COMPLIMENTARY

ALASKA.ORG

2027 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

EAT, DRINK & SHOP

Top dining spots, shopping guides, brewery map & nightlife by destination

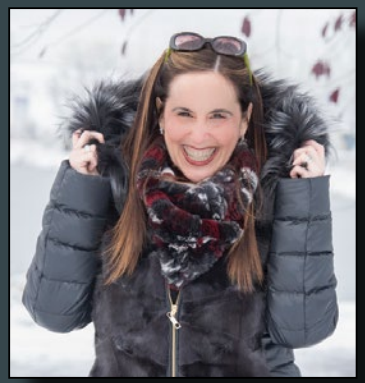
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editor's note

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.



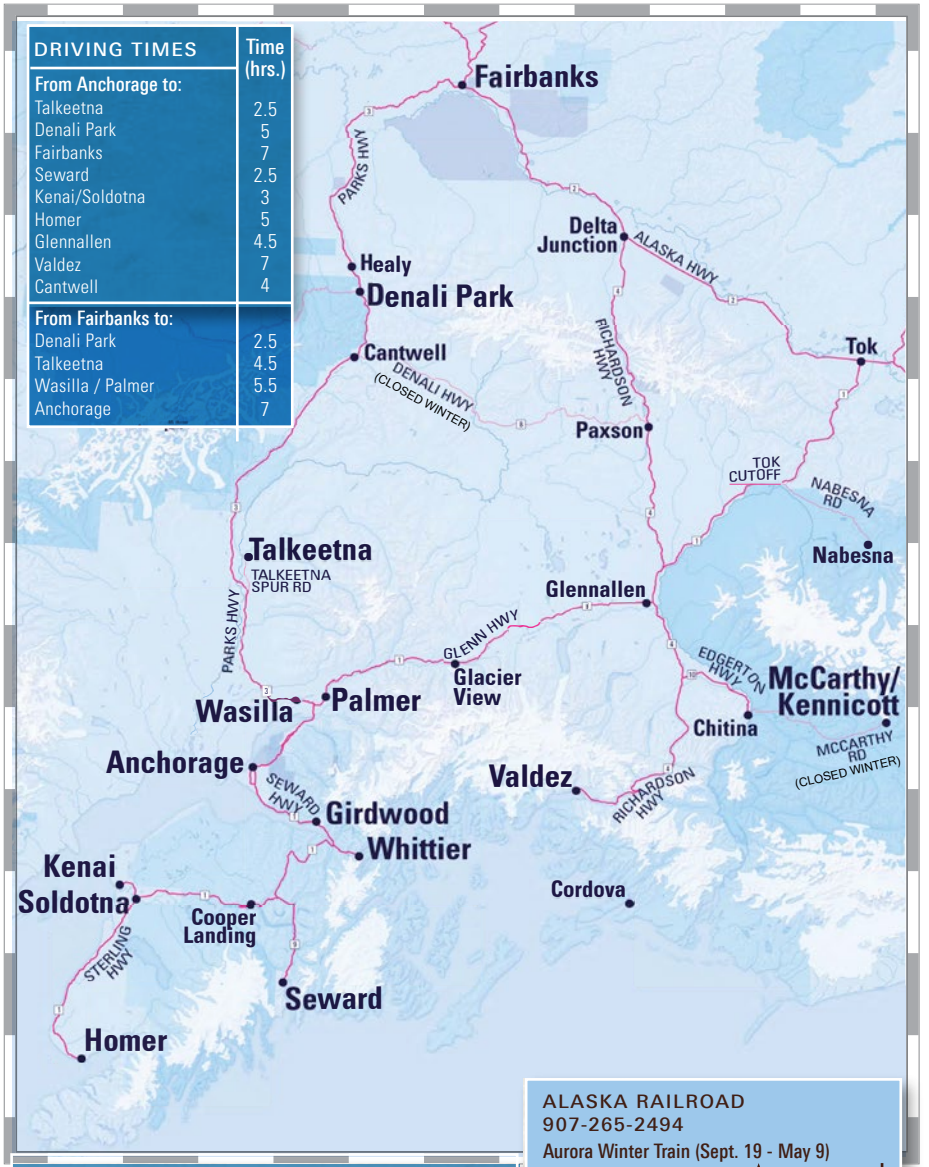




Be sure to download our app for your smartphone free at **TheAlaskaApp.com** (it will totally change your vacation). We know you'll love exploring our back yard—and that this trip to Alaska won't be your last.

Bob Kaufman
Alaska.org

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



DRIVING TIMES	Time (hrs.)
From Anchorage to:	
Talkeetna	2.5
Denali Park	5
Fairbanks	7
Seward	2.5
Kenai/Soldotna	3
Homer	5
Glennallen	4.5
Valdez	7
Cantwell	4
From Fairbanks to:	
Denali Park	2.5
Talkeetna	4.5
Wasilla / Palmer	5.5
Anchorage	7

FLIGHT TIMES

From Anchorage To	Travel Time (min.)	Airline
Cordova	50	Alaska
Fairbanks	55	Alaska
Homer	50	Aleutian Airways
Nome	1 hr. 40 min.	Alaska
Kenai	25	Grant Aviation
Valdez	40	Alaska

From Fairbanks To	Travel Time (min.)	Airline
Anchorage	55	Alaska

ALASKA RAILROAD
907-265-2494

Aurora Winter Train (Sept. 19 - May 9)

	Northbound	Southbound
Anchorage	8:30 am	8:00 pm
Wasilla	9:50 am	6:25 pm
Talkeetna	11:25 am	4:50 pm
Denali	3:55 pm	12:30 pm
Healy	4:40 pm	11:45 am
Fairbanks	8:00 pm	8:30 am

***Weekend Service**: Northbound Depart Anchorage Saturdays 8:30am / Southbound Depart Fairbanks Sundays 8:30am **Midweek Service**: Northbound, Tuesdays: February 9, 16 & 23; March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2027. Southbound, Wednesdays: February 10, 17 & 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2027. Northbound, Thursdays: February 25; March 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2027. Southbound, Fridays: February 26; March 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2027.

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COVER PHOTO: Northern Lights by Greg Lancaster



Advanced Snowshoeing trek with Go Hike Alaska

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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 2027 & 2028!

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 2027 trip now by calling (888) 862-8881.



TIPS TO STAY WARM IN WINTER



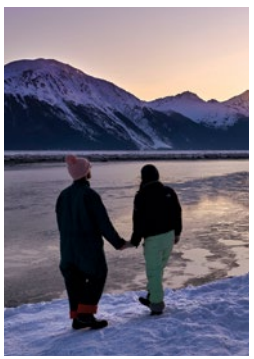
It's easy for anyone to stay warm and dry during a winter trip to Alaska. Just follow these rules.

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 select nights from late November through March. Zoo members get special 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 February 25 to March 7 features a carnival, sled dog races, and more.

The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. The 1,000-mile race kicks off with a ceremonial start in downtown Anchorage the first Saturday in March, followed by the official start in Willow.

The **Tour of Anchorage** is March 7 and offers 25K, 40K and 50K cross-country ski races, plus fat-bike divisions, across Anchorage's trails.

DENALI

Denali Winterfest. Late-february winter festival featuring ranger-led programs, dog sled demonstrations, and more.

FAIRBANKS

Winter Solstice Celebration. Winter Lights Walk, dog sled rides, ice skating, reindeer photos, holiday activities and fireworks December 19.

Ice Art. The World Ice Art Championship is on view mid-February through March at the Tanana Valley State Fairgrounds.

Festival of Native Arts is Feb. 25–27 at UAF, featuring Alaska Native and Indigenous dance, music, arts and cultural programming. Free admission.

GIRDWOOD

Alyeska Torch Light Parade & Fireworks. New Year's Eve tradition where skiers carrying lights descend Mt. Alyeska, followed by fireworks.

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, community events, 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 for cancer

PALMER

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

Bright Up the Night. Alaska State Fairgrounds hosts a large drive-through holiday light display with 70+ displays through December.

TALKEETNA

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

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

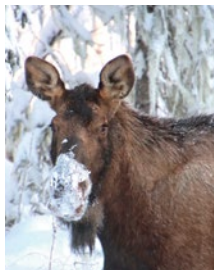
HIGHLIGHTS

ALASKA ZOO
907-346-3242
alaskazoo.org



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 65 **Tony Knowles Coastal** Trail or 63 **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

Discover the wild of Alaska and come meet the local moose, bison, reindeer, muskox, bears, wolves, lynx, and others that call the 2 **Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center** home. Located in Portage, a 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 cross-country skis or fat bike to see the animals.

About 45 minutes north of Anchorage in the Mat-Su Valley is the 5 **Reindeer Farm**. During your visit, you'll hear funny and insightful 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.

Join interpretive guides to visit one of the Arctic's most iconic animals in wintertime, when they're at their finest! Open year-round, the nonprofit 3 **Musk Ox Farm** practices gentle and sustainable agriculture, provides education to the public, and promotes qiviut, musk ox under coat, as one of nature's softest and warmest fibers. Don't miss the gift shop for exquisite qiviut yarns, garments, and other Alaskan treasures.

In town, visit the 17 **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, yaks, caribou and more. Zoo visits and memberships support this nonprofit wildlife rescue zoo.

HIGHLIGHTS

2 ALASKA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER
907-783-0058
alaskawildlife.org MAP PG 48

5 REINDEER FARM
907-745-4000
reindeerfarm.com MAP PG 59

3 MUSK OX FARM
907-745-4151
muskoxfarm.org MAP PG 59

17 ALASKA ZOO
907-346-3242
alaskazoo.org MAP PG 37

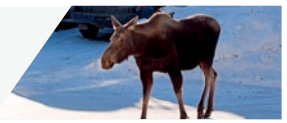




MOOSE SAFETY

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!

1 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



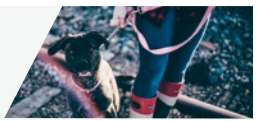
3 IF A MOOSE CHARGES/CHASES YOU
It's okay to run away if you have a head start. Hide behind something solid, such as a tree.



4 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







More information at: www.wildlife.alaska.gov

DISCOVER THE WILD OF ALASKA



Experience Alaska's iconic wildlife in their natural setting. Bears, bison, moose, reindeer, muskox, wolves, lynx, porcupines, and more call the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center home. **Just 45 minutes south of Anchorage**, enjoy up-close wildlife viewing, educational tours (you can even help feed an animal!), and unforgettable moments—set against a backdrop of mountains, glaciers, and the Turnagain Arm.

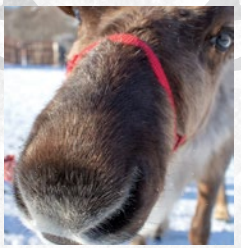
AWCC is a nonprofit sanctuary for Alaska's orphaned and injured wildlife.

ALASKA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER

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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.

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.

