



Stress Less, **Travel More**



✈ *The Complete* ✈

ALASKA

Port and Vacation Guide

Skagway · Ketchikan · Juneau · Sitka · Haines · Seward
Whittier · Anchorage · Talkeetna · Fairbanks · Hubbard Glacier · Vancouver

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Amy English · Amy@TravelByMike.com · www.TravelByMike.com

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Table of Contents

This guide covers the following ports in alphabetical order:

- [Anchorage, Alaska](#)
- [Fairbanks, Alaska](#)
- [Haines, Alaska](#)
- [Hubbard Glacier](#)
- [Juneau, Alaska](#)
- [Ketchikan, Alaska](#)
- [Seward, Alaska](#)
- [Sitka, Alaska](#)
- [Skagway, Alaska](#)
- [Talkeetna, Alaska](#)
- [Vancouver, BC](#)
- [Whittier, Alaska](#)



Each port section includes:

- Overview & Logistics
- Weather Guide by Month
- Quick Reference Card (per port)
- Top Attractions with Trivia
- Food & Dining Recommendations
- Tours & Excursions with Viator Link placeholders
- Amazon Packing Essentials








All Ports At A Glance






A fast-reference snapshot of every port — key facts, best time to visit, must-eat, and don't-forget reminders.

PORT	BEST TIME	CURRENCY	TOP ATTRACTION	MUST-EAT	DON'T FORGET
 Anchorage, Alaska	June–August	USD — US Dollar	Alaska Native Heritage Center	Reindeer sausage & wild salmon scramble	Sleep mask for midnight sun
 Fairbanks, Alaska	June–Aug (sun) / Sep–Mar (aurora)	USD — US Dollar	Northern Lights / Museum of the North	Sourdough pancakes & birch syrup ice cream	Bug spray (July) + sleep mask
 Haines, Alaska	Jun–Jul (hiking) / Sep–Oct (eagles)	USD — US Dollar	Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve	Fresh salmon + Spruce Tip Ale	Binoculars — essential for eagle season
 Hubbard Glacier	May–September (cruise season)	USD — US Dollar	Watching ice calve from the glacier face	Hot chocolate & chowder on deck!	Heavy jacket + zoom camera + hand warmers
 Juneau, Alaska	June is the sweet spot	USD — US Dollar	Helicopter + Icefield Walk	King crab legs at Tracy's + halibut tacos	Book glacier helicopter EARLY — sells out
 Ketchikan, Alaska	June–August	USD — US Dollar	Misty Fjords floatplane tour	Wild salmon + halibut fish & chips	Waterproof shoes — it will be wet
 Seward, Alaska	June–August	USD — US Dollar	Kenai Fjords Full-Day Wildlife Cruise	King halibut fresh from Resurrection Bay	Seasickness tablets for Kenai Fjords cruise
 Sitka, Alaska	June–August	USD — US Dollar	Alaska Raptor Center + Sea Otter Quest	Sitka Sound oysters + halibut cheeks	Windproof jacket — faces open Pacific
 Skagway, Alaska	May–June (driest & pleasant)	USD — US Dollar	White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad	Halibut fish & chips + wild blueberry pie	Book White Pass Railroad EARLY — sells out
 Talkeetna, Alaska	May–September; clear days best for flights	USD — US Dollar	Denali Flightseeing Tour	Roadhouse cinnamon rolls + cloudberry jam	Book flightseeing only on clear-day forecasts
 Vancouver, BC	July–August (warmest & driest)	CAD — Canadian Dollar (not USD)	Stanley Park Seawall + Granville Island	Aburi sushi at Miku + Nanaimo Bar	Valid passport — it's Canada!
 Whittier, Alaska	June–August	USD — US Dollar	Prince William Sound Glacier Cruise	Fresh halibut & Dungeness crab	Full rain gear + dry bags

Viator Tours — Quick Reference

Your fast-access sheet for all Viator affiliate tour links. Paste each link in the corresponding cell. The right column holds your general Viator destination page link for each port.

PORT	TOP TOURS — Paste Viator Affiliate Links	ALL TOURS PAGE
 Anchorage, Alaska <i>June–August</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alaska Native Heritage Center Tour 2. Matanuska Glacier Hike Day Tour 3. Chugach State Park Wildlife Tour 	All Anchorage, Alaska Tours → Click Here
 Fairbanks, Alaska <i>June–Aug (sun) / Sep–Mar (aurora)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Northern Lights Aurora Tour 2. Chena Hot Springs Aurora Package 3. Arctic Circle Full Day Adventure 	All Fairbanks, Alaska Tours → Click Here
 Haines, Alaska <i>Jun–Jul (hiking) / Sep–Oct (eagles)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chilkat River Bald Eagle Float Trip 2. Brown Bear & Wildlife Photography Tour 3. Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Tour 	All Haines, Alaska Tours → Click Here
 Hubbard Glacier <i>May–September (cruise season)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Helicopter Glacier Tour from nearby port 	All Hubbard Glacier Tours → Click Here
 Juneau, Alaska <i>June is the sweet spot</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Helicopter Tour & Guided Icefield Walk 2. Mendenhall Glacier & Whale Watching Combo 3. Juneau Wildlife Whale Watching 	All Juneau, Alaska Tours → Click Here
 Ketchikan, Alaska <i>June–August</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Misty Fjords National Monument Floatplane Tour 2. Bering Sea Crab Fisherman's Tour 3. Wildlife Viewing & Whale Watching Quest 	All Ketchikan, Alaska Tours → Click Here
 Seward, Alaska <i>June–August</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kenai Fjords Full-Day Glacier & Wildlife Cruise 2. Wilderness Dog Sled Ride and Tour 3. Exit Glacier Guided Hike 	All Seward, Alaska Tours → Click Here

 Sitka, Alaska <i>June–August</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sea Otter & Wildlife Quest 2. Alaska Raptor Center & History Tour 3. Sitka Sound Kayaking & Wildlife Tour 	<p>All Sitka, Alaska Tours → Click Here</p>
 Skagway, Alaska <i>May–June (driest & pleasant)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad 2. Sled Dog Adventure on Glacier 3. Grizzly Falls Ziplining Expedition 	<p>All Skagway, Alaska Tours → Click Here</p>
 Talkeetna, Alaska <i>May–September; clear days best for flights</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Denali Flightseeing with Glacier Landing 2. Denali Flightseeing (No Landing) 3. Talkeetna River Raft & Wildlife Float 	<p>All Talkeetna, Alaska Tours → Click Here</p>
 Vancouver, BC <i>July–August (warmest & driest)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stanley Park Guided Bike Tour 2. Capilano Suspension Bridge & Canyon Tour 3. Vancouver City & Granville Island Food Tour 	<p>All Vancouver, BC Tours → Click Here</p>
 Whittier, Alaska <i>June–August</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Whittier to Anchorage Cruise Transfer and Wildlife Tour 	<p>All Whittier, Alaska Tours → Click Here</p>

⚠️ Alaska waits for no one. These tours sell out — sometimes months before your ship ever leaves port.





Anchorage, Alaska

Southcentral Alaska · Major Hub City

Alaska's largest city — where moose wander downtown and Denali fills the skyline

⚡ QUICK REFERENCE — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

📍 Location

Southcentral Alaska · Major Hub City

💰 Currency

USD — US Dollar

🕒 Best Time to Visit

June–August

🚢 Port Notes

Main hub city; embark/debark for most cruises

🌡️ Avg Summer Temp

63–65°F / 17–18°C

🦅 Top Wildlife

Moose (in city!), Dall sheep, beluga whales

🍖 Must-Eat

Reindeer sausage & wild salmon scramble

🧢 Don't Forget

Sleep mask for midnight sun

🌟 Top Attraction: Alaska Native Heritage Center



★ MOOSE CAPITAL

Anchorage has an estimated 1,500 moose living within city limits year-round. Moose cause more injuries in Alaska than bears each year.





