

Prince William Sound

Visitor Guide 2018

> CORDOVA

> SEWARD

> VALDEZ

> WHITTIER



BROUGHT TO YOU BY

The Cordova Times

*Prince William Sound's oldest newspaper.
Established in 1914. Tribally owned.*

CITY OF Cordova

INCORPORATED 1909



Situated in the southeastern end of Prince William Sound,
the City of Cordova is quickly emerging as one of America's best places to
live, work, play, and visit.



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IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY

The Cordova Times

An enterprise of
Native Village of Eyak
110 Nicholoff Way
P.O. Box 1388
Cordova, AK 99574
(907) 424-7738

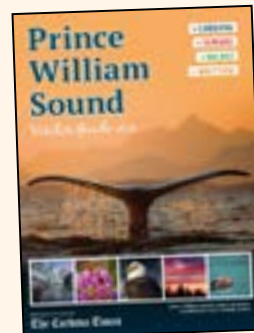
Managing Editor
Annette Potter
apotter@thecordovatimes.com

Administrative Assistant
& Advertising Sales
Vivian Kennedy
advertising@thecordovatimes.com

Staff Reporter/
Photographer
Emily Mesner
emesner@thecordovatimes.com

Copy Editor
Margaret Bauman
mbauman@thecordovatimes.com

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COVER PHOTO BY:
Milo Burcham

INSET PHOTOS:
Emily Mesner: Glacier, eagle,
sunset and sea otter
Cynthia Gibbens-Stimson:
Flower

Contributing photographers:
Milo Burcham, David Little,
Teal Barmore, Emily Mesner,
and Cynthia Gibbens-Stimson.



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Located at the Valdez Airport

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info@VSHelicopters.com

Get around

On the Alaska Marine Highway

Cinthia Gibbens-Stimson photo

The Southcentral region of the Alaska Marine Highway route includes communities in Prince William Sound and the Kenai Peninsula. These routes provide connections by road to Valdez, Whittier and Homer, and ferry service year-round to most communities in this region. During summer months, the MV Kennicott connects the regions of Southcentral and Southeast with sailings across the Gulf of Alaska, and the MV Tustumena connects Southcentral with Southwest, with sailings to Kodiak Island and out to the Aleutian Chain.



Cordova

Ferry service to Cordova from Whittier is provided four days a week in the summer, and connects on alternate days from Valdez. The cruise to Cordova is just under seven hours from Whittier, or five hours from Valdez. In the winter, service to Cordova varies, but is still provided multiple days per week. As you travel through Prince William Sound, keep an eye out for an abundance of wildlife and ice flows from nearby glaciers.

There are also sample itineraries on our Cordova page on the website.

<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs/comm/cordova.shtml>

Valdez

Ferry service from Valdez to neighboring Prince William Sound communities is provided six days a week in the summer and three to four days a week in the winter. By ferry, Valdez is two hours and 45 minutes from Tatitlek, and five hours and 45 minutes from Whittier. En route to Valdez,

traverse the northern-most ice free fjord in North America.

<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs/comm/valdez.shtml>

Whittier

Ferry service from Whittier to neighboring Prince William Sound communities is provided seven days a week in the summer and two to three days a week in the winter. By ferry, Whittier is five hours and 45 minutes to Valdez and six hours and 45 minutes to Cordova. The cross-gulf route, serviced by the MV Kennicott, connects Whittier to Southeast Alaska twice a month in the summer, and with access to surface highways. Once you arrive in Whittier the possibilities for exploration are endless.

<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs/comm/whittier.shtml>

Tatitlek

The community of Tatitlek receives ferry service one to two times a month in the summer. Tatitlek is a two hour and 45 minute ferry ride from Valdez and three hours

and 15 minutes from Cordova. The village sits on a relatively flat, one-mile strip of land between Galena Bay and Boulder Bay within the Chugach National Forest. The Chugach Mountains form an impassable range to the north, and then lower into a mountain ridge, which runs parallel with the Tatitlek Narrows.

<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs/comm/tatitlek.shtml>

Chenega Bay

The community of Chenega Bay receives ferry service once a week from May through September. The MV Kennicott provides service en route between Whittier and Kodiak. Chenega Bay is four and a half hours by ferry from Whittier, and 14 hours to Kodiak. The 2,700-mile coastline of Prince William Sound is ringed by the coastal mountains of the Chugach Range and situated in the midst of the Chugach National Forest. Explore this community on the 7 Day West Gulf Coast Voyager itinerary.

http://www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs/comm/chenega_bay.shtml

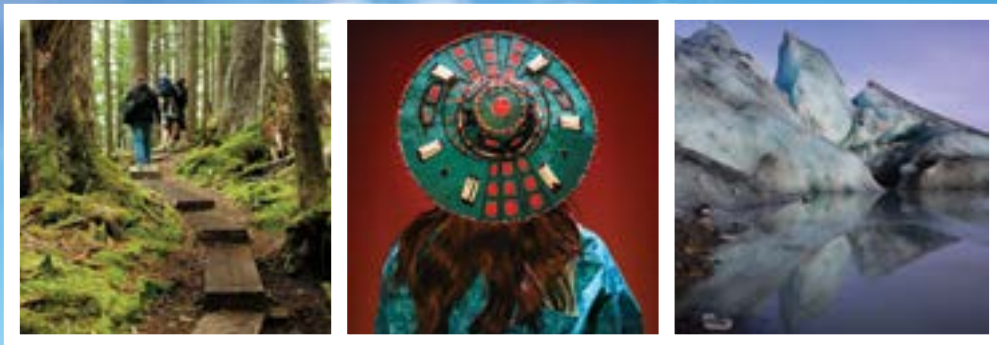
SEE MORE OF ALASKA ON THE ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY

Pack your gear and your sense of adventure. Walk or drive aboard a state ferry to explore scenic coastal communities you don't want to miss. Call or visit us online for routes and information.

FerryAlaska.com/pws
1-800-642-0066




CORDOVA



Cordova

*Off the beaten path,
worth the journey*



Cordova lies near the mouth of the Copper River, and at the head of Orca Inlet in Prince William Sound, surrounded by rugged mountains sculpted by blue glaciers, fresh waterways, wildlife-rich wetlands, abundant bird life, and the Chugach National Forest, off the main road system. Access is via Alaska Airlines or Ravn Alaska Air, or one of the Alaska Marine Highway's ferries. Cordova's longest road is the Copper River Highway, which begins in Cordova and extends 56 miles to the 52-mile bridge, which offers access to hiking trails, off-road recreation sites, hunting and fishing, and the U.S. Forest Service's Childs Glacier Campground. The first 13 miles of road north of Cordova are paved and the rest is gravel. Access via the Copper River Highway is limited to approximately 36 miles, as changes of the flow in the Copper River took out Alaska Department of Transportation's Bridge 339 in August 2011 and the bridge was closed. The remaining 20 miles can still be reached via river crossing by boat. Local tour companies provide service, as the river has swift-moving water and unpredictable currents. It is not recommended to attempt this crossing without an experienced guide who knows this waterway.



Over 100 Years of Fish, Copper, and More Fish

BY CATHY SHERMAN

Cordova Historical Society Local Historian

Nestled between the Chugach Mountains and Orca Inlet, Cordova is built upon a rich and diverse foundation of bounties from both the sea and land. The Copper River Delta and Prince William Sound regions have been a melting pot for Native cultures and those to follow later. Add together the traditions of a myriad of many cultures of people and you have a novel Alaskan community with a rich and fascinating story to tell.

Eyak and Chugach Natives lived near the shores of Eyak Lake and lined the coastal areas of Prince William Sound. Their traditions led them to respect the gifts the land and sea provided and to appreciate the value of the seasons. The Eyak occupied the Copper River Delta and west to what is today – Cordova. The Chugachmiut inhabited the coastal areas and islands of Prince William Sound.

Exploration of this region began in July 1741 when Vitus Bering, commanding the vessel *St. Peter*, made the first recorded Russian landing in Alaska arriving on Kayak Island southeast of Prince William Sound. Thirty-seven years later, Captain James Cook entered Prince William Sound on a voyage seeking the Northwest Passage.

French explorers arrived in 1786, followed by Spanish explorer Navy Lieutenant Salvador Fidalgo who sailed the *San Carlos* in 1790 into Prince William Sound. Fidalgo named a bay of water after himself but also named the bay of water in front of present day Cordova in honor of his patron, Don Luis Cordoba de

Cordoba. The United States' purchase of Russian America in 1867 opened Alaska to American traders and military expeditions. In 1885, Lieutenant Henry S. Allen led a successful American expedition up the Copper River Valley and was the first to make note of the extensive use of copper tools by the Natives in the upriver region. The American-led Harriman expedition in 1889 sailed extensively through Prince William Sound and named many of the glaciers and bays after American Colleges – Columbia, Harvard, and Yale.

Salmon continued to be the draw and by 1887 two canneries were operating in the Odiak Slough area adjacent to Eyak Lake; by the mid-1920s the Copper River Delta and Prince William Sound region was dotted with over 50 canneries. Cordova had also become known as the Clam Capital of the World and at its peak produced over half of the United States' clam products. Salmon has for the most part formed the bulk of the catch, but halibut, black cod, shrimp, crab, and other seafood has also been harvested. Today, Copper River salmon are world renowned and regaled in restaurants and fish markets from coast to coast.

The natural resources in the land were being discovered and the new lands of Alaska were considered fair game and ripe for picking. Gold seekers who weren't having any luck, found their way to the region to search for a new ore – copper. This discovery turned out to be the highest grade commercial copper deposit ever found and the single most valuable mineral deposit discovered in Alaska. The Kennecott Mine became the source, but the copper needed a railroad

Fast Facts

Population: 2,205

Established: 1909

Distance from Anchorage: 150 air miles southeast of Anchorage

Area: 61.4 square miles of land and 14.3 square miles of water

Economy: Commercial fishing and fish processing

Origin: Cordova was given its present name in 1906 by Michael Heney, builder of the Copper River and Northwestern Railroad.

Town slogan: Off the beaten path, worth the journey

Size of graduating class: 17

Fun fact: The first airplane landed in Cordova in 1929 and a small city strip was created in 1934.

to get to Cordova.

The construction of the Copper River and Northwest Railway backed by wealthy East Coast financiers took place between 1906 and 1911 with some of the most difficult engineering challenges known to man. The 196-mile railway was completed on March 29, 1911 with a copper spike driven before the first load of nearly pure copper ore worth \$250,000 made its way to the steamship docks. The railroad and fishing industries led to an era of prosperity and growth for the now booming town of Cordova.

As the population grew so did the community, with the addition of a school, hospital, dairy and residences. Cordova was the first year-round port of call by steamship lines west of the Gulf of Alaska. The first airplane landed in Cordova in 1929 and a small city strip was created in 1934. Cordova has since survived the loss of the railroad, devastating fires, severe earthquakes, and the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill disaster.

The mainstay of Cordova's economy for over 100 years is the salmon that return year after year to spawn in the streams where they were born. While fishing equipment and production methods have changed, the fish continue to be the one constant providing sustenance for the residents and thanks to air transportation – the world over.

Getting Here

Cordova is a landlocked community, with three options to get you here: via the Alaska Marine Highway's ferry boats, Alaska Airlines' 737 jets, or on Ravn Alaska's turbo-prop planes.

Ferry

Leaving Anchorage and taking the scenic route in a car or truck via the Seward Highway will take just a little over an hour to drive down Turnagain Arm to Portage.

Leaving Portage, drive through the Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel, passing under Maynard Mountain, part of the Chugach Mountain Range, and arrive in the town of Whittier on the other side.

Drive to the Alaska Marine Highway Ferry Terminal (follow the signposts), where you can check in for ferry passage with your vehicle, by bicycle, or on foot, to board for cruise to Cordova. Have your camera out and at the ready for scenic and wildlife photos.

Do check the Alaska Marine Highway's website well in advance of your trip, to make reservations, as these ferries book up fast in summer months.

The ferry travels across pristine and wild Prince William Sound, home to pods of Orca whales, porpoises who play in the wake of the ferry, seals hauled out on rocks and basking in the sunshine, pods of sea otters, sea birds, and a commercial fishing fleet at work.

A trip aboard the fast ferry takes about three hours and 15 minutes, while taking one of the older ferries will put you into Cordova about six hours after departure.

dot.state.ak.us/amhs/reservations.shtml
800-642-0066

Plane

Alaska Airlines

Alaska Airlines' 737 jets fly into Cordova twice daily. Flight 61 travels northbound from Seattle by way of Juneau, Yakutat, and Cordova, then on to Anchorage. Flight 66 arrives southbound from Anchorage, stops in Cordova, and then flies on to Yakutat, Juneau, and Seattle. Check Alaska Airlines' website well in advance for reservations, schedules and best fares. alaskaair.com or call 800-252-7522.

Ravn Alaska Air

Ravn Alaska, formerly ERA Aviation, services Cordova from Anchorage with a morning and evening direct flight. Check Ravn Alaska's website for up to date flight schedules and fares. flyravn.com or call 800-866-8394

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in the Copper River Gallery and Ziegler Galleries!**

MEMORIAL DAY TO LABOR DAY:

Monday through Saturday
10 a.m. until 5 p.m.
Closed Sundays

LABOR DAY TO MEMORIAL DAY:

Tuesday through Saturday
10 a.m. until 5 p.m.
Closed Sundays and Mondays



Emily Mesner photo

Explore

There's plenty of indoor and outdoor activities to keep you busy during your visit to Cordova, no matter the weather! Options include sightseeing on glaciers, hiking short to longer overland trails, aerobics and Zumba classes, swimming in the indoor heated pool, downhill skiing or snowboarding down the slopes of Mt. Eyak, or reading a book by the roaring fireplace in the local library.