HIGHLIGHTS

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

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

MAP
See page 37-38

GUIDED TOURS

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 ice-climbing adventure and explore the ice caves (only in winter!). Fly with 12 **Alaska Helicopter Tours** or 26 **Outbound Heli Adventures**.

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

HIGHLIGHTS

27 RUST'S FLYING SERVICE
907-243-1595
flyrusts.com

18 ALPINE AIR ALASKA
907-783-2360
alpineairalaska.com

MAP

See page 37-38

27 **Rust's Flying Service** departs from Lake Hood in Anchorage aboard ski-equipped planes, offering close-up views of Denali without ever visiting the park itself. The Discover Denali & Denali National Park tour (3 hours) flies over the Ruth Glacier, Great Gorge, and Denali's south face, coming within six miles of the summit, with a photo landing near Talkeetna or on a lake below. The 1.5-hour Knik Glacier and Wildlife Tour may cross the Chugach Mountains for views of Dall sheep, moose, and the shifting Knik Glacier. Or, head across the Cook Inlet to Triumvirate Glacier.

South of Anchorage, 18 **Alpine Air Alaska** offers world-class 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 a glacier landing 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.

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:

50 **Glen Alps Trailhead** (15-minute drive)

51 **Point Woronzorof** (10-minute drive)

52 **Turnagain Arm**; stop at pullouts like Beluga Point and Bird Creek (25- to 30-minute drive)

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.







28 **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!

Experience what makes Anchorage unforgettable in winter on 20 **Anchorage Trolley Tours' Winter City Tour**. This 2.5-hour guided tour brings together local history, Alaskan culture, and opportunities to spot wildlife along the way. Begin with a tour of the Alaska Mint to hold a real gold nugget for a one-of-a-kind photo, and take home an official Anchorage Trolley Tours token made right on site. Visit The Ulu Factory to see how Alaska's iconic ulu knives are made, stop for a photo at the Alaska Mural, and warm up with coffee at Rust's Flying Service while chatting with an Alaskan bush pilot. At Point Woronzof, take in sweeping views of Anchorage's skyline and the surrounding mountains.

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 on a guided glacier walk with 28 **Salmon Berry Tours.** They 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.

ICE FISHING

21 **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!

HIGHLIGHTS

28 SALMON BERRY TOURS
907-278-3572
salmonberrytours.com

20 ANCHORAGE TROLLEY TOURS
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anchoragetrolley.com

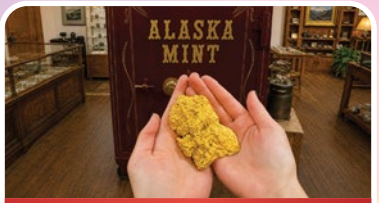
21 THE BAIT SHACK
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MAP
See page 37-38

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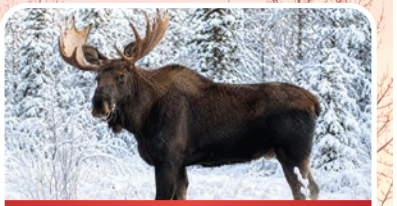


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SPOT ALASKA WILDLIFE

WINTER CITY TOUR

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WINTER WALKS

Anchorage's extensive trail system offers year-round recreation. Here are just a few ideas to get you outside!

GUIDED WINTER WALKS

23 **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 with 28 **Salmon Berry Tours.**

WALKS IN TOWN

58 **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.*

55 **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

59 **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 hard-packed snow (or ice, depending on conditions; bring your ice cleats). *20 minutes from downtown; park at the Potter Trailhead at Mile 115 Seward Highway; parking is $5*

56 **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*

57 **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. It's a 45-minute drive from Anchorage. *See map on page 48.*

HIGHLIGHTS

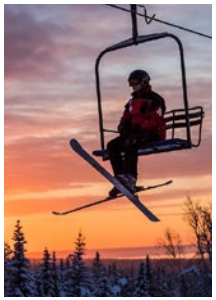
23 GO HIKE ALASKA
907-444-9008
gohikealaska.com

28 SALMON BERRY TOURS
907-278-3572
salmonberrytours.com

MAP
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SKIING

DOWNHILL SKIING AND RENTALS

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

81 **Hilltop Ski Area** is a 30-acre, nonprofit winter recreation area located just 15 minutes from downtown Anchorage at the base of the Chugach Mountains. Here you'll find convenient and affordable skiing and snowboarding with a hometown feel. With a base elevation near sea level, Hilltop 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% of the trails are beginner-level; the other 20% are intermediate to advanced. *See map on page 38.*

80 **Alyeska Resort**. gets a whopping average annual snowfall of 669 inches at the top and 208 inches at the base. Located 45 minutes from downtown Anchorage in Girdwood, it features 1,610 skiable acres and 76 named runs and trails. Ski for the day and/or stay overnight. Rentals available. *See map on page 48.*

82 **Skeetawk** is the fastest growing ski area in Alaska, located in Hatcher Pass just 90 minutes north of Anchorage and 25 minutes from Downtown Palmer. A triple chairlift takes riders up 300 vertical feet to 30 skiable acres and more than a dozen trails, from green to black diamond, plus a terrain park, beginner 'zone', and cat-skiing. Rentals and lessons available; for hours of operation and booking see their website. *See map on page 59.*

NORDIC SKIING

Anchorage features some of the most accessible and extensive cross-country skiing in the world. To rent a pair of classic or skate skis, contact the **Hoarding Marmot**. Consult the map at each trailhead.

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

62 **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.

65 **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.*

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

61 **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

81 HILLTOP SKI AREA
907-346-1446
hilltopskiarea.org

80 ALYESKA RESORT
907-754-1111
alyeskaresort.com

82 SKEETAWK
907-746-7277
skeetawk.com

MAP
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GET ON THE ICE

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, 76 **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:

70 **Cheney Lake.** *2245 Baxter Rd.,* between DeBarr Rd. and Northern Lights Blvd.

71 **Cuddy Family Midtown Park**. Next to the Loussac Library at *201 E. 40th Ave.*

72 **Delaney Park.** *Take A St. to P St./W. 9th Ave. to W. 10th Ave.*

74 **Mulcahy Park.** *E. 16th Ave./Eagle St.*

75 **Tikishla Park.** *Sunrise Dr. off E. 20th Ave.*

73 **Dimond Ice Chalet.** *Take off the chill at this indoor ice rink located in the Dimond Center. 800 E. Dimond Blvd.*

THE BEST SLEDDING HILLS IN TOWN

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:

68 **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.*

69 **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.*

67 **Loretta French Sports Complex.** Many steep and fast runs. A few smaller slopes for younger kids. Helmets recommended! *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.*

66 **Arctic Valley Tube Park.** Call ahead for rates, hours, and to purchase tickets in advance. *Arctic Valley Rd. 4WD/AWD is recommended, as well as studded tires.*

NORTHERN MADE CREATIONS
GOLD & DIAMOND CO.

Alaskan Mined & Alaskan Made
Gold Nugget & Gold Quartz Jewelry



Crafted in Alaska by master jewelers,
turning natural gold into unforgettable art



4300 Old Seward Hwy, Anchorage, AK 99503
On the corner of Tudor & Old Seward Hwy
907-338-7778 | northernmadecreations.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.

FURS

Founded in Alaska in 1922, 38 **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.

CLOTHING & GEAR

Outfitting Alaskans since 1947, 37 **Big Ray's** is home to a wide selection of outdoors clothing and gear for the whole family, rugged work wear, and footwear for all activities. Stop by one of their five stores in Anchorage, Fairbanks, or Kodiak for true Alaskan expertise and unparalleled customer service. Trusted by generations throughout the state, let Big Ray's be your Alaskan outfitter.

36 **Alaska Gear Company** is an Alaska-based outfitter known for cold-weather and backcountry gear built to handle the state's toughest conditions. If it's built for Alaska, it's built for anywhere. With retail locations in Anchorage and Fairbanks, the company outfits both locals and visitors heading into the wild. Product offerings include the legendary Bunny Boot line, Arctic Oven tents, pulk and freight sleds, and Alaska apparel.

QIVIUT

42 **Oomingmak Musk Ox Producer's Co-op**. Get to know qiviut, 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

38 DAVID GREEN MASTER FURRIER
907-277-9595
davidgreen.com

37 BIG RAY'S
907-452-3458
bigrays.com

36 ALASKA GEAR COMPANY
907-331-4480
alaskagearcompany.com

42 OOMINGMAK MUSK OX PRODUCER'S CO-OP
907-272-9225
qiviut.com

MAP

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"Oomingmak" Musk Ox Producers' Co-Op
Alaska Native Owned Since 1969
The Original Qiviut Handknits

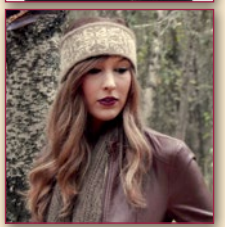
Celebrating over 50 years of Qiviut



- Qiviut is eight times warmer than wool
- Does not itch, and will not shrink
- Finer than the best Cashmere
- Garments are hand knit by over 200 Alaska Native members
- Traditional based village patterns for scarves and smokerings
- Hats, Headbands, Smokerings, Scarves, limited supply of lace yarn and fiber











OOMINGMAK
Downtown Location • Corner of 6th & H
Little brown house with musk ox mural
604 H St., Dept. ACG • Anchorage, AK 99501
Toll Free 1-888-360-9665 • (907) 272-9225 • www.qiviut.com

KEEP IT LOCAL

When purchasing products in Alaska, look for the Made in Alaska logo. It signifies the product was manufactured entirely in this state. This logo is your assurance of local quality.

HIGHLIGHTS

35 ALASKA MINT
907-278-8414
alaskamint.com

40 FIFTH AVENUE JEWELERS
907-258-3635
akdiamondco.com

41 NORTHERN MADE CREATIONS
907-338-7778
northernmadecreations.com

39 DIMOND CENTER MALL
907-344-2581
dimondcenter.com

43 WILD STARR CREATIONS
907-677-9543
wildstarrcreations.com

11 ALASKA ESCAPE ROOMS
907-444-6975
alaskaescaperooms.com

MAP

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GOLD AND JEWELRY

35 **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 40 **Fifth Avenue Jewelers**, Alaskan gold quartz 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.

41 **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.

SHOPPING CENTER

39 **Dimond Center Mall** is Alaska's one-stop destination for shopping and entertainment for the whole family. Find national favorites like Dave & Buster's, Best Buy, Lululemon, Ulta, H&M, Old Navy and Gap. Catch a movie at Regal 9 Cinema, hit the lanes at Dimond Bowl, or enjoy ice skating at Dimond Ice Chalet.

LOCAL ART & GIFTS

Set in downtown Anchorage, 43 **Wild Starr Creations** is a home décor and gift shop showcasing work by Alaskan artists. Browse Alaska-made jewelry, housewares, apparel, and preserves—all bought wholesale, so artists are paid for their work. In back, the creative lab is open daily for drop-ins, plus creative workshops, a Splatter Room, and birthday parties. Check the online calendar for events and pop-ups that line up with your trip.