Overview & Logistics

Gateway Hub

- Most cruise passengers arrive/depart here
- Connected to Seward (2.5 hrs) & Whittier (1 hr) by rail
- 40% of Alaska's entire population lives here (~300,000)
- Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport

City Highlights

- Only 350 miles from the Arctic Circle
- Denali visible from downtown on clear days
- Tony Knowles Coastal Trail — 11 miles along the coast
- Chugach State Park — 495,000 acres from city edge

Money & Tips

- US Dollar (USD)
- Restaurants: 15–20%
- Best place to stock up on gear before heading deeper
- Full city amenities — REI, pharmacies, banking

Midnight Sun

- June 21: 19.5 hours of daylight
- Sun sets midnight, rises 4 AM in peak summer
- Sleep mask essential for summer visitors
- Northern Lights Oct–March in clear skies


Weather Guide

MIDNIGHT SUN FACT



On the summer solstice, Anchorage gets over 19.5 hours of daylight. Many visitors are surprised to find bright sunlight at 2 AM.

Month	Avg High	Avg Low	Notes
May	53°F / 12°C	37°F	Spring blooms, warming up
June	63°F / 17°C	46°F	Long days, very pleasant
July	65°F / 18°C	51°F	Warmest month, outdoor activities
August	63°F / 17°C	49°F	Still warm, berries ripen
September	52°F / 11°C	39°F	Fall colors, moose rutting season
October	37°F / 3°C	25°F	First snow, Northern Lights begin

 **Tip:** Late September through March is Northern Lights season — aurora viewing is a real possibility in shoulder season!

Top Attractions

DENALI DISTANCE



Denali at 20,310 feet is 130 miles from Anchorage, yet dominates the entire northern skyline on clear days. It is so massive it creates its own weather system.



Food & Dining

SUSHI CAPITAL FACT



Anchorage is a major air cargo hub between Asia and North America — ultra-fresh fish literally fly through the city daily, making the sushi surprisingly world-class.

Must-Try Foods

- Reindeer sausage breakfast scramble
- Fresh-caught halibut fish & chips
- Wild Alaskan king crab
- Sourdough pancakes with wild berry jam
- Birch syrup desserts



Top Restaurants

1

Club Paris

Anchorage's iconic steakhouse since 1957 — legendary dry-aged Alaska beef and seafood.

2

Simon & Seafort's

Upscale seafood with panoramic Cook Inlet and Denali views. Perfect for a celebration dinner.

3

Snow City Café

Beloved local breakfast spot — wild salmon scrambles, reindeer sausage, blueberry pancakes.


4


Moose's Tooth Pub & Pizzeria

Anchorage's favorite local brewery and pizza — always packed, with good reason.

Tours & Excursions

Blue numbers = top-rated / likely to sell out. Red numbers = all available tours. Add your Viator affiliate links in the right column.

 VIATOR Top Tours & Excursions — Anchorage, Alaska		
#	Tour Name & Description	Viator Link
1	<p>★ TOP RATED Alaska Native Heritage Center Tour Immersive guided tour of Alaska's 11 Indigenous cultures with live demonstrations</p>	Viator Link Here
2	<p>★ TOP RATED Hike Matanuska Glacier Once in a lifetime experience</p>	Viator Link Here
3	<p>★ TOP RATED Chugach State Park Wildlife Tour Guided wildlife van tour into 495,000 acres of wilderness from city edge</p>	Viator Link Here
4	<p>Tony Knowles Coastal Trail Bike Tour Guided cycling along the scenic 11-mile coastal trail</p>	Viator Link Here
5	<p>Anchorage City & History Tour Overview of Alaska's largest city — gold rush history, Native culture, and modern Alaska</p>	Viator Link Here

 **ALL TOURS IN ANCHORAGE, ALASKA — [General Viator Page Link](#)**
This link goes to the full Viator listings page for this destination.



Packing Essentials

amazon Anchorage & Alaska Trip Essentials

All-Weather Jacket

Four seasons can happen in one Anchorage day.

[Shop here for your Alaska Vacation](#)



Sleep Mask

19 hours of daylight will keep you awake without one.

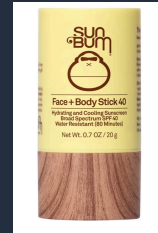
[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



High-SPF Sunscreen

Long daylight hours mean more UV exposure than expected.

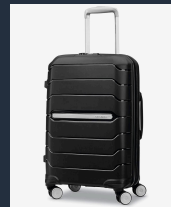
[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



Carry-On Luggage

Perfect for cruise embarkation days.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



As an Amazon Associate, Amy English earns from qualifying purchases. Prices and availability subject to change.





Fairbanks, Alaska

Interior Alaska · 360 miles north of Anchorage

The Golden Heart City — Northern Lights capital and midnight sun extremes

⚡ QUICK REFERENCE — FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

📍 Location

Interior Alaska · 360 miles north of Anchorage

💰 Currency

USD — US Dollar

🕒 Best Time to Visit

June–Aug (sun) / Sep–Mar (aurora)

🚢 Port Notes

Interior city; fly or scenic rail from Anchorage

🌡️ Avg Summer Temp

66–73°F summer / -50°F winter

🦅 Top Wildlife

Moose, caribou, bears, wolves

🍷 Must-Eat

Sourdough pancakes & birch syrup ice cream

🧴 Don't Forget

Bug spray (July) + sleep mask

☀️ **Top Attraction:** Northern Lights / Museum of the North

★ AURORA CAPITAL



Fairbanks sits directly beneath the auroral oval. On average, it has visible Northern Lights 243 nights per year — the best aurora viewing in North America.



Overview & Logistics

Location

- 360 miles north of Anchorage — 2 hrs by air
- Second-largest city in Alaska (~32,000)
- About 190 miles south of the Arctic Circle
- Alaska Railroad connects to Anchorage (12 hrs — scenic!)

Midnight Sun

- June 21: over 21 hours of continuous daylight
- Annual Midnight Sun Baseball Game w/out artificial lights
- Blackout curtains/sleep masks essential in summer

Winter Extremes

- Winter temps can reach -50°F (-45°C)
- Best Northern Lights viewing in North America
- Ice sculpture world championships every March
- Dog mushing trails throughout area

University City

- University of Alaska Fairbanks — top arctic research
- Museum of the North is world-class
- Geophysical Institute tracks aurora activity live


Weather Guide

TEMPERATURE RECORD



Fairbanks holds one of the world's greatest temperature ranges — recording both -66°F in winter AND +99°F in summer. A swing of 165 degrees Fahrenheit.

Month	Avg High	Avg Low	Notes
May	60°F / 16°C	36°F	Warming fast, breakup season
June	71°F / 22°C	47°F	Peak midnight sun, warm
July	73°F / 23°C	50°F	Hottest month, mosquitoes active
August	66°F / 19°C	44°F	Aurora returns late August
September	49°F / 9°C	31°F	Fall colors, great aurora season
October	27°F / -3°C	11°F	Cold, excellent aurora viewing

 **Tip:** July warning: Fairbanks mosquitoes are legendary. Quality [DEET-based insect repellent](#) is absolutely essential.

 **Top Attractions****PIPELINE FACT**

The Trans-Alaska Pipeline carries oil 800 miles from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez. It is built on stilts to prevent the warm oil from melting the permafrost beneath.

1**World-Class****Museum of the North (UAF)**

Extraordinary museum of Alaska art, science, and culture — the aurora gallery alone is worth the trip.

2**Bucket List****[Northern Lights Viewing](#)**

Aug–April, Fairbanks is among the world's best aurora destinations. Chena Hot Springs is a top viewing spot.

3**[Chena Hot Springs Resort](#)**

Natural geothermal hot springs 60 miles from town — open year-round with the iconic Aurora Ice Museum.

4**Trans-Alaska Pipeline Visitor Area**

See and touch the famous pipeline, learn its remarkable engineering story.

5**[Riverboat Discovery](#)**

Narrated paddlewheel boat tour — dog sled demo, bush plane landing, and Athabascan village visit.



Food & Dining

★ SOURDOUGH TRADITION

Some sourdough starters in the Interior are said to be over 100 years old, passed down through families from Gold Rush prospectors.

