



Kodiak, Katmai & Southwest Alaska

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Best Places to Stay

- » Channel View B&B (p331)
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Why Go?

Southwest Alaska stretches 1500 miles into oblivion, and is about as remote as you can get in a state that prides itself on hard-to-reach places.

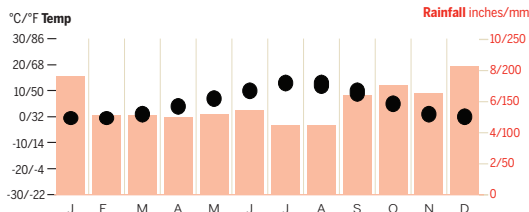
It boasts the world's largest bears, on Kodiak Island; Alaska's richest salmon runs, in Bristol Bay; and the largest gathering of nesting seabirds in the world, on the tiny Pribilof Islands.

It is mostly an island-studded region with stormy weather and violent volcanoes. This is the northern rim of the Ring of Fire. Along the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian Islands are 46 active volcanoes – the greatest concentration in North America.

But you can't drive to Southwest Alaska, making the region hard to reach, expensive to visit and easy to bypass. However, the adventurous do find their way here, because even in Alaska there are few experiences quite like riding a ferry across the North Pacific or watching 1000lb bears gorge themselves on salmon.

When to Go

Kodiak



Jun Decent bear viewing and salmon fishing but with fewer crowds at the hot spots.

Jul Salmon are running, bears are fishing, and humans are hoping to glimpse them both.

Aug Salmon, berries, salmonberries, bears. Need we say more?



Southwest Alaska Highlights

1 Photographing brown bears as they snap salmon from **Brooks Falls** (p339) in Katmai National Park & Preserve

2 Feasting on king crab in **Unalaska** (p347), where it's as fresh as can be

3 Riding the **MV Tustumena** (p336) out the long arm of the Aleutian chain