PUBLIC FACILITIES

Bidarki Recreation Center

Need to get in your regular workout while you're here? The Bidarki Recreation Center is a city owned and operated recreational facility, and home to the Cordova Parks and Recreation Department offices. The amenities include three cardio areas complete with elliptical machines, treadmills and exercise bikes, and a fully stocked weight room. Weekly activities include adult volleyball, basketball, tot times, open gym, and fitness classes. Locker rooms are equipped with saunas, showers, and lockers are available. Rent towels at the front desk for a dollar. 907-424-7282

Bob Korn Memorial Pool

The Bob Korn Memorial Pool, operated and maintained by the city of Cordova, is the home of the Cordova Wolverine's High School Swim Team, and the Cordova Ice-worm Swim Team. Schedules are online at the cityofcordova.net, or by calling the pool, for open swim, tot swim, lap swim, and exercise classes. 907-424-7200

Cordova Historical Museum

The Cordova Historical Museum houses a diverse collection of Cordova-area history. View displays about early explorers to the area, Native culture, the Copper River Northwestern Railway, the Kennecott Mine era, and the growth of the commercial fishing industry. A gift shop operated by the Cordova Historical Society features books by local and other Alaskan authors, plus Alaska-themed, one-of-a-kind gift items. Hours are Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday 12-5 p.m. 907-424-6665

Cordova Public Library

The Cordova Public Library, inside the Cordova Center, offers a plethora of hard copy, paperback and audiobooks. Wireless internet is available. Sit in cozy chairs in

the fireplace nook to read, or just enjoy the view of Prince William Sound. Hours are Tuesday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday 12-5 p.m. 907-424-6667

Mt. Eyak Ski Area

Mt. Eyak Ski Area operates 1 of 2 remaining single chairlifts in North America. This historic lift was first installed in 1936 at Sun Valley, Idaho on Mt. Baldy's Christmas Ridge. In 1974, this lift was moved to Cordova and installed above town on the southern slopes of Mt. Eyak. With a vertical rise of 960 feet the lift serves 3 main runs with countless shots through trees and glades encompassing an area of over 600+ acres. The lift also accesses backcountry on the upper slopes of Mt. Eyak. A rope tow serves a beginner slope with a length of 300-feet and a vertical rise of 50-feet. Mt. Eyak has a full-service rental shop and food service is available. Mt. Eyak operates from November to April on weekends, holidays and powder days, snow permitting. There is also a hiking trail starting at the base area, utilized by locals and visitors alike.

The Ski Hill is operated and maintained by Sheridan Alpine Association, a local non-profit group of volunteers and a small seasonal staff. 907-424-7766

Cordova Historical Society's Walking Tour

The Cordova Historical Society provides a printed map and walking tour. Copies are available at the Cordova Visitor Center. 907-424-6665

Ilanka Cultural Center and Museum

The Ilanka Cultural Center honors the heritage and culture of the Eyak, Alutiiq, Ahtna, and Tlingit peoples who have inhabited this region for more than 10,000 years. The museum preserves and exhibits a collection of prehistoric, historic, and contemporary tribal artifacts from the Prince William Sound and Copper River Delta. The center also hosts annual traveling exhibits. The center is dedicated to the revival and preservation of Native crafts and skills for future generations. Hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 907-424-7903

Prince William Sound Science Center

The Prince William Sound Science Center provides practical, relevant information about this critical global bioregion to man-

agers and decision-makers, so true resilience can be practiced here and modeled everywhere.

This region is one of the world's most remote and greatest living laboratories, a stronghold critical to a thriving planet, and one of the last, best places to research how an intact ecosystem functions. Studies by PWSSC researchers provide answers to many challenges, including: climate change, resource use and sustainability, food webs and ecosystem management. Hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. 907-424-5800

Copper River Watershed Project

The Copper River Watershed Project works to foster the health of the Copper River watershed's communities, economies, and cultures with a variety of programs, including fish habitat monitoring and restoration. Hours of operation vary; contact the office for more information. 907-424-3334

Glacier Viewing

Many people come to Alaska to see glaciers. From the airplane window, they dot the landscape below, capturing your attention with their glorious sparkle.

A sunny day at Sheridan or Saddle-

bag Glaciers provides a stunning back drop for a picnic among wildflowers. Take a the 3.1-mile (5 km) hike to Saddlebag Lake where Saddlebag Glacier resides at the far end, or for a shorter outing, head to Sheridan Glacier, a 10-minute walk just past the Sheridan Mountain trailhead.

Childs Glacier

While the Copper River Highway is impassible beyond bridge 339 near 36 Mile due to a bridge washout, you can still spend the day at Childs Glacier.

Child's Glacier Tours and Orca Adventure Lodge, both special use permit holders with the U.S. Forest Service, offer for-fee services for transport to Child's Glacier. Be prepared to ride in a jet boat, ride an ATV, go walking or hiking, view the glacier as it sheds massive icebergs, and have a picnic lunch. Layered clothing is recommended to keep you from getting chilled. For more information regarding tours, contact:

Orca Adventure Lodge at 907-424-7249 or visit orcaadventurelodge.com.

Riverside Inn and Child Glacier Tours at 907-424-7135 or visit riversideinncordova.com

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www.orcaadventurelodge.com



Milo Burcham photo

Events

May 3-6: Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival

copperriverdeltashorebirdfestival.com

Come and experience the Avian Aurora! Nearly three quarters of all North American Shorebirds summer in Alaska and the Arctic tundra, and most of them come through here by way of the Pacific Flyway. The tidal flats of the Copper River Delta shimmer with the activity of hundreds of thousands of shorebirds every year in early May. Nearly five million shorebirds will make the tremendous journey from as far as South America to the Copper River Delta, the largest undisturbed wetland in North

America, where they stage and feed before moving on to breeding grounds west and northward in Alaska.

The Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival provides the ideal opportunity for bird watchers to see this spectacle of migration. Many activities, workshops and community events are offered throughout the festival.

June 8-9: Copper River Nouveau with the Prince William Sound Science Center

pwssc.org/support/copper-river-nouveau

Copper River Nouveau is our region's premier dining experience and fundraiser, a celebration of regional resilience, science, education, community, and wild salmon. The gala offers gourmet food with

opportunities to meet important federal and regional elected leaders, scientists, educators, fishermen and others dedicated to maintaining renewable natural systems through science and education. Corporate and individual sponsorships, a silent and live auction, and dinner ticket sales help raise funds for our research and education. The Fisheries Achievement Award reception, prior to the dinner, honors an individual or group for making a significant contribution toward the sustainable use of fishery resources in Prince William Sound or the Copper River regions.

The dinner and auction will be at the Cordova Center. This year's guest chef is Lionel Uddipa of Juneau's SALT. Chef Lionel was crowned King of American Seafood at the 2017 Great American Seafood Cook-Off!

July 4: Old Time Downtown 4th of July Celebration

cordovachamber.com

Old Time Fourth of July Celebration is a free event on Main Street in Cordova, beginning at 10 a.m. with the Kelp Box Derby, followed by children's games, including a dunk tank, egg toss competition and three-legged races. Then comes a community potluck-style meal, featuring fresh Copper River salmon on the grill, provided by all our local seafood processors. Work off that picnic potluck meal at the square dance, accompanied by live blue grass tunes, and then filler' up again at the Pioneers of Alaska Pie Social.

July 13-14: Copper River Salmon Jam

salmonjam.org

The Salmon Jam is a weekend full of fun for the entire family, with live music, wild salmon, good food, arts and crafts, road races, dancing and fun activities for the kids. Visit their website for complete details and forms to enter the road races, set up arts and crafts tables, and to sign up to perform at Salmon Jam.

Aug. 31-Sept. 2: Cordova Fungus Festival

[cordovachamber.com/events/
cordova-fungus-festival](http://cordovachamber.com/events/cordova-fungus-festival)

Fungus Festival attendees will have opportunities to learn more about local mushrooms, participate in mushroom related arts and crafts, and celebrate mushrooms and other wild-harvested foods with a Wild Foods Dinner. Daily guided forays, an identification table, and an expert keynote speaker are provided. Bring your cameras and rain gear, and join in the fun.

Nov. 9-11: Native Village of Eyak's Sobriety Celebration and Memorial Potlatch

nveyak.com

The annual Native Village of Eyak's Sobriety Celebration and Memorial Potlatch is a time of sharing food, fellowship, and substance abuse awareness. Year after year, people from all corners of Alaska, and the Lower 48 states, come together to celebrate and talk about sobriety, and how to live lives drug and alcohol free. Alaska Native Dancers perform throughout the weekend, including the Cordova Ikumat Dancers. Traditional foods are served at

See Page 15, *Events*

Baja Taco

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www.cordovaepiscopal.org
www.dancingwiththespirit.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30AM

We invite you to join us for worship and visit our historical district. Contributions are welcomed as we prepare the church for its next 100 years of service.



Camping available at THE EYAK CORPORATION'S
Hartney Bay Recreational Area & Cabin Lake Campgrounds



PERMITS ARE
AVAILABLE AT THE
CORDOVA OFFICE

(907) 424-7161

901 LeFevre Street
Cordova, Alaska 99574
info@eyakcorp.com



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Largest menu in Cordova. Something for every appetite! Great for groups. Covered tents available for events.

LARGE PARKING LOT

Perfect for boat trailers and RVs

JOIN US

Cordova FNRA Fall Banquet: Friday, Aug. 31
Oyster Shuck & Suck: Iceworm Festival in February

907-424-3529

1.5 mile Copper River Highway
Cordova, AK

Important Numbers

Emergency

911

Police/Fire/EMS

907-424-6100

Alaska State Troopers

907-424-3184 Dispatch 424-6100

U.S. Coast Guard District Command

800-478-5555 or VHF Channel 16

Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game

907-424-3212

U.S.F.S. Cordova Ranger District

907-424-7661

Cordova Community Medical Center (CCMC)

907-424-8000

CCMC Pharmacy

907-424-8017

Ilanka Community Health Center

907-424-3622

Outpatient Physicians Clinic

907-424-8200

Respite Care

907-424-8241

Veterinarian

907-772-3191

Cordova Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center

907-424-7260

City Hall

907-424-6200

City Library

907-424-6667

City Museum

907-424-6665

Ilanka Cultural Center

907-424-7903

Parks & Recreation

907-424-7282

Swimming Pool

907-424-7200

Sheridan Glacier

Outdoor Shooting Range

907-424-7468



Emily Mesner photo

Baler

907-424-5600

Department of Motor Vehicles

907-424-6125

Harbor/Port/Harbormaster

907-424-6400 or VHF Channel 68

Alaska Marine Highway/Ferry Terminal

907-424-7333

Alaska Airlines

907-424-3278

CTAF

122.50 (Eyak Lake) 123.60 (13-mile)

Cordova Weather

907-424-7614

ASOS

134.80 or 907-424-5900 (recording)

Current Time & Temp

907-424-5526 (recording)

DOT

907-424-3202

Airport Shuttle & Car Rental

907-424-5356 or 907-424-5279

Taxi

907-253-5151

NEWS:

The Cordova Times

907-424-2236

Radio:

KLAM 1450 AM

KCDV 100.9 FM

or call 907-424-3796

Events

From Page 13

the community-wide potlatch. Keynote speakers include tribal members, sobriety mentors, state government officials and military veterans.

Nov. 30-Dec. 1: Holiday Kick-off & Bazaar

cordovachamber.com/events

Join the Cordova Chamber of Commerce in kicking off the holiday season with hot cocoa and cookies, and carols with the student choir. Santa will arrive on his sleigh and light the huge community Christmas tree, marking the start of the holiday season!

Jan. 26-Feb. 2, 2019: Cordova Iceworm Festival



Emily Mesner photo

www.icewormfestival.com

The Cordova Iceworm Festival was created in 1961 by a few great Cordovans who were itching to lift the spirits of those down with the winter blues. Little did they know that the festival would grow to attract people from all across the world! What was once a two or three-day party has transformed into a week-long gathering, put on by the Iceworm Board and the entire community of Cordova.

Events during the festival include the Iceworm Variety Show featuring local performers, the Miss Iceworm pageant coronation, survival suit races in the icy waters of Cordova's boat harbor, free seafood appetizers, games and events for children, a fireworks display, and, of course, the famous Iceworm Parade!

Located in the heart of Cordova

Within walking distance of downtown and stores



The Eyak Inn



HARBOR & MOUNTAIN VIEW ROOMS

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- Suite with kitchen
- Free WiFi and USB charging ports
- In-room fridge, microwave and coffee station

RESERVATIONS

EyakInn.com 907-424-2299

ILANKA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK

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The Chugach National Forest is a hiker's paradise. The district is nestled between the Copper River Delta and the southeastern end of Prince William Sound, and covers approximately 2.3 million acres. Enjoy a hike through this temperate rain forest.

Nearly all of the U.S. Forest Service's trails are maintained annually.

Before taking off for a day of hiking,

check with the Cordova Ranger District for current trail conditions.

Backpacking in the Chugach National Forest requires forethought. Pack carefully, planning for all eventualities, including the possibility of your trip being a little longer than anticipated. Always let someone else know where you're going and what time you plan to return. Don't assume that the cabin you are headed to is vacant – make reservations to rent a cabin ahead of time. Remember your camera, as vistas abound.

Trail maps are available at the Cordova Ranger District for the following Chugach National Forest and Copper River Delta Trails: Crater Lake Trail, Eyak River Trail, Haystack Trail, Heney Ridge Trail, McKinley Trail, Pipeline Lakes Trail, Power Creek Cabin-Power Creek Trail, Saddlebag Glacier

Trail, and Sheridan Mountain Trail.