Must-Try Foods

- Sourdough pancakes with wild berry syrup
- King salmon fresh from the Tanana River
- Moose stew or moose burgers
- Reindeer sausage breakfast
- Birch syrup ice cream



Top Restaurants

1**[Pike's Landing](#)**

Alaska seafood and steaks on the Chena River waterfront — a Fairbanks institution.

2**[The Pumphouse Restaurant](#)**

Historic Gold Rush-era pump house — gold mining artifacts on every wall and excellent food.

3**[Lulu's Bread & Bagels](#)**

Best breakfast in Fairbanks — handmade sourdough, fresh bagels, and great coffee.

4**[Silver Gulch Brewing](#)**

America's northernmost brewery — excellent craft ales. Their Freddie's Fireweed Ale is unique.

Tours & Excursions

VIATOR Top Tours & Excursions — Fairbanks, Alaska

#	Tour Name & Description	Your Viator Affiliate Link
1	<p>★ TOP RATED Northern Lights Aurora Tour Expert-guided aurora viewing excursion to prime dark-sky locations outside the city</p>	Viator Link
2	<p>★ TOP RATED Chena Hot Springs Aurora Package Soak in natural hot springs then watch the Northern Lights overhead</p>	Viator Link
3	<p>★ TOP RATED Riverboat Discovery Tour Narrated paddlewheel sternboat — dog sled demo, bush plane, Athabaskan village</p>	Viator Link
4	<p>Gold Panning & Mine Tour Pan for real gold at a working claim near Fairbanks — keep what you find</p>	Viator Link
5	<p>Arctic Circle Day Trip Drive or fly to the Arctic Circle — get your certificate at the line!</p>	Viator Link

 **ALL TOURS IN FAIRBANKS, ALASKA** — [General Viator Page Link](#)



Packing Essentials

amazon Fairbanks Essentials — Northern Lights & Midnight Sun

DEET Bug Repellent

Fairbanks summer mosquitoes are legendary — don't skip this.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



Sleep Mask

21 hours of daylight will keep you awake without one.

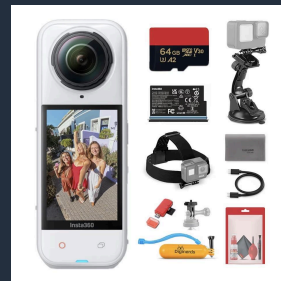
[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



Camera for Aurora Photography

Manual settings and a tripod are key for Northern Lights shots.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



Heavy Insulated Jacket

Evening aurora viewing requires serious warmth even in summer.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



As an Amazon Associate, Amy English earns from qualifying purchases. Prices and availability subject to change.



Haines, Alaska

Southeast Alaska · 15 miles from Skagway by ferry

The Adventure Capital — dramatic peaks, eagles by the thousands, and authentic Alaska

⚡ QUICK REFERENCE — HAINES, ALASKA

📍 Location

Southeast Alaska · 15 miles from Skagway by ferry

💰 Currency

USD — US Dollar

🕒 Best Time to Visit

Jun–Jul (hiking) / Sep–Oct (eagles)

🚢 Port Notes

Tender or ferry from Skagway; very small town

🌡️ Avg Summer Temp

57–68°F / 14–20°C

🦅 Top Wildlife

Up to 4,000 bald eagles, brown & black bears

🍷 Must-Eat

Fresh salmon + Spruce Tip Ale

👉 Don't Forget

[Binoculars](#) — essential for eagle season

☀️ **Top Attraction:** Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve





★ EAGLE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD



Each fall, 3,000–4,000 bald eagles congregate along the Chilkat River — the single largest concentration of bald eagles on Earth.



Overview & Logistics

<p> Arriving</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small ships dock at Haines; large ships tender from Skagway • Population ~2,500 — much less crowded than other ports • 15 miles from Skagway by ferry • Connected to highway system — can drive to Yukon 	<p> Character</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dramatically located between mountains and water • Strong arts community — galleries and studios downtown • Home of the famous Hammer Museum • Less touristy feel than any other port
<p> Outdoor Focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World-class rafting, hiking, and mountain biking • Brown and black bears frequently visible • Sea kayaking through protected coves • Eagles visible almost year-round 	<p> Basics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Dollar (USD) • Fewer shops and restaurants than larger ports • ATM available at local bank • Book tours in advance — capacity is small


Weather Guide

SUNNY SECRET



Haines is actually sunnier than most of Southeast Alaska — sheltered by mountains from Pacific storms, it receives significantly less rain than Ketchikan or Juneau.

Month	Avg High	Avg Low	Notes
May	57°F / 14°C	38°F	Pleasant, drier than most SE ports
June	64°F / 18°C	44°F	Warm and sunny, best month
July	68°F / 20°C	48°F	Warmest — excellent hiking weather
August	66°F / 19°C	47°F	Warm, some rain
September	55°F / 13°C	38°F	Eagle season begins, fall foliage
October	42°F / 6°C	29°F	Peak eagle season, cold nights

 **Tip:** September–October is eagle season. If your cruise visits in fall, witnessing thousands of eagles is one of the greatest wildlife spectacles on Earth.

Top Attractions

FORT HISTORY



Fort William H. Seward was the first permanent U.S. Army post in Alaska, established in 1903. Today the beautifully preserved grounds host galleries and cultural performances.

1

Unmissable

[Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve](#)

World's largest eagle congregation — up to 4,000 bald eagles in fall. Accessible by road year-round.

2

Fort William H. Seward

Historic U.S. Army fort with preserved buildings, Tlingit tribal house, and arts galleries.

3

[Chilkoot Lake State Recreation Area](#)

Stunning glacial lake perfect for hiking, fishing, and spotting bears along the shoreline.

4

Alaska Bald Eagle Festival

Annual November festival celebrating the eagle gathering — workshops, guides, and expert naturalists.

5

The Hammer Museum

Haines' quirky pride — the world's largest collection of hammers, with over 2,000 specimens.



Food & Dining

LOCAL BREW FACT



Haines Brewing Company operates out of a tiny garage, brews award-winning ales, and has won national recognition — including for its famous Spruce Tip Ale.

Must-Try Foods

- Fresh-caught king salmon
- Wild Alaskan halibut
- Locally foraged wild mushrooms
- Wild berry pies and jams
- Spruce Tip Ale from Haines Brewing

Top Restaurants

1

Fireweed Restaurant

Haines' best dining — locally-sourced Alaskan cuisine in a charming downtown setting.

2

[Haines Brewing Company](#)

Award-winning craft ales brewed in a garage. The most unique brewery experience in Alaska.

3


Mountain Market & Café

Natural foods, fresh sandwiches, and excellent coffee. Great for a quick port-day lunch.



Tours & Excursions

VIATOR Top Tours & Excursions — Haines, Alaska

#	Tour Name & Description	Your Viator Affiliate Link
1	<p>★ TOP RATED Chilkat River Bald Eagle Float Trip Raft the Chilkat River through the world's largest bald eagle gathering area</p>	Viator Link
2	<p>★ TOP RATED Brown Bear & Wildlife Photography Tour Guided vehicle tour to prime bear and eagle viewing with professional photographer</p>	Viator Link
3	<p>★ TOP RATED Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Tour Expert naturalist-led tour through the 49,000-acre eagle preserve</p>	Viator Link
4	<p>Chilkoot Lake Kayaking Paddle a stunning glacier-carved lake — bears often visible on shore</p>	Viator Link
5	<p>Chilkat River Jet Boat Cruise through dramatic mountain and river scenery</p>	Viator Link
<p> ALL TOURS IN HAINES, ALASKA — General Viator Page Link</p>		



Packing Essentials

amazon Haines Wildlife & Adventure Gear

Replace each link below with your Amazon Associate URL



High-Power Binoculars

Eagles, bears, and mountain goats reward good optics.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



Wildlife Camera / Telephoto

Eagles and bears from a safe distance require zoom.

