Visitors’ Guide to the National Weather Service Alaska Region Headquarters

Welcome to the Anchorage Area

NWS Alaska Region
U.S. Federal Building
222 West 7th Avenue, Suite #517
Anchorage, AK 99513
907-271-5088

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Welcome to the Anchorage Area

Whether you are visiting the NWS Alaska Region during the summer or the winter, Anchorage offers plenty of not-to-be-missed Alaskan adventures. This guide will help you decide where to stay, what to see, where to go, and how to make the most of your time in the Last Frontier.

Anchorage and the surrounding area is an exciting destination that provides a wide range of once in a lifetime experiences. The city's metropolitan culture and rich local color blend seamlessly into the beauty of its natural surroundings. Few other locations offer the chance to go sea kayaking, view wild grizzly bears, and enjoy a five star meal all on the same day.

Located between the forested mountains of the Chugach State Park and the waters of the Cook Inlet, outdoor activities abound. Over 50 glaciers are within driving distance of Anchorage, and a well-maintained system of parks and trails runs throughout the area. Seeing moose, eagles, and other wildlife is common, even along city streets! A visit to the nearby communities of Girdwood or Eagle River also offers a chance to explore unique natural sights and a glimpse of life in small-town Alaska.

Although it has only been a state since 1959, Alaska's history stretches back thousands of years. Take the time to learn about and experience the rich Alaska Native heritage of Anchorage, as the city is home to members of each of the Alaska Native cultural groups. Be sure to visit one of the many museums or cultural centers dedicated to Alaska Native traditions. You can also learn about the British explorers, Russian merchants, sourdough gold miners, rugged pioneers, and brave pilots who made Alaska what it is today.

This guide will also help you find the restaurants, theaters, shopping centers, galleries, and nightlife options that add the modern flare to Anchorage culture. You will find that there is quite an eclectic mix of arts and entertainment possibilities. This guide includes information about local lodging and transportation to help make your time in the Anchorage area as smooth and as comfortable as possible. We hope you can explore and feel at home in our beautiful city.

For additional visitor and tourism information, check out the Log Cabin Visitor Center at the corner of 4th and F Street.
Directions to the Anchorage Federal Building

1. Exit airport on W International Airport Rd
2. Continue straight on W International Airport Rd
3. Turn left onto C Street
4. Continue onto A Street
5. Turn left onto W 8th Avenue
6. The Federal Building will be on your right

Return Directions

1. Head west on W 8th Avenue toward C Street
2. Take the first left onto C Street
3. Turn right onto W International Airport Rd
4. Keep right at the fork to find Departures; turn left for Rental Car Return

Total driving distance from Ted Stevens International to the NWS Alaska Region is 7 miles and driving time is about 20 minutes.
Preparing for the Weather

Although the maritime climate spares Anchorage from the temperature extremes of other Alaska regions, visitors should be prepared for a wide range of weather conditions. The summer months are mild with temperatures averaging in the mid 60s, while winter months average in the 20s. Extremes of daylight hours are often more difficult to adjust to, as they range from 20 hours at the Summer Solstice to 7.5 hours at the Winter Solstice. Any visitor to Anchorage should be prepared for precipitation, whether it be rain or snow.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Precipitation</th>
<th>Daylight Hrs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>20 °F</td>
<td>0.70 in</td>
<td>8:16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>26 °F</td>
<td>0.68 in</td>
<td>10:34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>34 °F</td>
<td>0.62 in</td>
<td>13:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>43 °F</td>
<td>0.41 in</td>
<td>16:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>54 °F</td>
<td>0.71 in</td>
<td>19:55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>63 °F</td>
<td>1.04 in</td>
<td>22:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>65 °F</td>
<td>1.90 in</td>
<td>21:36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>65 °F</td>
<td>2.98 in</td>
<td>17:41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>57 °F</td>
<td>2.56 in</td>
<td>14:25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>43 °F</td>
<td>1.98 in</td>
<td>11:34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>31 °F</td>
<td>1.03 in</td>
<td>9:01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>22 °F</td>
<td>1.23 in</td>
<td>7:35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transportation Information

Airport Shuttles
Alaska Shuttle – (907) 338-8888 · www.alaskashuttle.net · $30 for 1-3 people from downtown
Anchorage Downtown Service – (907) 344-4446 · www ancoragedowntownshuttle.com · $15 per person

Public Transportation
People Mover – Anchorage public transit system serving 14 routes · (907) 343-6543 · www.peoplemover.org

Rental Cars
For all information about rental cars in the Anchorage area, we recommend using National Travel Service at www.nationaltravel.com or 1-800-294-8283