Visit fs.usda.gov/chugach/ for more information.

TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS:

Crater Lake Trail: **2.4 miles**

This trail climbs a steep grade, passing through mature spruce-hemlock forests to a picturesque alpine bowl where Crater Lake sits. The first half of the trail climbs over rough, rocky sections, with numerous switchbacks and muddy areas, as well as wooden bridges. The second half of the trail continues to climb, but at a gentler grade, through hillsides that are abun-

dant with wildflowers during the summer months. A bench is provided midway up the trail for a great view of Eyak Lake.

At 1.2 miles, an intertie provides access to Eyak Ski Hill Trail. At the lake, the hiker has the option to access the Alice Smith Intertie or to climb Mt. Eyak. The entire loop from Crater Lake trailhead to Power Creek trailhead is 12 miles and takes approximately 10-12 hours.

Eyak River Trail: **3.3 miles**

This trail follows the west bank of the Eyak River for one quarter mile through mature Sitka spruce forest before opening into rolling muskeg meadows. At mile 1.5, the trail reunites with Eyak River for the remainder of the distance before reaching Mountain Slough.

At the end of the trail, the flora composition changes to typical delta habitat of dense alder and grasses. The trail is muddy and wet in places, especially after heavy rain.

Haystack Trail: **3.3 miles**

This short, mostly boardwalk trail, winds through spruce-hemlock forests to a knoll overlooking the Copper River Delta. From this spectacular vantage point, one may view the Gulf of Alaska, Kayak Island, and many species of wildlife, especially trumpeter swans and moose. The trail has several places to rest and relax.

Heney Ridge Trail: **3.7 miles**

The first section of trail follows the contour of Hartney Bay and offers excellent bird watching and wildlife spotting opportunities. Spawning salmon may also be viewed from mid-July to August. The next two miles moderately climb through spruce-hemlock forest and muskeg areas scattered with wildflowers. The last mile is a steep climb onto Heney Ridge following rock cairns above the tree line.

Once on the ridge you are treated to spectacular views of the Copper River Delta, Prince William Sound, and Kayak Island (on clear days). There are many unique wood structures to assist hikers with traversing the varied terrain. The trail is muddy and wet in places, especially after heavy rain.

McKinley Trail: **2.4 miles**

This well-maintained trail winds its way through mature spruce-hemlock forest and

ends at the north end of McKinley Lake. Several bridges allow hikers easy crossings over small streams. This trail also provides access to two public-use recreation cabins.

McKinley Trail Cabin is approximately 100-yards beyond the trailhead sign, and McKinley Lake Cabin, at the end of the trail. A rough, unmaintained trail continues for 1/4 mile past the lake cabin and accesses the remains of the Lucky Strike Mine. Interpretive signs guide visitors through the history and remains of the abandoned mine and mining camp. Midway, Pipeline Lakes Trail joins McKinley Trail for an optional loop.

Pipeline Trail: **1.8 miles**

Most of this trail is boardwalk. The first 3/4 mile passes through dense spruce-hemlock forest before opening into muskeg meadows that offer impressive views of the Chugach Mountains. Short spur trails provide fishing access to five small lakes with populations of cutthroat trout. At the junction with the McKinley Lake trail there is an option of returning to the highway or continuing north to McKinley Lake cabin.

Power Creek Trail: **4.2 miles**

This trail follows the river through Power Creek drainage, then leads the hiker up several switchbacks. Midway, at the beginning of Surprise Valley, the recently built Cordova Electric Cooperative hydropower dam can be seen.

The last half of the trail follows the creek up the Power Creek Basin, passing by several beaver ponds and hanging glaciers to the Power Creek Cabin. The cabin site has wonderful panoramic views of the valley and surrounding mountains. At mile 3.0, the Alice Smith Intertie accesses the Crater Lake Trail. The entire loop from Power Creek trailhead to Crater Lake trailhead is 12 miles.

Saddlebag Glacier Trail: **3.1 miles**

This well-drained, level trail winds its way through stands of cottonwood and spruce trees, and guides the hiker through a small, glaciated valley to the outlet of Saddlebag Lake. Split-log bridges at several small stream crossings aid the hiker during highwater periods. From the lake outlet, Saddlebag Glacier can be viewed at the far end of the lake. Mountain goats can often be spotted on the cliffs on either side. The lake usually has icebergs near the outlet.

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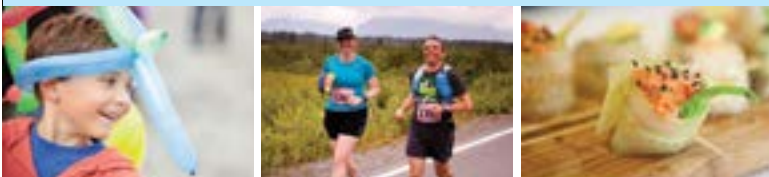
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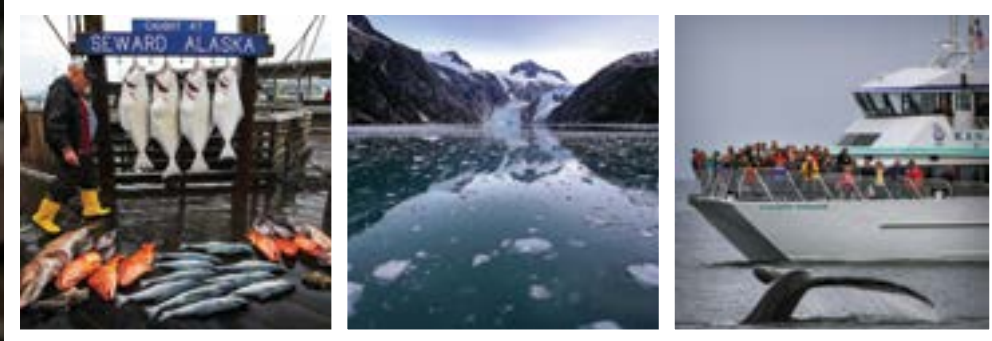


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PHOTOS:
Emily Mesner

Getting Here

The best way to reach Seward is by bus, personal vehicle, rental car, or via the Alaska Railroad. Small, private airplanes fly into Seward, but the runway is short and there is no terminal for commercial use.

Car

Driving time: 2-3 hours, depending upon traffic.

Driving the Seward Highway offers scenic highlights around every turn, with plenty of pull out places to stop, picnic and take photographs. Once you arrive in Seward, you're already set for transportation – around town, out to Exit Glacier, or on down to Homer. If you rent an RV, you'll be all set for sleeping, dining, and showering.

Directions: Take Alaska Highway 1 from Anchorage to Tern Lake, then Alaska Highway 9 from Tern Lake to Seward.

Train

Train journey: Approximately 4 hours, 20 minutes.

Riding aboard the historic Alaska Railroad is an adventure in itself. The trip between Anchorage and Seward on the Coastal Classic is arguably its most scenic section, and you can take the train one-way. The route parallels the Seward Highway along Turnagain Arm, then heading up into the mountains, away from the road, for a view of glaciers and alpine meadows you won't see by car!

You'll pass through tunnels and by railroad houses which are home to rail workers.

Train tickets are \$79 one-way, \$125 round trip. The rail cars are historic, and the ride a relaxing one. Daily departures from Anchorage are at 6:45 am. Visit <https://alaskatrains.com/book/> to book your Alaska Railroad adventure.

Bus

Travel time on-board: 3 hours, depending upon traffic.

Traveling by bus will allow you time to check out the scenery instead of keeping your eyes on the road. It is less expensive than the train (\$55-65 one-way, \$90 round trip), a bit faster (three hours), and offers a few different departure times from Anchorage. Buses also let you hop on and hop off anywhere along the route, with a reservation.

Departure times from Anchorage: 7 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 3 p.m.

Several companies make the bus trip from Anchorage to Seward. For more information contact the Seward Chamber of Commerce at 907-224-8051 or visit <http://www.seward.com> or www.alaska.org, for more information.

Seward transportation information courtesy of Alaska.org. www.alaska.org/advice/anchorage-to-seward.



Seward's Historic Past

The city of Seward was named for President Lincoln's Secretary of State, William Henry Seward, the man who negotiated the Purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867.

The Seward area enjoys a history dating back to the late 18th century, when in 1792 the Russian explorer Alexander Baranof sailed into and named Resurrection Bay. Russian settlements first established the region's ship-building tradition, with the construction of the "Phoenix." The city was officially founded in 1903 on a long-abandoned Native village site, but the town had already been a Gold Rush encampment for at least a decade. The Iditarod National Historical Trail begins in Seward, tracing the mail route that led to the rich strikes at Hope and Sunrise, and later to the bonanza at Iditarod, a place name commemorated in today's Iditarod Sled Dog Race, which follows the trail on to Nome.

In 1903, a party of railroad men arrived and laid out the present city in a traditional grid of city blocks and wide streets that would be fa-

miliar to anyone from similar small railroad towns across America. In the boasting spirit of frontier towns, one of Seward's streets was named Millionaires Row for the gold barons, another was called Home Brew Alley for obvious reasons. The new railroad led to the development of interior Alaska, and Seward's role as a sea-land transportation hub was sealed.

Frequently a host to military soldiers throughout the century, Seward played a vital role in World War II. The Port of Seward was the northern-most ice-free port and served as the southern terminus of the Alaska Railroad, a critical supply line for the war effort. Alaska State Parks Caines Head State Recreation Area, accessible by a foot trail or by sea, is the site of abandoned Fort McGilvray that housed 500 soldiers from 1941-1943, and served as the strategic command center for protection of the Port. The military still uses Fort Raymond as a military rest and recuperation facility for both the Army and Air Force.

Fast Facts

Population: 2,693

Established: 1903

Distance from Anchorage:
126 highway miles south of Anchorage

Area: 15 square miles of land and 7 square miles of water

Economy:
Tourism, commercial fishing and marine support industry

Origin:
The city of Seward was named for President Lincoln's Secretary of State, William Henry Seward, who negotiated the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867.

Town slogan:
Alaska starts here

Size of graduating class: 45

Fun fact:
The railroad, incorporated in 1912, led to the development of interior Alaska, and Seward's role as a sea-land transportation hub was assured.

Events

January: Polar Bear Jump

seward.com/welcome-to-seward-alaska/polar-bear-jump-january/

Annual events in Seward begin with the Polar Bear Jump in January, for which individuals dressed in costumes jump into Resurrection Bay to raise money for the Alaska Division of the American Cancer Society.

May 18-20: Seward Harbor Opening Weekend/ Mermaid Festival

seward.com/welcome-to-seward-alaska/harbor-opening-weekend-may
Although the Seward Boat Harbor operates year-round, the 3rd weekend in May is the official kick off of the season! Seward Harbor Opening Weekend (SHOW) is an annual tradition, with businesses rolling out the red carpet in mid- to

late-May, swabbing decks and checking lines as they celebrate the arrival of the outdoor season. With festivities beginning May 18, and continuing until the 20th, be sure to schedule Seward into your travels that weekend. Many of their old traditions such as the military appreciation picnic, Blessing of the Fleet, Boat Parade, and Coast Guard inspections will be happening over the weekend. Bring your boat with you and get that Coast Guard safety inspection done! While walking the docks, keep an eye out for otter and sea lions hoping for their own fresh catch. Because of the huge success of the Seward Mermaid Festival last year it is back this year and is bigger and better than ever! With many more vendors, dancing, music, and events occurring all over town, this is sure to become another tradition for the coastal community!

April 1: Whale Migration

seward.com/welcome-to-seward-alaska/whale-migration-april/

The migration of California gray whales, on their 5,000-mile journey from Mexico's Baja coast to feeding grounds in the Bering and Chukchi seas, can be seen here from late March through early May, with best viewing aboard sightseeing cruises.

June 1-30: Halibut Tournament

seward.com/welcome-to-seward-alaska/halibut-tournament-june/

The Halibut Tournament highlights this fishery, attracting early season visitors and anglers from throughout Alaska. Because the tournament takes place early in the season, anglers will find it is easier to reserve a seat on one of the many charter vessels. Ramp space and trailer parking is plentiful for those anglers wanting to launch their own boats. Daily tickets are \$10. Cash prizes are awarded at the end of the tournament for the heaviest fish and the second and third place entries, plus complimentary tourney caps to daily winners.

July 3-4: 4th of July Fun

seward.com/welcome-to-seward-alaska/fourth-of-july-july

For the Fourth of July, the population of Seward swells from around 2,500 to a reported 30,000. Main Street is blocked off to motor traffic and the streets fill with people. Most come to run in or watch the Mt. Marathon Race.

July 4: Mt. Marathon Race

July 4

mmr.seward.com

According to folklore, the tradition of the Mount Marathon Race began when two sourdoughs argued about the possibility of climbing and descending the mountain in less than an hour. "Impossible," one said. To settle the argument, and the resulting wager, a race was held, with the loser to furnish drinks for the crowd. At the same time, enterprising merchants put up a suit of clothes and other attractions for the winner and proposed the race take place on a holiday – why not the 4th of July? The optimistic sourdough lost his bet. The winning racer took one hour and two minutes.

The Mount Marathon Race® began as an organized run in 1915 and has since become a regular part of the Independence Day celebration in Seward.