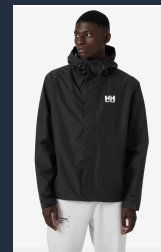
[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



Rain Jacket

Haines is drier but still Alaska — always be prepared.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



Trail Hiking Boots

Chilkat Valley trails are rocky and uneven.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



As an Amazon Associate Amy English earns from qualifying purchases. Prices and availability subject to change.

Hubbard Glacier

Southeast Alaska · Disenchantment Bay · Scenic Cruising Stop

North America's largest tidewater glacier — a wall of ice 6 miles wide and 350 feet tall

QUICK REFERENCE — HUBBARD GLACIER

Location

Southeast Alaska · Disenchantment Bay · Scenic Cruising Stop

Currency

USD — US Dollar

Best Time to Visit

May–September (cruise season)

Port Notes

Scenic cruising only — no dock; ships idle in the bay

Avg Summer Temp

40–58°F / 4–14°C (feels colder on deck)

Top Wildlife


Harbor seals on ice floes, kittiwakes, sea lions

Must-Eat

Hot chocolate & chowder on deck!

Don't Forget

Heavy jacket + zoom camera + hand warmers

 **Top Attraction:** Watching ice calve from the glacier face

RARE ADVANCING GLACIER



Hubbard Glacier is one of the few glaciers in the world that is actually **ADVANCING** — growing toward the sea. In 1986 and 2002 it temporarily sealed off Russell Fjord by advancing across the entrance.



Overview & Logistics


<p> Scale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 76 miles long — longer than Rhode Island • Face stands 350 feet above sea level • 6 miles wide at the calving face • Ice up to 1,200 feet thick 	<p> What to Expect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ships enter Disenchantment Bay slowly • Captain idles as close as safely possible • 1–2 hours of glacier viewing typical • Calving ice sounds like cannon fire
<p> Wildlife to Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harbor seals rest on icebergs near face • Stellar sea lions on rocky outcrops • Kittiwakes and gulls nest in ice face • Look for bears on the shoreline 	<p> Photography Tips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring zoom lens — glacier still 0.5 mi away • Best light: morning (glacier faces west) • Blue ice most vivid on clear days • Have camera ready — calving unpredictable

Weather Guide

★ WHY ICE IS BLUE

Dense glacial ice absorbs red wavelengths and reflects blue light back. The denser and older the ice, the more intensely blue it appears. The ice at Hubbard's base is 400 years old.

Month	Avg High	Avg Low	Notes
May	40–50°F	30–38°F	Cool, possible fog
June	45–55°F	35–42°F	Mild, long daylight
July	50–58°F	38–45°F	Warmest viewing conditions
August	48–56°F	37–44°F	Good conditions, more calving
September	40–50°F	32–40°F	Cooler, dramatic atmosphere

 **Tip:** Even on cloudy or foggy days, Hubbard Glacier is awe-inspiring — the scale is almost impossible to comprehend regardless of weather.

Top Attractions

★ THE 1986 CLOSURE

In 1986, Hubbard advanced so far it sealed Russell Fjord. The ice dam eventually broke — releasing the equivalent of the Amazon River's flow in a single day.

1

Best Deck Spot

Forward Observation Deck

Get to the bow early — forward decks fill fast. The starboard side typically faces the glacier first.

2

Watch for Calving Events When a piece calves, there's a thunderous crack followed by a massive splash. Pieces can be the size of a 10-story building.

3

Spot Harbor Seals on Ice

Dozens of harbor seals use ice floes as resting platforms near the glacier face. Binoculars essential.

4

Photography from All Decks

The captain typically rotates the ship so all passengers get equal viewing time — ask your cruise director.



Packing Essentials

amazon Glacier Viewing Day Essentials

Replace each link below with your Amazon Associate URL

Heavy Insulated Jacket

Cold air radiates off the glacier — dress as if it is winter.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



Marine Binoculars

Spot seals on ice floes and birds on the glacier face.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



Camera with Telephoto Zoom

The glacier face is still 0.5+ miles away — zoom is essential.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



Hand Warmers (10-pack)

Cold wet hands make it hard to operate a camera.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



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❄️ Juneau, Alaska

Southeast Alaska · State Capital · Accessible only by boat or plane

The only U.S. capital you cannot drive to — surrounded by glaciers, rainforest, and humpback whales

⚡ QUICK REFERENCE — JUNEAU, ALASKA

📍 Location

Southeast Alaska · State Capital · Accessible only by boat or plane

💰 Currency

USD — US Dollar

🕒 Best Time to Visit

June is the sweet spot

🚢 Port Notes

Walkable from docks; capital city — no road access

🌡️ Avg Summer Temp

55–64°F / 13–18°C

🦅 Top Wildlife

Humpback whales, black bears, bald eagles

🍽️ Must-Eat

King crab legs at Tracy's + halibut tacos

📌 Don't Forget

Book glacier helicopter [EARLY](#) — sells out

☀️ **Top Attraction:** Helicopter + Icefield Walk

★ CAPITAL CITY FACT

Juneau is the only U.S. state capital with no road connection to the rest of the highway system. It is also larger in area than the entire state of Delaware, covering over 3,200 square miles.



Overview & Logistics

Getting Around

- Downtown walkable from cruise docks
- Mount Roberts Tramway right at pier
- Taxis and ride shares available but limited
- Many excursions include transportation

Currency & Tipping

- US Dollar (USD)
- Restaurants: 15–20%
- Tour guides: \$5–10 per person
- Porters: \$1–2 per bag

Wildlife

- Bald eagles perched on streetlights — look up!
- Black bears common near salmon streams
- Humpback whales in Auke Bay all summer
- Dress warm on water tours

Pro Tips


- Book glacier + whale tour combo to maximize time
- Free Wi-Fi at Juneau Public Library downtown
- Carry small bills for tips and local stands
- Glacier visits often sell out — book early!

Weather Guide

RAINY RECORD

Juneau experiences approximately 222 days of precipitation per year. But all that rain keeps the Tongass National Forest — the largest national forest in the U.S. — incredibly lush and green.

Month	Avg High	Avg Low	Notes
May	55°F / 13°C	43°F	Cool but pleasant, drier month
June	60°F / 16°C	48°F	Long daylight, best month to visit
July	64°F / 18°C	52°F	Warmest, often rainy — pack jacket
August	62°F / 17°C	50°F	Warm, rain increases
September	55°F / 13°C	45°F	Cooler, fall colors begin
October	46°F / 8°C	40°F	Cold, frequent rain, early mountain snow

 **Tip:** June is the sweet spot — nearly 18+ hours of light, relatively low rainfall, and warm enough for glacier hiking.



Top Attractions

GLACIER RETREAT

Mendenhall Glacier has retreated nearly 2 miles since 1958. It is one of the most accessible glaciers in the world — you can walk right up to it from a visitor center 12 miles from downtown.

1**Icon****Mendenhall Glacier**

13-mile glacier with visitor center, hiking trails, and stunning Nugget Falls. A Juneau bucket-list experience.

2**Mount Roberts Tramway**

Scenic gondola lift right at the cruise pier — sweeping views and alpine hiking trails at the top.

3**Must Do****Whale-Watching in Auke Bay**

Juneau is one of the best places in Alaska to spot humpback whales feeding in summer.

4**Glacier Gardens Rainforest Adventure**

A botanical wonder with upside-down trees as planters and stunning views of the Tongass.

5**Free****Alaska State Museum**

Learn about Native Alaskan culture, the Gold Rush era, and Alaska's path to statehood.



Food & Dining

KING CRAB FACT



Alaskan King Crab legs can span up to 6 feet tip to tip. The season is tightly regulated — which is why it's so prized. Tracy's King Crab Shack in Juneau is famous for serving legs the size of your forearm.

Must-Try Foods

- Fresh Alaskan salmon — grilled, smoked, or cedar plank
- Halibut tacos — a local Juneau favorite
- King crab legs — Tracy's is legendary
- Reindeer sausage — uniquely Alaskan
- Wild berry jam and chocolates to take home



Top Restaurants

1

Tracy's King Crab Shack

Famous for enormous king crab legs and bisque. Lines form early — worth every minute.