TOURS & ACTIVITIES

INDOOR FUN

Stay warm together with an unforgettable indoor adventure at 11 **Alaska Escape Rooms.** Step inside Alaska's largest escape rooms, ranked #1 of 49 Fun & Games on Tripadvisor in 2026. Perfect for family outings, birthdays and team building, with two immersive, multi-room adventures: Raven's Eye or Conjured Kingdoms.

Take the **Aurora Winter Train** between Anchorage and Fairbanks on weekends from late September to early May; there are select mid-week



dates in February, and March. Or, experience 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 16 **Alaska Railroad.**

Unwind at Anchorage's ultimate relaxation experience - the 25 **Nordic Spa at The Alaska Club** – minutes from downtown Anchorage at The Alaska Club East. After a day of skiing, touring, a long flight, or anytime you want to relax, immerse yourself in the Nordic wellness ritual of hot, cold, rest, and repeat. Move through a cycle designed to help your body recover and reset with outdoor hot tubs, cold plunges, sauna, steam room, fire pit, and a relaxation lounge. Open 7 days a week.

ENTERTAINMENT

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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.

PLAYS & PERFOMANCES

19 **The Anchorage Concert Association** is one of the largest performing arts presenters in Alaska, showcasing a wide spectrum of performances from local and touring artists. 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!

DINNER & A SHOW

29 **Sweet Cheeks Cabaret** performs weekly burlesque shows at The Cheeky Room, inside 4 **The Broken Blender.** The shows run all winter except in January. Order craft cocktails and pub fare during the performance, including Philly cheesesteaks, burgers, and salmon cakes, with more than 20 local and domestic beers on tap. The Broken Blender opens at noon Tuesday through Saturday and at 9 a.m. Sundays for football, with trivia on Wednesdays, karaoke Thursday through Saturday, and poker on Sundays.

DINING

Alaska is one of the last, best places in the world to sample—and savor—wild-caught seafood. Nothing says Alaska more than King Crab or salmon. From the cold depths of the Bering Sea, King Crab is a delicacy, and you can't get much closer to the source! All five species of Pacific salmon, are available in Alaska restaurants. Ask for what's in season, as fresh-caught wild Alaska salmon is an amazing dining experience. King Salmon, is Alaska's state fish and is known for its large size and rich melt-in-your-mouth texture. You'll also see coho (silver) salmon,

HIGHLIGHTS

16 ALASKA RAILROAD
800-544-0552
alaskarailroad.com

HEYI DAYS
anchorage.net/heyi-days

25 NORDIC SPA AT THE ALASKA CLUB
907-330-0140
alaskaclub.com/nordic-spa

19 ANCHORAGE CONCERT ASSOCIATION
907-272-1471
anchorageconcerts.com

29 SWEET CHEEKS CABARET
907-306-7956
sweetcheekscabaret.com

4 THE BROKEN BLENDER
907-865-8858
thebrokenblenderak.com

MAP

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and sockeye (red) salmon on the menu as the "catch of the day" when they're in season.

Halibut is a local favorite, with delicate flavor served many ways, from fried to grilled or baked. Alaskans consider rockfish a real treat for it's mild, sweet flavor. It's not as available as halibut, but you'll find it in many restaurants during the summer.

But there's more than just seafood. Reindeer is an Alaska specialty that is easy to come by and tasty to try. Essentially a domestic caribou, reindeer is typically made into sausage, with a flavor similar to high-end link pork sausage. It's served for breakfast or as a reindeer hot dog at street vendors & restaurants. Look for reindeer sausage in local stores.

Savor a culinary adventure at 1 **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.

Conveniently located in the heart of downtown Anchorage and featuring Italian-inspired dishes with the fresh flavors of Alaska, 3 **ORSO** serves up a selection of delectable fresh seafood entrees, classic dishes like lamb osso buco, and an inspired wine list.

2 **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 bread pudding!

5 **Wild Starr Coffee House** in downtown Anchorage is built around supporting local makers. Sip espresso from Anchorage roaster Kaladi Brothers Coffee or tea from Fairbanks-based Sipping Streams, with signature lattes featuring local syrups like cardamom-vanilla or birch. Build your own charcuterie box with Alaska-made cheeses, jams, and dips, or grab a sweet treat. Take a seat by the window overlooking Town Square Park.

Or, sample local flavor by visiting a brewery (map on page 39-40).

POINTS OF INTEREST

Discover the 14 **Alaska Native Heritage Center** where the 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'iqadi Gallery, and watch short films in the theater. Enhance your visit with a self-led archival audio tour.

At the 13 **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

HIGHLIGHTS

1 ALASKA CHOPPED & CHOWDERED
907-222-4970
akchowder.com

3 ORSO
907-222-3232
orsoalaska.com

2 GLACIER BREWHOUSE
907-274-2739
glacierbrewhouse.com

5 WILD STARR COFFEE HOUSE
907-677-9453
wildstarrcoffeehouse.com

14 ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE CENTER
907-330-8000
alaskanative.net

13 ALASKA LAW ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM
907-279-5050
foast.org/museum

MAP

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Room, 52' Hudson, and a documentary movie.

Marvel at the sight of thousands of fish schooling in gigantic tanks at the 22 **William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery** (Call for hours). Warm up at the 24 **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 15 **Alaska Public Lands information Center**.

GETTING AROUND

Getting around is easier than you might expect, and these are the transportation options that will help you pull your trip together. Anchorage is the hub for most Alaska land tours, with well-developed transportation infrastructure. Even during the winter months, most places you'll want to visit are easy to reach by road, rail, or bus.

Get around Anchorage like the locals – ride **People Mover**! Buy bus passes and track bus arrivals in real time with Transit app – the official app for People Mover. All drivers are municipal employees; they're very familiar with Anchorage and are happy to answer questions about when to get off, how to make a connection, or give directions. Popular stops you can reach by bus include the Alaska Native Heritage Center, the Anchorage Museum in Downtown Anchorage, the Anchorage Airport, the Alaska Botanical Garden, the Dimond Mall and more.

To get beyond Anchorage, take the Aurora Winter Train between Anchorage and Fairbanks on weekends from late September to early May; there are select mid-week dates in February, and March. Or, experience 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 16 **Alaska Railroad** to book.

46 **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.

Hop aboard one of 45 **Alaska Bus Company's** 27-passenger luxury buses and vans. Year-Round you can ride between Anchorage, Girdwood, Cooper Landing, Soldotna, Ninilchik, Anchor Point, and Homer. Service is available 6 days a week (no Sundays) during the winter.

HIGHLIGHTS

PEOPLE MOVER
907-343-6543
peoplemover.org

16 ALASKA RAILROAD
800-544-0552
alaskarailroad.com

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

45 ALASKA BUS COMPANY
907-299-6806
alaskabuscompany.com

MAP

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NORTHERN LIGHTS VIEWING SPOTS

- 50 Glen Alps Trailhead
- 51 Point Woronzof
- 52 Turnagain Arm

TRAILS

- 55 Chester Creek Trail
- 56 Eagle River Naure Center
- 57 Eklutna Lakeside Trail
- 58 Tony Knowles Coastal Trail
- 59 Turnagain Arm Trail

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

- 61 Beach Lake
- 62 Far North Bicentennial Park
- 63 Kincaid Park
- 64 Russian Jack Springs Park
- 65 Tony Knowles Coastal Trail

SLEDDING

- 66 Arctic Valley Tube Park
- 67 Loretta French Sports Complex
- 68 Kincaid Park
- 69 Russian Jack Springs Park

ICE SKATING

- 70 Cheney Lake
- 71 Cuddy Family Park
- 72 Delaney Park
- 73 Dimond Ice Chalet
- 74 Mulcahey Park
- 75 Tikishla Park
- 76 Westchester Lagoon

DINING

- 1 Alaska Chopped & Chowdered
- 2 Glacier Brewhouse
- 3 ORSO
- 4 The Broken Blender
- 5 Wild Starr Coffee House

SEE BREWERY MAP ON PAGES 39 & 40

TOURS & ATTRACTIONS

- 10 Alaska Center for the Performing Arts
- 11 Alaska Escape Rooms
- 12 Alaska Helicopter Tours
- 13 Alaska Law Enforcement Museum
- 14 Alaska Native Heritage Center
- 15 Alaska Public Lands Information Center
- 16 Alaska Railroad
- 17 Alaska Zoo
- 18 Alpine Air Alaska
- 19 Anchorage Concert Association
- 20 Anchorage Trolley Tours
- 21 The Bait Shack *
- 22 Fish Hatchery
- 23 Go Hike Alaska
- 24 Mann Leiser Memorial Greenhouse
- 25 Nordic Spa at the Alaska Club
- 26 Outbound Heli Adventures
- 27 Rust's Flying Service
- 28 Salmon Berry Tours
- 29 Sweet Cheeks Cabaret

SHOPPING

- 35 Alaska Mint
- 36 Alaska Gear Company
- 37 Big Ray's
- 38 David Green Master Furrier
- 39 Dimond Center Mall
- 40 Fifth Avenue Jewelers
- 41 Northern Made Creations
- 42 Oomingmak Musk Ox Co-op
- 43 Wild Starr Creations

TRANSPORTATION

- 45 Alaska Bus Company
- People Mover Transit Center
- 46 Red Eye Rides*

DOWNHILL SKIING

- 80 Alyeska Resort
- 81 Hilltop Ski Area
- 82 Skeetawk

FEATURED ALASKA BREWERIES

1 **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

2 **DOUBLE SHOVEL CIDER CO** AK-Made Hard Cider (GF) • Cidery & Tap Room @ 502 W 58th Ave • Food Trucks; To-Go Cans, Bottles, Growlers • 907-562-1100 // doubleshovelcider.com

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. Enjoy responsibly!