Taxi Cabs
Alaska Yellow Dispatch, LLC – (907) 562-6805 · www.alaskayellowcab.com · About $20 from Office to airport
Checker Cab – (907) 276-1234 · About $20 from Office to airport · Available 24/7

As Alaska is one-fifth the size of the contiguous United States, many of the best Alaskan adventures are outside the range of public transportation. Anchorage offers several methods for reaching the most popular destinations. For more information about railroads, ferries, tour buses, flightseeing, and RV rentals, please visit Anchorage.net
# Hotels Near the Alaska Area Office

Listed by proximity to the Alaska Area Office

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quality Suites-Anchorage</strong></td>
<td>(907) 274-1000</td>
<td>325 West 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Avenue</td>
<td><a href="http://www.qualityinn.com/hotel-anchorage-alaska-AK017">http://www.qualityinn.com/hotel-anchorage-alaska-AK017</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extended Stay Deluxe</strong></td>
<td>(907) 868-1605</td>
<td>108 East 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Avenue</td>
<td><a href="http://www.extendedstaydeluxe.com">www.extendedstaydeluxe.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sheraton Anchorage</strong></td>
<td>(866) 767-0278</td>
<td>401 East 6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Avenue</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sheraton.com/Anchorage">www.sheraton.com/Anchorage</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Westmark Anchorage Hotel</strong></td>
<td>(907) 276-7676</td>
<td>720 West 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Avenue</td>
<td><a href="http://www.westmarkhotels.com/anchorage.php">www.westmarkhotels.com/anchorage.php</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Days Inn Anchorage Downtown</strong></td>
<td>(866) 215-6641</td>
<td>321 East 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Avenue</td>
<td><a href="http://www.daysinnalaska.com">www.daysinnalaska.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Hotel Captain Cook</strong></td>
<td>(907) 276-6000</td>
<td>939 West 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Avenue</td>
<td><a href="http://captaincook.com/">http://captaincook.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hampton Inn Anchorage</strong></td>
<td>(907) 550-7000</td>
<td>4301 Credit Union Drive</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hamptonanchorage.com/">http://www.hamptonanchorage.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aspen Hotels of Alaska</strong></td>
<td>(907) 274-2152</td>
<td>800 A Street</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aspenhotelsak.com">www.aspenhotelsak.com</a></td>
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*Currently under construction*
Dining in Anchorage

### Restaurants Within Walking Distance

**Federal Building Cafeteria** – Breakfast, Lunch **222 W 7th Ave**  

**5th Avenue Mall Food Court** – Wide range of fast food restaurants  

**Bangkok Café** – Thai **930 W 5th Ave**  
(907) 274-2233

**Club Paris** – Steakhouse **417 W 5th Ave**  
(907) 277-6322  
[www.clubparisrestaurant.com](http://www.clubparisrestaurant.com)

**F Street Station** – Pub Food, Sandwiches **325 F Street**  
(907) 272-5196

**Ginger** – Pacific Rim, Asian **425 W 5th Ave**  
(907) 929-3680  
[www.gingeralaska.com](http://www.gingeralaska.com)

**Glacier Brewhouse** – American, Seafood **737 W 5th Ave**  
(907) 274-2739  
[www.glacierbrewhouse.com](http://www.glacierbrewhouse.com)

**Gumbo House** – Seafood, Cajun **611 W 9th Ave**  
(907) 222-2930  
[www.gumbohouseanchorage.com](http://www.gumbohouseanchorage.com)

**Humpy’s Alehouse** – Seafood, Pub Food **610 W 6th Ave**  
(907) 276-2337  

**Muse** – Salads, Sandwiches **625 C Street**  
(907) 929-9210  
[http://www.anchoragemuseum.org/visit/museum_cafe.aspx](http://www.anchoragemuseum.org/visit/museum_cafe.aspx)

**Orso** – Italian, Sandwiches **737 W 5th Ave**  
(907) 222-3232  
[www.orsoalaska.com](http://www.orsoalaska.com)

### Other Popular Anchorage Restaurants

**Simon and Seafort’s** – Upscale steakhouse **420 L Street**  
(907) 274-3502  

**Snow City Café** – Sandwiches, Breakfast **1034 W 4th Ave**  
(907) 272-2489

**Sullivan’s Steakhouse** – Steakhouse **320 W 5th Ave**  
(907) 258-2882  

**Bear Tooth Grill** – Movie Theater with Pizza and Pub Food **1230 W 27th Ave**  
(907) 276-4200  
[http://beartooththeatre.net/](http://beartooththeatre.net/)

**Lucky Wishbone** – Diner **1033 E 5th Ave**  
(907) 272-3454

**Moose’s Tooth Pub and Pizzeria** – Gourmet Pizza **3300 Old Seward Hwy**  
(907) 258-2537  
[http://moosestooth.net/](http://moosestooth.net/)

**Double Musky Inn** – Upscale Cajun/Creole **Mile .3 Crow Creek Rd, Girdwood, AK 99587**  
(907) 783-2822  
Shopping

While Alaska is most famous for its great outdoor adventures, spending a little time indoors is also a great way to enjoy the local culture. Anchorage has many galleries, boutiques, outfitters, and market stalls that offer unique, locally-made Alaskan treats and treasures. Anchorage has no sales tax, so be sure to take advantage of that while you are here.

