



Anchorage & Around

Includes ➔

Anchorage.....	158
South of Anchorage.....	181
Seward Highway.....	181
Girdwood.....	182
South of Girdwood.....	185
Portage Glacier.....	186
North of Anchorage.....	186
Glenn Highway.....	186
Palmer.....	189

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Snow City Café (p172)
- ➔ Jack Sprat (p184)
- ➔ Bear Tooth Grill (p173)
- ➔ Turkey Red (p192)
- ➔ Spenard Food Truck Festival (p173)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Copper Whale Inn (p170)
- ➔ Hatcher Pass Lodge (p191)
- ➔ Wildflower Inn (p167)
- ➔ Eklutna Lake State Recreation Area (p189)
- ➔ Alyeska Hostel (p183)

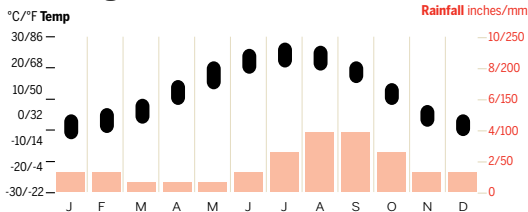
Why Go?

Once you realize that Anchorage isn't simply a big city on the edge of the wilderness, but rather a big city in the wilderness, it starts to make sense. The town manages to mingle hiking trails and traffic jams, small art galleries and Big Oil, like no other city. Among big chain stores and mini-malls, there are more than 100 miles of city trails meandering in hidden greenbelts and a creek splitting downtown where anglers line up to catch trophy salmon.

Towering behind the municipality is the nation's third-largest state park, the half-million-acre Chugach. The wilderness is never far away, which is why Anchorage's young population (the average age is 33) is an active one. Stay for a few days, explore the cycle trails, patronize the art galleries and dine in Alaska's best restaurants, and you'll understand why half the state's population chooses to live in and around this city.

When to Go

Anchorage



Mar Anchorage comes alive for the Iditarod Sled Dog Race and Fur Rendezvous festival.

May The weather is nice, and the crowds and high prices are yet to arrive.

Jul The best month to see or catch a king salmon in Anchorage's Ship Creek.



Anchorage & Around Highlights

- 1** Spending an afternoon at the **Anchorage Museum** (p159), soaking up Alaskan culture and art
- 2** Pedaling the scenic **Tony Knowles Coastal Trail** (p163), with views of the Alaska Range, on the way to Kincaid Park
- 3** Enjoying a fine, fresh meal while taking in the mountains on the deck of **Jack Sprat** (p184) in Girdwood
- 4** Watching the amazing bore tide fill Turnagain Arm in one swoop near **Beluga Point** (p182)
- 5** Riding the **Alyeska Resort Tram** (p182) for an alpine hike and lunch above the treeline
- 6** Exploring **Eklutna Lake** (p188) by combining a day of kayaking and mountain biking
- 7** Seeing 100lb cabbages and softball-sized radishes at the **Alaska State Fair** (p190) in Palmer

Seward (22mi);
Soldotna (67mi)