2

The Hangar on the Wharf

Waterfront dining with fresh seafood and gorgeous views of the Gastineau Channel.

3

Deckhand Dave's Fish Tacos

A food truck turned local legend. The halibut tacos are exceptional.



4

Twisted Fish Company

Upscale seafood dining steps from the cruise docks. Great for a celebratory dinner.



Tours & Excursions

 VIATOR Top Tours & Excursions — Juneau, Alaska		
#	Tour Name & Description	Your Viator Affiliate Link
1	<p>★ TOP RATED Helicopter Tour & Guided Icefield Walk Land on the Juneau Icefield and walk on ancient glacier ice — a once-in-a-lifetime experience</p>	Viator Link
2	<p>★ TOP RATED Mendenhall Glacier & Whale Watching Combo Two iconic Juneau experiences in a single excursion</p>	Viator Link
3	<p>★ TOP RATED Juneau Wildlife Whale Watching Humpback whales, orcas, sea lions, and bald eagles in Auke Bay</p>	Viator Link
4	<p>Underground Gold Mine & Panning Walk into a historic mine and pan for real gold</p>	Viator Link
5	<p>Mendenhall Glacier Trolley Tour Comfortable guided tour to the glacier with narrated history</p>	Viator Link
<p> ALL TOURS IN JUNEAU, ALASKA — General Viator Page Link</p>		



Packing Essentials

amazon Juneau Glacier & Wildlife Essentials

Replace each link below with your Amazon Associate URL



Insulated Rain Jacket

Glacier tours require warmth AND waterproofing.

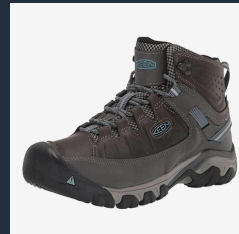
[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



Waterproof Hiking Boots

Essential for glacier walks and rainforest trails.

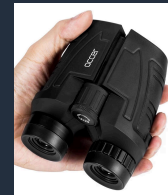
[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



Compact Binoculars

Spot whales, eagles, and bears from the deck.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



Sea-Sickness Bands / Tabs

For whale watching and raft tours in open waters.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



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Ketchikan, Alaska

Southeast Alaska · Alaska's Southernmost City

Salmon Capital of the World — totem poles, rainforest, and Alaska's First City

QUICK REFERENCE — KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

Location

Southeast Alaska · Alaska's Southernmost City

Currency

USD — US Dollar

Best Time to Visit

June–August

Port Notes

Walkable from terminal; bring full rain gear always

Avg Summer Temp

55–64°F / 13–18°C

Top Wildlife

Bald eagles, black bears, harbor seals, salmon

Must-Eat

Wild salmon + halibut fish & chips

Don't Forget

Waterproof shoes — it will be wet

 **Top Attraction:** Misty Fjords Floatplane Tour

WETTEST CITY FACT



Ketchikan receives over 13 feet (160 inches) of rain per year — one of the wettest cities in the United States. Locals say: if you can see the mountains, it's about to rain; if you can't, it already is.



Overview & Logistics

Getting Around

- Cruise terminal is centrally located — walkable downtown
- Local shuttles meet passengers at the pier
- Taxis limited — pre-book tours recommended
- Excursions depart from dock or nearby marinas

Currency & Tipping

- US Dollar (USD)
- Restaurants: 15–20%
- Tour guides: \$5–10 per person
- Shuttle drivers: \$2–5

Wildlife Watch

- Bald eagles everywhere — look up!
- Bears near salmon streams
- Seals in the harbor
- Salmon runs visible from Creek Street boardwalk

Cultural Notes

- Respect Indigenous Tlingit, Haida & Tsimshian spaces
- Don't feed animals or leave marked trails
- Photography OK at most totem sites
- World's largest collection of standing totem poles


Weather Guide

RAINY RECORD



Ketchikan gets an average of 160 inches of rain per year — that's over 13 feet. Yet the locals embrace it: bright rain gear is practically a fashion statement here.

Month	Avg High	Avg Low	Notes
May	55°F / 13°C	43°F	Cool, moderate rain
June	60°F / 16°C	48°F	Mild, occasional showers
July	64°F / 18°C	52°F	Warmest month, still rainy
August	63°F / 17°C	51°F	Warm, frequent showers
September	57°F / 14°C	46°F	Cooling, heavy rain
October	49°F / 9°C	41°F	Cold, very rainy

 **Tip:** Always bring waterproof gear in Ketchikan — a quality rain jacket and waterproof shoes are non-negotiable here!

 **Top Attractions****TOTEM POLE TRIVIA**

Ketchikan has the world's largest collection of standing totem poles. Totems are not religious idols — they are family crests and historical records, telling stories of Indigenous lineages and important events.

1**Unmissable****Misty Fjords National Monument**

Dramatic fjords accessible by floatplane or boat — one of the most spectacular landscapes in Alaska.

2**Totem Heritage Center**

An incredible collection of 19th-century totem poles rescued from abandoned Tlingit and Haida villages.

3**Free to Walk****Creek Street**

Historic boardwalk built over Ketchikan Creek — shops, galleries, and salmon swimming beneath your feet!

4**Saxman Native Village**

Experience living Tlingit culture, totem poles, and watch master carvers at work.

5**Alaska Rainforest Sanctuary**

Walk lush forest trails and watch for black bears, bald eagles, and harbor seals.



Food & Dining

SALMON CAPITAL FACT



Five species of Pacific salmon run through local waters, and the creek that flows through downtown Ketchikan is so thick with returning salmon in late summer you can practically reach in and touch them.

Must-Try Foods

- Fresh wild salmon — smoked, grilled, or baked
- Halibut fish & chips — light and locally caught
- Smoked salmon dip — creamy, rich, and deeply Alaskan
- Reindeer sausage in breakfast dishes
- Wild berry desserts — blueberry pie or jams

Top Restaurants

1**Alaska Fish House**

Casual and delicious seafood right at the dock. Great for a quick port-day meal.

2**Annabelle's Famous Keg & Chowder House**

Cozy historic spot with award-winning chowders and Alaskan specialties.

3**Burger Queen**

Quirky and beloved by locals for big burgers and milkshakes. A Ketchikan institution.

4**Pilothouse Coffee**

Great espresso and grab-and-go snacks before your excursion departs.

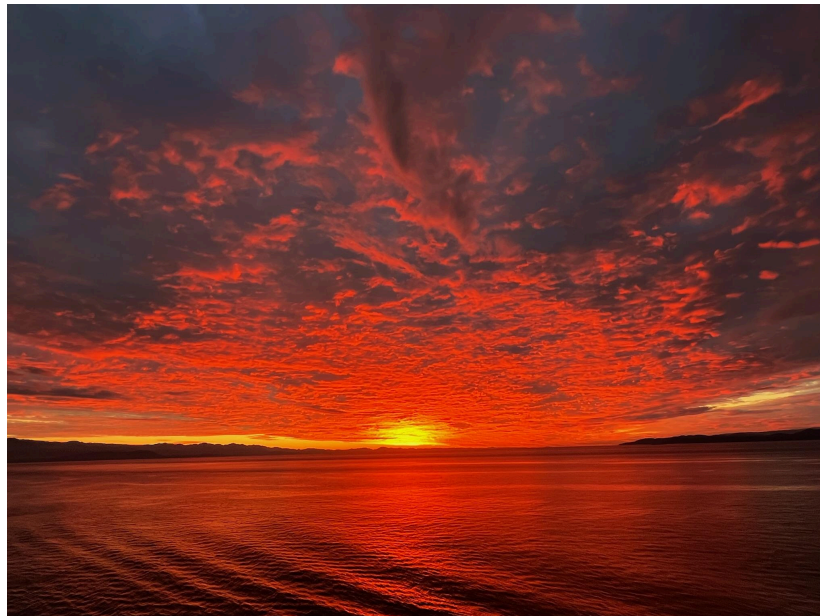


Tours & Excursions

VIATOR Top Tours & Excursions — Ketchikan, Alaska

#	Tour Name & Description	Your Viator Affiliate Link
1	<p>★ TOP RATED Misty Fjords National Monument Floatplane Tour</p> <p>Fly over and land in one of Alaska's most dramatic fjord landscapes</p>	Viator Link
2	<p>★ TOP RATED Bering Sea Crab Fisherman's Tour</p> <p>Real crab fishing experience aboard a working vessel</p>	Viator Link
3	<p>★ TOP RATED Wildlife Viewing & Whale Watching Quest</p> <p>Humpbacks, orcas, sea lions, and bald eagles</p>	Paste Viator
4	<p>Ketchikan Kayak Eco-Tour</p> <p>Paddle through protected waters with a naturalist guide</p>	Viator Link
5	<p>Rainforest Canopy Ropes & Zipline Adventure</p> <p>Fly through the treetops of ancient temperate rainforest</p>	Viator Link

 **ALL TOURS IN KETCHIKAN, ALASKA** — [General Viator Page Link](#)
This link goes to the full Viator listings page for this destination.



