



# Prince William Sound

## Includes »

Valdez .....	192
Cordova .....	201
Whittier.....	208

## Best Places to Eat

- » Saffron Project (p200)
- » Baja Taco (p206)
- » Harborside Pizza (p206)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Copper River Watershed Project (p205)
- » Robe Lake Lodge (p197)

## Why Go?

Enclosed in a jagged-edged circle and infused with fjords and glaciers, Prince William Sound is a stunner. With only three cities, the 15,000 sq mile region is mostly wilderness packed with quiet coves and rainy islands.

Despite sharing a similar environment, Prince William Sound's three cities couldn't be more different. Each arose from a different need and blossomed in a different manner. Valdez is dominated by slopes: the North Slope, from which the Trans-Alaska Pipeline originates, and the near vertical crags that surround it.

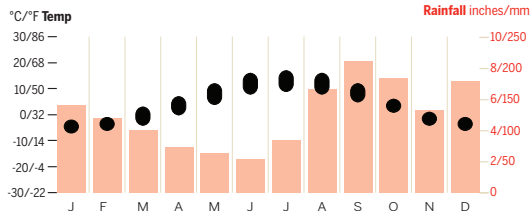
Earthy Cordova is isolated from roads, cruise ships and oil money. The salmon-rich ocean fuels the economy, and when locals need to hit the open road they head out to the Copper River Hwy.

Whittier is a living relic of WWII: a small town created solely as a military hideout and practically overshadowed by the mountains that kept it safe during the war.

Take your pick.

## When to Go

### Valdez



**Jun** It'll likely be rainy, but Childs Glacier will be calving in the river.

**Jul** Still rainy, but the hiking is good, as is the whale watching.

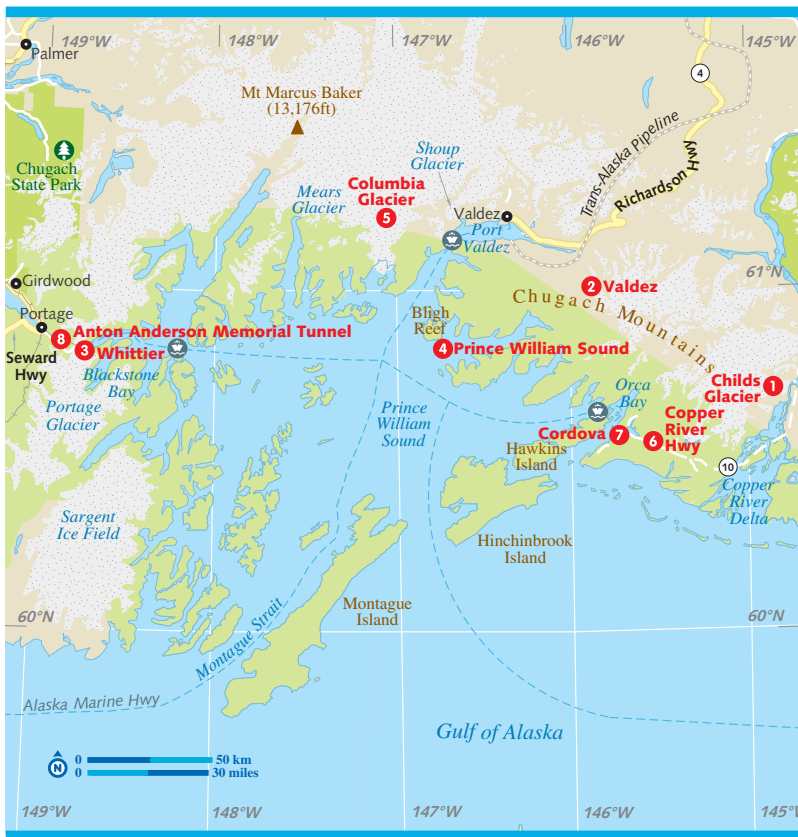
**Sep** Still rainy here, but fall hiking is in its prime, and the berries are ripe.

## History

Prince William Sound was long a crossroads of Alaska Native cultures; the region has been inhabited at various times by coastal Chugach Inuit people, Athabascans originally from the Interior, and Tlingits who traveled up from Alaska's panhandle. The first European to arrive was Vitus Bering, a Dan-

ish navigator sailing for the tsar of Russia, who anchored his ship near Kayak Island, east of Copper River, in 1741.

The Sound's three major towns have rather divergent modern histories. Valdez was settled in 1897, when 4000 gold prospectors took what had been billed as the 'All-American Route' to the Klondike goldfields.



## Prince William Sound Highlights

- 1** Listening, from your tent, to the apocalyptic thunder of **Childs Glacier** calving (p201)
- 2** Taking a helicopter ride above and around **Valdez' vertical peaks** (p196)
- 3** Spending an afternoon wandering the **Buckner building** in Whittier (p210)
- 4** **Spotting Dall porpoises** in the Sound (p212)
- 5** Watching icebergs from **Columbia Glacier** glow on the horizon as you glide by on the Alaska state ferry (p201)
- 6** Road-tripping down the **Copper River Highway** and marveling at the open land of the Copper River Delta
- 7** Chatting with friendly locals, decked in rubber boots, on the deck of the **Reluctant Fisherman Inn** in Cordova (p205)
- 8** Driving down the **Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel** (p208), the longest combined railroad-vehicle tunnel in the US