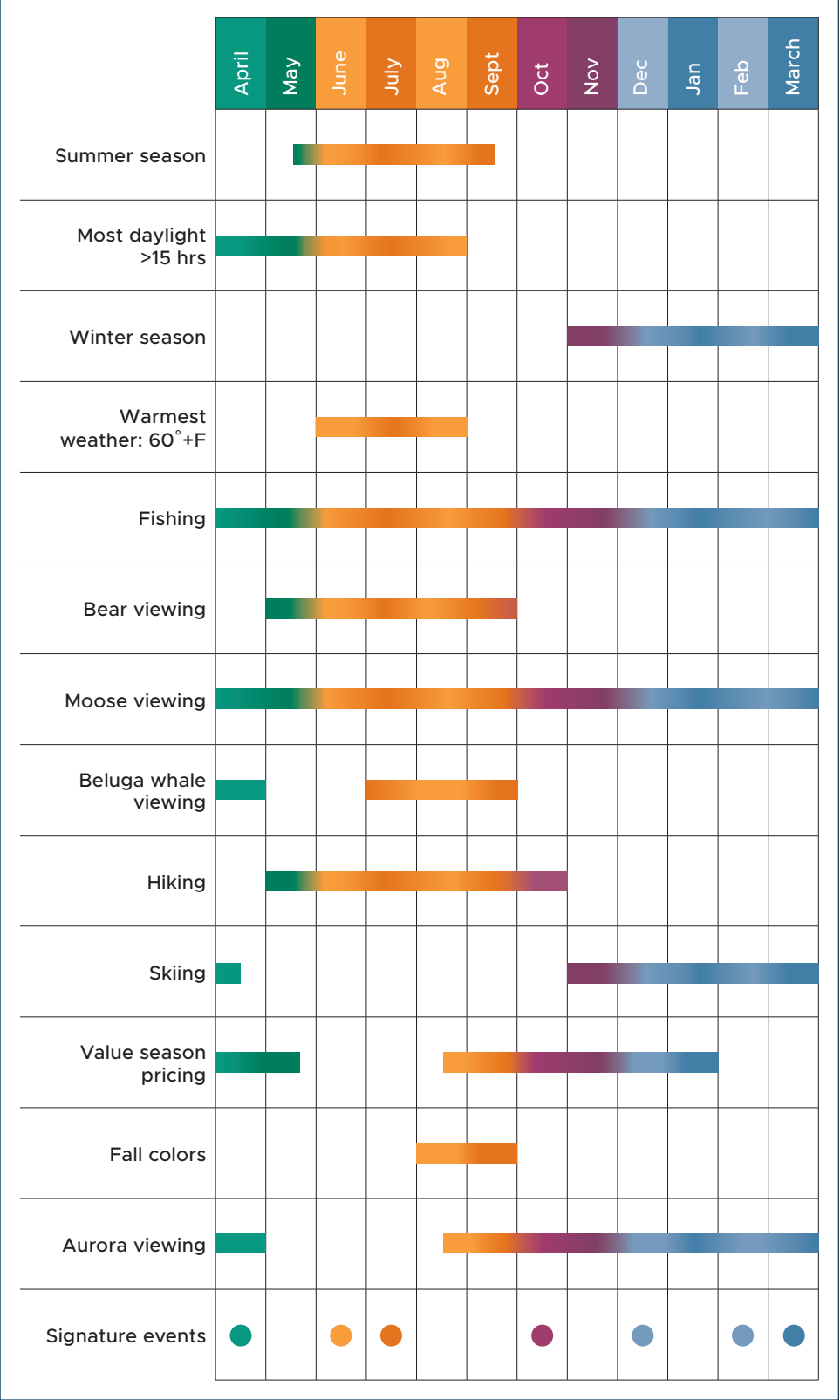


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ALASKA TOURS

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MAT-SU AREA

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see listing page 82

CAMP DENALI ☀️campdenali.com

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CARIBOU LODGE ALASKA ☀️cariboulodgealaska.com

