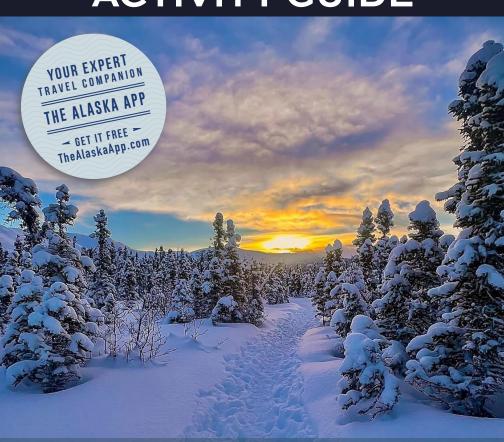
COMPLIMENTARY



2026 ALASKA

WINTER EDITION ACTIVITY GUIDE



TOWN HIGHLIGHTS

Anchorage, Girdwood, Seward, Homer, Mat-Su Valley, Talkeetna, Denali & Fairbanks

TOURS & ATTRACTIONS

Best snowmobiling, dog sledding, flightseeing, northern lights, indoor activities & more

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Imagine yourself in a coffee shop talking with locals about

the best places to visit in Alaska. That's what you'll find in this book: solid advice from Alaskans who know and love this state, whether they're park rangers, naturalists, innkeepers or bush pilots.

As you get to know Alaska, remember that Alaskans like to get to know visitors, too. Feel free to email me with questions (editor@alaska.org). I also love to invite visitors along for a hike, a flight in my airplane, or even a moose barbecue at the house with my family. Follow me on Facebook and Instagram

(@AlaskaTravel) and I'll let you know when it's happening.





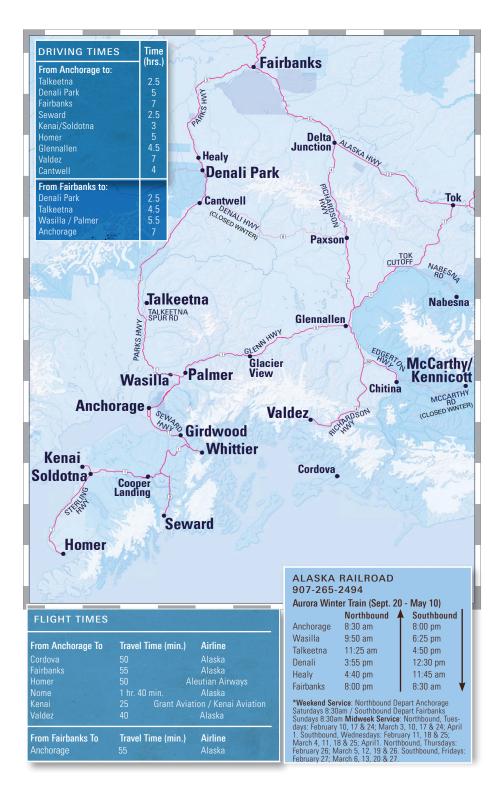


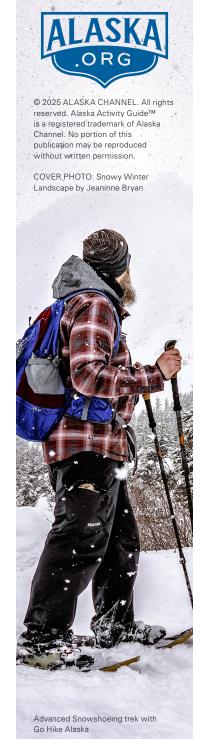
Be sure to download our app for your smartphone free at **TheAlaskaApp.com** (it will totally change your vacation). We know you'll love exploring our back yard—and that this trip to Alaska won't be your last.

But

Bob Kaufman Alaska.org

P.S. Share your favorite Alaska moments with us at **#YouNeedAlaska**





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THROUGH THE SEASON

Winter in Alaska doesn't have just one face. The six-month period from October through March is actually a series of mini-seasons, each with its own distinct feel.



EARLY WINTER: OCTOBER-EARLY NOVEMBER

Frozen ground, open woods, nighttime temperatures that sometimes drop into the single digits. This is also the darkest time of year because the snow has not yet arrived. Lakes and rivers start to freeze up, restricting some travel before the ice thickens, as the days grow shorter and shorter.



SOLSTICE SEASON: FIRST BIG SNOWFALL TO NEW YEAR'S DAY

That first big snow dump changes everything! The world turns white and the days grow short, with the sun barely peeking over the horizon. As the winter solstice approaches, true daylight lasts only six to eight hours in Anchorage, from mid-morning to late afternoon. Depending on the snow depth, people start skiing and skating.



HIGH WINTER: JANUARY, FEBRUARY, AND MARCH

As the snow grows deeper, winter travel possibilities expand exponentially. Urban ski areas and multi-use trails are groomed, allowing people to ski, bike, and jog all over town. When Arctic high pressure clamps down, we see bright clear days and frigid cold snaps. The light comes back with a vengeance and the days grow longer. The season climaxes with iconic Alaskan winter events—sled dog and snowmobile races, ski marathons, and winter festivals.



SPRING WINTER: MARCH UNTIL "BREAKUP" IN APRIL

You might call it "the sunglass season." The snowpack hits its climax as the daylight reconquers evening. Blazing sunshine often rules the weather, with daytime thaws and nighttime freezes creating crusty snow that's magnificent for winter sports and backcountry travel. Hundreds of people go out on weekends exploring trails—skiing, snowshoeing, snow biking, hiking, and snowmobiling. For winter sports enthusiasts, this season can be as good as it gets. Then puddles begin to appear in town, and the snow starts to shrink.

PLAN AHEAD FOR 2026 & 2027!

Whether it's the blooming beauty of spring, the endless daylight of summer, or the vibrant colors of fall, UnCruise Adventures offers unforgettable small-ship expeditions from April through October. Experience Alaska's wildlife, marine life, and outdoor recreation opportunities aboard an all-inclusive adventure cruise. Reserve your 2026 trip now by calling (888) 862-8881.



TIPS TO STAY WARM IN WINTER



It's easy for anyone to stay warm and dry during a winter trip to Alaska. Just follow these rules.

- 1. Layer! Wearing several layers is the best way to trap heat close to your body. Wear a light- to midweight wool or synthetic base layer (no cotton!) that fits snugly to your body. Wear a top and bottom. The next (middle) layer should include midweight fleece or Capilene. Packable down- or synthetic-filled sweater jackets also work well. Top it off with a nylon jacket or ski parka that fits over your insulating layers to cut the wind and trap heat.
- 2. Keep your feet warm. If you're going to be outside for extended periods of time (like viewing the northern lights, or on long snowmobile or dog sled rides), boots rated at -20 to -40 are a good idea. If you already have a pair of boots but are concerned they won't be warm enough, toe warmers can usually make up the difference! Wear wool or synthetic winter socks—just no cotton.
- 3. Choose mittens over gloves. Mittens are the best choice because they keep your fingers together and trap heat more effectively than gloves. Again, hand warmers can lend some extra warmth. If you'll be removing your mittens to take photos, wear a thin glove underneath the mitten.
- 4. Keep your head warm. Pair a hat with a balaclava that will cover your nose and cheeks. If you're active and become warm, swap the hat for a headband—but keep those ears covered to avoid frostbite!







WINTER
FESTIVALS
& EVENTS

Alaskans love an excuse to get outside and celebrate during the long winter months. Check out one or more of these great events throughout the state.

ANCHORAGE

Zoo Lights. The Alaska Zoo lights up its forest trails with beautiful custom light displays and trail canopies. Zoo Lights is open late November to early January (Fridays–Sundays) and select days in February and March. Zoo members get special Zoo Lights rates!.

New Year's Eve in Town Square Park. Ring in the new year with live music and ice skating, plus a fireworks display in the evening.

The Anchorage Fur Rendezvous. This 10-day celebration of winter in late February and early March features a carnival, sled dog races, and more.

The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. This world-famous 1,000-mile race has a ceremonial start the first Saturday in March in downtown Anchorage; the official start happens the following day in Willow.

DENALI

Denali Winterfest. February festival featuring ranger-led programs, dog sled demonstrations, and more.

FAIRBANKS

Winter Solstice Celebration. Celebrate the return of light the week of December 21.

Ice Art. The World Ice Art Championship and International Ice Art Classic are on view mid-February through March.

GIRDWOOD

Alyeska Torch Light Parade & Fireworks. New Year's Eve tradition where skiers carry phosphorus flares as they descend Mt. Alyeska. Alyeska Spring Carnival & Slush Cup. In April, costumed skiers race down the mountain, aiming to glide across a pool of icy slush.

KENAI PENINSULA

Homer Winter Carnival. A weekend-long celebration in early February featuring a parade, car races on Beluga Lake, and other lively activities. Seward Polar Bear Jump. In January, participants brave the cold and plunge into the Seward Small Boat Harbor to raise money and awareness for cancer.

PALMER

Colony Christmas. Small-town holiday celebration including hay rides, a parade, and more!

TALKEETNA

Talkeetna Winterfest. The first weekend in December. Includes the Wilderness Woman Competition and the Talkeetna Bachelor Auction, plus a lights parade.

Oosik Classic Ski Race. Annual race the third weekend of March celebrating the end of the ski season. 10, 25, & 50km tracks.

Experience the thrill of dog mushing in Willow all winter long with **Snowhook Guides of Alaska** (907-414-4547)





LOCAL ADVICE: WINTER FESTIVALS & EVENTS

HIGHLIGHTS

ALASKA Z00 907-346-3242 alaskazoo.org

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HIGHLIGHTS

907-745-4151

10 ALASKA ZOO

907-346-3242

muskoxfarm.org MAP PG 55

alaskazoo.org MAP PG 29

2 ALASKA WILDLIFE

WINTER WILDLIFE Bears might be hibernating in winter, but there's still plenty of wildlife out and about.

MOOSE, BIRDS, AND MORE

One of the most common sightings is moose, even (and especially) in town. That's because, even though their tall legs let them walk through deep snow, it's much easier to wander along plowed roads or trails, nibbling on bark and branches along the way. In Anchorage, they're often seen bedded down in the alders along the 54 Tony Knowles Coastal Trail or 52 Kincaid Park.

While a lot of birds migrate south for the winter, some hang around. Look for ravens, chickadees, and bohemian waxings munching on mountain ash berries. Bald eagles can still be seen along the coast or perched in tall trees. On alpine trails, you may see our state bird, the Willow Ptarmigan, whose brown feathers turn white in winter. You may also see fox, Arctic hares, or lynx on local trails, but they're much more elusive.

