

# Visitors' Guide to the National Weather Service Alaska Region Headquarters

A Guide to Hotels, Restaurants, Sightseeing,



**Anchorage, Alaska**

**Welcome to the Anchorage Area**

**NWS Alaska Region**

**U.S. Federal Building**

222 West 7<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue**
6. The Federal Building will be on your right

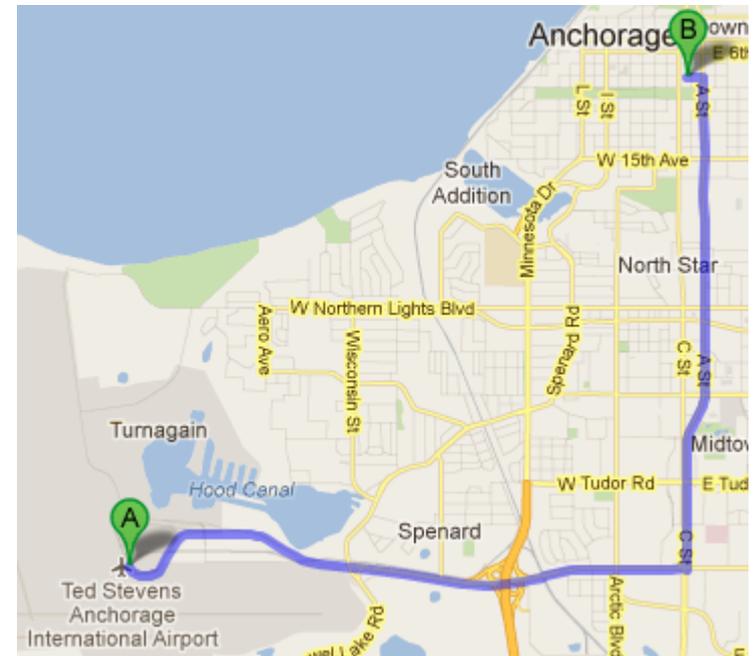


**Federal Building**  
**222 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

## Return Directions

1. Head west on **W 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

## Transportation Information

### Airport Shuttles

**Alaska Shuttle** – (907) 338-8888 · [www.alaskashuttle.net](http://www.alaskashuttle.net) · \$30 for 1-3 people from downtown

**Anchorage Downtown Service** – (907) 344-4446 · [www.anchoragedowntownshuttle.com](http://www.anchoragedowntownshuttle.com) · \$15 per person

### Public Transportation

**People Mover** – Anchorage public transit system serving 14 routes · (907) 343-6543 · [www.peoplemover.org](http://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](http://www.nationaltravel.com) or 1-800-294-8283

### Taxi Cabs

**Alaska Yellow Dispatch, LLC** – (907) 562-6805 · [www.alaskayellowcab.com](http://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](http://Anchorage.net)

# Hotels Near the Alaska Area Office

## Listed by proximity to the Alaska Area Office

**Quality Suites-Anchorage** (907) 274-1000  
325 West 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
<http://www.qualityinn.com/hotel-anchorage-alaska-AK017>

**Extended Stay Deluxe** (907) 868-1605  
108 East 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
[www.extendedstaydeluxe.com](http://www.extendedstaydeluxe.com)

**Anchorage Marriott Downtown** (907) 279-8000  
820 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/ancdt-anchorage-marriott-downtown/>

**Sheraton Anchorage** (866) 767-0278  
401 East 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
[www.sheraton.com/Anchorage](http://www.sheraton.com/Anchorage)

**Westmark Anchorage Hotel** (907) 276-7676  
720 West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
[www.westmarkhotels.com/anchorage.php](http://www.westmarkhotels.com/anchorage.php)

**Days Inn Anchorage Downtown** (866) 215-6641  
321 East 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
[www.daysinnalaska.com](http://www.daysinnalaska.com)

**Hilton Anchorage Downtown** (907) 272-7411  
500 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
<http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/alaska/hilton-anchorage-ANCAHHF/index.html>

**The Hotel Captain Cook** (907) 276-6000  
939 West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
<http://captaincook.com/>

**Embassy Suites Anchorage** (907) 332-7000  
600 East Benson Boulevard  
<http://www.embassysuitesanchorage.com/>

**Hampton Inn Anchorage** (907) 550-7000  
4301 Credit Union Drive  
<http://www.hamptonanchorage.com/>

**Homewood Suites by Hilton** (907) 762-7000  
101 West 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
<http://homewoodsuites3.hilton.com/en/hotels/alaska/homewood-suites-by-hilton-anchorage-ANCHWHW/index.html>

**Residence Inn Anchorage Midtown** (907) 563-9844  
1025 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/ancri-residence-inn-anchorage-midtown/>

**Crowne Plaza Anchorage-Midtown** (907) 433-4100  
109 West International Airport Rd  
<http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/crowneplaza/hotels/us/en/anchorage/ancpa/hoteldetail>