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CHELATNA LAKE LODGE ☀️chelatna.com

see listing page 90

DENALI EARTHSONG LODGE & DENALI DOG SLED EXPEDITIONS ☀️earthsonglodge.com

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DENALI PRINCESS WILDERNESS LODGE ☀️princesslodges.com

see listing page 88

GRANDE DENALI LODGE ☀️♿️denalialaska.com/grande-denali-lodge

see listing page 88

HOLLAND AMERICA DENALI LODGE ☀️hollandamericahotels.com

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FAIRBANKS**ALASKA GRIZZLY LODGE** ☀️alaskagrizzlylodge.com

see listing page 85

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see listing page 89

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STATEWIDE**ALASKA TOUR & TRAVEL** ☀️alaskatravel.com

see listing page 82

HOLLAND AMERICA HOTELS ☀️hollandamericahotels.com

see listing page 89

PRINCESS LODGES ☀️princesslodges.com

see listing page 89

WRANGELL-ST. ELIAS**COPPER RIVER PRINCESS WILDERNESS LODGE** ☀️princesslodges.com

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PHOTO KERRY TASKER (2)

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see listing page 70

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see listing page 62

DINING

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LOCAL SIPS

Breweries,
Wineries & Distilleries p. 95

GET COMFY

Casual Dining p. 95

COFFEE TOWN

Coffee Shops,
Bakeries & Desserts p. 97

Anchorage's sizzling culinary scene serves up a hearty helping of Alaska-grown ingredients – don't miss the chance to savor fresh seafood, wild game, and crisp produce from local farms. Anchorage is also packed with mouthwatering cuisine from around the world: Filipino, Italian, Thai, Indian, Hawaiian, Mexican, and more. Whether you're looking for a food truck or fine dining, Anchorage has no shortage of options.



PHOTO WAYDE CARROLL (2)

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see listing page 75

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Casual Dining

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TALKEETNA

TALKEETNA ROADHOUSE

talkeetnaroadhouse.com

see listing page 88

JOIN THE FUN

WINTER

Heyi Days

Anchorage celebrates the return of winter with special events, ceremonies, markets, and festivals.

Anchorage Folk Festival

More than 100 folk performers and top flight acoustic acts from around the globe.

Alaska Craft Brew & Barley Wine Festival

A prime opportunity to sample more than 30 breweries in one place.

SPRING

Spring Carnival & Slush Cup

Costumed characters try to ski or board across a slushy pond.



SUMMER

Three Barons Renaissance Fair

Travel back in time as knights, maidens, and sorcerers cross swords and occasionally turkey legs.



Summer Solstice Festival

Downtown Anchorage turns into one big block party with music, food, and games for all ages.

Alaska Greek Festival

Come and enjoy authentic homemade gyros, souvlaki, and the best Greek pastries in Alaska.

Blueberry Festival

A celebration of the sweet fruit, with berry treats, music, and a pie eating contest.

FALL



Oktoberfest

Enjoy festivities at local breweries and restaurants with beer steins, authentic Bavarian delicacies, live music, and more.

Zombie Half Marathon

Wear your best zombie costume for this themed race event on local trails.

Find more at
VisitAnchorage.com/Events

Fine Dining

ANCHORAGE

ALASKA CHOPPED AND CHOWDERED

akchowder.com

see listing page 95

ALTURA BISTRO

alturabistro.com

Elevated seasonal fare and decadent comfort foods. 4240 Old Seward Hwy Ste 20, Anchorage • (907) 561-2373

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GLACIER BREWHOUSE

glacierbrewhouse.com

see listing page 95

JENS' RESTAURANT

jensrestaurant.com

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kincaidgrill.com

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TEQUILA 61

tequila61.com

see listing page 96

TURKISH DELIGHT

turkishdelightalaska.com

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Take in city views and local artwork while dining on decks and rooftop patios with sweeping mountain vistas.

49th State Brewing Co. *p. 95*

Bear Tooth Theatrepub *p. 93*

Double Shovel Cider Co. *p. 95*

Jack Sprat *p. 98*

South Restaurant + Coffeehouse *p. 96*

Tent City Taphouse *p. 96*

The Deck at Lake Hood *p. 96*
(The Lakefront Anchorage)

The New Peanut Farm Sports Bar & Grill *p. 96*



SIP AND SAVOR

Good libations and conversations are easy to find in Anchorage. Breweries use clean, clear Alaska water for their award-winning beers. Anchorage wineries put good times in a glass with surprising varietals, and even a few local fruits. Local distillers use the best ingredients to get everyone in to the "spirit."



FABULOUS FARMERS MARKETS

Anchorage farmers markets have Alaska's bounty. Pick up seasonal fresh veggies, Alaska seafood straight from the docks, inventive local arts and crafts, and a bite from a food truck all in one stop.

- Anchorage Market and Festival
- Spenard Farmers Market
- Neighborhood farmers markets





SHOPPING

Discover local Alaska treasures and unique Anchorage souvenirs.