GUARANTEED SIGHTINGS

Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center home. Located in Portage, a

About 45 minutes north of Anchorage in the Mat-Su Valley is the 4 Reindeer Farm. During your visit, you'll hear funny and insightful

Join interpretive guides to visit one of the Arctic's most iconic animals in Musk Ox Farm practices gentle and sustainable agriculture,

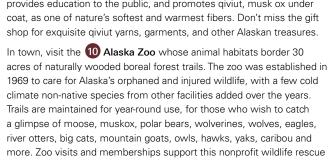
In town, visit the 10 Alaska Zoo whose animal habitats border 30 acres of naturally wooded boreal forest trails. The zoo was established in 1969 to care for Alaska's orphaned and injured wildlife, with a few cold climate non-native species from other facilities added over the years. Trails are maintained for year-round use, for those who wish to catch a glimpse of moose, muskox, polar bears, wolverines, wolves, eagles, river otters, big cats, mountain goats, owls, hawks, vaks, caribou and more. Zoo visits and memberships support this nonprofit wildlife rescue Z00.

Discover the wild of Alaska and come meet the local moose, bison, reindeer, muskox, bears, wolves, lynx, and others that call the

scenic 1-hour drive from Anchorage, AWCC is a nonprofit sanctuary that maintains more than 200 acres for resident animals. In winter, drive the 1.5-mile loop, borrow a kick-sled from the center, or bring your crosscountry skis or fat bike to see the animals.

stories about the animals, get great photos, and feed them from a cup petting is encouraged! In addition to reindeer, you'll meet Rocky the moose, Dolly the bison, Tibetan yaks, bunnies, and more. Appointments are required and can be booked online.

CONSERVATION CENTER 907-783-0058 wintertime, when they're at their finest! Open year-round, the nonprofit alaskawildlife.org MAP PG 46 provides education to the public, and promotes giviut, musk ox under 4 REINDEER FARM coat, as one of nature's softest and warmest fibers. Don't miss the gift 907-745-4000 shop for exquisite qiviut yarns, garments, and other Alaskan treasures. reindeerfarm.com MAP PG 55 2 MUSK OX FARM





Visit the MUSK OX FARM during winter - the best time of the year for the herd!

Check website for current hours of operation.

- Open year-round
- Guided tours
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MOOSE SAFETY

Moose are a routine part of life for most Alaskans. These hulking creatures wander neighborhoods and nonchalantly cross highways, forcing motorists to wait. While moose are happy to pose for a picture or two, give them lots of room!



NEVER APPROACH A MOOSE

Moose - especially cows with calves - can be aggressive and need plenty of room.



2

PAY ATTENTION TO BODY LANGUAGE

A stressed moose has its ears back, the hair on its neck raised, and it may lick its lips. This moose may charge you. Give stressed moose room by retreating from the area



3

IF A MOOSE CHARGES/CHASES YOU

It's okay to run away if you have a head start. Hide behind something solid, such as a tree.



riginal, and a second

IF A MOOSE KNOCKS YOU DOWN

Curl into a ball, protect your head, and lie still until the moose retreats.



5

KEEP DOGS UNDER CONTROL AT ALL TIMES

When a dog chases or aggravates a moose, it creates a dangerous situation for both of you!



6

DO NOT FEED MOOSE

It is both dangerous and illegal.



7

ENJOY WATCHING FROM A SAFE DISTANCE











Come meet the locals! Bears, bison, moose, wolves, reindeer, porcupines, muskox and others that call the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center home. Wildlife viewing, bear encounters, moose encounters, tours, and educational opportunities abound.





Mile 79, Seward Highway | Portage, AK | 907.783.0058 | AlaskaWildlife.org









Come on a guided tour of the farm. Tours last about 1 hour. You will get to feed, pet, and interact with a variety of animals. Reindeer, moose, highland cattle, alpacas and more!

Open by Appointment Only
Reservations can be made at www.ReindeerFarm.com
(907) 745-4000



ANCHORAGE

Of all the world's cities, Anchorage uniquely combines the conveniences of the modern world with a rugged, natural environment that has all but vanished from populated regions. In Anchorage, you can watch moose in the morning and ballet in the afternoon. You could also take a short flight to see some of the most dramatic mountain scenery on earth, then be back in town to enjoy fresh seafood at a five-star restaurant.

HIGHLIGHTS

19 SALMON BERRY TOURS 907-278-3572

salmonberrytours.com

13 ANCHORAGE TROLLEY **TOURS** 907-276-5603 anchoragetrolley.com



See page 29-30

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Most of all, Anchorage is a gateway to adventure. You can experience all Alaska has to offer in winter and never have to change hotels. Flightsee over the glimmering winter landscape and bright blue glaciers, speed across the snow on a snowmobile, or angle for fish deep beneath the frozen ice.

For culture and shopping, there's no better place in Alaska. Collect the prized works of Alaska's top artists and native craftspeople in galleries. Learn about the state's rich history in museums and heritage centers, and catch a show at one of the performance halls.

Winter also brings out another side of Anchorage—the community. Maybe it's the harsh weather or short days, but the pace of life slows. Stop into a local coffee shop or brewery and mingle with locals enjoying a moment of warmth. You'll be sure to get a list of their favorite things to see and do during the season. For those who know where to look, the opportunities are endless.

SIGHTSEEING

If you're in town for a day or two without a rental car, consider getting out of the city on a sightseeing tour led by knowledgeable local guides.

19 Salmon Berry Tours offers a variety of small-group van tours. From Anchorage, you might head south along the scenic Turnagain Arm to visit Girdwood, ride the tram up Mt. Alyeska, and complete the tour at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center. You could also consider going north to explore the Matanuska Glacier or up to Talkeetna for dogsledding at Dallas Seavey Racing!

Get an overview of the best of winter in Anchorage with 13 Anchorage Trolley Tours' Winter City Tour. Spend 3 hours aboard their heated small-group bus, checking out Anchorage's iconic sites and learning the





area's history from passionate local guides. Stops include the Lake Hood Floatplane base, Earthquake Park, the Alaska Railroad Depot, The Ulu Factory (where you can watch a demonstration on how Ulu knives are made while sampling Alaskan reindeer sausage), and the best spots to photograph Anchorage's skyline and surrounding mountains. Keep an eye out for wildlife, too!



Find the aurora forecast in The Alaska App, under the "Weather" menu item. Download for free.

NORTHERN LIGHTS

The famed aurora borealis is even more eerily beautiful when you see it in person—and in Alaska, it can dominate the night sky with more dazzling, magical displays than you'll find anywhere else in the world.

Think of the experience as a quest, with the goal of witnessing one of nature's greatest spectacles. The lights can be elusive, so you must pursue them. But it's an adventure that comes with a huge payoff.

First off, you can only see the lights when it's dark enough at night, which is from late August to early April. Check the weather forecast for clear skies, then the aurora forecast to see if the lights are expected to be visible in your area: www.gi.alaska.edu/AuroraForecast.

You'll also find the link to this forecast in The Alaska App, under the "Weather" menu. Download the app now for free! (QR)

To best see the aurora, head out of town to avoid light pollution. Here are our favorite viewing spots in the Anchorage area:

40 Glen Alps Trailhead (15-minute drive)

41 Point Woronzorof (10-minute drive)

12 Turnagain Arm; stop at pullouts like Beluga Point and Bird Creek

(25- to 30-minute drive)

Learn how to photograph the northern lights (on your smartphone or digital camera) with 7 Alaska Photo Treks on its group tour, the Anchorage Aurora Quest, or on its Private Aurora Tour. Or simply enjoy the aurora with a hot beverage and have your picture taken with the dancing lights! During the day, the tour company's Anchorage Winter Wonderland Tour explores the unique beauty of Anchorage in winter, from frosty forests to icefalls and coastal sunsets.

alaskaphototreks.com

7 ALASKA PHOTO TREKS



HIGHLIGHTS

907-350-0251

See page 29-30

GLACIER TOURS

The Matanuska Glacier, the largest road-accessible glacier in the U.S., is just two hours north of Anchorage. Spend the day exploring its icy







surface with a guided glacier walk, offered by both 19 Salmon Berry Tours and 3 Alaska's Finest Tours & Adventures. Both companies provide round-trip transportation from Anchorage, glacier walking equipment, and expert guides. You'll enjoy scenic stops along the way for photos before gearing up with helmets, trekking poles, and microspikes. Learn about the glacier's fascinating natural history and capture stunning photos of the surrounding landscape.

HIGHLIGHTS

19 SALMON BERRY TOURS 907-278-3572

salmonberrytours.com

3 ALASKA'S FINEST **TOURS & ADVENTURES** 907-764-2067

akfinest.com

4 ALASKA HELICOPTER TOURS 907-272-7777 alaskahelicoptertours.com

18 OUTBOUND HELI **ADVENTURES** 907-351-6736 outboundheli.com

11 ALPINE AIR 907-783-2360 alpineairalaska.com

HEYI DAYS anchorage.net/heyi-days



See page 29-30

FLIGHTSEEING

From Anchorage, it's hard to miss the impressive sight of the Chugach Mountains—after all, they form the backdrop of the city. What you can't see from town, however, is how far they stretch, and that glaciers pour from ancient ice fields.

The Knik Glacier, located in the Knik River Valley, is an impressive. 25-mile-long river of ice—the largest glacier in Southcentral Alaska and one of the most popular heli-adventure destinations. See it from above from a helicopter, experience a glacier landing, or book a heli iceclimbing adventure and explore the ice caves (only in winter!). Fly with 4 Alaska Helicopter Tours or 18 Outbound Heli Adventures.

adventure that begins as soon as you lift off and soar over rugged peaks, frozen waterfalls, and snow-covered glaciers into the heart of the Chugach Mountains. Land directly on a massive glacier for unforgettable photos on one of their Glacier Landing Tours, or explore the massive tidewater glaciers with extended flight time and two landings on the Prince William Sound Tour! Optional shuttle service from the Ted Stevens International Airport and Anchorage hotels makes your winter adventure effortless from start to finish.

HEYI DAYS

Heyi, (a word meaning "winter" in Dena'ina Athabascan), honors Anchorage's First People. Running from the weekend after Thanksgiving through New Year's Day and stretching across the community from Eklutna to Portage, Heyi Days celebrate winter's best activities and attractions. From festive shows and holiday markets to outdoor sports, shopping, and cozy indoor moments, there's something for everyone.



ALASKA RAILROAD

Take the Aurora Winter Train between Anchorage and Fairbanks on weekends from late September to early May and select mid-week dates in February and March. Or sightsee on the Hurricane Turn Flagstop Train on the first Thursday of the month from October through May. As you travel round-trip from Anchorage, you'll meet locals who live in remote areas and use the train to commute. Contact the

9 Alaska Railroad to book.

HIGHLIGHTS

9 ALASKA RAILROAD 800-544-0552 alaskarailroad.com

14 BAIT SHACK 907-522-3474 thebaitshackak.com

36 PEOPLE MOVER 907-343-6543 peoplemover.org

37 RED EYE RIDES 907-769-1818 akredeyerides.com



See page 29-30

ICE FISHING

The Bait Shack offers fully guided ice fishing trips and gear rentals in Anchorage. Whether you're a seasoned angler or hitting the ice for the first time, you're in good hands. The Shack provides everything you need for a successful day on the ice — insulated tents, heaters, rods, bait, tackle, and even underwater cameras. Choose from a variety of packages to fit your schedule and skill level. Guided trips are led by licensed, insured local Alaska fishing guides who know the waters. From quick outings to multi-day experiences throughout Southcentral Alaska, they handle all the setup — you just show up and fish!