ANCHORAGE BREWERIES

4 3 **49TH STATE BREWING COMPANY** 907-277-7727

5 **ALASKAN SPIRITS DISTILLERY** 907-290-7177

6 **ANCHORAGE BREWING CO** 907-677-2739

7 **ANCHORAGE DISTILLERY** 907-561-2100

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

9 **BROKEN TOOTH BREWING (MOOSE'S TOOTH)** 907-276-4200

10 **EYE TOOTH BREWING (EYE TOOTH TAVERN & EATERY))** 907-272-8330

11 **CYNOSURE BREWING** 907-563-2966

12 **KING STREET BREWING CO** 907-336-5464

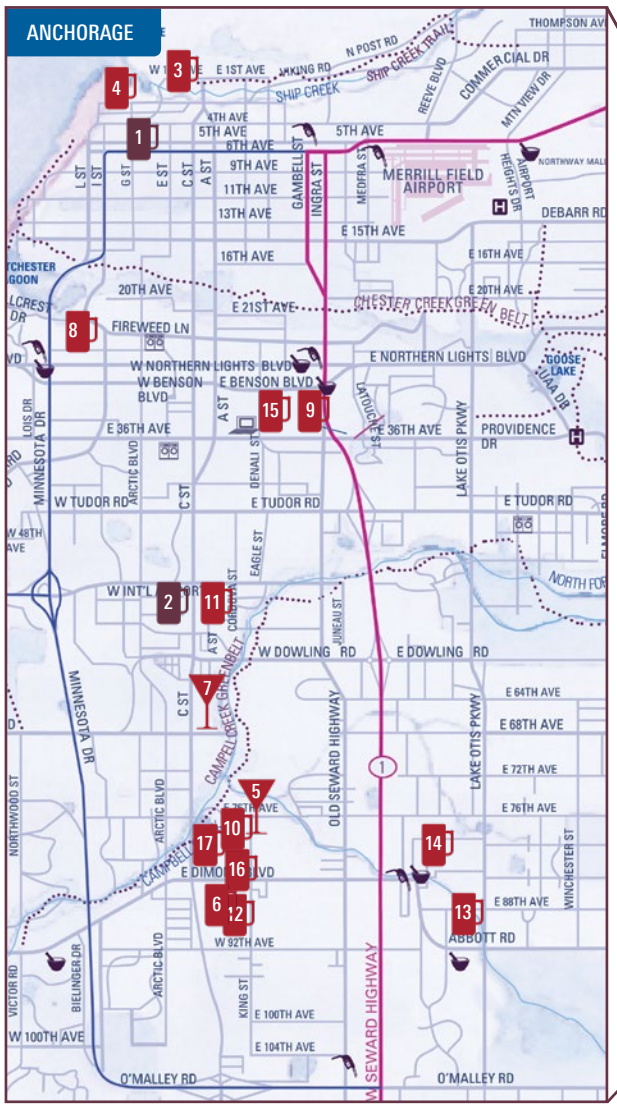
13 **MAGNETIC NORTH BREWING CO** 907-891-7406

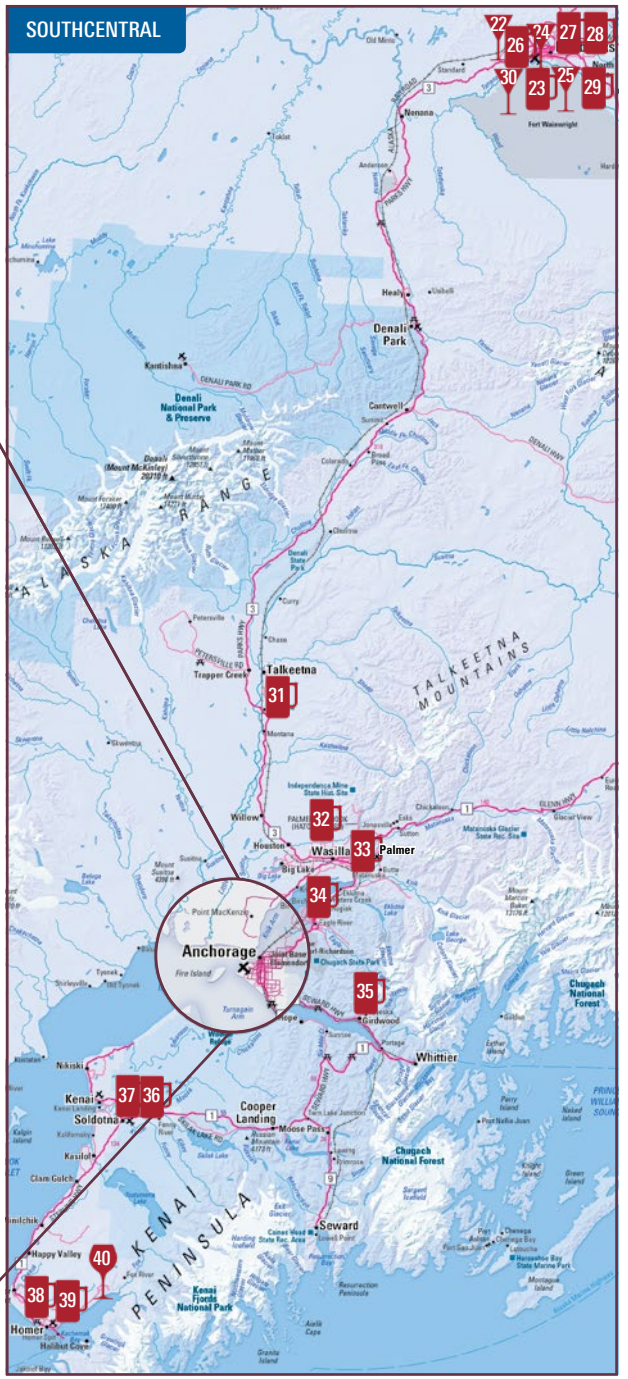
14 **MIDNIGHT SUN BREWING CO** 907-344-1179

15 **ONSITE BREWING CO** 907-310-2337

16 **TURNAGAIN BREWING** 907-646-2337

17 **ZIP KOMBUCHA** 907-351-7821





FAIRBANKS BREWERIES

22 **ARCTIC HARVEST DISTILLERY** Fairbanks 907-460-1414

23 **BLACK SPRUCE BREWING CO** Fairbanks 907-328-0448

24 **FAIRBANKS DISTILLERY** Fairbanks 907-452-5055

25 **HOARFROST DISTILLERY** Fairbanks 907-479-6128

26 **HOODOO BREWING** Fairbanks 907-459-2337

27 **LAT 65 BREWING CO** Fairbanks 907-328-7748

28 **MIDNITE MINE BREWING CO.** Fairbanks 907-456-5348

29 **SILVER GULCH BREWING** Fairbanks 907-452-2739

30 **URSA MAJOR DISTILLERY** Fairbanks 907-347-8951

SOUTHCENTRAL BREWERIES

31 **DENALI BREWING CO** Talkeetna 907-733-2536

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

33 **BLEEDING HEART BREWERY** Palmer (907) 746-2421

34 **ODD MAN RUSH BREWING** Eagle River 907-696-2337

35 **GIRDWOOD BREWING CO** Girdwood 907-783-2739

36 **ST. ELIAS BREWING CO** Soldotna 907-260-7837

37 **KENAI RIVER BREWING CO** Soldotna 907-262-2337

38 **GRACE RIDGE BREWING CO** Homer 907-435-0601

39 **BEAR CREEK WINERY & LODGING** Homer 907-235-8484

40 **HOMER BREWING CO** Homer 907-235-3626



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. If you don't have a car, book a tour with **Salmon Berry Tours** (907-278-3572).

MAP

See page 43

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.

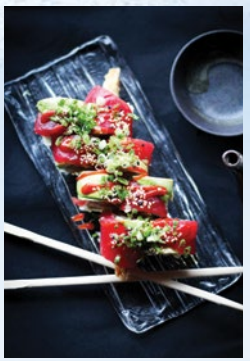
Alyeska RESORT

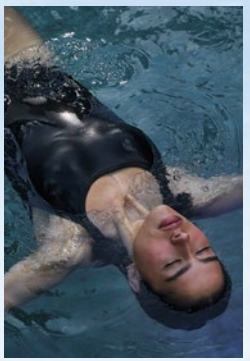
MADE FOR WINTER

ADVENTURE MEETS LUXURY

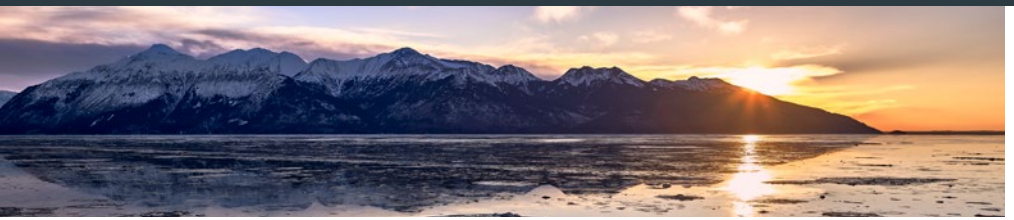








PLAN YOUR VISIT
ALYESKARESORT.COM





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

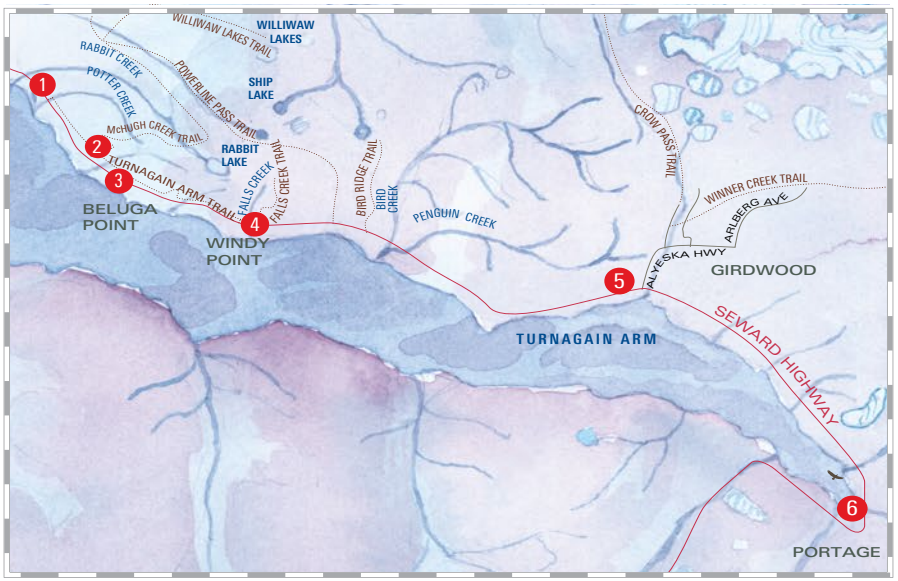
The turnoff for the town of Girdwood is at mile 90. After the turn it's about 3 miles to the downtown area, and another mile beyond that to **Alyeska Resort** (907-754-1111). Grab a bite to eat at a local restaurant, go for a walk, or hit the slopes!



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.





ADVENTURE
IS ON OUR MENU







JUST A SHORT, SCENIC DRIVE FROM ANCHORAGE,
INDULDE IN WORLD-CLASS DINING WITH BREATHTAKING VIEWS
GREATLAND | ABAR | BORE TIDE | SAKURA | FORTE | SEVEN GLACIERS | SITZMARK

ALYESKARESORT.COM/DINING



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.

FLIGHTSEEING

Few winter experiences compare to lifting off in a helicopter and soaring above Alaska's snow-covered peaks, frozen waterfalls, and ancient glaciers. With 1 **Alpine Air Alaska,** choose the Glacier Landing Tour, the Glacier Discovery Tour with two glacier landings, or the breathtaking Prince William Sound Tour, where towering tidewater glaciers and dramatic coastal scenery create an unforgettable adventure.