ANCHORAGE ART

Art Galleries & Framing p. 101

ALASKA WEAR

Clothing & Shoes p. 101

MEMORABLE GIFTS

Specialty Goods & Souvenirs p. 104

DRESSED FOR THE OCCASION

Favorite brands and top designers are always available at one of the city's malls, and **local labels** impart a little Alaska street cred at chic boutiques. The city's fine jewelers present a modern-day gold rush. Of course, Alaska's high fashion often hits higher elevation runways; Anchorage stores carry all the outdoor equipment needed to take full advantage of nearby trails, slopes, and waters.



PIECES OF ALASKA

Give a gift that's uniquely Alaska. Anchorage is a one-stop destination for Alaska Native artwork and crafts, local clothing and jewelry makers, and artists.

The ulu – Alaska cutlery that's stood the test of time – is perfect for the aspiring chef on the gift list. Keep toasty with a **qiviut** scarf or hat made from the soft undercoat of a musk ox. For the foodie, take home the flavors of Alaska with smoked salmon, birch syrup, handmade chocolates, and local brews in growlers to go at the airport.



TIP! Local shopkeepers are quick to point out made-in-Alaska options and authentic crafts – just ask!

Art Galleries & Framing

ANCHORAGE

GAYLA DESIGNS & SPENARD ART STUDIO

gayladesigns.com

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annmariehenderson.com

Art by AnnMarie Henderson and Romney Designs. 420 G St, Anchorage (907) 360-5235

TINY GALLERY

shoptiny.com

see listing page 105

TURNAGAIN CERAMICS

turnagainceramics.com

see listing page 105

Bookstores, Maps & Videos

ANCHORAGE

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BIG RAY'S

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see listing page 105

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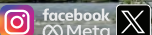
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see listing page 103

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see listing page 93

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see listing page 102

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see listing page 70

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see listing page 62

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see listing page 72

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AMAZING FACTS ABOUT ANCHORAGE

Our Residents

Anchorage is home to nearly 300,000 of Alaska's 740,000 people. The city is also home to 1,500 moose, beluga whales, bears, bald eagles, and many more feathered, finned, and furry friends.

What's in a Name?

The name "Alaska" is derived from the Unangam Tunuu word "Alyeska," meaning "mainland" or "great land."

Anchorage's name hints at its 1915 origins as a landing point for construction supplies during the building of the Alaska Railroad. Anchorage is part of the traditional and present homeland of the Eklutna Dena'ina people, and we are thankful for their stewardship and care for the Chugach Mountains, Cook Inlet, and wildlife that sustain the Anchorage area.



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1.2 people

and Alaska has as much shoreline as the rest of the U.S. combined.



GETTING AROUND

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GO ON TOUR

Bus, Van & Motorcoach Charters p.108

HIT THE ROAD

Car, Van & Limo Rental p.109

STAY ON TRACK

Railroad..... p. 110



Anchorage is at the center of Alaska's road, rail, and air networks, making it easy to get around.

Alaska is massive — larger than the states of California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, and Arizona combined. Fortunately, Anchorage offers rail, road, ride sharing, and air connections to make getting around a breeze, and direct flights connect Anchorage with many major U.S. cities.

For a tailored travel experience, hit the open road. Rent a car or RV, follow the Seward Highway south, and spend the day exploring Chugach National Forest and Kenai Fjords National Park. Or head north on the Glenn Highway, and you'll find yourself immersed in Denali views and roadside splendor.

Looking for something different? The Alaska Railroad is an iconic way to experience Southcentral and Interior Alaska from Anchorage, and the city's many flightseeing operators provide a unique aerial view of off-road marvels like Katmai National Park and Preserve.

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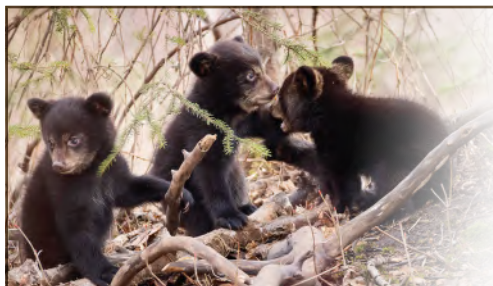
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MAMMALS

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Beaver | ☐ Marmot |
| ☐ Beluga whale | ☐ Moose |
| ☐ Black bear | ☐ Mountain goat |
| ☐ Brown bear | ☐ Musk ox |
| ☐ Caribou | ☐ Pacific walrus |
| ☐ Dall sheep | ☐ Polar bear |
| ☐ Dall's porpoise | ☐ Porcupine |
| ☐ Harbor porpoise | ☐ Red fox |
| ☐ Humpback whale | ☐ River otter |
| ☐ Killer whale (orca) | ☐ Sea otter |
| ☐ Lynx | ☐ Wolf |