Aug. 11-19: Seward's Silver Salmon Derby

seward.com/welcome-to-seward-alaska/seward-silver-salmon-derby-august

The Seward Silver Salmon Derby® is one of the oldest and largest fishing derbies in the state. This year is the Derby's 63rd year and is equally popular with locals, other Alaska residents, and visiting anglers from around the nation and world. Anglers vie for the largest coho (silver) salmon and try to catch tagged fish worth prizes. Fish turned in daily by competitors are sold to raise funds for fish enhancement efforts and fisheries scholarships for graduating high school students.

Oct. 5-7: Music & Arts Festival

<http://www.seward.com/welcome-to-seward-alaska/music-arts-festival-sept-23-25/>

The Seward Music and Arts Festival has announced another musical soiree in the fall of 2018. There will be live music and dance performances, with local-Alaskan artisan craft and food vendors featured.

Nov. 30-Dec. 3: Holiday Weekend

seward.com/welcome-to-seward-alaska/holiday-weekend-december

Seward's Old-Fashioned Christmas holiday festival invites visits to bazaars and craft shows, and a visit to the Alaska SeaLife Center. Then, stay the night to watch the tree lighting ceremony.

Explore

If wildlife and wilderness top your list of things to see in Alaska, the Seward area is a great place to be visiting. Check options for glacier cruises through Kenai Fjords National Park, including trips narrated by National Park rangers. Nobody can predict for sure who will show up, but the wildlife viewing possibilities include humpback whales, killer whales, sea lions basking on the rocks on shore, bears fishing for salmon or walking on shore, mountain goats on the cliffs, and sea birds and eagles soaring overhead.

Cruise Kenai Fjords National Park

Book a half-day or full day cruise in advance of arrival in Seward if possible, because yes, these tours do fill up quickly. Your chances of seeing wildlife with any of the cruise companies are fairly equal, since vessel captains, who are required by law to keep specific distances from marine wildlife, communicate their sightings to each other. Ask if your vessel will also cruise by tidewater glaciers for photo opportunities while watching the glaciers shed massive amounts of ice into the sea. Ask also before booking about the possibilities of seeing whales, bears, seabirds and other wildlife.

Exit Glacier offers easy and challenging hikes

Exit Glacier, the only area of Kenai Fjords National Park accessible by road, is a nice place for an easy hike on your own, or better yet, as part of a ranger led interpretive walk. More seasoned hikers will like the Harding Icefield Trail, which climbs 3,500 feet in 4.2 miles and is 8.4 miles round trip from the visitor center. While challenging, this hike offers stunning view of the park. No special equipment is necessary, but do wear sturdy foot gear and bring extra layers of clothing, as temperatures may be significantly cooler at the icefield.

Get an eagle eye view of the Harding Icefield

Book a flight with an air taxi company for a bird's eye view of the 700-square-mile Harding Icefield. Veteran air taxi and helicopter pilots will show you the massive Harding Icefield, hundreds of icebergs, and area wildlife, from bears and moose to mountain goats and eagles.



All kinds of birds abound

Summer in Seward is a fabulous place for birders, whom you will find everywhere from sheer cliffs to the fjords. Look for horned and tufted puffins nesting on the cliffs with blacklegged kittiwakes, common and thick-billed murrelets. These, along with other seabirds, may also be observed diving and paddling about in the fjords. Songbirds at Exit Glacier from May through late June may include Swainson's, Varied and Gray-cheeked thrushes, warblers and other songbirds. Learn more about the area's winged wildlife at the Kenai Fjords Visitor center.

Learn about marine ecosystems at the Alaska SeaLife Center

The Alaska SeaLife Center, in downtown Seward, offers tours conducted by interpretive and animal care staff, while providing opportunities for animal interaction and observation. For more information, visit www.alaskasealife.org/tours_encounters.

Space is limited and reservations are recommended. Celebrate World Oceans Day on June 8 with the Center, or join in on the 20th annual Wildlife Rescue Run & Walk on July 29. Starting and finishing at the Alaska SeaLife Center, all proceeds from this 5K will benefit the rescue, rehabilitation and release of Alaska's marine animals.

Discover Seward's historic past on a walking tour

Take a walking tour of town, from the Port of Seward, past fish processing plants and historic buildings, churches, monuments and trails, and learn all about this historic town.

Stop by the Seward Chamber of Commerce for a detailed map.

Visit with artisans at their galleries and workshops

Seward is home to many talented artists, who create paintings, drawings, jewelry, textiles, ceramics, photographs, sculptures of metal, glass and wood, mixed media and



Emily Mesner photo

more. Visit them in their art galleries and workshops.

Seward Community Library & Museum

The Seward Community Library and Museum combines the services of a public library, museum, archives and community center, offering much community enrichment and preserves the heritage of Seward. The 24-minute film *Iditarod National Historic Trail: A History*, is shown daily at 2 pm through Sept. 17. Copies of the 1964 earthquake movie "Waves Over Seward" are available for purchase. The museum is a partnership of the city and the Resurrection Bay Historical Society, whose collection of objects and photographs is exhibited here.

Kayaking and Paddle boarding

Half day, full day and multi-day kayaking adventures are available from several outfitters.

These are family friendly trips, with all

gear supplied and no experience needed. Find yourself paddling past sea otters dining on urchins and mollusks, whales and puffins, past protected coves with rugged cliffs in Kenai Fjords National Park and Resurrection Bay.

Ride with the huskies

Seward is the home of some avid dog mushers, including Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race champion Mitch Seavey and other Iditarod mushers. Ride on a cart behind a team of racing sled dogs on snow free summer trails or fly in a helicopter to go dog sledding on a glacier. A great experience for all ages. Learn what it takes to race 1,000 miles to Nome along the Iditarod Trail and take photos of these wonderful dogs, who love to run. Book early.

Hike, bike and climb the ice

Opportunities abound for hikers, bikers and ice climbers at all skill levels to get outside and enjoy miles of trails and wilderness and the coastal shoreline. Remem-

ber to dress in layers, to stay comfortable in changing temperatures, and to wear sturdy footgear.

Horseback Riding - Get off the beaten path.

Trail riding in Seward could prove to be the wilderness highlight of your trip to Alaska.

Guides will lead you through areas of Seward accessible only by horseback, including parts of the old town destroyed by the 1964 earthquake, and tell you stories about the people who lived through it. Or ride along the shores of Resurrection Bay, viewing bald eagles close up.

Sail on beautiful Resurrection Bay

Learn to sail on Resurrection Bay, or if an experienced sailor, venture out through Kenai Fjords National Park, where you'll see whales, sea lions, glaciers, snow-capped mountains, puffins and dolphins as you enjoy the day. Options vary from lessons to independent trips, or enjoy a sailing vacation with professionals who will provide your party with comfortable quarters and gourmet meals as you go along for the ride.

Soar like eagles while ziplining

Sail above and through a gorgeous stand of North Pacific temperate rainforest high above a glacial valley floor just six miles north of Seward. Enjoy several zip lines, aerial walkways and rappelling through the varying shades of green found in the lush rainforest and a gorgeous stand of Sitka spruce.

Tour the area via a zipline cruise, with panoramic view of Mount Marathon, snow-capped peaks and eagles nesting. This is a beautiful way to view the rainforest without impacting the environment, an adventure for the whole family.

**NAUTI
OTTER**
**INN, HOSTEL
CABINS &
YURTS**
Seward, Alaska
OPEN MAY 20 - SEPT 6
907-491-2255
NAUTIOTTERINN.COM

Sleep

■ CAMPGROUNDS & RV PARKS

JJK Campsites

Mile 1.5 Nash Road
907-362-3881
May – September
<http://cmdev.seward.com/list/member/jjk-campsites-953.htm>

Miller's Landing

13880 Beach Drive
866-541-5739/907-331-3113
Open year-round
millerslandingak.com

Seward Waterfront Park

100-1100 Ballaine Boulevard
907-224-4055
Open year-round
cityofseward.us/index.aspx?nid=864

Silver Derby Campground & RV Park

13750 Lowell Point Road
907-224-4711
May – September
thesilverderbycampground.com

Stoney Creek RV Park

13760 Leslie Place
877-437-6366/907-224-6465
Memorial Day – Labor Day
stoneycreekrvpark.com

■ HOTELS, MOTELS & INNS

Breeze Inn Motel

303 N Harbor Street
888-224-5237/907-224-5237
Open year-round
breezeinn.com

Harbor 360 Hotel

1412 4th Avenue
888-514-8687/907-865-6224
Open year-round
harbor360hotel.com

Hotel Seward

221 5th Avenue
800-440-2444/907-224-8001
Open year-round
hotelsewardalaska.com

Marina Motel

1603 Seward Highway
907-224-5518
March – October
sewardmotel.com
[marinamotel/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/marinamotel/)

Murphy's Alaskan Inn

911 4th Avenue
907-224-8090
Mid-May – Mid-September
murphymotel.com

Sea Treasures Inn

236 6th Avenue
907-224-7667
March - October
innalaska.com

Seward Resort

2305 Dimond Boulevard
800-770-1858/907-224-5559
Open year-round
sewardresort.com

Stoney Creek Inn

33422 Stoney Creek Avenue
907-224-3940
Open year-round
<http://stoneycreekinn.net/>

The Tides inn

235 3rd Avenue
907-224-8975
Open year-round

Van Gilder Hotel

308 Adams Street
907-224-3079
May 24 – September 3
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Van_Gilder_Hotel

■ BED & BREAKFASTS

Steller Bed and Breakfast

11952 Old Exit Glacier Road
907-224-7294
Mid-May – Mid-September
stellerbandb.com

Alaska Glacier Creek Lodging

33502 Vinewood Lane
907-362-1584
Open year-round
alaskaglaciercreek.com

Soo's B&B

810 2nd Avenue
907-224-3207
Open year-round
soosbednbkfst@gmail.com

Sourdough Sunrise B&B

11837 Old Exit Glacier Road
907-362-7408
Open year-round
sourdoughsunrise.com

■ VACATION PROPERTIES

A Swan Nest Inn, Northern Nights, Front Row B&B, Front Row Town House

504 Adams Street (actual B&B locations vary)
907-224-3080
Open year-round
sewardvacationproperties.com

The Farm Bed & Breakfast Inn

11828 Salmon Creek Road
907-224-5691
Open year-round
thefarmbedandbreakfast.com

■ CABINS & LODGES

Angels Rest on Resurrection Bay

13730 Beach Drive, Lowell Point
907-224-7378
Open year-round
angelsrest.com

Coastal Heritage Accommodation

319 3rd Avenue
907-362-0055
Open year-round
coastalheritageproperties@gmail.com

Exit Glacier Lodge

31832 Herman Leirer Road
907-224-6040
Mid-May – Mid-September
sewardalaskalodging.com

Grande Alaska Lodge

212 Bear Drive
888-225-3625/907-422-0610
Mid-May – Mid-September
fishinglodgeak.com

Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge

Pedersen Lagoon Aialik Bay (PO Box 389
Girdwood, AK 99587)
800-334-8730/907-783-2928
June – Early-September
kenaifjordsglacierlodge.com

Kenai Fjords Wilderness Lodge Fox Island in Resurrection Bay

800-808-8068/907-777-2854
May 27 – September 3
alaskacollection.com/lodging/ke-
nai-fjords-wilderness-lodge

Lowell Point Vacation Rentals Alaska Paddle Inn & Spruce House

13745 Beach Drive/13595 beach drive
907-362-2321
March – September
alaskapaddleinn.com

Nauti Otter Inn Cabins & Hostel

13609 Seward Highway
907-491-2255
May 20 – September 6
nautiotterinn.com

Nauti Otter Yurt Village

33395 Winterset Circle
907-491-2255
May 20 – September 6
nautiotterinn.com

Seward Vacation Properties S.F.R Townhouse

223 Ballaine Boulevard
907-224-3080
Open year-round
sewardvacationproperties.com

Seward Windsong Lodge

31772 Herman Leirer
800-808-8068/907-777-2809
May – September
alaskacollection.com

Trailhead Lodging

335 3rd Avenue
907-224-5300
Open year-round
trailheadlodging.com

Hike

Mount Marathon Trail: 3 miles, round trip

The trail starts at the corner of 1st Avenue and Monroe Street and will take you up to the race point of Mount Marathon at 3,022 feet. Once past the tree line, enjoy stunning views of Resurrection Bay and the city. This trail will likely take you most of the day.

Exit Glacier Trails:

A network of short trails leads to different views of Exit Glacier, beginning at the Exit Glacier Nature Center and the parking lot. To hike all the trails, start by turning left at the nature center and following the accessible trail through the cottonwood forest to the Glacier View, a panoramic vista of Exit Glacier spilling down from the Harding Icefield. This one-mile accessible trail loops back to the parking area, or you can turn left at the trail-side kiosk and continue .6 miles on to overlooks via the Edge of the Glacier trail.

(Information courtesy of Kenai Fjords National Park. For trail conditions and more information, visit <https://www.nps.gov/kefj/planyourvisit/exit-glacier-area.htm>)

Edge of the Glacier Trail:

This well-maintained trail provides views of Exit Glacier. Follow this moderately strenuous trail to an overlook and view the glacier in its own glacially carved valley.

(Information courtesy of Kenai Fjords National Park. For trail conditions and more information, visit <https://www.nps.gov/kefj/planyourvisit/exit-glacier-area.htm>)

Harding Icefield Trail: 8.2 miles, round trip

Starting on the valley floor, the trail winds through cottonwood and alder forests, passes through heather filled meadows and ultimately climbs well above tree line to a breath-taking view of the Icefield. The top of the trail is a window to past ice ages - a horizon of ice and snow that stretches as far as the eye can see, broken only by an occasional nunatak, or lonely peak. The trail



Emily Mesner photo

is strenuous. Hikers gain approximately 1,000 feet of elevation with every mile. Allow at least 6-8 hours for the hike. Although the view from the top is well worth the effort, you need not hike all the way to the top to experience the wonders of this trail. A short hike up the trail affords impressive views of the valley floor and Exit Glacier's terminus.