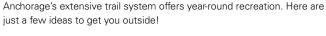
GETTING AROUND

Get around Anchorage like the locals—take 36 People Mover! Buy passes with the People Mover mTicket app and use your smartphone as your bus pass. Ride confidently by planning your trip and tracking your bus with Transit app.

Red Eye Rides provides scheduled transportation between Anchorage, Seward, and Homer, but can also take you anywhere across the Kenai Peninsula. The company can also do private charters if you're traveling with a group. Advanced reservations required.









WALKS IN TOWN

47 Tony Knowles Coastal Trail. This 11-mile trail along the Knik Arm boasts views of Mt. Denali and Sleeping Lady on a clear day. Walk, run, cross-country ski, or rent a fat-tire bike. Two access points from downtown are at Elderberry Park (1297 W. 5th Ave.) and the corner of H St. & 2nd Ave.

44 Chester Creek Trail. Park at Westchester Lagoon and head west (toward the water) to join the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail, or go east (toward the mountains) for 4 miles and wind through Anchorage's older neighborhoods to Goose Lake Park. 1824 W. 15th Ave., Anchorage

WALKS IN A SHORT DRIVE

48 Turnagain Arm Trail. This 9.5-mile trail, which parallels the Seward Highway along Turnagain Arm, is perfect for a short in-and-out hike; you'll get beautiful views of the water and mountains. Generally, there's hardpacked snow (or ice, depending on conditions; bring your ice cleats). This is one of the first trails to melt in spring because it is south-facing. 20 minutes from downtown; park at the Potter Trailhead at Mile 115 Seward Highway; parking is \$5

45 Eagle River Nature Center. A series of trails here meander through the forest in a beautiful valley; the most popular is the ¾-mile Rodak Nature Trail. Trails aren't cleared, so after the fresh snow you'll be making tracks! It's also a great destination for snowshoeing or cross-country skiing. The center also hosts guided walks and programs. 45 minutes from downtown; 32750 Eagle River Rd., Eagle River; parking is \$5

46 Eklutna Lakeside Trail. This wide, mostly flat trail with stunning mountain scenery follows the shore of Eklutna Lake in Chugach State Park. Follow the Glenn Highway north from Anchorage, take the Eklutna Exit, and follow winding Eklutna Road for 10 miles. It's about a 1-hour drive. Parking is \$5. MP 10, Eklutna Lake Rd.

25 Winner Creek Trail. The trailhead to this popular route is located just behind Alyeska Resort in Girdwood. After a snowfall it becomes a gorgeous winter wonderland. It's a 45-minute drive from Anchorage. See map on page 46.

GUIDED WINTER WALKS

16 Go Hike Alaska offers guided winter adventures for all abilities in nearby Chugach State Park. Walk to a frozen waterfall through a winter wonderland (keep an eye out for wildlife like moose, snowshoe hare, red fox, and porcupine) or try snowshoeing on the alpine slopes above Anchorage. To up the adventure factor, opt for a heli-snowshoeing trip to combine fabulous winter flightseeing with backcountry snowshoeing. Spend the day exploring the icy surface of the Matanuska Glacier on a guided glacier walk, offered by both 19 Salmon Berry Tours and 3 Alaska's Finest Tours & Adventures.





HIGHLIGHTS

16 GO HIKE ALASKA 907-444-9008 gohikealaska.com

19 SALMON BERRY TOURS 907-278-3572

salmonberrytours.com

3 ALASKAS FINEST **TOURS & ADVENTURES** 907-764-2067 akfinest.com



See page 29-30

DOWNHILL SKIING AND RENTALS

You'll find fun, scenic, and easily accessible downhill ski areas near Anchorage in the nearby Chugach Mountains.

HILLTOP SKI AREA

This 30-acre, nonprofit winter recreation area—just 15 minutes from downtown Anchorage at the base of the Chugach Mountains—offers convenient and affordable skiing and snowboarding with a hometown feel. With a base elevation near sea level, **Thillow Ski Area receives 70-plus inches of snow each season. Plus, there's a progressive terrain park with the state's best features, world-class instruction, rentals, and dining options like Finn's Kitchen. Hilltop offers something for the whole family. About 80 percent of the trails are beginner-level; the other 20 percent are intermediate to advanced.

ALYESKA SKI RESORT

With a whopping average annual snowfall of 669 inches at the top and 208 inches at the base, Alyeska—located 45 minutes from downtown Anchorage in Girdwood—features 1,610 skiable acres and 76 named runs and trails. Ski for the day and/or stay overnight at 30 Alyeska Resort. Rentals available. See map on page 46.



NORDIC SKIING

Anchorage features some of the most accessible and extensive cross-country skiing in the world. In fact, there may be no other U.S. city laced with so many groomed trails that are free and open to the public. To rent a pair of classic or skate skis, contact the **Hoarding Marmot**. Consult the map at each trailhead.

(2) Kincaid Park. This astonishing maze of groomed trails weaves over all kinds of terrain; 12 to 15 miles feature lights for night skiing.

51 Far North Bicentennial Park. Scores of multi-use trails suitable for skiing crisscross this vast, 4,000-acre tract, reaching from lowland forest into the foothills of the Chugach Mountains.

Tony Knowles Coastal Trail. This 11-mile trail along the Knik Arm boasts views of Mt. Denali and Sleeping Lady on a clear day. Access it from Elderberry Park, Westchester Lagoon, or Kincaid Park.

49 APU / Mahaffey Trails. This easy, 7.5-kilometer loop is located near Alaska Pacific University and the University of Alaska Anchorage. Park at Goose Lake Park and find the loop down the multi-use path to UAA.

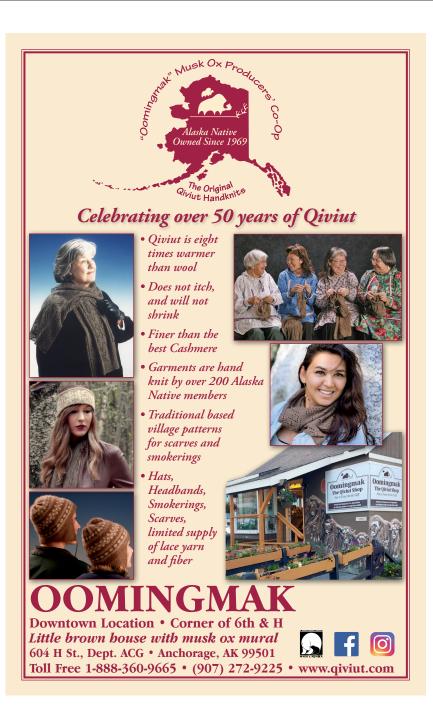
Russian Jack Springs Park. This 300-acre park on Anchorage's neareast side features groomed, lit paths on the gentle fairways of a snow-bound golf course. Park at the Selkregg Chalet.

50 Beach Lake. The 15-kilometer-plus system here ranges from easy to advanced; around half of it is lit for night skiing. Exit the Glenn Highway north of Anchorage at about Mile 17.4 and drive northwest on South Birchwood Loop; park at the Beach Lake Chalet.

HIGHLIGHTS

907-346-1446 hilltopskiarea.org MAP PG 29

30 ALYESKA RESORT 907-754-1111 alyeskaresort.com MAP PG 46





ICE SKATING

The Anchorage Parks Department maintains ice rinks and monitors ice thickness at five lakes around town. Rent skates from **Play it Again Sports**.

The most popular rink, 66 Westchester Lagoon, features a wilderness setting just minutes from downtown Anchorage. Skate on the larger oval or one of the smaller cleared rinks. Parking along W. 15th or lot on U Street.

Here are some other places to ice skate:

- **60** Cheney Lake. 2245 Baxter Rd., between DeBarr Rd. and Northern Lights Blvd.
- 61 Cuddy Family Midtown Park. Next to the Loussac Library at 201 E. 40th Ave.
- 62 Delaney Park. Take A St. to P St./W. 9th Ave. to W. 10th Ave.
- 64 Mulcahy Park. E. 16th Ave./Eagle St.
- 65 Tikishla Park. Sunrise Dr. off E. 20th Ave.
- 63 Ice Chalet at Desitnation Dimond. Take off the chill at this indoor ice rink located in the Dimond Center. 800 E. Dimond Blvd.

SLEDDING

The awesome sledding hills in and around Anchorage make a great outing for kids—or to release your inner child. Here are the top sledding hills:

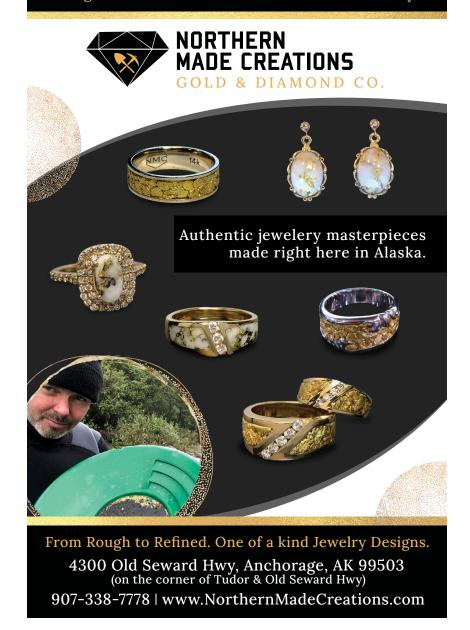
Kincaid Park. The decently long run descends the hill immediately north of the Outdoor Center, just off the parking lot. There's some lighting, as well as access to restrooms and warm-up areas when the center is open. *Far west end of Raspberry Rd.*

Russian Jack Springs Park. Using a hill that once featured a rope tow for skiers, this sledding hill descends just south of the chalet. There's lighting and access to restrooms and warm-up areas when the chalet is open. Lydia Selkregg Ln. and Debarr Rd., halfway between Pine St. and Boniface Pkwy.