Packing Essentials

Replace each link below with your personal Amazon Associate URL for each product. Right-click the link text to edit the hyperlink.

amazon Ketchikan Rain-Ready Packing Essentials

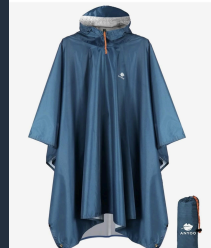
Replace each link below with your Amazon Associate URL



Packable Rain Jacket

Non-negotiable for Ketchikan. Look for fully sealed seams.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



Wool Socks

Nothing beats wool travel socks.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



Windproof Travel Umbrella

Compact and wind-resistant for walking around town.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



Waterproof Dry Bag

Keep camera, phone, and documents dry on water tours.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



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Seward, Alaska

Southcentral Alaska · Kenai Peninsula · Major Embarkation Port

Gateway to Kenai Fjords — glaciers calving into the sea and the world's best coastal wildlife

⚡ QUICK REFERENCE — SEWARD, ALASKA

📍 Location

Southcentral Alaska · Kenai Peninsula · Major Embarkation Port

💰 Currency

USD — US Dollar

🕒 Best Time to Visit

June–August

🚢 Port Notes

Major embarkation port; railroad to Anchorage

🌡️ Avg Summer Temp

51–62°F / 11–17°C

🦅 Top Wildlife

Orcas, humpbacks, puffins, sea otters, sea lions

🍷 Must-Eat

King halibut fresh from Resurrection Bay

📌 Don't Forget

Seasickness tablets for Kenai Fjords cruise





☀️ **Top Attraction:** Kenai Fjords Full-Day Wildlife Cruise

★ MOUNTAIN MARATHON FACT

Each July 4th, Seward hosts the Mount Marathon Race — one of the oldest races in the U.S. Runners sprint straight up a 3,022-foot mountain and back down. The record: under 44 minutes. Most people need over 90.



Overview & Logistics

<p> Port Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major embarkation/debarkation port for Alaska cruises • Connected to Anchorage by scenic railroad (2.5 hrs) • Small walkable downtown near the harbor • Alaska SeaLife Center is walking distance 	<p> Kenai Fjords</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access point for Kenai Fjords National Park • Tidewater glaciers calve directly into the sea • Stellar sea lions haul out on park islands • One of Alaska's most spectacular national parks
<p> Wildlife</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orcas and humpbacks in Resurrection Bay • Stellar sea lions on offshore rocks • Puffins, murre, and seabirds on cliffsides • Harbor seals throughout the bay 	<p> Basics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Dollar (USD) • Restaurants: 15–20% • Busy embarkation port — book ahead for tours • Book restaurants in advance during summer


Weather Guide

NATIONAL PARK SCALE



Kenai Fjords National Park contains the Harding Icefield — one of the largest icefields in the U.S., which feeds over 40 glaciers. It is so vast that bush pilots who first flew over it in the 1930s couldn't see where it ended.

Month	Avg High	Avg Low	Notes
May	51°F / 11°C	37°F	Cool, wildflowers blooming
June	58°F / 14°C	44°F	Mild, pleasant for touring
July	62°F / 17°C	48°F	Warmest, busiest season
August	62°F / 17°C	47°F	Great wildlife watching
September	52°F / 11°C	38°F	Fewer crowds, fall colors
October	42°F / 6°C	31°F	Cold, early snow possible

 **Tip:** Pack layers even in summer. Ocean breezes on Kenai Fjords tours make temperatures feel much colder than the forecast suggests.

Top Attractions

FRESH CATCH FACT



Several Seward restaurants will cook your charter catch for you — bring in your halibut and they'll prepare it to your specification. It doesn't get fresher than that.

1

World-Class

[Kenai Fjords National Park Boat Tour](#)

See tidewater glaciers calving into the sea with wildlife everywhere. The crown jewel of Seward.

2

Alaska SeaLife Center

World-class marine research center and aquarium — touch tanks, puffins, sea lions, and otters.

3

Exit Glacier

Walk right up to the only road-accessible glacier in Kenai Fjords NP — trails from the parking lot.

4

Resurrection Bay Kayaking

Paddle with sea otters, harbor seals, and bald eagles in a stunning mountain-ringed bay.

5

Seward Waterfront & Small Boat Harbor

Stroll the harbor, watch fishing boats unload, and browse shops and local galleries.



Food & Dining

★ WORLD-RECORD HALIBUT

The waters surrounding Seward yield world-record halibut, king salmon, and lingcod. Scientists believe the cold, nutrient-rich Kenai Current is responsible for the extraordinary size of fish here.

Must-Try Foods

- King halibut — fresh from Resurrection Bay
- King salmon — grilled or smoked
- Dungeness crab — steamed simply with butter
- Clam chowder made with local razor clams
- Wild berry pie with Alaska ice cream

Top Restaurants

1

Chinooks Waterfront Restaurant

Upscale seafood with harbor views — a Seward institution for fresh Alaska seafood.

2

The Cookery

Farm-to-table Alaskan cuisine in a warm, stylish setting. Excellent cocktails too.

3

Resurrect Art Coffeehouse

Charming café in a former church — great coffee, pastries, and local art on the walls.

4



Ray's Waterfront

Classic Alaska seafood with panoramic bay and mountain views. King crab is a specialty.



Tours & Excursions

Blue numbers = top-rated / likely to sell out. Red numbers = all available tours. Add your Viator affiliate links in the right column.

 VIATOR Top Tours & Excursions — Seward, Alaska Paste your Viator affiliate link in the [Link] column for each tour. Blue dot = top-rated / likely to sell out.		
#	Tour Name & Description	Your Viator Affiliate Link
1	★ TOP RATED Kenai Fjords Full-Day Glacier & Wildlife Cruise The best boat tour in Alaska — calving glaciers, orcas, puffins, sea lions, humpbacks	Viator Link
2	★ TOP RATED Halibut & Salmon Sport Fishing Charter World-class fishing in Resurrection Bay — can arrange to cook your catch	Viator Link
3	★ TOP RATED Exit Glacier Guided Hike Guided hike to and on the glacier — family-friendly options available	Viator Link
4	Resurrection Bay Sea Kayaking Paddle with otters, seals, and eagles in calm protected waters	Viator Link
5	Scenic Railway from Seward to Anchorage One of the most beautiful train rides in North America	Viator Link
 ALL TOURS IN SEWARD, ALASKA — General Viator Page Link This link goes to the full Viator listings page for this destination.		