(Information courtesy of Kenai Fjords National Park. For trail conditions and more information, visit <https://www.nps.gov/kefj/planyourvisit/exit-glacier-area.htm>)

Lost Lake Trail: 7.3 miles, one-way

The Lost Lake Trail, or if you enter from the north end, Primrose Trail, begins in a rainforest, moving to stunning views of lakes in high meadows, snow-capped mountains and high alpine terrain. Bring plenty of water, food and a first aid kit as the trail is seven miles, one-way.

Tonsina Point Trail: 3 miles

This trail will take you to Tonsina Point via an old lodging trail near Miller's Landing. The trail, which features berries and sprouting chum salmon, will give you access to the beach overlooking Resurrection Bay.

Alpine Trail: 3.8 miles

This trail, located in Caines Head State Recreation area, is just south of Seward and provides scenic views of surrounding mountains and is a perfect day trip for the whole family.

Mt. Alice Trail: 3 miles, round trip

This challenging hike, located across Resurrection Bay and opposite Seward, winds through spruce and hemlock forests, giving you panoramic views of the bay and city. The turnout for Mt. Alice is located at around mile 3 of Nash Road.

Important Numbers

Emergency
911

Police
907-224-3338

Fire/EMS
907-224-3445

Alaska State Troopers
907-224-3346

Wildlife Trooper Office
907-224-3935

U.S. Coast Guard District Command
800-478-5555 VHF Channel 16

Alaska Dept. Fish & Game
(Homer Office)
907-235-8191

U.S.F.S. Seward Ranger District
907-288-3178

Providence Seward Medical Center
907-224-5205

Seward Community Health Center
907-224-2273

Veterinarian
907-224-5500

Seward Chamber of Commerce
907-224-8051

City Hall
907-224-4050

Library & Museum
907-224-4082

Parks & Campgrounds
907-224-4055

Sports & Recreation
907-224-4054

Swimming Pool
907-224-3351

Waste Collection/Alaska Waste
1-800-478-DUMP (3867)

DMV
907-224-4037

Parking Management
907-224-7878

Seward Boat Harbor/Harbormaster
907-224-3138 VHF Channel 17

Alaska Railroad
265-2494

Passenger Depot
907-224-2268

Seward Cruise Ship Terminal
907-265-2209

Kenai Flight Service Station
1-866-864-1737 or 907-283-7211
CTAF 122.9

RCO (Kenai Radio) 122.6
ASOS 135.20 or call 907-224-2440
(recording)

DOT
907-262-2199

TAXIS:

Mike's
907-224-2244

Resurrection
907-224-5678

PJ's
907-224-5555

Alaska Shuttle Service
907-947-3349

Seward City Tours
907-231-5773

Exit Glacier Shuttle
907-224-5569

VEHICLE RENTALS:

Hertz of Seward
907-224-4378

ABC Motorhome Rentals
907-279-2000

BIKE RENTALS:

Adventure 60 North
907-224-2600

Seward Bike Shop
907-224-2448

NEWS:

Seward City News
907-362-3070

Seward Journal
907-224-2525

Seward Phoenix Log
940-329-1540

RADIO:

KIBH-FM 91.7
or call 907-224-3997

KSEW 950AM 106.1FM
or call 907-491-1319

Eat

Alaska Seafood Grill

1321 4th Avenue
907-422-0458
Seafood, salads, wraps, sandwiches, beer & wine
Dine-in, takeout, outdoor seating
Open year-round, 7 days a week
alaskaseafoodgrill.com

Apollo Restaurant

229 4th Avenue
907-224-3092
Pizza, seafood, pasta, steaks, cook-your-catch
Dine-in, takeout
Open year-round, 7 days a week
apollorestantak.com

Breeze Inn Motel Restaurant

303 N Harbor Street
888-224-5237/907-224-5237
Americana, seafood, breakfast, lunch, dinner, full bar
Dine-in, takeout
Open year round, 7 days a week
breezeinn.com

Chattermark

220 4th Avenue
907-224-4333
Seafood, steaks, oyster bar, salads, burgers, beer & wine
Dine-in, takeout
May – September, 7 days a week
chattermark.biz

Chinooks Restaurant

1404 4th Avenue
907-224-2207
Seafood, specialty drinks, full bar
Dine-in, takeout, outdoor seating
March – December, 7 days a week
<https://www.facebook.com/chinooksseward/>

Seasalt Alaskan Grill & Bar

133 4th Avenue
907-224-2221
Seafood buffet, steaks, pasta, pizza, burgers, full bar
Dine-in, takeout, pizza delivery, outdoor seating
May – October, 7 days a week

Hamajang Foods. Aloha VIA Alaska

4th and Washington
907-422-7320
Food truck, Asian fusion, tacos, late night dining
Takeout, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
May – September
[facebook.com/Hamajangfood](https://www.facebook.com/Hamajangfood)

Harbor Street Creamery

307 South Harbor Street
907-224-8818
Ice cream, soft serve, sundaes, banana splits, milkshakes, malts, espresso
Dine-in, takeout, outdoor seating
May – September
<https://www.facebook.com/Harbor-Street-Creamery-512488825501602/>

Klondike Pizza

308 N Harbor Street
907-224-4433
Build your own personal pizza, beer and wine
Dine-in, takeout, delivery
May – September, 7 days a week

Le Barn Appetit Inn & Creperie

11786 Old Exit Glacier Road
907-224-8706
Savory & dessert crepes, dinner crepes, waffles, desserts, espresso
Dine-in, takeout, outdoor seating
Mid-April – October, closed Monday
lebarnappetit.com

Lighthouse Cafe and Bakery

1215 4th Avenue
907-224-6091
Bakery, donuts & pastries, sandwiches, burgers, espresso
Dine-in, takeout, outdoor seating
April – October, 7 days a week during peak season
[facebook.com/lighthousecafeandbakery](https://www.facebook.com/lighthousecafeandbakery)

Ms. Gene's Place

221 5th Avenue
907-224-6447
Breakfast, seafood, steaks, chicken, chowders, chops, full bar
Dine in, takeout, outdoor seating
May – September, 7 days a week. Breakfast year-round
hotelsewardalaska.com/seward-dining

Peking Chinese Restaurant

338 4th Avenue
907-224-5444
Chinese, beer & wine
Dine-in, takeout
Open year-round, 7 days a week

Pit Bar & Liquor Store

11857 Seward Highway
907-224-3006
BBQ, pulled pork, pizza, full bar & liquor store
Dine-in, takeout, outdoor seating
Open year-round, 7 days a week
pitbarandliquorstore.com

Railway Cantina

1401 4th Avenue
907-224-TACO (8226)
Burritos, nachos, quesadillas and beer
Dine-in, takeout, delivery
May – September, 7 days a week
railwaycantina.com

Ray's Waterfront Restaurant

1316 4th Avenue
907-224-5606
Seafood, steak, chicken, soups, salads, burgers, full bar
Dine-in, takeout
Mid-April – Sept, open 7 day a week
rayswaterfrontak.com

Red's Burgers

302 Van Buren Street
Burgers, hotdogs, baskets, wild meats, fish, chicken, shakes, ice cream
Dine-in, takeout, outdoor seating
May – September, closed Wednesdays
[facebook.com/redsburgers](https://www.facebook.com/redsburgers)

Resurrect Art Coffee House

320 3rd Avenue
907-224-7161
Espresso, bagels, pastries
Dine-in, takeout, outdoor seating
Open year-round, 7 days a week
resurrectart.com

Resurrection Roadhouse Restaurant

31772 Herman Leirer Rd
907-224-7116
Breakfast, seafood, steaks, burgers, sandwiches, soup, salad, full bar
May – September
sewardwindsonglodge.com

Seward Brewing Company

139 4th Avenue
907-422-0337
Local craft beers, seafood, wings, tacos, salads, burgers, wood fired pizza
Dine-in, takeout
May – Mid-September, 7 days a week
sewardbrewery.com

Subway Seward

307 South Harbor Street
907-224-7165
Sandwiches, wraps, salad, soup
Dine-in, takeout, catering
Open year-round, 7 days a week
subway.com

The Cookery & Oyster Bar

209 5th Avenue
907-422-7459
Seafood, tapas bar, beer & wine
Dine-in, outdoor seating, takeout
Open year-round
[facebook.com/cookeryseward](https://www.facebook.com/cookeryseward)

Thorn's Showcase Lounge

208 4th Avenue
907-224-3700
American, lounge, seafood, full bar
Dine-in
Open year-round, 7 days a week
[facebook.com/thornsshowcaselounge](https://www.facebook.com/thornsshowcaselounge)

Woody's Thai Kitchen

800 4th Avenue
907-422-0338
Thai, beer & wine
Dine-in, takeout
Open year-round, closed Monday (in summer), closed Sunday and Monday (in winter)
woodysthaikitchenseward.com

Zudy's Café


501 Railway Avenue
907-224-4710
Internet café, brunch, sandwiches, desserts, beer & wine
Dine-in, takeout, outdoor seating
Open year-round
zudyscafe.com

VALDEZ



Valdez

*Opportunities
in every season*



PHOTOS:
Background and left: David Little
Ferry: courtesy AMHS
Birds: Milo Burcham

Valdez, surrounded by scenic Prince William Sound on one side and heavily glaciated Chugach Mountains on the other side, lies at the head of a deep fjord. This northernmost year-round ice-free port in North America was founded just prior to the turn of the 20th century as a gateway to the “All-American Route,” to interior gold and copper fields. Incorporated since 1901, the community’s first 100 years have been marked by significant events, the most notable of which are the 1964 Alaska Earthquake, being chosen as the terminus of the Trans Alaska Pipeline, and the 1989 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. Summer activities include hiking to cascading waterfalls, kayaking, cruising the fjords of Prince William Sound, and competing in Alaska’s oldest fishing derby, with over \$80,000 in cash and prizes awarded annually. Valdez is also a renowned winter playground for snowboarding, skiing, snow machining, snowshoeing, and ice climbing. The area attracts a number of both commercial and sport fishing harvesters, visitors attracted by marine life, glaciers, deep sea fishing and heli-skiing. Valdez is connected to the Alaska Interior via the Richardson Highway and is a port of call for the Alaska Marine Highway ferries.



The History of Valdez, Alaska

In 1790, Don Salvador Fidalgo named the Port of Valdez after the celebrated Spanish naval officer Antonio Valdes y Basan.

A town developed in 1898 as a debarkation point for men seeking a route to the Eagle Mining District and the Klondike goldfields, Valdez soon became the supply center of its own gold mining region and incorporated as a city in 1901.

The original town site of Valdez was destroyed on Good Friday 1964 by the strongest recorded earthquake ever to strike the North American continent, which registered at 9.2 on the Richter scale.

Tsunamis generated by the earthquake also ravaged the town. Five percent of the population of Valdez was killed in this disaster. The town site was condemned as unsafe and the city was relocated four miles to the west.

During the 1970s, the Trans Alaska Pipeline System was constructed to transport North Slope crude oil. This pipeline stretches 800 miles from Prudhoe Bay on the North Slope to Valdez in Prince William Sound.

As the southern terminus of the Trans Alaska Pipeline, Valdez became the largest crude oil port in North America. The oil is stored in Valdez and from there it is transported via supertankers to locations in the continental United States.

On Good Friday 1989, the supertanker Exxon Valdez ran aground on Bligh Reef in Prince William Sound. The resulting oil spill resulted in one of the greatest man-made environmental disasters ever in North America. Although the oil fouled hundreds of miles of Prince William Sound shoreline, the

spill did not contaminate the shores of the Port of Valdez. Valdez became the operational center for the massive cleanup of the oil spill.

Because of the 1989 spill, oil spill response preparedness and oversight became a regional industry and significant economic sector of Valdez. The Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council (RCAC) was established as a watchdog organization to oversee safety and spill response issues for oil transportation in Prince William Sound.

The RCAC's membership includes many communities, Native Alaskans, and interested organizations around Prince William Sound. Ship Escort and Response Vessel Service (SERVES), was established with a fleet of modern vessels, home ported in Valdez, to escort oil tankers through Prince William Sound.

To immediately respond to oil spills, these vessels are equipped with state-of-the-art oil spill response equipment and technology, and are supported by a sophisticated ready response industry.



Explore

Valdez has outdoor activities to suit many tastes, lifestyles and budgets. Depending on the time of year, there are activities including hiking, walking, and sightseeing to skiing, snowboarding and snow machining in winter, plus photo opportunities year round.

Visit the Valdez Visitors Center

Find half day, full day and extended tours of Prince William Sound to fit your stay in summer months.

Orca and humpback whales, sea otter, sea lions, birds, porpoise, and many other animals make their homes in Prince William Sound. Excursion vessels depart from the Valdez Small Boat Harbor for sightseeing and wildlife viewing.

Kayaking is another way to explore the Sound up close. Fly-outs and drop-offs are possible to remote locations in the Sound and Chugach Mountains, via helicopter or small planes. Tours ac-



David Little photo

commodate all ages and skill levels.

Wintertime brings tons of snow and creates a perfect playground for winter sport enthusiasts who are avid skiers, snowboarders, are into heli-adventure sports, snowshoeing, ice climbing, riding snow machines and more.

<http://www.valdezalaska.org>

Sightseeing highlights

Check out Worthington Glacier, Columbia Glacier, Keystone Canyon, Solomon Gulch Hatchery, the Valdez Museum and Historical Archive, and the Maxine and Jesse Whitney Museum.