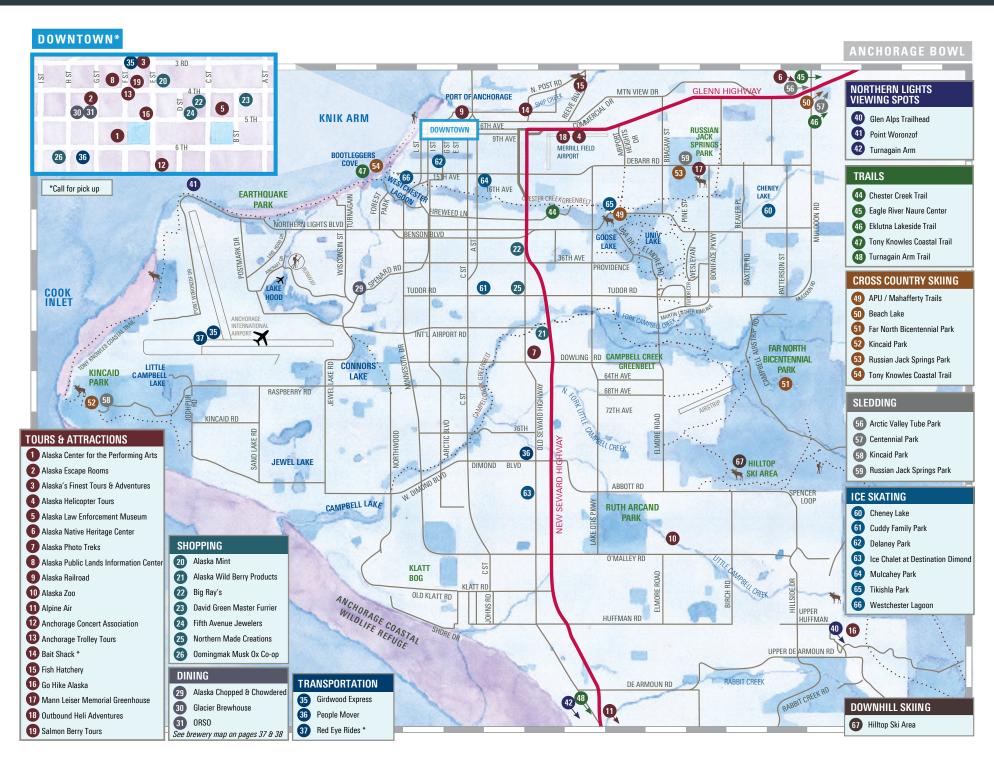
Centennial Park. You'll find a couple of decent ski hill-like runs carved from the forest here. 8300 Glenn Hwy. Just south of the Glenn Highway, turn east off Muldoon Rd. onto Boundary Ave. One block later, turn left (north) onto Starview Dr.

56 Arctic Valley Tube Park. Don't have your own sleds? No problem—the park provides them with your admission. Call ahead for rates, hours, and to purchase tickets in advance. Arctic Valley Rd. 4WD/AWD is recommended, as well as studded tires.

Gold Nugget, Gold Quartz, & Alaska's Largest Selection of Colored Gem Stone Jewelery



29 ANCHORAGE: MAP ANCHORAGE: MAP 30





INDOOR TOURS & ATTRACTIONS

There are lots of reasons to head indoors in winter...and not just to escape the cold! Here are our favorites.

Step into the unknown at 2 Alaska Escape Rooms. Unravel secrets inside the state's largest escape rooms, honored with TripAdvisor's 2023 and 2024 Traveler's Choice award. Choose your path: uncover the dark mysteries of Raven's Eye or enter the enchanted realm of Conjured Kingdoms.

12 The Anchorage Concert Association is one of the largest performing arts presenters in Alaska, showcasing a wide spectrum of performances. They are the largest resident company that uses Anchorage's Alaska Center for the Performing Arts (known to locals as the PAC). Enjoy world-class concerts, comedy, dance, and more!

Discover the 6 Alaska Native Heritage Center where the resilience, artistry, and living histories of Alaska's First Peoples come to life. This winter, enjoy self-guided visits Monday through Friday, 9AM-5PM (except for select dates). Stroll through life-sized Village Sites, explore exhibitions in the Hall of Cultures, shop authentic art at the Ch'k'igadi Gallery, and watch short films in the theater. Enhance your visit with a self-led archival audio tour.

At the 5 Alaska Law Enforcement Museum, discover how law and order came to the most far-flung jurisdiction of America. Displays include: Alaska State Troopers, Women in Police, CSI Room, Patch Room, 52' Hudson, and a documentary movie.

Take in the Alaska landscape from a cozy railcar aboard the 9 Alaska Railroad. The Aurora Winter Train travels between Anchorage and Fairbanks on weekends from late September to early May and select midweek dates in February and March. Or ride the Hurricane Turn Flagstop Train on the first Thursday of the month from October through May.

MORE INDOOR FUN

Marvel at the sight of thousands of fish schooling in gigantic tanks at the 15 William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery (Call for hours). Warm up at the 16 Mann Leiser Memorial Greenhouse, and see birds, fish, and a global collection of exotic plants. View state maps and interactive displays on Alaska's parks and wildlife at the 8 Alaska Public Lands information Center. Visit local breweries on a guided tour with Big Swig Tours, or visit a brewery on your own. See brewery map on page 37-38.

HIGHLIGHTS

2 ALASKA ESCAPE ROOMS 907-444-6975

alaskaescaperooms.com

12 ANCHORAGE CONCERT ASSOCIATION 907-272-1471

anchorageconcerts.com

6 ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE CENTER 907-330-8000

alaskanative.net

5 ALASKA LAW **ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM** 907-279-5050

foast.com

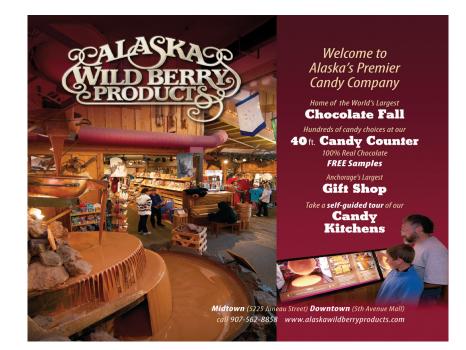
9 ALASKA RAILROAD 800-544-0552

alaskarailroad.com



See page 29-30







DINING

Alaska is one of the last, best places in the world to savor wild-caught seafood. But that's just the beginning of your culinary journey.

Conveniently located in the heart of downtown Anchorage and featuring Italian-inspired dishes with the fresh flavors of Alaska, **31 ORSO** serves up a selection of delectable fresh seafood entrees, classic dishes like lamb osso buco, and an inspired wine list.

30 Glacier BrewHouse is an upscale brewery known for fresh Alaskan seafood, alderwood fire-grilled meats, and hand-crafted brews. Stop in for lunch, dinner, or weekend brunch. Be sure to leave room for the world-famous peanut butter pie!

Savor a culinary adventure at ② Alaska Chopped & Chowdered that honors the exquisite flavors of land and sea. Discover for yourself why their "Seafood x Steak x Chowder House" has garnered such widespread acclaim. Open for lunch and dinner. Sip local beers on tap alongside an amazing wine list.

HIGHLIGHTS

31 ORSO 907-222-3232 orsoalaska.com

30 GLACIER BREWHOUSE 907-274-2739

glacierbrewhouse.com

29 ALASKA CHOPPED & CHOWDERED 907-222-4970

akchowder.com



SHOPPING

The unique crafts produced in Alaska come from the earth and capture the spirit of this wild, untamed country. Here's what you'll want to bring home.

HIGHLIGHTS

DAVID GREEN MASTER FURRIER
907-277-9595

davidgreenfur.com

22 BIG RAY'S 800-478-3458

bigrays.com



See page 29-30

FURS

Founded in Alaska in 1922, ② David Green Master Furrier is an Anchorage institution whose slogan is, "If You Don't Know Furs, Know Your Furrier." Visitors from all over the world are drawn to the most complete selection of quality furs under one roof in North America: mink, beaver, lynx, fox, sable, chinchilla, and more. Featuring everything from traditional to cutting-edge fashion, David Green has more than 3,000 items in stock, like jackets, vests, capes, hats, scarves, blankets, pelts, accessories, and more.

YOUR ONE-STOP ADVENTURE SHOP

At every **22** Big Ray's store, you'll find a wide range of outdoor clothing—footwear, outerwear, and more—for men, women, and







children. Whether you're looking to go dog sledding, skiing, or chasing the northern lights, everything you need will be right at your fingertips. Big Ray's truly distinguishes itself when it comes to the people they hire and the level of expertise that their staffers have. Plus, they're locals—not only do they know their area well, but also the best gear for their particular area. Visit their stores in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Kodiak.

CHOCOLATE

Experience the irresistible taste of 21 Alaska Wild Berry Products, where gourmet chocolate meets wild Alaskan flavors! Indulge in confections made from time-honored recipes, or surprise your taste buds with wild berry jellies, jams, and sauces. Open 7 days a week. You can also shop their large selection of Alaskan foods, souvenirs, clothing and jewelry. View the 20-foot-tall chocolate fall or take a FREE tour of the candy kitchens.

GOLD AND JEWELRY

20 Alaska Mint is celebrating 36 years in downtown Anchorage making quality Alaskan gifts, souvenirs and jewelry. They have the best selection of unique gold quartz, gold nugget and sterling silver jewelry. Watch as they mint collector medallions featuring Alaskan animals, seal life and nature designs in pure silver and gold. They buy directly from the gold miners so be sure to get your gold nuggets from Alaska at the Alaska Mint. Make sure you check out their Alaskan made knives too. The starting point for the popular winter events, Iditarod and Fur Rondy Sled Dog Races, start right in front of their doors.

At 24 Fifth Avenue Jewelers, Alaskan gold guartz is hand-crafted into rings, necklaces, earrings, and other jewelry. You'll find a rare collection of natural Alaskan gold nugget jewelry and natural gold nuggets direct from miners. View their one of a kind estate jewelry collection and other fine diamond and colored stone jewelry.

25 Northern Made Creations Gold & Diamond Co. creates amazing jewelry with gold mined right here by real Alaskan miners. Browse gold nugget and gold quartz jewelry, custom-designed diamond and gemstone jewelry, exotic mineral specimens, and other Alaskan creations you won't find anywhere else. Take home an authentic piece of Alaska to cherish for a lifetime.

QIVIUT

26 Oomingmak Musk Ox Producer's Co-op. Get to know giviut, the downy soft underwool of the musk ox—a rare fiber eight times warmer than wool. The co-op is owned by approximately 250 Native Alaskan women from more than 20 remote coastal villages of Alaska; they knit tunics, scarves, and other items by hand. Each village has a signature pattern derived from traditional aspects of village life and the Alaska Native culture. Items are sold at their quaint downtown shop, where you can often meet knitters.