Packing Essentials

amazon Seward & Kenai Fjords Essentials

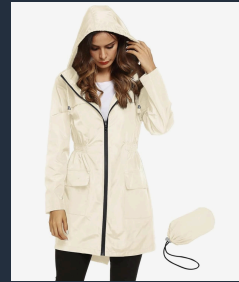
Replace each link below with your Amazon Associate URL



Insulated Waterproof Jacket

Ocean spray and glacial winds make this essential.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



Seasickness Prevention

Open-ocean Kenai Fjords tours can be rough.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



Waterproof Binoculars

Marine-grade for wildlife spotting on the water.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



Alaska Fishing License Holder

Keep your license dry and accessible on charter trips.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



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Sitka, Alaska

Southeast Alaska · Baranof Island · Faces the Open Pacific

Alaska's Russian capital — onion domes, totem poles, and the Pacific Ocean at your doorstep

QUICK REFERENCE — SITKA, ALASKA

Location

Southeast Alaska · Baranof Island · Faces the Open Pacific

Currency

USD — US Dollar

Best Time to Visit

June–August

Port Notes

Tender port — allow extra time; fewer crowds than other ports

Avg Summer Temp

54–62°F / 12–17°C

Top Wildlife

Sea otters, puffins, humpbacks, bald eagles

Must-Eat

Sitka Sound oysters + halibut cheeks

Don't Forget

Windproof jacket — faces open Pacific





 **Top Attraction:** Alaska Raptor Center + Sea Otter Quest

★ THE ALASKA PURCHASE

Sitka was the capital of Russian America. The U.S. purchased Alaska from Russia in 1867 for \$7.2 million — about 2 cents per acre. The official transfer ceremony took place right here in Sitka.




Overview & Logistics

<p> Port Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenders (small boats) transport ships to shore — ships anchor offshore • Allow extra time for the tendering process • Downtown is walkable from the tender dock • Fewer crowds than Juneau or Ketchikan 	<p> Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong Russian Orthodox heritage — cathedral downtown • Tlingit cultural center and dance performances • Alaska Raptor Center — world-class bald eagle rehab • One of Alaska's most historically layered ports
<p> Nature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surrounded by Sitka Sound and volcanic islands • World-class salmon and halibut fishing • Sea otters visible in the harbor • Faces the open Pacific — windier than Inside Passage ports 	<p> Basics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Dollar (USD) • Fewer shops than other ports — more authentic feel • Restaurant: 15–20% tip standard • Book Ludvig's Bistro well in advance

Weather Guide

★	<p>PACIFIC OCEAN EFFECT</p> <p>Sitka faces the open Pacific Ocean, which moderates temperatures but creates windier and wavier conditions than inside-passage ports. A wind-resistant jacket is especially useful here.</p>
---	--

Month	Avg High	Avg Low	Notes
May	54°F / 12°C	41°F	Cool, some rain
June	59°F / 15°C	46°F	Pleasant, mild showers
July	62°F / 17°C	50°F	Warmest, occasional rain
August	62°F / 17°C	49°F	Warm, increasing rain
September	55°F / 13°C	44°F	Cooler, rainy
October	47°F / 8°C	38°F	Cold, very wet

 **Tip:** Sitka faces the open Pacific — weather can be windier than Inside Passage ports. A wind-resistant jacket is especially useful here.

Top Attractions

EAGLE REHAB FACT



The Alaska Raptor Center in Sitka is one of the few places in the world where you can stand face-to-face with a bald eagle. The center rehabilitates over 200 birds of prey per year.

1

Don't Miss

[Alaska Raptor Center](#)

Get up-close with bald eagles and other raptors at this world-class rehabilitation facility.

2

Sitka National Historical Park

Walk among totem poles in old-growth rainforest at the site of the 1804 Tlingit–Russian battle.

3

St. Michael's Russian Orthodox Cathedral

Iconic onion-domed cathedral in the heart of downtown — a stunning piece of Russian colonial history.

4

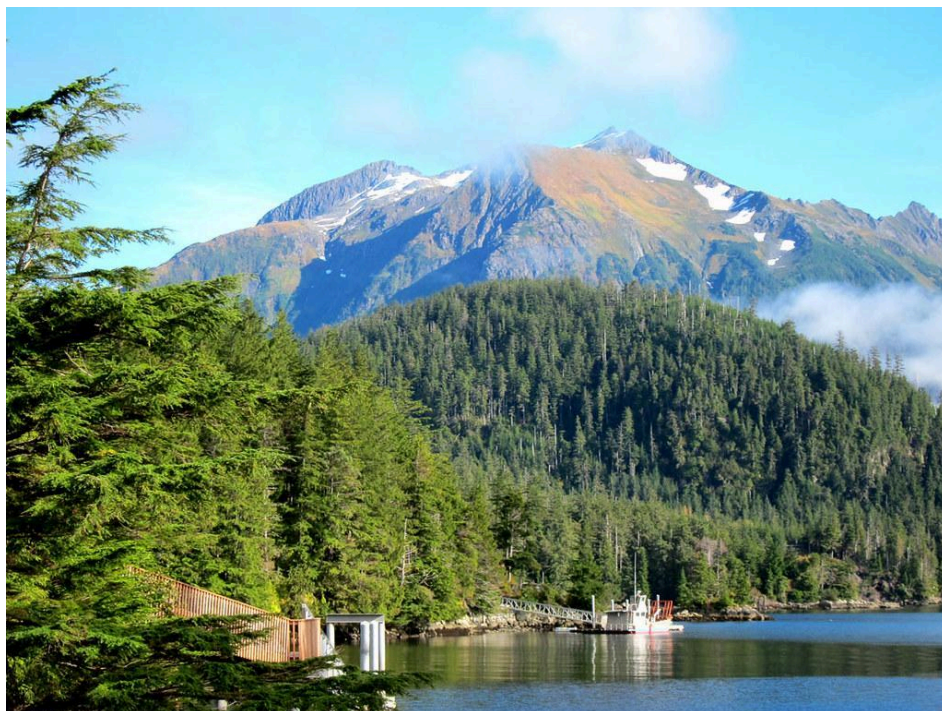
Sitka Sound Science Center

Marine biology lab with touch tanks, salmon hatchery tours, and sea life displays.

5

[Sea Otter & Wildlife Quest](#)

Boat tour through Sitka Sound to spot sea otters, whales, sea lions, and puffins.



Food & Dining

SITKA SOUND OYSTERS



Sitka Sound oysters are farmed in pristine cold Pacific waters and considered among the finest oysters in North America — cold, clean water produces exceptionally briny and sweet shellfish.

Must-Try Foods

- Sitka Sound oysters — farmed in pristine Pacific waters
- King salmon — fresh-caught and often smoked same-day
- Dungeness crab — sweet and steamed simply
- Halibut cheeks — a local delicacy, tender and buttery
- Wild mushrooms foraged from the rainforest

Top Restaurants

1

Ludvig's Bistro

Sitka's most beloved restaurant — Mediterranean-influenced seafood. Book well in advance.

2

Highliner Coffee

Great coffee, breakfast, and fresh baked goods. A local morning favorite near the harbor.

3






Sitka Hotel Restaurant

Reliable Alaskan comfort food — salmon, chowder, and local specialties.





Tours & Excursions

Blue numbers = top-rated / likely to sell out. Red numbers = all available tours. Add your Viator affiliate links in the right column.

 VIATOR Top Tours & Excursions — Sitka, Alaska		
<i>Paste your Viator affiliate link in the [Link] column for each tour. Blue dot = top-rated / likely to sell out.</i>		
#	Tour Name & Description	Your Viator Affiliate Link
1	 TOP RATED Sea Otter & Wildlife Quest Boat tour through Sitka Sound — sea otters, whales, puffins, sea lions in open Pacific waters	Viator Link
2	 TOP RATED Alaska Raptor Center & History Tour Face-to-face with bald eagles + Russian and Tlingit history walk	Viator Link
3	 TOP RATED Sitka Sound Kayaking & Wildlife Tour Paddle past volcanic islands and old-growth shoreline with a naturalist guide	Viator Link
4	Sitka Sport Fishing Charter World-class salmon and halibut fishing in pristine Sitka Sound	Viator Link
5	Sitka Historical Walking Tour Walk the Russian colonial sites, Tlingit battleground, and totem poles	Viator Link
 ALL TOURS IN SITKA, ALASKA — General Viator Page Link <i>This link goes to the full Viator listings page for this destination.</i>		

Packing Essentials

amazon Sitka Wind, Wildlife & Pacific Essentials	
<i>Replace each link below with your Amazon Associate URL</i>	
 Windproof Rain Shell Sitka faces open Pacific winds — windproofing matters here. Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here	



Marine Binoculars

Sea otters, puffins, and whales reward sharp eyes.