Take a hike, wildlife and photography tours, go camping, river rafting, canoeing, ride on a boat charter, or see Valdez via helicopter.

Valdez is well-known for salmon and halibut sport fishing, and fishing derbies.

https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5194910.pdf

The Solomon Gulch Hatchery

The Valdez Fisheries Development Association built the Solomon Gulch Hatchery in 1981, and released its first pink salmon fry in 1982. It has operated consistently since then. The water for the hatchery is provided by the Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Plant, owned by the Copper Valley Electric Association through a cooperative agreement.

SGH has a permitted green egg capacity to incubate 230 million pink salmon and 2 million Coho salmon each year. The state of Alaska strictly controls these egg capacities. With this capacity, VFDA achieves annual releases of approximately 218 million pink salmon fry, and 1.75 million Coho salmon smolt.

Egg take or spawning happens in late summer. Hatchery staff may spawn as many as 16,000 adult brood stock each day. These fish return to the hatchery spawning building by entering the facility using a fish ladder, which carry the fish from salt water to raceways on shore.

Over the winter, the hatchery staff tends to the eggs as they hatch into alevin and settle into simulated gravel to subsist from their yolk sacs. In early spring, the fry emerge and are ready to go to sea. VFDA pumps the fry to net pens offshore where they are fed using commercial salmon feeds until they reach a target weight of at least 0.5 grams. From there, smolt are released to complete their life cycle in the open sea. This process is known as ocean ranching. The adults, which average about 3.5 pounds each, return the following summer, and the process starts all over.

Average adult returns to the hatchery are approximately 13 million adult pink, and 160,000 Coho salmon. After harvesting a small percentage of the return for cost recovery and brood stock, the remainder is harvested primarily by the commercial purse seine fishermen.

The hatchery is easily accessible and is open daily throughout the summer, offering unguided walking tours.

<https://www.valdezfisheries.org/the-hatchery>

Trans Alaska Pipeline Terminal

Valdez is home to the terminus of the Trans Alaska Pipeline and Terminal.

The terminal is located just across the inlet from town, and while visitors were once welcome, strict security protocols have closed the terminal to the public since September 2011.

<http://alyeska-pipeline.com/TAPS/PipelineFacts>

Getting Here

Drive:

Driving time: About 5.5 hours, depending upon traffic

Valdez is 299 highway miles from Anchorage. The drive offers scenic turn outs featuring views of Matanuska Glacier, spruce trees and eventually the Wrangell Range, as well as excellent Dall Sheep viewing.

Directions: Leaving Anchorage by car, take Alaska Highway 1 North until you reach Glennallen. At Glennallen, follow Alaska Highway 4 North to Valdez.

Fly:

Valdez is 115 air miles from Anchorage. The Valdez airport, which was renamed Valdez Pioneer Field in May 2000, in honor of Alaska's pioneer aviators, is served by one commuter airline.

Call Ravn Alaska Air for reservations at (907) 835-2636 or 1-800-866-8394, or visit www.flyravn.com for flight schedules and current fares.

Ferry:

The Alaska Marine Highway System provides ferry service from Valdez to neighboring Prince William Sound communities six days per week in the summer, and three to four days per week in the winter. By ferry, Valdez is two hours and forty-five minutes from Tatitlek and five hours and forty-five minutes from Whittier.

dot.state.ak.us/amhs/comm/valdez.shtml



OPENS
MAY 1

907-835-3058

255 N. Harbor Dr. Valdez

THEROADSIDEPOTATOHEAD.COM

Events

May 11-13: Valdez Fly-In & Airshow

valdezflyin.com

The premier bush plane competition in the Western United States.

May 22: Valdez Arts Council Annual Picnic

facebook.com/Valdez-Arts-Council

Annual barbecue and bonfire at the Valdez Glacier Campground, featuring something to burn, art to share, and an acoustic instrument to play. Bring a dish to share.

May 26-27: Military Appreciation Days

ci.valdez.ak.us/Calendar.aspx

Come celebrate and honor those in military service. Free food, fun events.

May 26: Bite Back Fun Run

ci.valdez.ak.us/specialevents

(907) 835-2531

A 5K Fun Run, \$5 registration fee.

May 19-Sept. 2: Halibut Derby

valdezfishderbies.com

Fish for halibut, get the biggest one and win big money.

June 2: Relay for Life

main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLCY17GW?pg=entry&fr_id=80294

Run or walk as you relay for life. All proceeds raised go to cancer research.

June 8-17: Halibut Hullabaloo

valdezfishderbies.com

Catch the largest halibut during this 10-day period and you will win \$1,000 cash, in addition to weekly prizes.

June 10-16: Last Frontier Theater Conference

theatreconference.org

Each year submissions from playwrights are solicited and the writers of the top scripts are invited to present their work for reading. Numerous classes are offered, panel discussions, and live performances.

June 8-10: Valdez Rock Climbing Festival

facebook.com/valdezrockclimbingfest

Time for an epic rock climbing experience in Thompson Pass and Keystone Canyon. Belay lessons, music, fun, and prizes.

July 4th Celebration

ci.valdez.ak.us

A city-wide celebration with street vendors, food, games, live music, the parade and more.

June 30: Pink Salmon Festival & Cook-Off

ci.valdez.ak.us/Calendar.aspx

Free community fish fry, entertainment, music and more.

July 13-14: Fireweed 400 Bike Race

fireweed400.com

Bike racing from Sheep Mountain to Valdez.

July 21-Sept. 2: The Valdez Silver Derby

valdezfishderbies.com

Featuring a \$15,000 cash grand prize for the largest silver salmon, \$5,000 cash for the second-place winner and \$2,000 for the third-place winner. In addition to daily first and second place prizes, all anglers who purchase a derby ticket have a chance to win \$10,000 in cash, in a drawing at the end of the season.

July 21 & Aug. 31: Big Prize Fridays

valdezfishderbies.com

The Valdez Fish Derby. Must purchase derby ticket to win prizes.

July 21: Kids Pink Salmon Derby

valdezfishderbies.com

Open to kids ages 5-16. BBQ, prizes and more.

Aug. 1-5: Gold Rush Days

valde zgol drushdays.org

A five-day, city-wide celebration honoring Valdez's past, present and future. Raffle, street vendors, music, kid's events, games and more.

Aug. 11: Women's Silver Salmon Derby

valdezfishderbies.com

All a woman needs is a derby tag to win big prizes and big money!

Aug. 18: Richardson Highway Rendezvous Music Festival

rhmusicfest.com

Music, dancing, food, and fun for all ages.

Sept. 2: Valdez Fish Derby End of Year Awards

valdezfishderbies.com

Fun and awards ceremony.

Blues Cruise

Date TBA

facebook.com/pages/Valdez-Arts-Council

An evening of music aboard Stan Stephens' M/V Valdez Spirit, with live music, desserts, appetizers, and cash bar.

Sept. 29: Annual Oktoberfest & Homebrew Competition

valdez.org

Valdez Convention & Civic Center, with prizes offered for the best home brew. Enjoy music, games, contests, beer, wine, and delicious food. Bid on auction items like travel packages.

Oct. 6: Valdez Museum Road House Dinner

valdez.org

The annual fundraiser dinner for the Valdez Historical Museum and Archive at the Civic Center.

Oct. 31: Valdez Parks & Rec Halloween Carnival

valdez.org

Get scared, but also get treats at the Civic Center

Oct. 31: Community Trick or Treat

Business community members give out candy to trick or treaters. valdez.org

Ducks Unlimited Banquet

Date TBA

facebook.com/ValdezDucksUnlimited

An evening of food and fun, all for Ducks Unlimited.

Fast Facts

Population: 3,976

Established: 1901

Distance from Anchorage:
299 highway miles east of Anchorage

Area:
222 square miles of land and 55.1 square miles of water

Economy:
Oil, tourism, commercial fishing

Origin:
Spanish explorer and cartographer Don Salvador Fidalgo named the Port of Valdez in 1790 after the celebrated Spanish naval officer Antonio Valdes y Basan.

Town slogan:
Opportunities in every season

Size of graduating class: 31

Fun fact: Valdez has a city vision which reads, "Capitalizing on the intrinsic qualities of our area and its people; create a place our grandchildren will be proud to call home."

Annual Christmas

Tree Lighting

Date TBD

valdez.org

The 34rd Annual tree lighting ceremony is a Valdez tradition. Festivities, ornament decorating, caroling, refreshments, and Santa Claus!

Elk's Club Annual

Christmas Bazaar

Date TBD

valdezalaska.org/valdez-annual-events

Local crafts, food, and gifts.

Dec. 31: New Year's Fireworks

valdezalaska.org/valdez-annual-events

An explosion of glorious fireworks to celebrate the New Year.

Auklet Charter Services

Custom multi-day cruises throughout Prince William Sound

- Natural History Tours
- Glaciers, Wildlife, Photography, Hiking
- Research, media and work trip support

www.auklet.com

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pwssc.org/support



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Sleep

CAMPGROUNDS & RV PARKS

Bayside RV Park & Campground

230 Egan Drive
888-835-4425/907-835-4425
May – Mid-September
baysiderv.com
bayside1@cvinternet.net

Valdez KOA

3181 Richardson Highway
907-835-2723
Mid-May – Mid-September
koa.com/campgrounds/valdez

Bear Paw R.V. Park

101 North Harbor Drive
907-835-2530
May – September
bearpawrvpark.com

Chena RV Park

101 Chena Street
907-378-6165
May – September
chenarv.com

Eagles Rest RV Park

139 E. Pioneer Drive
907-835-2373
May – September
eaglesrestrv.com

Valdez Glacier Campground - US Army MWR

1200 Airport Road
907-873-4795
Memorial Weekend – Labor Day
https://greely.armymwr.com/programs/
valdez-campground

HOTELS, MOTELS, INNS

Best Western Valdez Harbor Inn

100 N. Harbor Drive
907-835-3434
Open year-round
bestwestern.com

Downtown B&B Inn

113 Galena Drive
800-478-2791/907-835-2791
Open year-round
valdezdowntowninn.com



David Little photo

Keystone Hotel

400 Egan Street
907-835-3851
May 26-September 4
keystonehotel.com

Mountain Sky Hotel & Suites

101 Meals Avenue
907-835-4445
Open year-round
mountainskyhotel.com
manager@mountainskyhotel.com

Totem Hotel & Suites

144 E. Egan Drive
888-808-4431/907-835-4443
Open year-round
totemhotelsuites.com
reservations@toteminn.com

BED & BREAKFASTS

A Place on Coho B&B

1222 Coho Place
907-835-2106/907-831-1077
Open year-round
aplaceoncohobandb.com

House on the Rock B&B

613 S Moraine Drive
907-831-9027
Open year-round
houseontherockbandb.com

L&L's Bed & Breakfast

533 West Hanagita Street
907-835-4447
Open year-round
lnlaska.com

The Timber House

100 Meals Hill Road
907-835-2903
June – September
thetimberhousevaldez.com

CABINS & LODGES

PWS Cabins

Irish Cove, Port Fidalgo
907-200-4665
Mid-May – Mid-September
pWSCabins.com

Ravencroft Lodge

Irish Cove, Port Fidalgo
907-200-4665
Mid-May – Mid-September
ravencroftlodge.com

Robe Lake Lodge & Cabins

5325 Lake View Drive
907-831-2339
Open year-round
robekalodge.com

Tsaina Lodge

Mp 35 Richardson Highway
907-835-3535
June – Mid-September
tsainalodge.com

Eat

A Rogue's Garden

354 Fairbanks Drive
907-835-5880
Health food store, café, espresso, smoothies, deli, pastries
Dine-in, takeout
Open year-round, closed Sunday
roguesgarden.com

Alaska Halibut House

208 Meals Avenue
907-835-2788
Seafood, burgers, salad bar, chowder, milkshakes
Dine-in, takeout
Open year-round

Aunty Yum Yum's Real Thai Food Truck

239 Harbor Drive
907-255-THAI (8424)
Thai food
Takeout, outdoor seating
May – September, 7 days a week
facebook.com/auntyyumyumtruck

Fu Kung Chinese Restaurant

207 Kobuk Drive
907-835-5255
Chinese, seafood, sushi
Dine-in, takeout, delivery
Open year-round, 7 days a week
Facebook.com/fukungvaldez

Latte Dah

130 Meals Avenue
907-835-3720
Espresso, breakfast sandwiches, pastries
Dine-in, takeout
Open year-round, 7 days a week
facebook.com/coffeeshopvaldez

Mike's Palace Ristorante

205 North Harbor Drive
907-835-2365
Italian, Mexican, seafood, paninis, burgers, salads, beer & wine
Dine-in, takeout
Open year-round, 7 days a week
mikespalace.com

No Name Pizza

121 Egan Drive
907-835-4419
Pizza
Dine-in, takeout, delivery
Open year-round

Northern Treats

118 South Meals Road
907-835-4272
Ice cream, shakes, floats, parfaits, sundaes, espresso
Takeout, outdoor seating
Mid-May – September
www.facebook.com/NorthernTreat

Old Town Diner

139 East Pioneer Drive
907-461-8335
Breakfast, burgers, seafood, barbecue
Dine-in, takeout
Open year-round, 7 days a week

Wheelhouse Lounge & Restaurant

100 North Harbor Drive
907-835-9111
steak, seafood, burgers, salad, lunch, dinner, full bar
Dine-in, takeout
Open year-round, 7 days a week
valdezhaborinn.com

Subway

126 Pioneer Drive
907-835-3103
Sandwiches, salad, pizza, soup
Dine-in, take out
Open year-round, 7 days a week
subway.com

The Roadside Potatohead

255 North Harbor Drive
907-835-3058
Breakfast, burgers, fresh cut fries
Dine-in, takeout, outdoor seating
May 1 – September 15, 7 days a week
theroadsidepotatohead.com

The Fat Mermaid

143 North Harbor Drive
907-835-3000
Breakfast, seafood, pizza, burgers, sandwiches, soups, salads, full bar
Dine-in, takeout, outdoor seating
Open year-round, 7 days a week
thefatmermaid.com

Valdez Bistro

102 North Harbor Drive
907-835-4445
Seafood, steaks, salads, full bar
Dine-in, takeout, outdoor seating
Open year-round, 7 days a week
www.facebook.com/valdezbistro

The Fat Mermaid



143 N. Harbor Drive
Valdez, Alaska

907-835-3000



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www.thefatmermaid.com**

Hike

Dock Point Trail:

0.83 miles, round trip

Level: Easy, 30 minutes round trip

The Dock Point Trail, although rather short, is one of the prettiest for its size. Hikers can enjoy close up views of a grass and wildflower meadow from the comfort of a dry boardwalk. The West and East overlooks provide views of Harbor Cover and the Port of Valdez. An eagle's nest located on one of the Mineral Creek Islands can be seen from the north side of the trail. This trail begins at the end of a large parking and picnic area located off Kennicott Ave across the road from the Small Boat Harbor's boat launch ramp. Bring the whole family and the dog, this trail is a must!