HIGHLIGHTS

21 ALASKA WILD BERRY **PRODUCTS** 907-562-8858 akwildberry.com

20 ALASKA MINT 907-278-8414

alaskamint.com

24 FIFTH AVENUE **JEWELERS** 907-258-3635 akdiamondco.com

25 NORTHERN MADE **CREATIONS** 907-338-7778

northernmadecreations.com

26 OOMINGMAK MUSK OX PRODUCER'S CO-OP 907-272-9225 aiviut.com



See page 29-30



FEATURED ALASKA BREWERIES



49TH STATE BREWING COMPANYAward-winning craft beer & local cuisine. Anchorage Brewpub: 717

West 3rd Ave 907-277-7727. On the Rail Tasting Room: 721 W. Depot Dr 907-277-7727.

www.49statebrewing.com

GLACIER BREWHOUSE Anchorages

first craft brewery, known for outstanding ales and fresh Alaska seafood. Lunch, dinner, and weekend brunch #gbak 737 W 5th Ave #110, 907-274-2739

www.glacierbrewhouse.com

DOUBLE SHOVEL CIDER CO



doubleshovelcider.com

ANCHORAGE BREWERIES



ALASKAN SPIRITS DISTILLERY 907-290-7177

ANCHORAGE BREWING CO



BROKEN TOOTH BREWING (BEAR TOOTH THEATREPUB) 907-276-4200

BROKEN TOOTH BREWING
(MOOSE'S TOOTH PUB & PIZZERIA)
907-258-2537

15 CYNOSURE BREWING 907-563-2966

16 KING STREET BREWING CO 907-336-5464

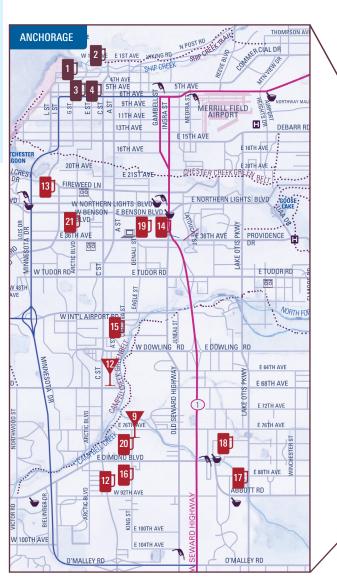
MAGNETIC NORTH BREWING CO

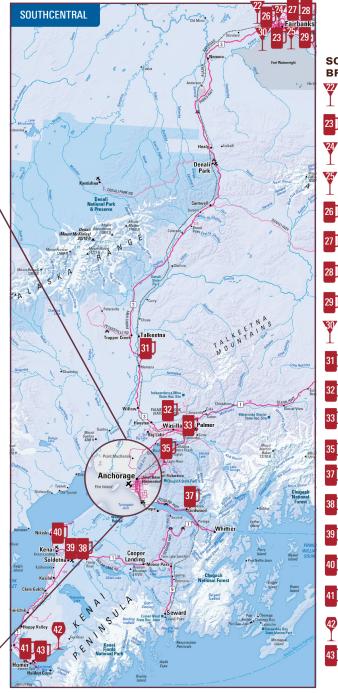
MIDNIGHT SUN BREWING CO 907-344-1179

19 ONSITE BREWING CO 907-310-2337

20 TURNAGAIN BREWING 907-646-2337

21 ZIP KOMBUCHA 907-351-7821 Dive into the local craft beer, wine, and spirits scene at Alaska-owned breweries. Some locations are brewpubs serving up delicious meals like fresh Alaska seafood dishes or award-winning pizza. Others have local food trucks on site for a quick bite—from gourmet reindeer hot dogs to BBQ and sweet and savory crepes! Call ahead, as hours vary and not all breweries are open 7 days a week. Visit on your own or go behind the scenes with **Big Swig Tours** (907-268-0872). Enjoy responsibly!





SOUTHCENTRAL BREWERIES



ARCTIC HARVEST DISTILLERY Fairbanks 907-460-1414



















32] BEARPAW RIVER BREWING CO Wasilla 907-373-2537

BLEEDING HEART BREWERY
Palmer (907) 746-2421

ODD MAN RUSH BREWING Eagle River 907-696-2337

GIRDWOOD BREWING CO

38 ST. ELIAS BREWING CO

Soldotna 907-260-7837

KENAI RIVER BREWING CO Soldotna 907-262-2337

40 KASSIK'S BREWERY Kenai 907-776-4055

GRACE RIDGE BREWING CO
Homer 907-435-0601

BEAR CREEK WINERY & LODGING Homer 907-235-8484

43 HOMER BREWING CO Homer 907-235-3626 39 TURNAGAIN ARM TURNAGAIN ARM 40



TURNAGAIN ARM SCENIC DRIVE



If you have a car and a few hours, take an unforgettable drive on the Seward Highway down Turnagain Arm. Drive straight through and it will take about 45 minutes to reach the small mountain town of Girdwood, but you'll want to take your time. There are plenty of places to stop and marvel at the incredible landscapes as you look for wildlife. Book a tour with **Salmon Berry Tours** (907-278-3572) or the **Girdwood Express** (907-764-2067).

HERE ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS.



1 POTTER MARSH

17 minutes from Downtown | MP 117.4

A large parking area just off the highway provides access to a 1,500-foot boardwalk that winds through Potter Marsh, part of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge. Enjoy panoramic views of the mountains across the arm and look for wildlife. You might see a moose, fox, or snowshoe hares. Frequently seen birds include chickadees, ravens, woodpeckers, and eagles. It's a great stop for the whole family. There are informational panels and spotting scopes.



2 McHUGH CREEK DAY USE AREA 22 minutes from Downtown | MP 111

There's a short walk from the parking area to an overlook with incredible views of Turnagain Arm and mountains. Follow the steps to a platform overlooking a beautiful frozen waterfall. There are also several trails that depart from here into Chugach State Park. Outhouses. \$5 parking



3 BELUGA POINT

24 minutes from Downtown | MP 110

This is the most popular stopping point along Turnagain Arm because of the stunning 180-degree views. It gets its name from the white beluga whales that make their way through here, often in April / May and September.



41 TURNAGAIN ARM TURNAGAIN ARM 42





4 WINDY CORNER 28 minutes from Downtown | MP 106

The southern terminus of the Turnagain Arm Trail in Chugach State Park—often concentrates Dall Sheep on craggy faces just above the road. Their white bodies can be harder to spot in winter, but it's worth a look. Just be sure to pull over safely into one of the designated areas. If you have binoculars, definitely bring them along.



5 GIRDWOOD TURNOFF 45 minutes from Downtown | MP 90

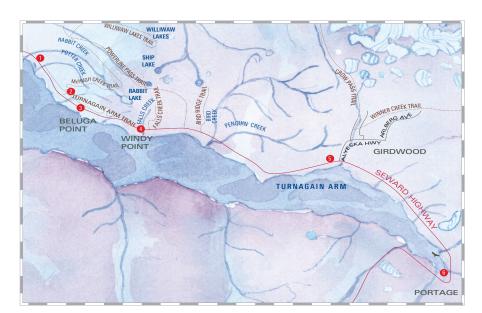
The turnoff for the town of Girdwood is at mile 90. After the turn it's about 3 miles to the downtown area, and another mile beyond that to **Alyeska Resort** (907-754-1111). Grab a bite to eat at a local restaurant, go for a walk, or hit the slopes!

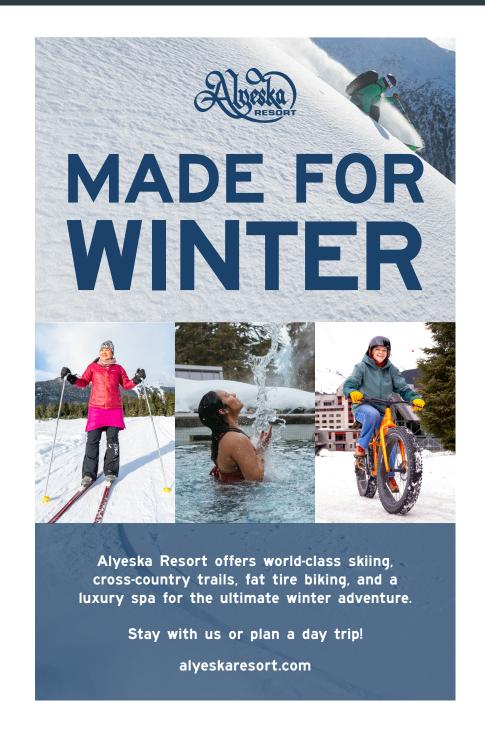


6 ALASKA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER

1 hour from Downtown | MP 79

A good reason to drive beyond Girdwood is to visit the nonprofit wildlife sanctuary, the **Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center** (907-783-0058) in Portage. Their mission is to preserve Alaska's wildlife through conservation, education, research, and quality animal care. Enjoy viewing wood bison, wolves, musk ox, moose, reindeer, porcupines, and more.





GIRDWOOD

Located just 45 minutes from Anchorage, Girdwood is one of Alaska's top winter escapes. Once snow blankets the towering trees and mountains of this temperate rainforest, skiers flock to Mt. Alyeska, the state's premier ski destination. Girdwood also offers an extensive network of trails for cross-country skiing and fat biking, and serves as a gateway for snowmobile and flightseeing tours.



SNOWMOBILING

Touring by "snowmachine" (what Alaskans call snowmobiles) is one of the most enjoyable ways to experience Alaska in winter. In the early season (mid-November through January), book the Scenic Mountain Tour with 3 Glacier City Snowmobile Tours to ride beneath massive, 7,000-foot peaks through the historical mining area of Crow Pass and cross the famous Iditarod Trail. Later in winter (once the U.S Forest Service permits), ride over a glacial lake to the bright blue face of Spencer Glacier. Enjoy a hot meal and drink, then explore the ice caves if it's safe to do so.

HIGHLIGHTS

3 GLACIER CITY SNOWMOBILE TOURS 907-382-1050 glaciercitytours.com

20 ALYESKA RESORT 907-754-1111 alveskaresort.com



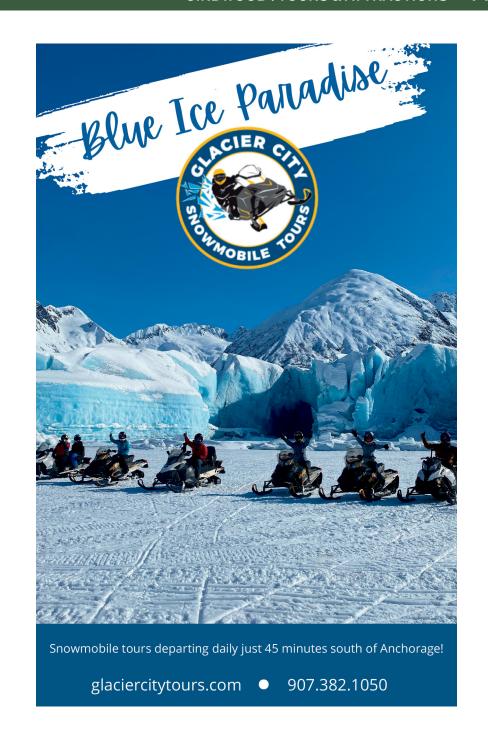
See page 46

EAT & DRINK

Experience world-class dining with breathtaking views at **15 Alyeska Resort**. At aBar, dig into traditional American fare or feast on Asian fusion at Sakura. Forte Alaska is a casual Italian restaurant overlooking the pond of the resort. At the top of the mountain you'll find Bore Tide Deli, the perfect spot to grab a snack and a drink. Or experience fine dining with the six-course chef's selection menu at Seven Glaciers, a recipient of the AAA Four Diamond Award.