WINTER WALKS & NORDIC SKIING

Just behind Alyeska Resort, the 25 **Winner Creek Trailhead** leads 2.25 miles along a snow-covered trail to a turnaround point. 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, multi-use trail popular with walkers, runners, and cross-country skiers that extends from the Seward Highway to Alyeska Resort. 11 **Moose Meadows** iis a groomed, mostly flat, multi-use trail that makes for great snowshoeing and skiing. The trails have both skate and classic tracks. Access is from the end of Arlberg Rd. or the parking lot near Aspen Mountain Rd.

DOWNHILL SKIING

With a whopping average annual snowfall of 669 inches at the top and 208 inches at the base, 30 **Alyeska Resort** features 1,610 skiable acres and 76 named runs and trails.

HIGHLIGHTS

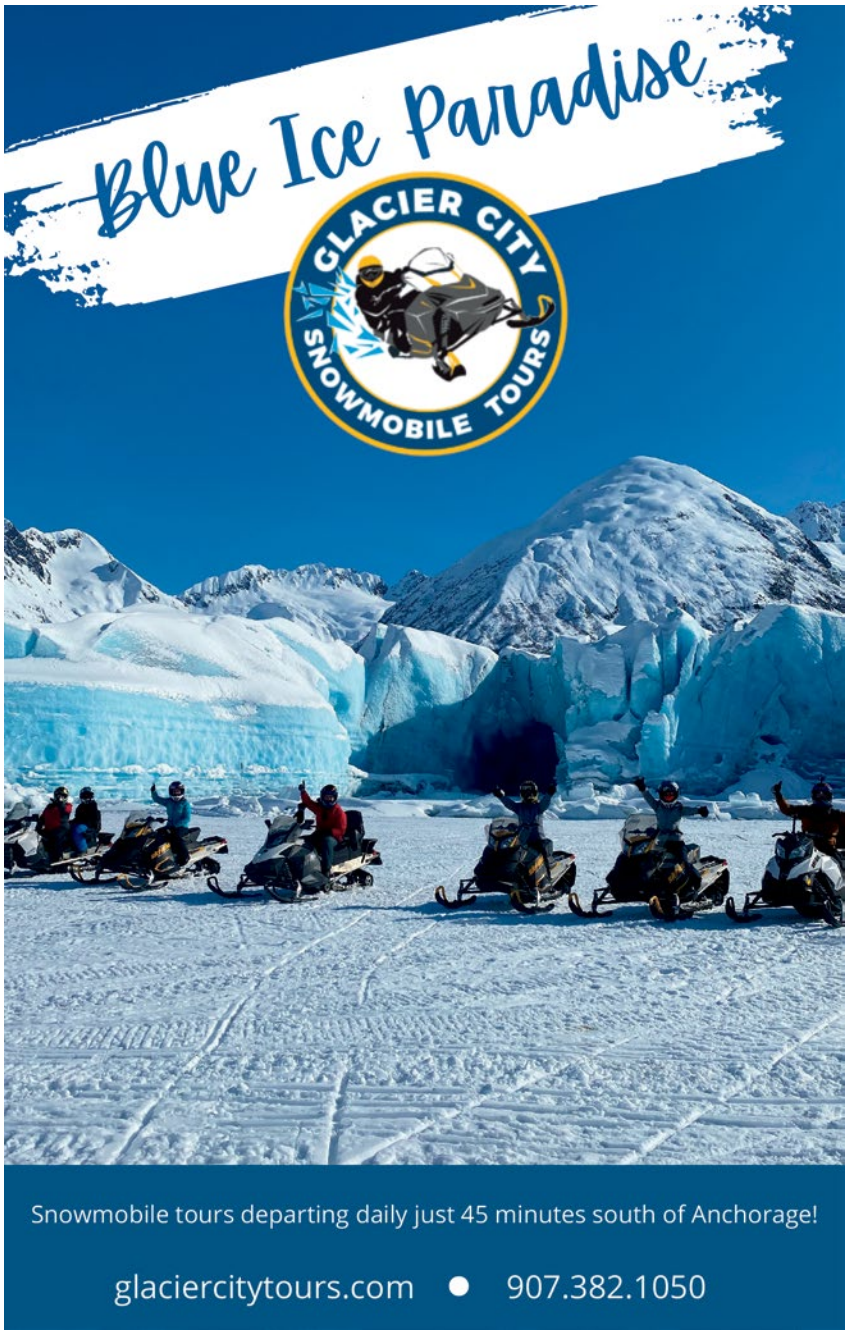
3 GLACIER CITY SNOWMOBILE TOURS
907-382-1050
glaciercitytours.com

1 ALPINE AIR
907-783-2360
alpineairalaska.com

30 ALYESKA RESORT
907-754-1111
alyeskaresort.com

MAP

See page 48





SKI RENTALS & SHOP

4 **Powder Hound Ski & Bike Shop** is a family-run, ski-in/ski-out shop with gear for both resort days and backcountry trips. Rentals and demos are chosen for the local Alaskan snowpack, and you can test any pair from the biggest ski wall in Alaska before buying. Custom boot fittings are available for skiers and snowboarders, and the upgraded tuning lab's Reichmann SlopeMaster SK serves downhill skiers, cross-country skiers, and snowboarders alike. Whether you're a beginner looking for budget-friendly gear or a local investing in a top-tier setup, Powder Hound has you covered.

EAT & DRINK

Fifteen minutes south of Girdwood in Portage, the 2 **Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center** is a nonprofit sanctuary with more than 200 acres for resident moose, bison, reindeer, muskox, bears, and wolves.

WILDLIFE

Experience world-class dining with breathtaking views at 15 **Alyeska Resort**. Enjoy handcrafted cocktails and local favorites at aBar, Asian-inspired cuisine at Sakura, and Italian specialties at Forte. Located at the top of the mountain, Bore Tide Deli offers mountain fare and refreshing drinks between adventures. For an unforgettable evening, dine at Seven Glaciers, our AAA Four Diamond Award-winning restaurant featuring a four-course chef's menu showcasing Alaska's finest ingredients.

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.

GETTING TO GIRDWOOD

35 **Alaska Bus Company** and 36 **Red Eye Rides** offer scheduled service along the Kenai Peninsula. **Alaska Bus Company's** 27-passenger luxury buses and vans serve Anchorage, Girdwood, Cooper Landing, Soldotna, Ninilchik, Anchor Point, and Homer year-round, six days a week in winter. **Red Eye Rides** runs between Anchorage, Girdwood, Seward, Homer, and other small-town stops on the Peninsula. Advance reservations required; private charters available.

HIGHLIGHTS

4 POWDER HOUND SKI & BIKE SHOP
907-783-2525
powderhoundak.com

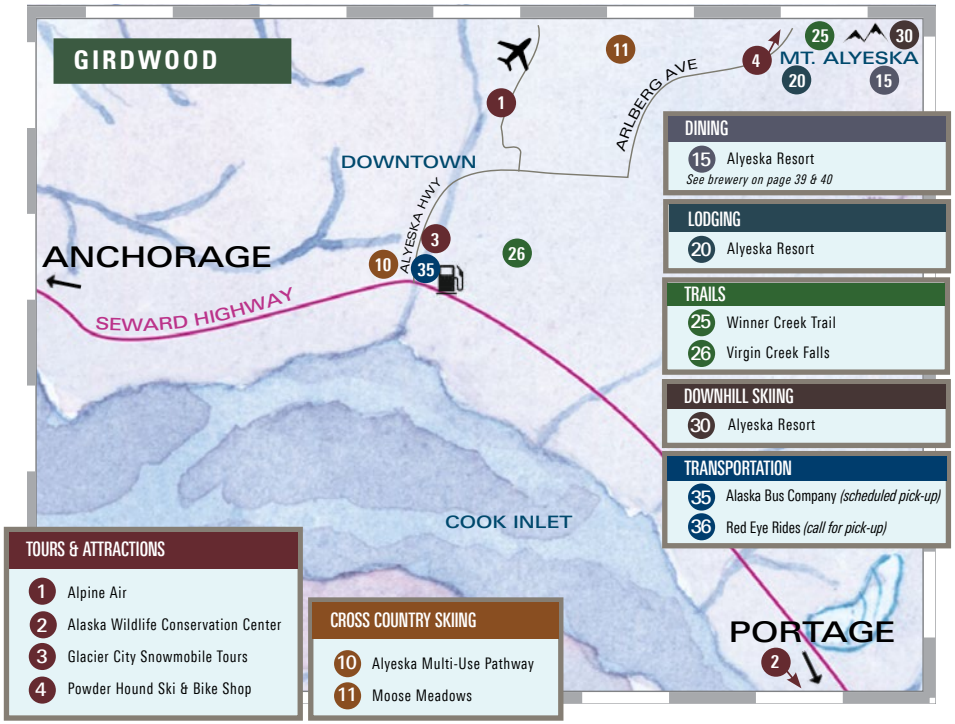
2 ALASKA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER
907-783-0058
alaskawildlife.org

35 ALASKA BUS COMPANY
907-299-6806
alaskabuscompany.com

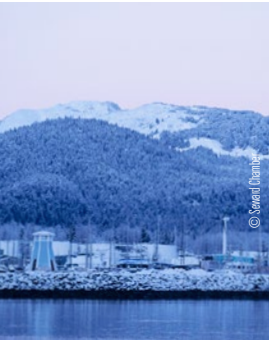
36 RED EYE RIDES
907-769-1818
redeyerides.com

20 ALYESKA RESORT
907-754-1111
alyeskaresort.com





SEWARD



Sandwiched between Resurrection Bay and the towering Kenai Mountains, Seward is a seaside paradise with a picturesque 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 quiet winter beauty.

EXPLORE RESURRECTION BAY

3 **Seward Ocean Excursions** offers half-day cruises (3.5 hours) into Resurrection Bay. Besides the amazing scenery, you may see sea otters, seals, porpoises, sea lions, mountain goats, sea birds, eagles, and more. All boats have a heated cabin to keep you toasty while you cruise through the winter wonderland with a hot drink in hand. From mid-March to mid-May, 2 **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.

HIGHLIGHTS

3 SEWARD OCEAN EXCURSIONS
907-599-0499
sewardoceanexcursions.com

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

4 SEWARD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITORS CENTER
907-224-8051
seward.com

10 BREEZE INN
907-224-5237
breezeinn.com

MAP

See page 51

WINTER WALKS & NORDIC SKIING

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 31 **multi-use Exit Glacier Road** (which is perfect for beginners), along with 30 **Bear Lake's** trails. For the best skate skiing, head to the 32 **Divide Trailhead**.

LOCAL EXPERTISE

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

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.

HIGHLIGHTS

15 BREEZE INN
907-224-5237
breezeinn.com

36 RED EYE RIDES
907-769-1818
redeyerides.com

MAP

See page 51

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.

TRANSPORTATION

36 **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.



Comfort, Convenience, & Adventure Await!
Open Year Round
Located in the Seward Harbor Area
Winter Events & Discounted Room Rates BreezeInn.com
Breeze Inn Hotel
Restaurant & Lounge
BreezeInn.com 907.224.5237





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 small-town Alaska.