Overlook Trail:

0.4 miles, round trip

Level: Easy, 25 minutes round trip

This short, recently improved hiking trail is a quick, easy way to experience breathtaking views of Town and the Port of Valdez. Wooden steps and railings make the steep sections of this trail easier to navigate. Between the panoramic views, hikers walk through a fireweed and salmonberry field and a willow-alder scrub forest. There is a picnic pavilion at the top of the hill, excellent for a picnic lunch or to rest and take in the fresh ocean air. The trail begins at the northwest corner of the Northern Parking lot of the Civic Center. If you hike only one trail in Valdez, choose this one.

Mineral Creek Trail:

12.2 miles, round trip (from bridge)

Level: Easy, 6 hours round trip

Mineral Creek Valley is one of the most scenic valleys in all of Valdez. A rough gravel road begins at the upper end of Mineral Creek Drive and runs for a distance of approximately 5.5 miles before ending at a gate, after which the trail becomes a dirt footpath. From the gate, the trail leads up the valley for approximately eight tenths of a mile before reaching the W.L. Smith Stamp Mill. With mountains rising more than 5,000 feet and cascading waterfalls on each side, the scenic vistas are spectacular even on a cloudy day. It is a beautiful walk or bicycle ride – just be aware that motorized traffic is allowed and many locals enjoy driving their 4-wheelers down the gravel road portion of the trail.



Milo Burcham photo

John Hunter Memorial Trail:

3.8 miles, round trip

Level: Moderate, 2-2.5 hours round trip

This trail was formerly known as the Solomon Gulch Trail. It begins in a beautiful coastal spruce forest and climbs steadily upward before it merges with the Trans Alaska Pipeline Service (TAPS) road (the actual pipeline is buried beneath the ground in this section). After crossing Solomon Gulch Creek, it departs from TAPS and continues on up to Solomon Gulch. The trail begins 4.6 miles down Dayville Road just before Allison Point (parking is on the left). The trail starts up a steep hill before joining the Alyeska Pipeline Maintenance Road. There is a sign-in sheet at the gate. Interpretive signs are located along the way.

Shoup Bay Trail, Section A:

6.5 miles, round trip

Level: Moderate, 4 hours round trip

Section A of the Shoup Bay Trail runs from the trail head to Gold Creek Bridge. This scenic tract traverses the West Mineral Creek flats along the base of the Chugach Mountains, and down to Gold Creek. The trail starts from the parking area located at the end of West Egan Drive. Twisting through a thick alder forest, the trail opens out onto the grasslands after eight tenths of a mile, with a patchy boardwalk built around the edges to help with trail flooding. After crossing two small streams (caution: water levels change with weather conditions), the trail offers views of Valdez

town to the east and Port Valdez to the south and west. A steep descent brings hikers to Gold Creek camping area. NOTE: The Gold Creek riverbed is prone to flooding and the stream channel changes often. At times, the Valdez-side entrance to the Gold Creek Bridge can be difficult to reach.

Shoup Bay Trail, Section B:

12.6 miles, round trip

Level: Difficult, 10 hours round trip

Section B of the Shoup Bay Trail runs from the Gold Creek Bridge to the north end of Shoup Bay. Starting from the bridge, the trail runs through a grove of spruce trees. The trail is both gradual and steep, gaining 1,100 feet in elevation, as it climbs to the divide overlooking Shoup Bay. Be aware that sections may be very muddy and difficult to follow at times due to overgrowth. Spectacular views of Shoup Bay and Shoup Glacier can be seen from the divide. The trail continues along the east side of Shoup Bay until an inner bay is reached. At this point, there are views of the Kittiwake Rookery and State Park Cabins. To reserve the State Park Cabins in Shoup Bay call 907-269-8400.

Keystone Canyon Pack Trail:

2.6 miles, one way

Level: Easy to moderate, 2 hours one way

The Southern Trailhead is halfway along the Old Richardson Highway Loop, which begins approximately 12 miles from downtown Valdez. The trail head is on the north side of the road, set back in the trees. The trail begins with an ascen-

sion through a lovely Spruce and Hemlock forest. At 0.5 miles, the path reaches a set of switchbacks which were built to maintain a suitable grade for pack horses and sled dogs. Views of Lowe River Valley can be observed from this location. Continuing through the forest, the trail opens to the right with a view across Keystone Canyon. A guide rope assists hikers climbing up and down a short, very steep section of the trail destroyed by multiple avalanches. There is parking alongside the road by the trailhead or there is a wide flat area that can be used for parking where the Old Richardson Highway Loop and the Richardson Highway intersect.

Goat Trail: **3.2 miles, round trip**

Level: Moderate, 2 hours round trip

From the west end of the parking area at Bridal Veil Falls, walk about 200 yards toward Valdez and veer right to enter the Goat Trail. Walk 0.3 miles to the intersection of the Goat Trail and Pack Trail. Turn right. Interesting flowers are often found on the rock cliff just past this point. The Goat Trail continues on through Alder and Spruce. There are two rather exposed trail sections high above the Lowe River which offer excellent views of Keystone Canyon, although care is advised when on these sections. The southern Snowslide Gulch viewing area is reached at 1.6 miles. The 2006 flood destroyed the DOT footbridge, crossing at this point is prohibited.

Wagon Trail: **6.6 miles, round trip**

Level: Easy, 4 hours round trip

A small sign marks the entrance to the Wagon Road at the mile 18 turnout on the Richardson Highway. At the entrance, the small path weaves for 0.2 miles through a forested area until it intersects the Wagon Road. Turn left at the "Trail" sign. 1.5 miles later, a small 10-minute side trail branches off to the left and down to the Bear Creek Dike. The main trail continues over the Bear Creek Bridge and begins to climb steadily upward. Look for the ruins of the old Lowe River Bridge; two concrete piers should be visible. Although at one time a bridge connected both sections of the Goat Trail and Wagon Trail, crossing at this point is now prohibited. Turn around here and return to the trailhead at Mile 18 on the Richardson Highway.

Information courtesy of the
City of Valdez Parks and Recreation.
Website: www.ci.valdez.ak.us/parks
Phone: 907-835-2531

Important Numbers

Emergency

911

Police/Fire/EMS

907-835-4560

Wildlife Troopers

Office

907-835-4307

U.S. Coast Guard

District Command

800-478-5555 or

VHF Channel 16

Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game

(Anchorage)

Hunt/trap 907-267-2257

Fishing 907-267-2218

U.S.F.S. Crooked Creek Info Site

(summer only)

907-835-4680 or 907-424-7661

Providence Medical Center

907-835-2249

Providence Counseling Center

907-835-2838

Valdez Medical Clinic

907-835-4811

Veterinarian

907-835-5280

Valdez Convention & Visitors Bureau

907-835-2984

Valdez Civic & Convention Center

907-835-4440

City Hall

907-835-4313

City Library

907-835-4632

Valdez Museum & Historical Archives

907-835-2764

Maxine & Jesse Whitney Museum

907-834-1690

Parks & Recreation

907-835-2531

Parks & Rec Recorded Schedules/Events

907-835-3200



David Little photo

Swimming Pool

907-835-5429

Airport Road Outdoor Shooting Range

907-835-2531

Baler

907-835-2356

Department of Motor Vehicles

907-835-2443

Harbormaster

907-835-4981

Port of Valdez

907-835-4564

VHF Channel 16

Alaska Marine Highway/Ferry Terminal

907-835-4436

Ravn Alaska/Valdez Airport

907-835-2636

CTAF

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KVAK 93.3 FM & 1230 AM

WHITTIER



Whittier

*Gateway to Western
Prince William Sound*

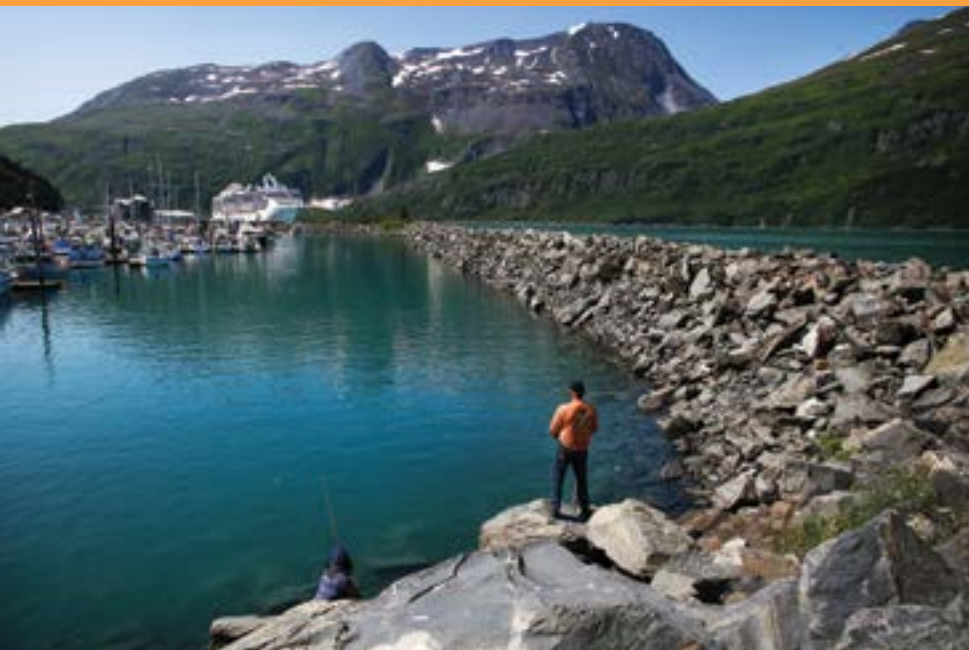
PHOTOS:

Background, center and right: Emily Mesner

Train: courtesy Seward Chamber



Whittier lies at the head of the Passage Canal, about 60 miles southeast of Anchorage, and almost all of its population of some 215 residents live in a single apartment building. Whittier is known as “the strangest little town in Alaska,” by residents and visitors alike. Watch wildlife and birdlife, go beachcombing, walk along the harbor front, hike along Portage Pass, Horse Tail Falls or Salmon Run trails, or pick berries in season. Eagles and seabirds abound. Book day cruises, fishing charters, kayak tours and scuba diving. Sport fishing is popular, and many anglers come in late August and early September to catch the annual run of silver salmon. The Whittier Chamber of Commerce also hosts salmon and halibut derbies during the summer. Winter activities include snowshoeing, cross country skiing and snow machining. While Whittier is known to have a mild, maritime climate, dress in warm layers and remember, it’s easy to remove a layer or two if you’re too warm, but it can be dangerous to come unprepared for inclement weather and become chilled. Don’t forget your raingear! Access Whittier via the Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel. Travel times at <http://dot.alaska.gov/creg/whittiirtunnel/index.shtml>. Whittier is linked to the Alaska Marine Highway Service: <http://www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs>



Emily Mesner photo

The History of Whittier, Alaska

Whittier lies at the head of the Passage Canal, about 60 miles southeast of Anchorage, and is within the Valdez-Cordova Census Area. Nearly all of the 220 residents live in a single building. Whittier is also a port for the Alaska Marine Highway.

The region now occupied by Whittier was once part of the portage route of the Chugach people native to Prince William Sound. Later, the passage was used by Russian and American explorers, and by prospecting miners during the gold rush. The nearby Whittier glacier was named after American poet John Greenleaf Whittier in 1915, and the town eventually took the name as well.

During World War II, the United States Army constructed a military facility, complete with a port and a railroad near Whittier Glacier, and named the facility Camp Sullivan. The spur of the Alaska Railroad to Camp Sullivan was completed in 1943, and the port became the entrance for United States soldiers into Alaska.

The two huge buildings that dominate Whittier were built after World War II.

The 14-story Hodge Building (now Begich Towers) was completed in 1957, and contains 150 two- and three-bedroom apartments, plus bachelor efficiency units. Dependent families and Civil Service employees were moved into this efficient high rise. The new Whittier School was connected by a tunnel at the base of the west Begich Tower, so students could more easily and safely access school on

bad weather days. The school serves some 38 students in all grades.

The building was named in honor of Colonel Walter William Hodge, a civil engineer and the commanding officer of 93rd Engineer Regiment on the Alcan Highway.