STAY

20 Alyeska Resort sits tucked amid the Chugach Mountains, and comes backdropped by glaciers, towering spruce trees, and Mt. Alyeska. The resort offers a plush launching pad for adventure. Hit the slopes or stop by the front desk, which can help you set up a variety of excursions, including nordic skiing and fat biking.





FLIGHTSEEING

There are few things more spectacular than lifting off in a helicopter and soaring above Alaska's glacier-filled terrain. With **1** Alpine Air Alaska, you can take a 30-minute tour over mountains studded with glaciers; a 60- or 90-minute tour that includes landing on a glacier; or a 90-minute tour over the stunning tidewater glaciers of Prince William Sound.

DOWNHILL SKIING

With a whopping average annual snowfall of 669 inches at the top and 208 inches at the base, **Alyeska Resort** features 1,610 skiable acres and 76 named runs and trails.

SKI RENTALS & SHOP

Powder Hound Ski & Bike Shop is a family-run, ski-in, ski-out shop with everything you need to get you skiing or snowboarding at the resort or in the backcountry. Their rentals and demos cater to the specific needs of the Alaskan snowpack. They have the largest ski wall in Alaska, which allows you to test out each ski you're interested in before you buy. They also specialize in custom boot fitting for both skiers and riders, providing you with the most customized fit. They cover all categories from head to toe to get you out on the slopes, whether you're someone who's just getting started, forgot their goggles, or are looking to invest in the sport. Stop in to check out what they can offer you!

HIGHLIGHTS

1 ALPINE AIR 907-783-2360

alpineairalaska.com

30 ALYESKA RESORT 907-754-1111

alyeskaresort.com

4 POWDER HOUND SKI

& BIKE SHOP 907-783-2525

powderhoundak.com

35 GIRDWOOD EXPRESS 907-EXPRESS

akfinest.com

WINTER WALKS & NORDIC SKIING

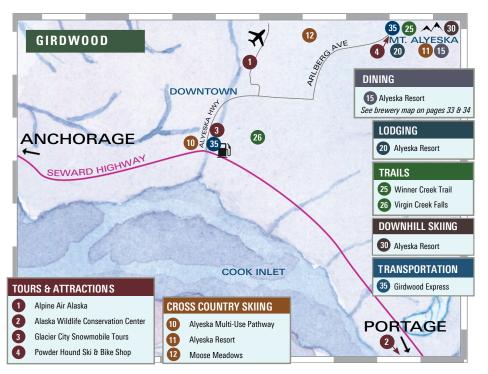
The 25 Winner Creek Trailhead is located just behind Alyeska Resort. You can hike 2.25 miles on the snow-covered trail to a turnaround point and hike back to the trailhead. Or park at the end of Timberline Drive and enjoy the quick, five-minute hike to 26 Virgin Creek Falls.

The **10** Alyeska Multi-Use Pathway is a paved, lighted, multi-use trail that extends from the Seward Highway to the Alyeska Resort. The path is popular with walkers and runners, and with a fresh batch of snow it becomes a great classic ski trail. **12** Moose Meadows is a groomed, mostly flat, multi-use trail that makes for great snowshoeing and Nordic skiing. The trails are wide and have both skate and classic tracks. Access is from the end of Arlberg Rd. (where there's parking) or the parking lot near Aspen Mountain Rd.

GETTING TO GIRDWOOD

Travel from downtown Anchorage to Alyeska Resort with ease on the Girdwood Express. This convenient shuttle departs Anchorage daily at 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 3 p.m., and 5:40 p.m., with return trips from Alyeska at 9:40 a.m., 12:20 p.m., 4:20 p.m., and 7 p.m.







SEWARD

Sandwiched between Resurrection Bay and the towering Kenai Mountains. Seward is a seaside paradise with a picture sque harbor. quaint shops, galleries, cozy coffee spots, and great restaurants. In winter, the town slows to a peaceful hush as sharp peaks rise over the deep-blue bay. You can still get out on the water to explore Kenai Fjords National Park, where the jagged fjords are dusted with snow and the dramatic coastline feels even more remote. Back on land, spend the day cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, or snowshoeing, then warm up at the Alaska SeaLife Center to see marine wildlife up close. While some big hotels close for the season, a few welcoming, locally owned lodges stay open, giving you every reason to linger and soak up Seward's guiet winter beauty.

LOCAL EXPERTISE

There's no better place to have your questions answered and to learn about Seward than the 5 Seward Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center. It's centrally located and open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Stop by for local expertise about tours, lodging, and restaurants.

STAY

15 Breeze Inn puts you right in the heart of Seward, steps from the bustling boat harbor and the town's favorite shops and cafés. This locally owned hotel stays open year-round, offering cozy rooms with views of the mountains or the water—ideal after a day of cruising out on Resurrection Bay, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or snowmobiling. Enjoy thoughtful touches like complimentary coffee and free Wi-Fi, plus friendly service that captures the warm, welcoming spirit of Alaska.

WINTER EXCURSIONS TO EXIT GLACIER

Ride out to Exit Glacier in Kenai Fjords National Park in a heated snowcat with **1** Adventure Sixty North, and enhance your journey with a snowshoe tour on the glacier's outflow plain. In winter, the road to the park is closed 8 miles out, making this a truly unique and exclusive experience. They also offer winter kayak tours and exhilarating snowmobile tours.

HIGHLIGHTS

5 SEWARD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITORS CENTER 907-224-8051

seward.com

1 ADVENTURE SIXTY 907-224-2600

adventure60.com

15 BREEZE INN 907-224-5237

breezeinn.com



See page 50





Comfort, Convenience, & Adventure Await!

Open Year Round Located in the Seward Harbor Area

Winter Events & Discounted Room Rates Breezelnn.com

Breeze Inn Hotel Restaurant & Lounge



Breezelnn.com

907,224,5237



EXPLORE RESURRECTION BAY

4 Seward Ocean Excursions offers half-day cruises (3.5 hours) into Resurrection Bay throughout the winter. You may see otters, seals, porpoises, sea lions, mountain goats, sea birds, eagles, and more. From mid-March to mid-May, 3 Kenai Fjords Tours offers a 4-hour Spring Resurrection Bay Tour, which includes a hot lunch. During your adventure, keep an eye out for gray whales as they return north after wintering off the coast of Mexico. All boats have a heated cabin to keep you toasty while you cruise through the winter wonderland.

DINING

10 Breeze Inn is a Seward favorite, serving up hearty Alaskan classics in a casual, family-friendly setting. Start the morning with a hot breakfast before heading out on your next adventure, then return later in the day for fresh seafood, hand-pressed burgers, or their famous clam chowder. In the evening, unwind in the lounge with a full service bar, pool tables, and plenty of big screens for catching the game. With generous portions, friendly service, and harbor views, it's the perfect spot to relax and refuel year-round.

TRANSPORTATION

Red Eye Rides provides scheduled transportation between Anchorage, Seward, and Homer, and can also take you anywhere across the Kenai Peninsula. The company can also do private charters if you're traveling with a group. Advanced reservations required.

WINTER WALKS & SKI TRAILS

The 4.2-mile 13 Tonsina Point Trail offers beautiful views of Resurrection Bay and can be hiked in full or part. Just behind town is the easy one-mile 14 Two Lakes Trail, a gentle stroll through the woods around two small lakes with views of a waterfall. If you prefer to stretch your legs in town, walk the paved 2-mile 12 Waterfront Bike Path for views of the water and mountains beyond. Just watch your footing or grab a pair of ice cleats – it can get icy in winter!

The Seward Nordic Ski Club maintains nearby trails, including the 1 multi-use Exit Glacier Road (which is perfect for beginners), along with 3 Bear Lake's trails. For the best skate skiing, head to the 2 Divide Trailhead.

HIGHLIGHTS

4 SEWARD OCEAN EXCURSIONS 907-599-0499

sewardoceanexcursions.com

3 KENAI FJORDS TOURS 800-808-8068 kenaifjordstours.com

10 BREEZE INN 907-224-5237

breezeinn.com

RED EYE RIDES 907-769-1818 akredeyerides.com





HOMER

Homer comes alive with a vibrant energy during fall and winter as the community gathers after a busy summer. You'll find artists, outdoor enthusiasts, and food lovers, all drawn by its relaxed pace, world-class fishing, and picturesque setting on Kachemak Bay. Engage in outdoor activities, arts, and social events, and enjoy the peaceful charm of smalltown Alaska.

LOCAL TIPS

Visit the 1 Homer Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center for tour recommendations, accommodations, and hiking maps.

STAY

Stay in one of the four completely unique 10 WestWind Cabins, located just 5 minutes from downtown and 10 minutes from the Homer Spit. Windows look out to Kachemak Bay (and in the fall and winter, the northern lights!). Guests also have access to their new Nordic spa.

11 Lakeshore Lodging has a diverse selection of affordable luxury accommodations. These handpicked rentals come in a wide variety of settings, sizes, and styles—they're ideal for families, couples, and adventure seekers alike. Cozy into winter by selecting a rental with a Jacuzzi, fireplace, or hot tub.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING, HIKING & SNOWSHOEING

Discover over 80 km of stunning winter ski trails in Homer, including 15 Baycrest, 16 Lookout Mountain, and 17 McNeil/Eveline. The Kachemak Nordic Ski Club maintains these trails. The 30 Wynn Nature Center offers trails year-round for hiking and snowshoeing, with popular routes such as the Lutz/Fireweed and Dogwood Loops. Join Wynnter Sunday Fundays from January to March with s'mores and snowshoe rentals.

DOWNHILL SKIING & SNOWBOARDING

For over 70 years, the Kachemak Ski Club has welcomed skiers and snowboarders of all ages at the 25 Homer Rope Tow. Enjoy 20 acres of terrain, including an 850-foot tow and a cozy, wood-heated lodge.

FISHING & CRUISING

Take a sightseeing tour on Kachemak Bay or a water taxi to remote cabins and yurts. Winter King fishing from October to March offers a unique angling experience.





27 Red Eye Rides *Pick-up Locations

HIGHLIGHTS

1 HOMER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITORS CENTER 907-235-7740

homeralaska.org

10 WESTWIND CABINS 907-299-7596

westwindcabins.com

11 LAKESHORE LODGING 907-435-1196

lakeshorehomer.com



PALMER/WASILLA/ WILLOW/GLACIER VIEW

Stretching from the Alaska Range in the north to the Talkeetna and Chugach ranges in the east and south, the massive Mat-Su borough covers an area roughly the size of West Virginia. During the winter months, it's a sprawling winter playground with miles of trails for snowmobiling, dog mushing, and cross-country skiing.

Palmer is a year-round outdoor recreation hub with a walkable downtown. Just beyond lies Glacier View and the the mighty Matanuska Glacier—a roadside glacier you can walk on with a guide! In the opposite direction, you'll pass through Wasilla, home to the Iditarod Headquarters. Beyond Wasilla lie the more rural communities of Houston, Big Lake, and Willow.