BIRDS

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Auklet | ☐ Hummingbird |
| ☐ Bald eagle | ☐ Kinglet |
| ☐ Belted kingfisher | ☐ Kittiwake |
| ☐ Black oystercatcher | ☐ Loon |
| ☐ Cormorant | ☐ Merganser |
| ☐ Dark-eyed junco | ☐ Owl |
| ☐ Eider | ☐ Pine grosbeak |
| ☐ Falcon | ☐ Ptarmigan |
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| ☐ Hawk | ☐ Sandhill crane |

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EAGLE RIVER NATURE CENTER 🌐 ♿ernc.org

see listing page 61

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see listing page 114

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Visitor information, community events, and more. Mile 115 Richardson Hwy, Glennallen • (907) 822-5555

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The go-to travel source for Kennecott-McCarthy. PO Box MXY Ste 22B via Glennallen, McCarthy

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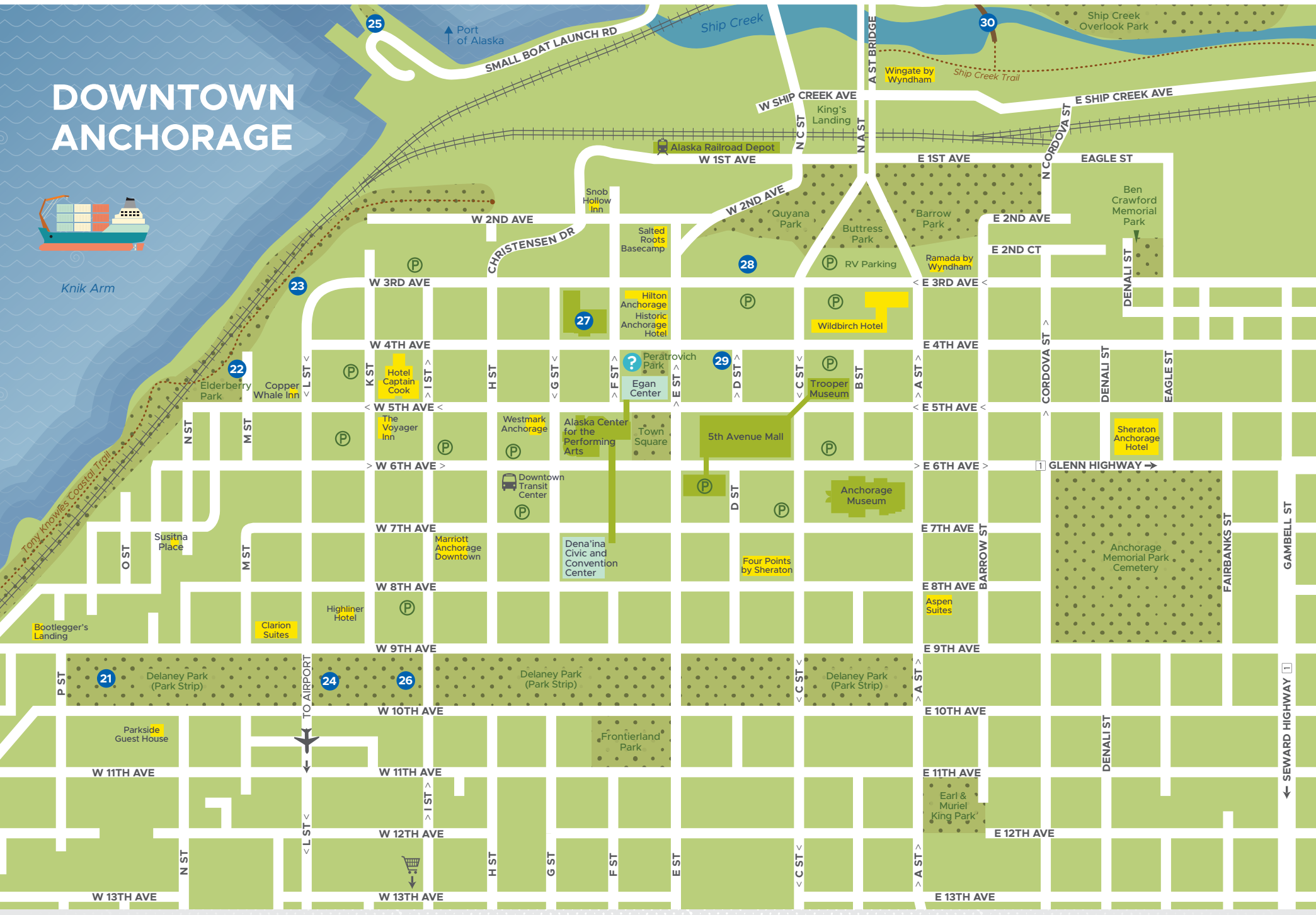
GREATER ANCHORAGE BOWL



Map is not to scale. For mileage references, see the North & South map.