The other main structure in town, the Buckner Building, was completed in 1953, and was called the “city under one roof.” The Buckner Building was eventually abandoned and remains empty today. Buckner and Begich Towers were at one time the largest buildings in Alaska. The Begich Building is now a condominium, and along with the two-story private residence known as Whittier Manor, houses most of the town’s residents.

The port at Whittier was an active Army facility until 1960. In 1962, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed a petroleum products terminal, a pumping station, and a 62-mile long, 8-inch pipeline to Anchorage in Whittier.

On March 28, 1964, Whittier suffered over \$10 million worth of damage in the Good Friday earthquake. The earthquake remains the largest U.S. earthquake, measuring 9.2 on the Richter scale and caused tsunamis along the West Coast of the U.S. The tsunami that hit Whittier reached a height of 43-feet, and killed 13 people.

Whittier was incorporated in 1969. Today, it is an increasingly popular port of call for cruise ships. It is utilized by local operations and about 100-passenger, mid-sized cruise ships. When the Anton

Important Numbers

Emergency
911

Police/Fire/EMS (Non emergent)
907-472-2340

Alaska State Troopers (Anchorage)
907-761-7136

U.S. Coast Guard District Command
800-478-5555 VHF Channel 16

Alaska Dept. Fish & Game (Anchorage)
Hunt/trap
907-267-2257

Fishing
907-267-2218

U.S.F.S. Glacier Ranger District
907-783-3242

Whittier Health Clinic
907-472-2303

City of Whittier
907-472-2327 Ext: 0

Whittier Museum
907-472-2354

Harbormaster
907-472-2327 ext. 113

Harbor
907-472-2330 ext. 6 VHF Channel 68

Alaska Marine Highway/ Ferry Terminal
907-472-2378

Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel Operations & Times
907-472-2640

Alaska Railroad
907-265-2300 (2617)

Anderson Memorial Tunnel opened to public access in 2000, it became the first highway to connect Whittier to Anchorage and connecting road systems. Previously, the town was only accessible by rail, boat, and floatplane.

Once the tunnel expanded access to Whittier, larger cruise lines began showing up. It is the embarkation/debarkation point of one-way cruises from Anchorage to Vancouver by Princess Tours.

Getting Here

Travel to and from Whittier is by road, railroad or water. Drive your own vehicle, ride the bus (generally a comfortable motor coach), ride aboard the Alaska Railroad, or travel via one of the Alaska Marine Highway ferries. There is no airport in Whittier.

Car

Driving time: About 1.5 hours, depending upon traffic.

This is an easy trip by car and you'll have an adventure going through the Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel—the longest (2.5 miles) highway tunnel in North America, and the first designed for -40-below temperatures and 150 mph winds! One-way traffic and the occasional train can mean significant waiting times; research in advance when the tunnel will be open. This is a scenic drive with pull out areas for photo and picnic stops.

Directions: From Anchorage, turn onto the Seward Highway, (Alaska 1) head south along Turnagain Arm, past Girdwood, and look for signs directing you to Whittier. Turn left onto Portage Glacier Highway and follow it to the tollbooth for the Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel. Toll fees vary; an average size car or SUV without a trailer costs \$13 for a round trip ticket through the tunnel, even if you're only traveling one-way. Continue through the tunnel, following posted traffic signs and the posted speed limit. Whittier is just a five-minute drive from the tunnel's exit, at the end of the road.

Be sure to check the Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel for scheduled times for vehicle passage at <http://www.alaska.org/detail/whittier-tunnel>

Bus

Bus journey: 2 hours, depending upon traffic.

Traveling by a bus or motor coach eliminates the headache of having to plan for the Whittier tunnel and potential delays. Buses are timed to synchronize with tunnel openings. Leaving the driving to someone else allows travelers to fully enjoy the scenery. Some of the coaches have an onboard bathroom, but check on this one when booking.

Several bus companies make the drive from Anchorage to Whittier.

For current schedules and information, contact the Greater Whittier Alaska Chamber of Commerce at whittieralaskachamber.org, or alaska.org.

Train

Train journey: Approximately 2 hours.

Like the buses, the Alaska Railroad train will sync-up with Whittier tunnel openings, and at most, you'll wait a few minutes to pass through. Still, the train is the most expensive option, and it takes the longest to get here because it travels slowly, at about 35 miles per hour, along scenic Turnagain Arm. The upside is plenty of time to take photos of beautiful scenery and surrounding wildlife, often from domed rail cars.

Departures are offered daily from Anchorage; visit alaskatrain.com/book for reservations or to check train schedules.

Ferry

Cruise duration: Varies by destination

Ferry service from Whittier to neighboring Prince William Sound communities is provided seven days a week in the summer and two to three days a week in the winter. By ferry, Whittier is five hours and forty-five minutes to Valdez, and six hours and forty-five minutes to Cordova. The cross-gulf route, serviced by the MV Kennicott, connects Whittier to Southeast Alaska twice per month in the summer, and with access to surface highways once you arrive in Whittier, the possibilities for exploration are endless.


Visit dot.state.ak.us/amhs/reservations.shtml for current sailing schedules and to make reservations for ferries serving Whittier and Prince William Sound. Whittier route travel information courtesy Alaska.org www.alaska.org.

Portage Glacier Highway History


The Portage Glacier Highway, or Portage Glacier Road, is made up of a series of roads, bridges, and tunnels that connect the Portage Glacier area of the Chugach National Forest and the city of Whittier, to the Seward Highway. Most of the highway travels through mainly rural areas just north of the Kenai Peninsula, with the Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel passing under Maynard Mountain, part of the Chugach Mountain Range. Parts of the route were first constructed in the early 1900s, and the entire highway was completed on June 7, 2000, as part of the Whittier Access Project.

Since 2012, the highway has not been extended or rerouted. The main portion of the highway traveling from the western terminus to the Begich-Boggs Visitors Center is designated as National Forest Highway 35, by the U.S. Forest Service.


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Open year-round, 7 days a week
anchorinnwhittier.com

Glacier View Condo Suites

100 Kenai Street
877-870-8787/907-472-2354
Open year-round, 7 days a week
glacierviewsuites.com

Inn at Whittier

5A Harbor Loop Road
907-472-3200/907-422-7020
May – September
innatwhittier.com

■ BED & BREAKFASTS

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juneswhittiercondosuites.com

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Breakfast, seafood, steaks, burgers, sandwiches, salads, soup, full bar
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anchorinnwhittier.com

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Harbor Triangle, ocean side next to pavilion
520-204-7464
Espresso, coffee, tea, pastries, and gifts
Dine-in, takeout, outdoor seating
Seasonal, May – September
facebook.com/Alaskacafeorca

China Sea Restaurant

6 & 7 Harbor Triangle
907-472-3663
Chinese, seafood, open late
Dine-in, takeout
May – mid-September, 7 days a week
facebook.com/chinaseawhittieralaska

Donut Depot

Right next to the ferry terminal building
907-444-8523
Fresh donuts, breakfast burritos, brunch, hotdogs, sandwiches, Frito pies, espresso
Takeout, outdoor seating
May – September, closed Tuesday
facebook.com/donutdepotatwhittier

Fee's Custom Seafoods

12 Harbor Triangle
907-472-5055/907-317-8210
Seafood processing, fresh fish market, smoked salmon, bait, ice, snacks
Takeout
May – September
feescustomseafoods.com

Lazy Otter Café

Harborview Drive - Green roof, left of east launch ramp
800-587-6887/907-694-6887
Seafood, sandwiches, soup, baked goods, soft serve ice cream, espresso,
Dine-in, takeout, delivery, outdoor seating
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lazyottercharters.com/boxed-lunches/

Swiftwater Seafood Café

8 Harbor Triangle
907-472-2550
Seafood, cheeseburgers, salads, desserts, beer & wine
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May – Labor Day, 7 days a week
swiftwaterseafoodcafe.com

Inn at Whittier

5A Harbor Loop Road
907-472-3200/ 907-422-7020
Seafood, oceanfront, pizza, desserts, full bar
Dine-in, takeout, delivery (pizza in summer)
Open year-round
innatwhittier.com

Varly's Ice Cream and Pizza Parlor

Harbor Triangle – top of east launch ramp
907-472-2547
Ice cream, shakes, pizza, quesadillas, sandwiches
Takeout, outdoor seating
May – Labor Day, 7 days a week
swiftwaterseafoodcafe.com

Whittier Fudge – Sound Ideas Gallery & Gifts

Lot 1 Harborview Drive
435-690-0186
Homemade fudge
Takeout, outdoor seating
May – September
whittierfudge.com

Wild Catch Café

12 Harbor Loop Road
907-472-2252
Seafood, fish and chips, chowder, burgers, breakfast, espresso
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facebook.com/WildCatchCafe

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Fast Facts



Courtesy photo

Population: 220

Established: 1969

Distance from Anchorage:
60 highway miles southeast of Anchorage

Area:
12.5 square miles of land and 7.2 square miles of water

Economy:
Tourism, commercial fishing and fish processing

Origin:
The City of Whittier was named after John Greenleaf Whittier, an American poet known for his anti-slavery writings and the 1866 publication of his long poem, Snow-Bound.

Town slogan:
Gateway to Western Prince William Sound

Size of graduating class: 2

Fun fact:
Whittier has an annual visiting population of more than 700,000.

Explore

Whittier offers year-around activities for thrill-seekers and families, including guided wilderness trips on ATVs and quads, kayaking tours and sea kayak rentals, wildlife rehabilitation education, birdwatching, wildlife photography and helicopter flightseeing trips.

Also available for purchase are glacier tours by dogsled, do-it-yourself charters, hiking on established trails, jet-skiing, sightseeing cruises, fishing charters, and more!

Spend a few hours just wandering

around town, finding good places to eat and shops to buy unique treasures. Join the U.S. Forest Service at Williwaw Campground for their Camp Fire Stories led by rangers from the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center. For more information on these talks call the Center at 907-783-2326.

Located at Mile 4 of Portage Highway, stop to view spawning salmon from July through August at the Williwaw fish viewing platform. Gain more information from interpretive signs located at the platform.

Join the locals in Whittier, grab a cup of coffee and listen to our story!



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July 4 | Celebration FREE!

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Events

July 3-4: Whittier's Old-Fashioned, Family Fourth of July Celebration

Fireworks at midnight, the night of July 3; Halibut in the Harbor Parade through town and the harbor area on July 4, including free games for the kids and a free community barbecue – everyone is welcome!

Visit the Greater Whittier Chamber of Commerce for more information:
whittieralaskachamber.org

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Emily Mesner photo

Hike

Portage Pass Trail: 4 miles, round trip

Portage Pass has been historically used by Alaska Natives, Russian fur traders, and early settlers. Currently it is used as a migratory route for birds and as a recreational opportunity by hikers like you! The hike is approximately two miles in length, one way (four miles roundtrip). The trail begins with 750 feet in elevation gain over fairly strenuous terrain and levels out at the top of the pass.

From there, the trail descends down past Divide Lake and ends at Portage Lake. Hikers will need to retrace their steps back to the trailhead. It is a great hike that rewards you with a view of Portage Glacier; in fact, it is the only established trail with a view of Portage Glacier! The gravel beach on Portage Lake would be a great place for a picnic lunch.

To access the trailhead, you must drive through the Whittier tunnel. Once you are through, follow the signs and take the first right past the bathrooms, cross over the railroad tracks on the gravel road, and the trailhead is on the right.

Information courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service. For more information, visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/chugach/home/?cid=stelprdb5251250>

Byron Glacier Trail: 1.4 miles, round trip

This 1.4-mile trail offers an easy walk for all ages. It allows a close-up view of a glacier with rugged mountains in all directions; a good family outing with a variety of things to do for the whole family.

The alder/cottonwood forest is lush with ferns for a serene beginning to the hike. Byron Creek is a cascading, whitewater, glacial creek.

The many stones along its bank offer many imaginative activities for children and adults (rock skipping, fort building).

Snowfields left from the previous winter's avalanches supply many snowballs for those inclined to a friendly contest. The trail branches in many directions as it nears the snowfields below Byron Glacier. Bouldering on the rocks of the side and terminal moraines can be a challenge. Portage Lake and Valley can be seen looking north from the trail. If you are interested in a guided activity, Forest Service rangers will conduct ranger-led hikes on Byron Glacier Trail throughout most of the summer.

Please note: A significant cornice remains on the ridge for the early part of the summer, posing a risk for avalanche.

All guided hikes are dependent on staffing levels and are subject to cancellation.

For more information about the Byron Glacier Trail including special conditions call the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center at 907-783-2326 from Memorial Day week-

end through Mid-September.

The weather in Portage Valley can be wet. Please bring the appropriate gear and shoes to participate in this hike.

Information courtesy of U.S. Forest Service. For more information visit, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/chugach/recarea/?recid=6606&actid=50>

Trail of Blue Ice: 10 miles, round trip

The newest trail in the valley is complete and being used by many people; and the positive feedback has been tremendous! The Trail of Blue Ice stays on the valley floor and links all the developed recreation sites in Portage Valley. Most of the 5-mile (one way) trail is a wide gravel path with boardwalks and bridges. You will experience very little elevation gain with the exception of a 700' section at the lake end, where it climbs about 30 feet via a small section of stairs. An alternate, fully accessible route follows along the shoulder of the road to avoid this grade. This trail is great for hiking or biking. You can pick up the Trail of Blue Ice at Moose Flats Day Use Area, Explorer Glacier Pullout, Five Fingers Hike-in Camping Area, Williwaw Fish Viewing Platform, or the lakefront parking lot at the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center.

Information courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service. For more information, visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/chugach/learning/?cid=stelprdb5058790>

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