DOG SLEDDING

Feel the energy, drive, and passion of Alaskan Huskies as you glide across frozen lakes, climb rolling hills, and wind through snow-covered spruce groves with **6** Snowhook Adventure Guides of Alaska. Guided by experts, you'll meet more than 70 spirited dogs, learn to harness a team, and experience the thrill of mushing during this premier two-hour journey. After your ride, spend time with the dogs or combine your tour with a snowmobile tour, ice fishing, or northern lights viewing.

SNOWMOBILE TOURS

Experience winter wilderness with your thumb on the throttle, as

6 Snowhook Adventure Guides of Alaska leads you through snowcovered forests, over frozen lakes, along groomed trails, and off-trail fun.
Choose from 3-hour, full-day, overnight, or multi-day tours, with options
for beginners and experienced riders. Build your confidence, play in the
powder, and keep watch for wildlife and views of Denali.

FLIGHTSEEING

Fly with 1 Alaska Helicopter Tours from their base at Alaska Glacier Lodge, near Palmer, a 1-hour drive from Anchorage (shuttles are also available). Go for a helicopter glacier landing on the Grand Knik Tour with 3 separate landings, or book an adventure tour like heli fat-tire biking or heli snowshoeing. 3 Outbound Heli Adventures also offers scenic winter flights with landings on and around the Knik Glacier. Adventures include ice climbing, dog sledding, or ice cave explorations. Or, fly over Prince William Sound, where you can view tidewater glaciers and frozen waterfalls. 5 Sheep Mountain Air operates year-round from Sheep Mountain Lodge in Glacier View, about two hours north of Anchorage and roughly an hour east of Palmer. In winter, their specialty is glacier

HIGHLIGHTS

6 SNOWHOOK ADVENTURE GUIDES OF ALASKA 907-414-4547

snowhookadventures.com

1 ALASKA HELICOPTER TOURS 907-272-7777

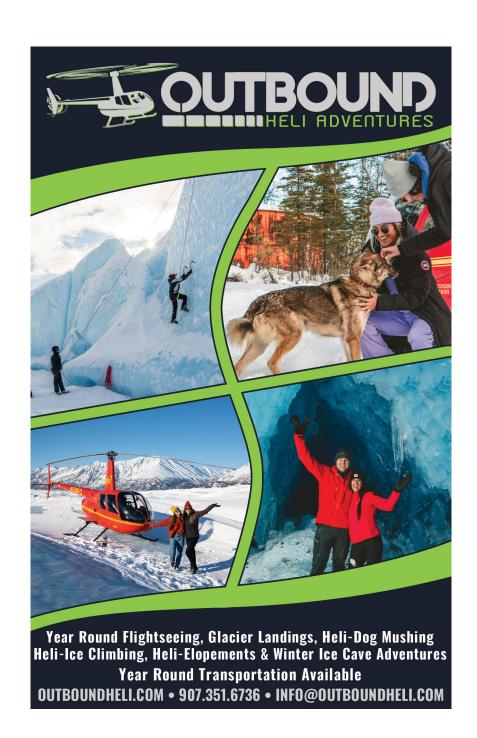
alaskahelicoptertours.com

3 OUTBOUND HELI ADVENTURES 907-351-6736 outboundheli.com

SHEEP MOUNTAIN AIR 907-202-5897 sheepmountain.com



See page 55



landings and breathtaking ice cave adventures, including the popular 90-minute Double Ice Cave Tour. Step inside a glacier to see luminous blue ice formations and sparkling frozen walls.

SHOPPING

Stop into **12 Meadow Lakes Market** to browse the works of more than 90 Alaskan artists. Find one-of-a-kind gifts and souvenirs, including jewelry, woodworking, glass art, photography, clothing, handmade soaps, and toys. Looking to take home a taste of Alaska? Try the jams and jellies, confections, spices and rubs, sauces, pickles, and locally roasted coffees.

WILDLIFE

HIGHLIGHTS

907-373-3033

907-745-4151

907-745-4000

reindeerfarm.com

907-745-5121

sheepmountain.com

LODGE

muskoxfarm.org

MARKET

12 MEADOW LAKES

meadowlakesmarket.com

2 MUSK OX FARM

4 REINDEER FARM

7 SHEEP MOUNTAIN

Open year-round, the nonprofit 2 Musk Ox Farm practices gentle and sustainable agriculture, domesticating musk oxen for their qiviut, one of nature's softest and warmest fibers. At the 4 Reindeer Farm, you'll hear funny stories about the animals, get great photos, and even feed them from a cup!

STAY

At **7** Sheep Mountain Lodge, guests can choose from handcrafted Premier Cabins with full kitchens and mountain-view decks, cozy Classic Cabins with private baths, or spacious guesthouses ideal for families and groups. Winter brings endless adventure right from your doorstep—join a helicopter flightseeing trip, explore ice caves, ride snowmobiles, or head out on groomed trails for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. With free Wi-Fi, a relaxing hot tub, and sweeping views, the lodge makes a perfect base for an unforgettable getaway.

MAT-SU VALLEY FISHHOOK WILLOW RD **TOURS & ATTRACTIONS** (HATCHER'S PASS RD) WILLOW Alaska Helicopter Tours 2 Musk 0x Farm 3 Outbound Heli Adventures 4 Reindeer Farm 5 Sheep Mountain Air HOUSTON 6 Snowhook Adventure Guides 12 WASILLA LODGING Sheep Mountain Lodge **CROSS COUNTRY SKIING** 8 Government Peak Recreation TWIN PEAKS TRAIL 9 Hatcher Pass/Mine **TRAILS** 10 Matanuska River Park 11 Reflections Lake **SHOPPING** Winter Road Closure Mile 17.5-32.5 12 Meadow Lakes Market







TALKEETNA

Just a 2.5-hour drive from the bustling city of Anchorage, this charming village serves as the gateway to mighty Mt. Denali and a hub for intrepid mountaineers embarking on daring climbing expeditions. While the warmer months see a kaleidoscope of international adventurers descending upon its streets, Talkeetna in winter transforms into a tranquil wonderland.

As you drive down the snow-lined Talkeetna Spur Road, glowing cabins and houses dot the landscape, their warmth radiating through the winter haze. Even amid winter's hush, the one-block main street remains vibrant. Locals gather at downtown restaurants and bars, huddling around shared plates and savoring the rich flavors of local brews. Live music floats through the air, inviting all to come together, share stories, and relish in the camaraderie that binds this close-knit community.

1 K2 AVIATION 907-733-2291 flyK2.com

4 TALKEETNA AIR TAXI 907-733-2218

talkeetnaair.com

3 SUSITNA SLED DOG ADVENTURES 907-502-0247 susitnasleddogs.com



See page 60

FLIGHTSEEING

Talkeetna, Alaska's flightseeing capital, has some of the world's most highly trained glacier pilots.

Flightseeing companies **1** K2 Aviation and **4** Talkeetna Air Taxi offer daily flight tours throughout the winter. Your expert pilot will help you explore winding glaciers, epic peaks, and the majestic Mt. Denali. Starting in mid-March, you can even add a glacier landing to your tour. Tour options are 1–1.5 hours.

DOG SLEDDING

Discover Alaska's state sport with 3 Susitna Sled Dog Adventures. On their Classic Sled Dog Adventure, you'll meet the dogs while the staff harnesses up the team. Then you'll set off for about an hour on a 6.5-mile trail, with a stop halfway to take photos of Mt. Denali if it's visible. You'll take turns driving the sled (with an experienced musher on hand!). Or opt for the same tour at night under a sky full of stars!







MEET REINDEER

Bundle up for a cozy 30-minute Meet and Feed at 2 The Reindeer Grove where you can feed gentle reindeer amidst a snowy winter wonderland. For a magical evening, join the 1-hour S'mores with Reindeer experience, roasting s'mores by a crackling fire under the twinkling winter night sky, surrounded by these charming creatures. It's a heartwarming Arctic adventure that sparkles with winter charm.

WINTER WALKS & NORDIC SKIING

To immerse yourself further in Talkeetna's winter wonderland, explore miles of snowbound trails on foot, skis, or snowshoes.

The **8** Talkeetna Paved Bike Path follows the entire 14-mile Talkeetna Spur Road, and is good for a winter walk or bike.

Talkeetna Lakes Park is a recreation area just 1.5 miles from town, but the lakes and deep woods makes it feel like remote wilderness. Bring your cross-country skis or fat-tire bikes to enjoy the maze of trails, but please respect the posted signage—some trails are ski-only and dog-free. Others are open to all non-motorized traffic, like fat-tire bikers and walkers. Access trails via the Whigmi Road and Comsat Road trailheads, just off Talkeetna Spur Road.

To ski the groomed, 1.5-mile-long (and hilly) **6 Ski Hill loop**, park at the Mt. Denali Scenic Overlook lot, just 1 mile south of Talkeetna along Talkeetna Spur Road. Walk south about 100 yards uphill and you'll see a trail access sign off to the right.

RENT, BUY & EXPLORE

Gear up for your outdoor adventures at 5 Talkeetna Gear Shop.

Rent fat tire bikes, available in both adult and kid's sizes, specifically designed for riding on the snow! You can also rent cross-country skis and snowshoes, perfect for exploring the many miles of groomed trails. Check out the used gear consignment for good prices on outdoor gear or book a guided tour to make the most of your trip to Talkeetna!

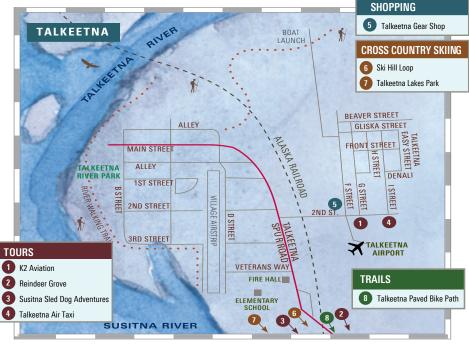




2 REINDEER GROVE 907-203-5678 thereindeergrove.com

5 TALKEETNA GEAR SHOP 907-707-3618 talkeetnagearshop.com







DENALI

Denali National Park becomes a place of striking solitude in winter. When the summer crowds disappear and most hotels close their doors, roughly 1,600 year-round residents remain in the Denali Borough that includes the surrounding communities of Healy and Cantwell. Quiet trails, wide-open spaces, and snow-draped forests replace the bustle of tour buses, offering visitors a chance to experience the park in its most peaceful season. Those who come in winter can enjoy cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking along frozen paths, and even dog sledding with local teams. On clear days, the towering Alaska Range glistens under a pale winter sun; nights bring crisp skies filled with stars and, if you're lucky, the northern lights. With a handful of small lodges and B&Bs still welcoming guests, the Denali area in winter is both intimate and adventurous—a chance to see Alaska's wild heart in its quietest and most magical form.

DENALI PARK ROAD

In winter, the Denali Park Road is open only to Mile 3, but it offers a serene way to explore the park's snowy landscape. Cross-country skiing, winter biking, and snowshoeing are all peaceful ways to follow sled dog trails or glide along the road itself. Without the summer bus tours, the quiet makes wildlife sightings and the sheer stillness of Denali even more memorable.