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DOWNTOWN ANCHORAGE



- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|-----|
| 1 Kincaid Park | 11 Beluga Point | 21 Centennial Rose Garden | + |
| 2 Point Woronzof Park | 12 Glen Alps Trailhead | 22 Oscar Anderson House Museum | ? |
| 3 Lake Hood Seaplane Base | 13 Basher Drive Trailhead | 23 Resolution Park | ■ |
| 4 Westchester Lagoon | 14 Prospect Heights Trailhead | 24 Martin Luther King Jr. Living Memorial | ■ |
| 5 Dimond Center | 15 Arctic Valley | 25 Grandma Olga Statue | --- |
| 6 Chester Creek Greenbelt Park | 16 Eklutna Lake | 26 Anchorage Veterans Memorial | P |
| 7 Campbell Creek (Trail Access) | 17 Crow Creek Historic Gold Mine | 27 Alaska Public Lands Information Center | ✈ |
| 8 Potter Marsh (Wildlife Viewing Boardwalk) | 18 Alyeska Resort & Recreation Area | 28 Anchorage Market (Weekends mid-May to mid-September) | 🚂 |
| 9 Hilltop Ski Area | 19 Eagle River Nature Center | 29 Anchorage Mushing District | 🚏 |
| 10 Alaska Botanical Garden | 20 Begich, Boggs Visitor Center | 30 Salmon Viewing Platform at Ship Creek | 🛒 |

NORTH & SOUTH



ACTIVITIES

- ATV
- Biking
- Flightseeing
- Gold Panning
- Hiking
- Horseback Riding
- Zip Lining
- Downhill Skiing
- Nordic Skiing
- Snowmobiling
- Snowshoeing
- Aurora Viewing
- Birding
- Whales
- Wildlife Viewing
- Cruising
- Fishing
- Kayaking/Canoeing/SUP
- Rafting/Floats

20 MILES
32 KILOMETERS

MILEAGE FROM DOWNTOWN ANCHORAGE

Denali National Park	237 mi / 382 km
Eagle River	13 mi / 22 km
Eklutna	26 mi / 42 km
Girdwood	39 mi / 62 km
Homer	226 mi / 363 km

Indian	24 mi / 39 km
Kenai	159 mi / 255 km
Palmer	42 mi / 68 km
Portage	48 mi / 77 km
Seward	127 mi / 204 km

Soldotna	148 mi / 239 km
Talkeetna	113 mi / 182 km
Wasilla	42 mi / 68 km
Whittier	60 mi / 97 km
Willow	70 mi / 43 km

1	Sterling Highway (Homer - Seward Hwy at Tern Lake Junction)
1	Seward Highway (Tern Lake Junction - Anchorage)
1	Glenn Highway (Anchorage - Tok)

3	Parks Highway (Anchorage - Fairbanks)
8	Denali Highway (Paxson - Cantwell)
9	Seward Highway (Seward - Tern Lake Junction)



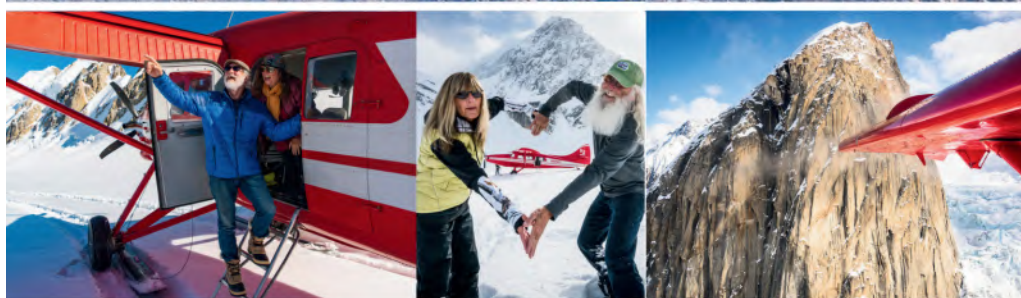
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