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.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING, HIKING & SNOWSHOEING

Discover over 80 km of stunning winter ski trails in Homer, clustered in three main areas of town and include the 15 **Baycrest**, 16 **Lookout Mountain**, and 17 **McNeil/Eveline**. The Kachemak Nordic Ski Club maintains these trails. You can visit their website for updated maps and suggested routes.

The 32 **Wynn Nature Center** offers trails year-round for hiking and snowshoeing, with popular routes such as the 2.5 mile Lutz/ Fireweed loop and the ¾ mile Dogwood loop. Both start from the main cabin, where you'll also find a large trail map of the area. Join Wynnter Sunday Fundays at 1pm hosted by The Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies. They provide free activities for families, and sometimes have snowshoes available for rent.

If you're looking for a flat easy walk or spot to ride your fat tire bike, you can't go wrong with the 4.3 mile 31 **Homer Spit Trail**. The trail begins at the base of the Homer Spit where you'll find ample parking. Dress warm, the wind coming off the water can be quite chilly!

Another waterfront walk can be had at 30 **Bishop's Beach**. Park in the large parking area at the end of Beluga Place and follow the path down to the water. This is a particularly good spot to catch the sunset over Kachemak Bay.

HIGHLIGHTS

10 WESTWIND CABINS
907-690-0895
westwindcabins.com

27 ALASKA BUS COMPANY
907-299-6806
alaskabuscompany.com

28 RED EYE RIDES
907-769-1818
redeyerides.com

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

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.

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.

GETTING AROUND

27 **Alaska Bus Company** and 28 **Red Eye Rides** offer scheduled service along the Kenai Peninsula. **Alaska Bus Company's** 27-passenger luxury buses and vans serve Anchorage, Girdwood, Cooper Landing, Soldotna, Ninilchik, Anchor Point, and Homer year-round, six days a week in winter. **Red Eye Rides** runs between Anchorage, Girdwood, Seward, Homer, and other small-town stops on the Peninsula. Advance reservations required; private charters available.

LOCAL TIPS

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

TOURS & ATTRACTIONS
1 Homer Visitor Center
2 Pratt Museum
3 AK Maritime National Wildlife Refuge
4 Center for AK Coastal Studies
5 Gallery Row
6 East Hill Road - Skyline Drive
7 The Porcupine Theater

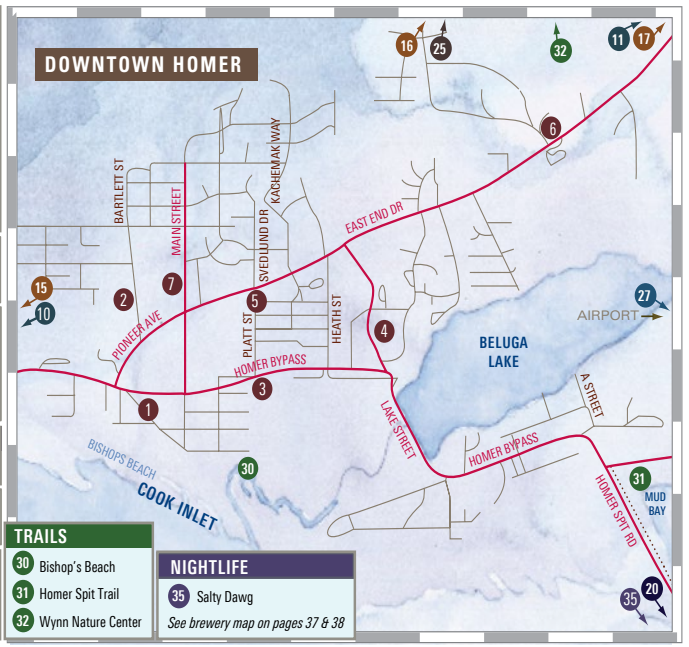
LODGING
10 WestWind Cabins

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING
15 Baycrest Trails
16 Lookout Trails
17 McNeil Trails

ICE SKATING
20 Kevin Bell Ice Arena

DOWNHILL SKIING
25 Homer Rope Tow

TRANSPORTATION
27 Alaska Bus Company (Pick-up)
28 Red Eye Rides (Call for pick-up)



TRAILS
30 Bishop's Beach
31 Homer Spit Trail
32 Wynn Nature Center

NIGHTLIFE
35 Salty Dawg
See brewery map on pages 37 & 38

AK BUS CO
ALASKA BUS COMPANY



TWICE DAILY TRANSPORTATION FROM ANCHORAGE – HOMER AND EVERYWHERE IN BETWEEN. *NOW YEAR ROUND!*

ANCHORAGE > GIRDWOOD > COOPER LANDING > SOLDOTNA > HOMER

AlaskaBusCompany.com info@alaskabuscompany.com | 907-299-6806

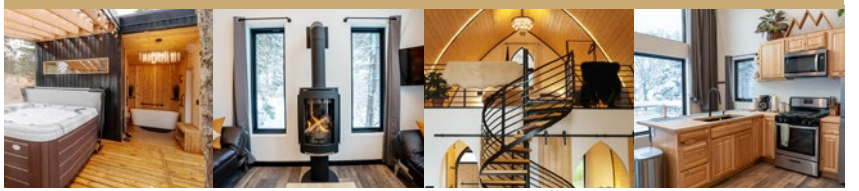
WEST WIND CABINS

OPEN YEAR ROUND
HOMER, ALASKA



4 Unique cabins with views of Kachemak Bay in Homer, AK
Nordic-style cedar spa and outdoor hot tub

3725 West Hill Rd. Homer, Alaska | 907-690-0895 | WestWindCabins.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 7 **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.

FLIGHTSEEING

Fly with 2 **Alaska Helicopter Tours** from their base at the Alaska Glacier Lodge in Palmer, a 1-hour drive north of Anchorage (shuttle services available). Choose from one of their year-round glacier landing tours or take advantage of their seasonal Winter Glacier Exploration Tour where you can explore unique glacier features and ice caves with an expert guide. 4 **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. 6 **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 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.

SNOWMOBILE & UTV TOURS

Experience winter wilderness with your thumb on the throttle, as 7 **Snowhook Adventure Guides of Alaska** leads you through snow-covered forests, over frozen lakes, along groomed trails, and off-trail fun. Choose from 3-hour, full-day, overnight, or multi-day tours, with options

HIGHLIGHTS

7 SNOWHOOK ADVENTURE GUIDES OF ALASKA
907-414-4547
snowhookadventures.com

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

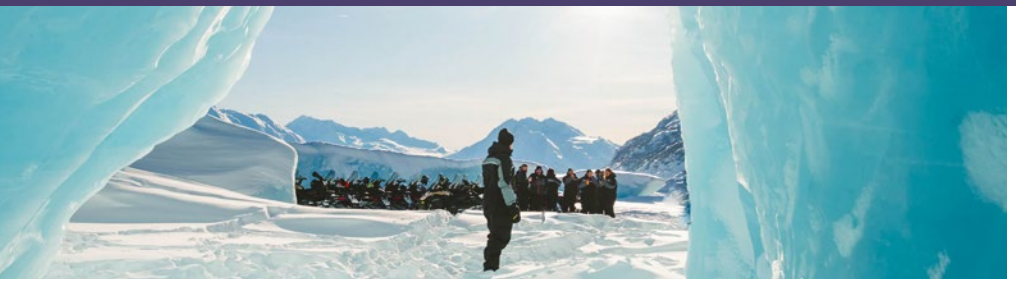
4 OUTBOUND HELI ADVENTURES
907-351-6736
outboundheli.com

6 SHEEP MOUNTAIN AIR
907-202-5897
sheepmountain.com

MAP

See page 59





for beginners and experienced riders. Build your confidence, play in the powder, and keep watch for wildlife and views of Denali.

1 **Alaska Backcountry Adventures** offers two unforgettable ways to experience Alaska in winter. Travel in the comfort of a heated, enclosed UTV to the awe-inspiring Knik Glacier, where frozen icebergs, towering mountains, and incredible scenery create a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Or, guided snow machine adventures explore snow-covered mountain terrain where conditions are at their best. Every adventure is led by experienced local guides.

WILDLIFE

Open year-round, the nonprofit 3 **Musk Ox Farm** practices gentle and sustainable agriculture, domesticating musk oxen for their qiviut, one of nature's softest and warmest fibers. At the 5 **Reindeer Farm**, meet the animals, get great photos, and even feed them from a cup!

WINTER HIKES

18 **Matanuska River Park**. This mellow trail system just outside downtown Palmer offers scenic views of the Matanuska River, Lazy Mountain, Matanuska Peak, and the Talkeetna Mountains. *Best winter access is via the trail entrance at the Matanuska River Bridge off the Old Glenn Hwy.*

17 **Crevasse Moraine Trail System**. This local favorite for walkers and fat-tire bikers offers multiple access points, scenic views, and terrain ranging from flat to rolling hills through forests and fields. *Best winter hiking is via N. Loma Prieta Dr. off the Palmer-Wasilla Hwy.*

19 **Reflections Lake**: This high-trafficked, 1.1-mile loop trail circles Reflections Lake with a two-story viewing deck at roughly the halfway mark. It's a great vantage point to soak in the landscape, including the Knik River, Twin Peaks and Pioneer Peak, and the Palmer Hay Flats. *Take the Knik River Access exit and follow signage.*

DOWNHILL SKIING

12 **Skeetawk** is the fastest growing ski area in Alaska, located in Hatcher Pass just 90 minutes north of Anchorage and 25 minutes from Downtown Palmer. A triple chairlift takes riders up 300 vertical feet to 30 skiable acres and more than a dozen trails, from green to black diamond, plus a terrain park, beginner 'zone', and cat-skiing. Rentals and lessons available; for hours of operation and booking see their website.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Cross-country ski trails abound in the area; here are two local favorites.