FAT TRUCK TOURS

Head to Denali National Park and explore the Alaska wilderness offroad in a heated, enclosed SHERP Rescue Vehicle with **Denali Fat Truck Tours**. Explore steep mining trails to sweeping vistas, while your guide shares local history and the unique geology of the area. This full day adventure includes roundtrip transportation from Fairbanks with a stop at the Denali Park Visitor Center, lunch in Healy, your SHERP tour, and time to visit the historic Coghill's Store in Nenana on your return.

DOG SLEDDING

Denali's sled dogs remain an important part of the park year-round. In winter, you can visit the historic Sled Dog Kennels on Saturdays and Sundays, when rangers host open hours from 1–4 p.m. (except major holidays). If the dogs aren't in the kennels, they may be out on the trail leading patrols deep into the park.

MURIE SCIENCE AND LEARNING CENTER

At Mile 1.3, the Murie Science and Learning Center serves as Denali's winter visitor center from late September through early May. Here you can watch park films, pick up brochures and trail maps, or borrow snowshoes for nearby trails. Families can also take advantage of Junior Ranger activity books, making it the perfect place to begin any winter adventure in Denali.

HIGHLIGHTS

DENALI FAT TRUCK TOURS 907-687-5211 denalifattrucktours.com

Denali Fat Truck Tours

3 Hour Sherp Tour - Healy, AK

Full Day Denali National Park & Sherp Tour - Fairbanks, Ak





FAIRBANKS



Find the aurora forecast in The Alaska App. under the "Weather" menu item. Download for free.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

HIGHLIGHTS

4 MORRIS THOMPSON **CULTURAL AND VISITOR** CENTER 907-456-5774

explorefairbanks.com

1 AURORA POINTE 907-880-3314

aurorapointe.com

5 ROD'S ALASKAN **GUIDE SERVICE** 907-378-1851

rodsalaskanguideservice.com

2 ARCTIC DOG CO. 907-841-4694

arcticdogco.com



See page 67

Nestled within the heart of Alaska. Fairbanks transforms into a land of enchanting extremes during the winter. The city embraces long nights and braves frigid temperatures, but it also reveals its beauty in the most extraordinary ways. Adventurers from all corners of the world flock to Fairbanks as they seek one of Alaska's most awe-inspiring spectacles the northern lights. Fairbanks also offers a range of exhilarating winter activities, from snowmobiling and dogsledding to ice fishing, soaking in hot springs, and traversing local trails on foot or skis.

LOCAL INFORMATION

Start your Interior Alaska and Arctic winter adventure at the 4 Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center in downtown Fairbanks and pick up a free Fairbanks Winter Guide. Serving as the regional visitor facility, the center has friendly and knowledgeable staff who will share all there is to know about Fairbanks. And the free, 9,000-square-foot exhibit hall there features displays showcasing Interior Alaska's people, wildlife, landscapes, and seasons.

NORTHERN LIGHTS

Our friends at the Fairbanks Visitor Center say that if you dedicate three nights to looking for the aurora, you have a 90% chance of seeing them during your visit.

Look for the lights at **1** Aurora Pointe, just 15 minutes from downtown Fairbanks. Arrive at 10 p.m. to a cozy fire, drinks, and homemade cookies. Learn about the aurora and get tips on how to take the best photographs. Mother Nature may keep the aurora elusive, but you'll have several hours to look! 5 Rod's Alaskan Guide Service pairs aurora viewing with dog sledding or ice fishing.

You can also head to Murphy Dome or Cleary Summit—high points within a 20- to 25-mile drive from town (AWD or 4WD vehicles recommended). Check the weather forecast for clear skies and the aurora forecast. Other popular locations include 17 Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge and 18 Chena Lakes Recreation Area.

DOG SLEDDING

Glide over the snow on a sled pulled by a team of dogs with 5 Rod's Alaskan Guide Service. You can also go at night, when you may have a chance to see the northern lights! 2 Arctic Dog Co. offers a handson dog mushing experience through snowy forest trails—with no prior experience needed. After a quick introduction and outfitting in provided cold-weather gear, you'll learn to drive your own team of 4-6 friendly Siberian Huskies. On the shorter 2- to 3-hour tour, you'll spend at least an hour on the sled, while the longer 6- to 7-hour adventure includes about four hours on the trail plus a cozy stop for a campfire lunch.



your energy under the Midnight Sun. Experience the warmth of Fairbanks—Alaska's Golden Heart—and the basecamp to Denali, Interior and Arctic Alaska. Make the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center your first stop to planning your Alaskan adventure.



Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center 101 Dunkel Street • Downtown Fairbanks

(907) 456-5774 www.explorefairbanks.com



ICE FISHING

Go ice fishing with 5 Rod's Alaskan Guide Service for rainbow trout, Arctic char, or salmon from a warm hut perched right on the ice.

SNOWMOBILING

Zoom through forests of birch and spruce and across lakes on an exciting snowmobile tour with **5** Rod's Alaskan Guide Service—no experience necessary.

HIKING AND CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

20 Birch Hill Reacreation Area boasts 30 kilometers of cross-country ski trails; 10 kilometers are lit. Warm-up hut with 24-hour restrooms, plus four parking areas. 101 Wilderness Dr., Fairbanks

Creamer's Field The Farmhouse Visitor Center is open during the day; pop in and grab a trail map. The 1.5-mile Boreal Forest Trail is the most popular in the winter. The trails, mostly flat and ungroomed, are also shared by walkers and snowshoers. 1300 College Rd., Fairbanks

ICE SKATING

Two popular skating areas include the 15 Tanana Lakes Recreation Area, a skating pond and .52-mile skating trail, and the 6 Univeristy of Alaska Fairbanks Outdoor Ice, located in front of the Student Recreation Center. You can rent skates from the SRC front desk.

VISIT SANTA

It's Christmas year-round in North Pole, Alaska, just 20 minutes from Fairbanks. At the hub of the festivities is **6** Santa Claus House, a frontier general store and post office turned holiday shop. The postal tradition lives on; official letters from Santa are postmarked from the North Pole and stamped with an official Santa seal. The store also features live reindeer, holiday gift items, the world's largest Santa statue, and, over the holidays, Santa himself.

SHOPPING

The **3** Great Alaskan Bowl Company is one of the last fully operating bowl mills in America, with 32+ years of operation. Their manufacturing team creates solid birch mixing/serving bowls, drinking steins, and flower vases! You'll also find a hand-picked selection of Made in Alaska gourmet foods, household goods, and gifts from more than 200 Alaskan makers. Open 7 days a week; laser personalization and shipping/handling are available!

CLOTHING AND GEAR

Outfitting Alaskans for winter since 1947, **8 Big Ray's** offers the state's largest selection of jackets, boots, and gear. Stop by for expert advice and everything needed to stay warm, whether on the trails or around town. Visit locations in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Kodiak. Trusted by Alaskans for generations, with gear ready for your Alaskan adventure!

HIGHLIGHTS

5 ROD'S ALASKAN GUIDE SERVICE 907-378-1851

rodsalaskanguideservice.com



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6 SANTA CLAUS HOUSE 907-488-2200

santaclaushouse.com

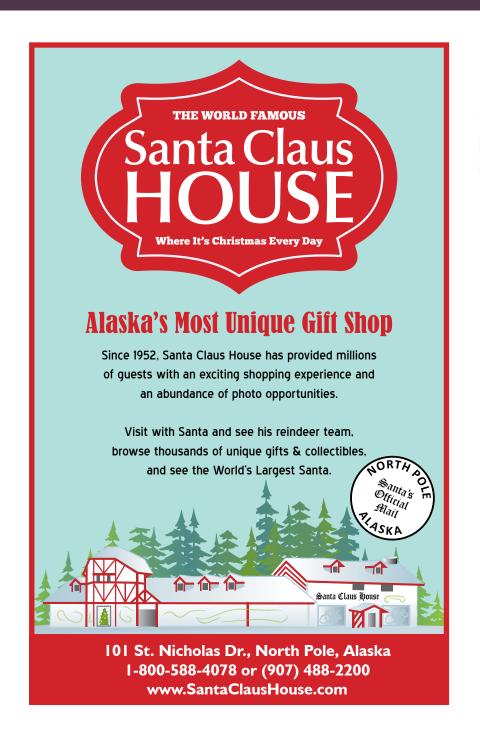
3 GREAT ALASKAN BOWL COMPANY 907-474-9663 woodbowl.com

8 BIG RAY'S 800-478-3458

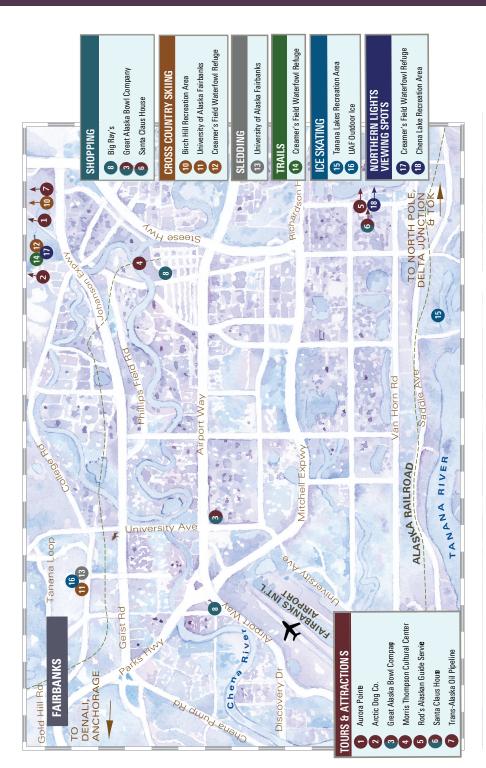
bigrays.com



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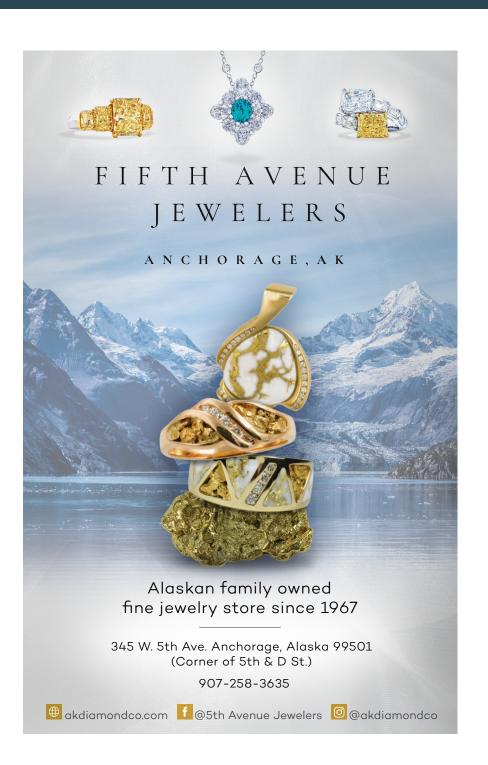
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