Malls:
4th Ave Market Place 333 West 4th Avenue
www.alaskaexperiencetheatre.com/4th-avenue-market-place

Anchorage 5th Ave Mall 320 West 5th Avenue
www.simon.com/Mall/?id=231

Dimond Center Mall 800 East Dimond Boulevard
www.dimondcenter.com

Mall at Sears 600 East Northern Lights Blvd
www.mallatsears.com

Markets:
Anchorage Market and Festival 3rd Ave btwn C & E St
www.anchoragemarkets.com/main.html

Saturdays and Sundays in May-Sept., Free admission
Vendors, food, and live entertainment

Entertainment

If the weather isn’t cooperating with your outdoor plans, or you just need a great way to relax, enjoy a movie or catch a world-class performance.

Movie Theaters:
Alaska Experience Theatre (907) 272-9076
Alaska movies, earthquake museum, and art exhibits
www.alaskaexperiencetheatre.com 333 W 4th Ave

Alaska Naturally (907) 263-2993
Alaska’s Northern Lights shows 621 W 6th Ave

Sydney Lawrence Theater www.TheAlaskaCollection.com
Bear Tooth Theatre Pub (907) 276-4200
Discount movies with pub food 1230 W 27th Ave

Century 16 Theatre (800) 326-3264
301 E 36th Ave

Regal Dimond Center 9 Cinemas (907) 566-3327
800 E Dimond Blvd, Suite 210

Regal Tikahtnu Stadium 16 (907) 338-6252
1102 N Muldoon Rd

Performing Arts:
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts (907) 263-2900
Showcases a variety of local and global performing artists
www ancor ageconcerts.org

Anchorage Opera (907) 279-2557
www.AnchorageOpera.org

Anchorage Symphony Orchestra (907) 274-8668
www ancoragesymphony.org
Local Color

Theater Companies:
- Anchorage Community Theater  (907) 868-4913  
  www.actalaska.org
- Cyrano’s Theatre Company  (907) 274-2599  
  www.cyranos.org
- Out North Theatre and Art Galleries  (907) 279-8099  
  www.outnorth.org
- TBA Theatre, Inc  (907) 677-7529  
  www.tbatheatre.org

Museums:
- Alaska Aviation Museum - vintage planes, bush pilot exhibits, and flight simulators  
  www.alaskaairmuseum.org  4721 Aircraft Dr
- Alaska Heritage Museum – 900 Alaska Native artifacts, gold, and fine art  
  301 Northern Lights Blvd
- Alaska Museum of Natural History – Alaska dinosaurs, ice age artifacts, rocks, and hands-on exhibits  
  201 North Bragaw St
- Alaska Native Heritage Center – A cultural center sharing the heritage of Alaska’s 11 major cultures through stories, dance, and more  
  www.alaskanative.net  8800 Heritage Center Dr
- Alaska Veterans Museum – Honoring the history of Alaskan veterans’ service and sacrifice  
  www.alaskaveterans.com  333 W 4th Ave, Suite 227
- Anchorage Museum – The state’s largest museum that includes the Alaska History Gallery, Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center, and traveling exhibits  
  www ancoragemuseum.org  625 C Street
- Oscar Anderson House Museum – Guided tours and early Anchorage history, circa 1915  
  www.muni.org  420 M St in Elderberry Park

Exploring the Outdoors

Anchorage offers no shortage of once-in-a-lifetime outdoor adventures, and we encourage you to take advantage of them during your visit. However, the specific adventures available vary greatly by season. Some great options are:

- 4-wheeling
- Bicycle trails and tours
- Climbing
- Dog Sledding
- Fishing
- Flightseeing
- Glacier and Wildlife Cruises
- Gold Panning and Mining
- Hiking
- Ice Climbing
- Kayaking or Canoeing
- Rafting
- Skiing, Heli-skiing, and Snowboarding
- Snowmobiling
- Wildlife Viewing

For complete information about trip planning and outdoor opportunities, please visit  www.Anchorage.net