HIGHLIGHTS

1 ALASKA BACKCOUNTRY ADVENTURES
907-745-2505
youralaskavacation.com

3 MUSK OX FARM
907-745-4151
muskoxfarm.org

5 REINDEER FARM
907-745-4000
reindeerfarm.com

12 SKEETAWK
907-746-7277
skeetawk.com

MAP
See page 59



HIGHLIGHTS

15 MEADOW LAKES MARKET
907-373-3033
meadowlakesmarket.com

10 SHEEP MOUNTAIN LODGE
907-745-5121
sheepmountain.com

20 **Government Peak Recreation Area**. 10+ miles of groomed ski trails for all abilities; about four miles are lit. Daily parking fee; *trailheads are accessible from the lot at N. Mountain Trails Dr. in Palmer.*

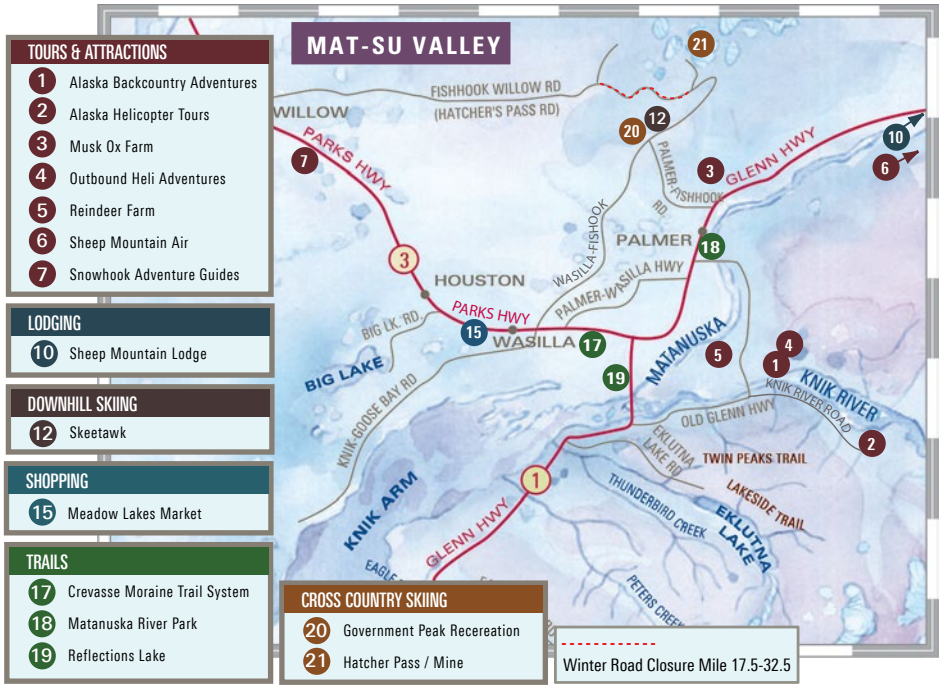
21 **Hatcher Pass**. Groomed trails include Archangel Road and the Independence Mine area. These unlit trails offer a more rugged ski experience. Daily parking fee; *Archangel Rd. (Mile 14.4 Hatcher Pass Rd.) a primitive pullout with limited parking; larger lot at Independence Mine (Mile 17.3).*

SHOPPING

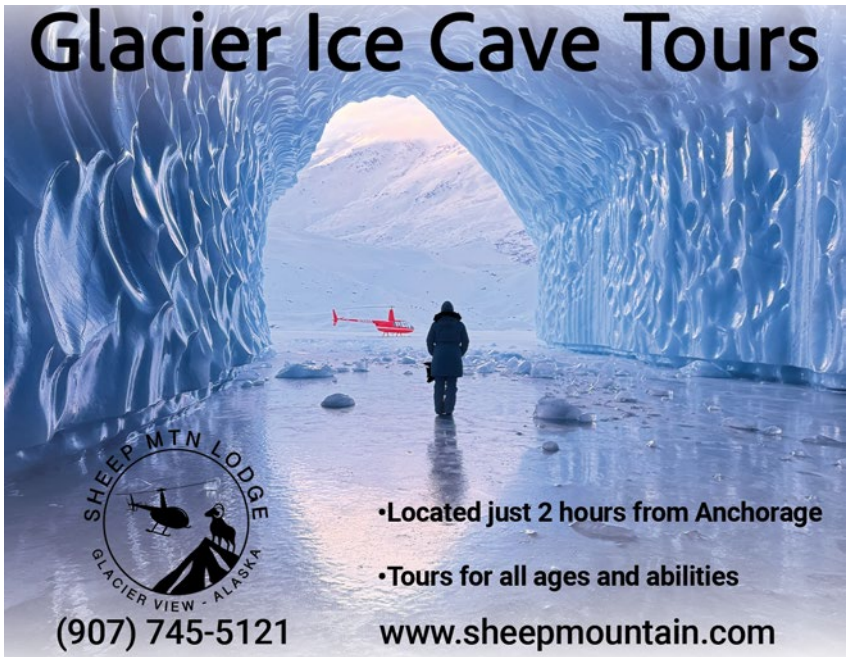
Stop into 15 **Meadow Lakes Market** to browse the works of more than 90 Alaskan artists. Find one-of-a-kind gifts and souvenirs, including jewelry, woodworking, glass art, photography, clothing, handmade soaps, and toys. Looking to take home a taste of Alaska? Try the jams & jellies, confections, spices & rubs, sauces, pickles, & locally roasted coffees.

STAY

At 10 **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.









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.

HIGHLIGHTS

1 K2 AVIATION
907-733-2291
flyK2.com

3 TALKEETNA AIR TAXI
907-733-2218
talkeetnaair.com

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

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FLIGHTSEEING

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

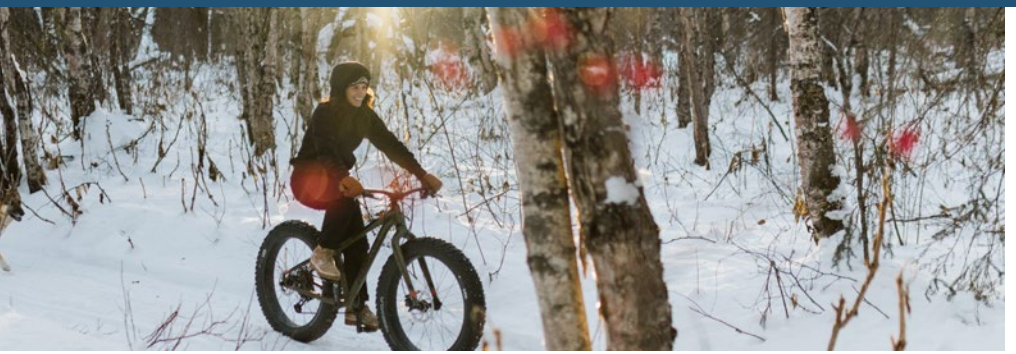
Flightseeing companies 1 **K2 Aviation** and 3 **Talkeetna Air Taxi** offer daily flight tours throughout the winter. Your expert pilot will help you explore winding glaciers, epic peaks, and the majestic Mt. Denali. Starting in mid-March, you can even add a glacier landing to your tour. Tour options are 1–1.5 hours.

DOG SLEDDING

Discover Alaska's official state sport with 2 **Susitna Sled Dog Adventures**. Meet the friendly Iditarod sled dogs as the team is harnessed, then enjoy a guided one-hour dog sled adventure through the Alaskan wilderness. Stop for photos along the trail, with stunning views of Denali when it's out, and experience the thrill of standing on the runners beside an experienced musher. Or, choose the same unforgettable tour at night beneath a sky full of stars!







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 fat tire bike. You can head out from town and ride as far as you like before looping back. About a mile from downtown, there's a short climb to a fantastic Denali overlook on clear days—it takes some effort, but the view is worth it.

7 **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. In winter, the Z Lake Loop and the Tigger Lake Loop are both nordic ski only trails. Tigger Lake is the flattest of the two and is great for families or those looking to avoid hills. 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.

The 8 **Chase Trail** begins just beyond the parking area on S Railroad Ave in Downtown Talkeetna. The 5.5 mile trail is wide, flat, graded with gravel, and parallels the Alaska Railroad Tracks. It's a multi-use trail for cross-country skiing, fat biking, and snowmobiling. The further you get from town, you'll see offshoots to private properties along the rail belt. Please respect their privacy.

HIGHLIGHTS

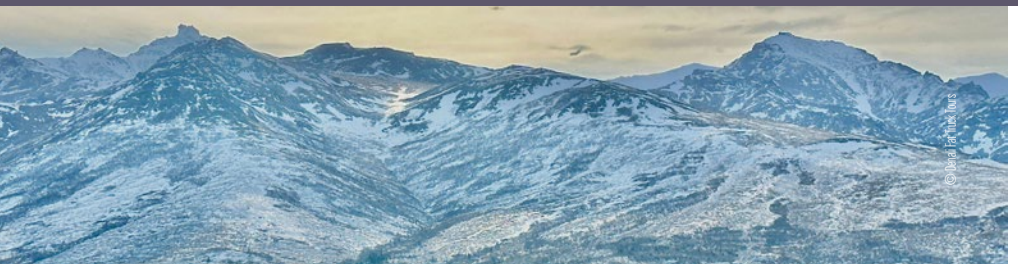
5 TALKEETNA GEAR SHOP
907-707-3618
talkeetnagearshop.com

RENT, BUY & EXPLORE

Gear up for your outdoor adventures at 5 **Talkeetna Gear Shop**. Rent fat tire bikes specifically designed for riding on the snow, available in both electric and non-electric, and adult and kid's sizes. You can also rent cross-country skis and snowshoes, perfect for exploring the many miles of groomed trails. Explore on your own or book one of their guided tours, like the night sky viewing snowshoe tour!







DENALI

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.



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).

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
175 Pioneer Rd. Healy, AK 99743





FAIRBANKS

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.

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

HIGHLIGHTS

2 AURORA POINTE
907-880-3314
aurorapointe.com

20 SKI LAND
907-389-2314
skilandfairbanks.com

7 ROD'S ALASKAN GUIDE SERVICE
907-378-1851
rodsalaskanguideservice.com

4 FAIRBANKS SNOW SLEIGHERS
907-331-0643
snowsleighers.com

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OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

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 2 **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!

Local ski area 20 **Ski Land** offers another great basecamp for viewing the Northern Lights. Located away from the city lights of Fairbanks, Skiland offers a prime viewing spot to see the aurora borealis dance across the Arctic sky. An expert host guides the experience, with comfortable accommodations and warm refreshments while you wait for the lights to appear. Aurora Tours run nightly from mid-September through March.

Or, combine your aurora viewing experience with another winter activity! 7 **Rod's Alaskan Guide Service** pairs aurora viewing with ice fishing. On this 5-hour tour, your cabin perched out on the frozen lake has an unobstructed view of the sky. Enjoy reindeer sausage and hot coffee or cocoa as you learn ice-fishing techniques, and then cast your line for grayling, Arctic char, rainbow trout, and more. If the lights appear, simply step outside to take in the show. Or opt to combine the aurora viewing experience with a dog sled ride!

4 **Fairbanks Snow Sleighers** leads a late-night snowmobile tour in search of the aurora borealis. Cruise beneath the night sky on a small group tour (max of 4 snowmachines) and climb from the Goldstream Valley floor to open, ridgetop views far from city lights. The Aurora







Sleighers Tour departs nightly between December 1 and March 31. Running 10 p.m. to 1 a.m., the tour includes a local guide, winter gear, driving instruction, and frequent stops for photos. Viewing the aurora isn't guaranteed, but Snow Sleighers offers rescheduling to improve your chances.

If you have a car, and want to try to see the northern lights on your own, head to Murphy Dome or Cleary Summit—high points within a 20- to 25-mile drive from town (AWD or 4WD vehicles recommended). Other popular locations include 45 **Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge** and 46 **Chena Lakes Recreation Area**.



