

# Directory

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## ACCOMMODATIONS

Alaska offers typical US accommodations along with many atypical options such as a cabin in the mountains or a lodge in the middle of the wilderness. This guide includes recommendations for all types and budgets but it emphasizes midrange accommodations. In the regional chapters the accommodations are listed with budget first (under \$100 a night) followed by midrange (\$100 to \$200) and top end (\$200 and up).

Advance bookings are wise as the Alaskan tourist season is short, and in places such as Juneau, Skagway and Denali National Park rooms fill quickly. You will receive better

### BOOK YOUR STAY ONLINE

For more accommodation reviews and recommendations by Lonely Planet authors, check out [www.lonelyplanet.com/hotels](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/hotels). You'll find the lowdown on the best places to stay. Reviews are thorough and independent. Best of all, you can book online.

accommodation rates during the shoulder seasons of April through May and September through October.

The rates listed in this book are all for high season: June through August. The listed rates do not include local taxes, which are covered for each town at the start of the Sleeping sections. In most towns you will be hit with a local sales tax *and* a bed tax, with the combination ranging from 5% up to 12% for cities such as Anchorage and Juneau.

The most affordable accommodations are hostels, campsites (bring your tent!) and campground cabins. Motels, both individually owned and national chains, are well scattered in cities and most towns. Even small rural hamlets will have a motel. The larger centers will also have a number of B&Bs housing the peak-of-summer tourists, which will range from basic rooms to plush accommodations.

As to be expected Alaska is the land of wilderness lodges. Many of them are geared towards anglers and remote fishing opportunities, must be booked well in advance, and require floatplane transport to reach. Tribal companies and the cruise ship industry (for the land portions of their tours) are also responsible for a growing number of luxurious hotels popping up across the state.

### B&Bs

For travelers who want nothing to do with a tent, B&Bs can be an acceptable compromise between sleeping on the ground and sleeping in high-priced lodges. Some B&Bs are bargains, and most are cheaper than major hotels, but plan on spending \$70 to \$120 per night for a double room.

Many visitor centers have sections devoted to the B&Bs in their area, and courtesy booking

## PRACTICALITIES

- Alaska has more than 30 daily, weekly and trade newspapers with the *Anchorage Daily News* being the largest and the closest thing to a statewide newspaper.
- The largest cities have local TV stations while radio stations are found all over Alaska. Voltage in Alaska is 110V – the same as everywhere else in the USA.
- There is no national sales tax in the USA and no state sales tax in Alaska, but towns have a city sales tax plus a bed tax.
- Almost every town in Alaska has a Laundromat, the place to go to clean your clothes (\$3 per load) or take a shower (\$3 to \$5).
- US distances are in feet, yards and miles. Dry weights are in ounces (oz), pounds (lb) and tons, and liquids are in pints, quarts and gallons (4 quarts). The US gallon is about 20% less than the imperial gallon. See the conversion chart on the inside front cover of this book.
- NTSC is the standard video system (not compatible with PAL or SECAM).

phones. Details about specific B&Bs are in the regional chapters. You can also contact the following B&B reservation services to book rooms in advance of your trip:

**Alaska Private Lodgings** (☎ 907-235-2148; www.alaskabandb.com) Statewide.

**Anchorage Alaska Bed & Breakfast Association** (☎ 907-272-5909, 888-584-5147; www.anchorage-bnb.com)

**Bed and Breakfast Association of Alaska** (www.alaskabba.com) Statewide.

**Fairbanks Association of Bed & Breakfasts** (www.ptialaska.net/~fabbb)

**Homer Bed & Breakfast Association** (☎ 877-296-1114; www.homerbedbreakfast.com)

**Kenai Peninsula Bed & Breakfast Association** (☎ 866-436-2266; www.kenaipeninsulabba.com)

**Ketchikan Reservation Service** (☎ 800-987-5337; www.ketchikan-lodging.com)

**Mat-Su Bed & Breakfast Association** (www.alaskabnbhosts.com)

## Camping & Caravan Parks

Camping is king in Alaska and with a tent you'll always have cheap accommodations in the Far North. There are state, federal and private campgrounds from Ketchikan to Fairbanks. Nightly fees range from free to \$10 for rustic public campgrounds and from \$25 to \$40 to park your recreation vehicle in a deluxe private campground with a full hook-up and heated restrooms with showers. Many towns that cater to tourists will have a municipal campground and several commercial campgrounds. See p73.

## Hostels

Thanks to an influx of backpackers and foreign travelers each summer, the number of

hostels offering budget accommodations in Alaska increases almost annually. There are now more than 40, with eight in Anchorage, nine in the Southeast and even one in tiny McCarthy. What isn't increasing is the **Hostel International-American Youth Hostels** (www.hiayh.org) in Alaska; there is now only one HI property in Anchorage.

The rest of Alaska's hostels are for backpackers, offering budget bunkrooms without all the rules of a Hostel International member. Nightly fees are from \$10 at Juneau International Hostel (p168) to \$35 for the Anchorage Guest House (p210). Most are around \$25 a night. When you consider the access to a kitchen for cheap eats, hostels are the first step in making Alaska affordable. For more information on Alaska's hostels see the website of the **Alaska Hostel Association** (www.alaskahostelassociation.org) before your trip.

## Hotels & Motels

Hotels and motels are often the most expensive lodgings you can book. Although there are bargains, the average double room in a budget hotel costs \$70 to \$90, a midrange motel is \$100 to \$200 and a top-end hotel \$200 and above a night.

The drawback with hotels and motels is that they tend to be full during summer. Without being part of a tour or having advance reservations, you may have trouble finding a bed available in some towns.

## Resorts

Resorts – upscale hotels that have rooms, restaurants, pools and on-site activities – are not