**Fairfield Inn and Suites** (907) 222-9000  
5060 A Street  
<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/ancfi-fairfield-inn-and-suites-anchorage-midtown/>

**Aspen Hotels of Alaska** (907) 274-2152  
800 A Street  
[www.aspenhotelsak.com](http://www.aspenhotelsak.com)  
*Currently under construction*

# Dining in Anchorage

## Restaurants Within Walking Distance

**Federal Building Cafeteria** – Breakfast, Lunch **222 W 7<sup>th</sup> Ave**  
<http://www.pentagonnorth.com/AnchorageFederalBuildingCafeteria.html>

**5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Mall Food Court** – Wide range of fast food  
 restaurants <http://www.simon.com/mall/malldirectory.aspx?id=231>

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

**Club Paris** – Steakhouse **417 W 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> Ave**  
 (907) 929-3680 [www.gingeralaska.com](http://www.gingeralaska.com)

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

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

**Humpy's Alehouse** – Seafood, Pub Food **610 W 6<sup>th</sup> Ave**  
 (907) 276-2337 <http://humpys.com/anc/>

**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 5<sup>th</sup> Ave**  
 (907) 222-3232 [www.orsoalaska.com](http://www.orsoalaska.com)

**Simon and Seafort's** – Upscale steakhouse **420 L Street**  
 (907) 274-3502 <http://www.simonandseafort.com/index.php>

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

**Sullivan's Steakhouse** – Steakhouse **320 W 5<sup>th</sup> Ave**  
 (907) 258-2882  
<http://sullivanssteakhouse.com/anchorage-details.php>

## Other Popular Anchorage Restaurants

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

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

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

**Double Musky Inn** – Upscale Cajun/Creole  
**Mile .3 Crow Creek Rd, Girdwood, AK 99587**  
 (907) 783-2822 <http://www.doublemuskyinn.com/framed.html>



## 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:

**4<sup>th</sup> Ave Market Place**     **333 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
[www.alaskaexperiencetheatre.com/4th-avenue-market-place](http://www.alaskaexperiencetheatre.com/4th-avenue-market-place)

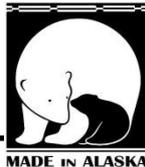
**Anchorage 5<sup>th</sup> Ave Mall**     **320 West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
[www.simon.com/Mall/?id=231](http://www.simon.com/Mall/?id=231)

**Dimond Center Mall**     **800 East Dimond Boulevard**  
[www.dimondcenter.com](http://www.dimondcenter.com)

**Mall at Sears**     **600 East Northern Lights Blvd**  
[www.mallatsears.com](http://www.mallatsears.com)

### Markets:

**Anchorage Market and Festival**     **3<sup>rd</sup> Ave btwn C & E St**  
[www.anchoragemarkets.com/main.html](http://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](http://www.alaskaexperiencetheatre.com)     333 W 4<sup>th</sup> Ave

**Alaska Naturally**     (907) 263-2993  
Alaska's Northern Lights shows     621 W 6<sup>th</sup> Ave

Sydney Lawrence Theater [www.TheAlaskaCollection.com](http://www.TheAlaskaCollection.com)

**Bear Tooth Theatre Pub**     (907) 276-4200  
Discount movies with pub food     1230 W 27<sup>th</sup> Ave

**Century 16 Theatre**     (800) 326-3264  
301 E 36<sup>th</sup> 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.anchorageconcerts.org](http://www.anchorageconcerts.org)

**Anchorage Opera**     (907) 279-2557  
[www.AnchorageOpera.org](http://www.AnchorageOpera.org)

**Anchorage Symphony Orchestra**     (907) 274-8668  
[www.anchoragesymphony.org](http://www.anchoragesymphony.org)

## Local Color

### Theater Companies:

**Anchorage Community Theater** (907) 868-4913  
[www.actalaska.org](http://www.actalaska.org)

**Cyrano's Theatre Company** (907) 274-2599  
[www.cyranos.org](http://www.cyranos.org)

**Out North Theatre and Art Galleries** (907) 279-8099  
[www.outnorth.org](http://www.outnorth.org)

**TBA Theatre, Inc** (907) 677-7529  
[www.tbatheatre.org](http://www.tbatheatre.org)

### Museums:

**Alaska Aviation Museum** - vintage planes, bush pilot exhibits, and flight simulators  
[www.alaskaairmuseum.org](http://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](http://www.alaskanative.net) **8800 Heritage Center Dr**

**Alaska Veterans Museum** – Honoring the history of Alaskan veterans' service and sacrifice  
[www.alaskaveterans.com](http://www.alaskaveterans.com) **333 W 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 227**

**Anchorage Museum** – The state's largest museum that includes the Alaska History Gallery, Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center, and traveling exhibits  
[www.anchoragemuseum.org](http://www.anchoragemuseum.org) **625 C Street**

**Oscar Anderson House Museum** – Guided tours and early Anchorage history, circa 1915  
[www.muni.org](http://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](http://www.Anchorage.net)

## Fish Runs *Get Your Waders On!*