SNOWMOBILING

7 **Rod's Alaskan Guide Service** in North Pole, just outside Fairbanks, offers real backcountry thrills for first-timers and seasoned riders alike. At headquarters, guests gear up and get a hands-on lesson before riding their own snowmobile behind a guide. The fleet features Ski-Doo luxury touring models with heated handgrips, reverse, and electric start. Heated helmets, gloves, jackets, bibs, and boots are included. Choose 1-hour, 2-hour, 3-hour night, or full-day trips, or add dog sledding or ice fishing.

4 **Fairbanks Snow Sleighers** offers small-group, guided snowmobile tours just 10 miles north of downtown Fairbanks in the Goldstream Valley. Hop on a sled and explore the winter wonderland as your guide leads you through a snow-covered spruce bog into birch and aspen forests, climbing to panoramic ridgeline views. Snow Sleighers recommends the two-hour Local Tour (most popular), and also offers a shorter one-hour tour option. Both tours include a local guide, winter gear, instruction, and photo stops.

FAT TRUCK TOURS

Head to Denali National Park and explore the Alaska wilderness offroad in a heated, enclosed SHERP Rescue Vehicle with 3 **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.

HIGHLIGHTS

7 ROD'S ALASKAN GUIDE SERVICE
907-378-1851
rodsalaskanguideservice.com

4 FAIRBANKS SNOW SLEIGHERS
907-331-0643
snowsleighers.com

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

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DOG SLEDDING

Glide across the snow behind a team of Alaskan huskies with 7 **Rod's Alaskan Guide Service**. Tours start with warm gear and time to meet the dogs and talk with the mushers, many of whom are training for races. Options range from a half-hour ride to a two-hour adventure where you'll help hook up the team and drive from the runners. A four-hour nighttime trip combines the experience with a chance to see the northern lights!

ICE FISHING

From mid-November through March, 7 **Rod's Alaskan Guide Service** runs two ice fishing trips on nearby lakes. On the four-hour day outing, the lights go off and sunlight filters through the snow, letting you see the fish below. You'll filet and cook one on the spot. The nighttime trip pairs fishing with a chance to see the northern lights. Both take place in a warm shelter on the ice, with bait and tackle included; Rod sells fishing licenses too



VISIT SANTA

It's Christmas year-round in North Pole, Alaska, just 20 minutes from Fairbanks. At the hub of the festivities is 13 **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.

DOWNHILL SKIING

The non-profit ski area 20 **Ski Land** is home to the Silver Star Express, the farthest north chairlift in North America. The ride carries skiers and riders 1,027 feet up over 3,882 feet of travel, a scenic nine-minute trip to the summit of this "upside down" ski area. Trails range from beginner-friendly runs to double black diamond, with private and group lessons available. The season typically runs from early December through the end of April, with the mountain open Friday through Monday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

WINTER WALKS

35 **Creamer's Field**. A refuge for migratory birds. In winter, you may see boreal chickadees, downy woodpeckers, and non-feathered friends including moose, red squirrels, snowshoe hares, and red fox. The Farmhouse Visitor Center is open during the day; pop in and grab a trail map. The 1.5-mile Boreal Forest Trail is most popular in the winter. *1300 College Rd., Fairbanks; 907-978-8457*

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

25 **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*

27 **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*

HIGHLIGHTS

7 ROD'S ALASKAN GUIDE SERVICE
907-378-1851
rodsalaskanguideservice.com

13 SANTA CLAUS HOUSE
907-488-2200
santaclaushouse.com

20 SKI LAND
907-389-2314
skilandfairbanks.com

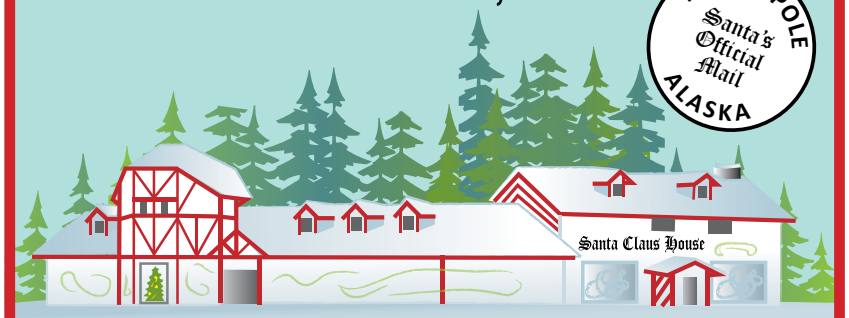
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101 St. Nicholas Dr., North Pole, Alaska
1-800-588-4078 or (907) 488-2200
www.SantaClausHouse.com

ICE SKATING

Two popular skating areas include the 40 **Tanana Lakes Recreation Area,** a skating pond and .52-mile skating trail, and the 41 **Univeristy of Alaska Fairbanks Outdoor Ice**, located in front of the Student Recreation Center. You can rent skates from the SRC front desk.

SHOPPING

The 12 **Great Alaskan Bowl Company** is one of America's last working wooden bowl mills, in operation since 1991. Their manufacturing team creates solid birch mixing and serving bowls, drinking steins and flower vases. Visitors will also find the largest selection of Made in Alaska gourmet foods, household goods, and gifts, from over 300 Alaskan makers. Open 7 days a week with laser personalization and shipping and handling available so you can take your new treasures home with ease.

CLOTHING AND GEAR

Outfitting Alaskans since 1947, 11 **Big Ray's** is home to a wide selection of outdoors clothing and gear for the whole family, rugged work wear, and footwear for all activities. Stop by one of their five stores in Anchorage, Fairbanks, or Kodiak for true Alaskan expertise and unparalleled customer service. Trusted by generations throughout the state, let Big Ray's be your Alaskan outfitter.

10 **Alaska Gear Company** is an Alaska-based outfitter known for cold-weather and backcountry gear built to handle the state's toughest conditions. If it's built for Alaska, it's built for anywhere. With retail locations in Anchorage and Fairbanks, the company outfits both locals and visitors heading into the wild. Product offerings include the legendary Bunny Boot line, Arctic Oven tents, pulk and freight sleds, and Alaska apparel.

MUSEUMS

Transport back in time at the 1 **Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum**. Located in their new 90,000 sq/ft facility at 3225 Airport Way, the museum showcases over 135 historically significant pre-World War II automobiles, stunning period clothing, and vintage planes. It offers visitors a trip back to early 1900's America to witness how the dawn of the automobile forever changed American culture, fashion, and the way we move.

LOCAL INFORMATION

Round out your Interior Alaska and Arctic winter adventure at the 6 **Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center** in downtown Fairbanks. Serving as the regional visitor facility, the center has friendly and knowledgeable staff who will share all there is to know about Fairbanks. And, you can pick up a free Fairbanks Winter Guide! Explore the 9,000-square-foot exhibit hall featuring displays showcasing Interior Alaska's people, wildlife, landscapes, and seasons.

HIGHLIGHTS

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

11 BIG RAY'S
907-452-3458
bigrays.com

10 ALASKA GEAR COMPANY
907-331-4480
alaskagearcompany.com

1 ANTIQUE AUTO MUSEUM
1-800-528-4916
fountainheadmuseum.org

6 MORRIS THOMPSON CULTURAL AND VISITOR CENTER
907-456-5774
explorefairbanks.com

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Be inspired by the light of the Aurora Borealis. Renew 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.

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www.explorefairbanks.com

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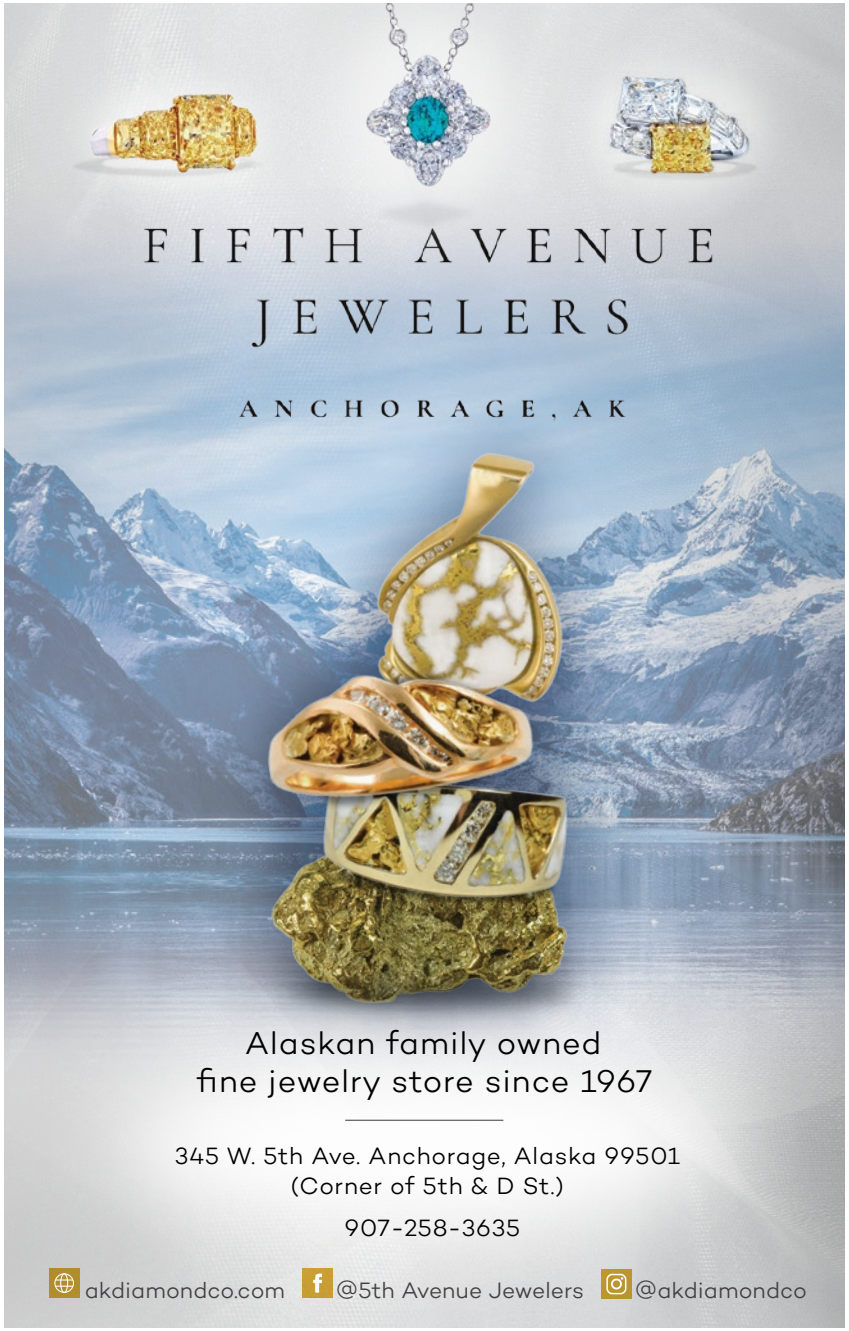
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