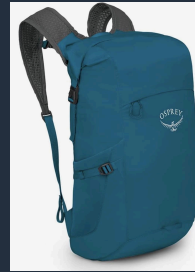
[Shop For Your Alaskan Adventure Here](#)



Waterproof Dry Bag

Essential for kayaking and boat excursions.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



Fleece Midlayer

Core warmth for cool ocean breezes on wildlife tours.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



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Skagway, Alaska

Southeast Alaska · Head of Lynn Canal · Gold Rush History

Once the gateway to the Klondike Gold Rush — now a gateway to unforgettable Alaska adventure

QUICK REFERENCE — SKAGWAY, ALASKA

Location

Southeast Alaska · Head of Lynn Canal · Gold Rush History

Currency

USD — US Dollar

Best Time to Visit

May–June (driest & pleasant)

Port Notes

Ships dock in town center; fully walkable

Avg Summer Temp

57–64°F / 14–18°C

Top Wildlife

Bald eagles, bears on excursions, Dall sheep on passes

Must-Eat

Halibut fish & chips + wild blueberry pie

Don't Forget

Book White Pass Railroad EARLY — sells out

 **Top Attraction:** White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad

GOLD RUSH FACT



At the height of the Klondike Gold Rush in 1898, Skagway's population swelled to over 10,000 people — making it briefly the largest city in Alaska. Today, fewer than 1,200 people call it home year-round.



Overview & Logistics

Getting Around

- Cruise ships dock steps from town center
- Fully walkable — no public transit
- Excursions depart directly from pier
- Wheelchair/scooter rentals available (advance booking)

Currency & Tipping

- US Dollar (USD) — no exchange needed
- Cards widely accepted; carry cash for small vendors
- Restaurants: 15–20%
- Tour guides: \$5–10 per person

Connectivity

- Cell service available in town center
- Free Wi-Fi at Glacial Coffeehouse
- Remote excursions may lose signal

Shopping

- Handblown glass & carved ivory
- Gold rush souvenirs & smoked salmon
- Wild berry jams
- Shops open seasonally May–September

Weather Guide

SUNNY FJORD FACT



Skagway sits at the head of Lynn Canal — the longest and deepest fjord in North America. This creates a unique micro-climate, often sunnier than surrounding Southeast Alaska towns.

Month	Avg High	Avg Low	Notes
May	57°F / 14°C	42°F	Pleasant, low rainfall
June	62°F / 17°C	48°F	Best month, long daylight
July	64°F / 18°C	51°F	Warmest, occasional showers
August	63°F / 17°C	50°F	Warm, more frequent rain
September	56°F / 13°C	45°F	Cooling, heavy rain
October	47°F / 8°C	38°F	Cold, damp, brisk

 **Tip:** May & June offer the most comfortable weather with low rainfall and long daylight. Always dress in layers — Skagway weather shifts quickly!

Top Attractions

★ RAILROAD RECORD

The White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad climbs 2,885 feet in just 20 miles — one of the steepest railroad grades in North America. It was completed in 1900, just two years after construction began.

1

Must Do

[White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad](#)

Iconic narrow-gauge train through rugged mountain terrain and historic gold rush routes. Book early!

2

Free Entry

[Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park](#)

Preserved buildings and excellent ranger-led exhibits that bring the gold rush era to life.

3

Passport Required

[Yukon Scenic Drive](#)

Stunning scenery, wildlife sightings, and alpine lakes on a drive into Canada's Yukon Territory.

4

[Jewell Gardens](#)

Organic gardens and a working glassblowing studio — try a class and take home a handcrafted piece.

5

[Lower Reid Falls & Gold Rush Cemetery](#)

A peaceful forest walk to a waterfall and the cemetery where 'Soapy Smith' is buried.



Food & Dining

★ SPRUCE TIP ALE

Spruce Tip Ale is brewed using the tender new growth tips of Sitka spruce trees, harvested each spring. It has a piney, slightly citrusy flavor unique to Southeast Alaska — you genuinely cannot get it anywhere else.

Must-Try Foods

- Halibut fish & chips — fresh beer-battered
- Wild Alaskan salmon — smoked, grilled, or in chowder
- Reindeer sausage — bold and smoky local favorite
- Wild blueberry muffins, jams, and pies
- Spruce Tip Ale — a truly one-of-a-kind local brew

Top Restaurants

1

Skagway Brewing Company

Local brews, fish & chips, and classic Alaskan fare. Est. 1897 building.

2

Bonanza Bar & Grill

Relaxed spot for burgers, chowder, and fresh seafood in a gold rush setting.

3

Bites on Broadway

Fresh pastries, sandwiches, and legendary blueberry pies. Great for a quick stop.

4

Glacial Coffeehouse




Coffee, smoothies, and vegetarian-friendly options. Also offers free Wi-Fi.



Tours & Excursions

VIATOR Top Tours & Excursions — Skagway, Alaska

Paste your Viator affiliate link in the [Link] column for each tour. Blue dot = top-rated / likely to sell out.

#	Tour Name & Description	Your Viator Affiliate Link
1	<p> TOP RATED White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad The iconic narrow-gauge train through rugged mountains and gold rush history — book early!</p>	Viator Link
2	<p> TOP RATED Sled Dog Adventure on Glacier Helicopter to a glacier + run a dog sled team on snow even in summer</p>	Viator Link
3	<p> TOP RATED Grizzly Falls Ziplining Expedition Soar through old-growth forest with mountain views</p>	Viator Link
4	<p>Ocean Raft Alaska High-speed raft adventure through glacier-carved waterways</p>	Viator Link
5	<p>Klondike Bicycle Tour Downhill cycling through historic gold rush country — fun for all ages</p>	Viator Link

ALL TOURS IN SKAGWAY, ALASKA — [General Viator Page Link](#)

This link goes to the full Viator listings page for this destination.



Packing Essentials

amazon Skagway Alaska Cruise Packing Essentials

Waterproof Rain Jacket

Essential for every port. Packable styles fold into their own pocket.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



Waterproof Hiking Shoes

For trail walks, glacier tours, and historic boardwalks.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



Compact Binoculars

Don't miss whales, eagles, and bears at a distance.

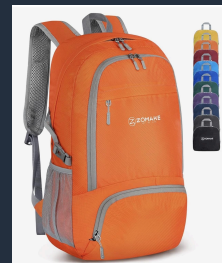
[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



Foldable Daypack

Perfect for port days — folds flat in your cabin.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



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Talkeetna, Alaska

Southcentral Alaska · Matanuska-Susitna Borough · 2 hrs north of Anchorage

Quirky basecamp for Denali climbers — flightseeing, floatplanes, and a legendary cat mayor

⚡ QUICK REFERENCE — TALKEETNA, ALASKA

📍 Location

Southcentral Alaska · Matanuska-Susitna Borough
· 2 hrs north of Anchorage

💰 Currency

USD — US Dollar

🕒 Best Time to Visit

May–September; clear days best for flights

🚢 Port Notes

Small quirky town; 2 hrs from Anchorage by car or train

🌡️ Avg Summer Temp

55–70°F / 13–21°C

🦅 Top Wildlife

Moose, bears, eagles at river confluence

🍞 Must-Eat

Roadhouse cinnamon rolls + cloudberry jam

📅 Don't Forget

Book flightseeing only on clear-day forecasts

☀️ **Top Attraction:** Denali Flightseeing Tour

★ MAYOR STUBBS

For nearly 20 years, Talkeetna's honorary mayor was Stubbs the Cat — an orange tabby who received fan mail from around the world and survived a dog attack in 2013. Stubbs passed away in 2017 after a legendary 20-year mayoral career.

i Overview & Logistics

🚗 Getting There

- 2 hours north of Anchorage by car
- Accessible by Alaska Railroad from Anchorage
- Small historic downtown — entirely walkable
- Population only about 900 people

🏔️ Denali Access

- Primary jumping-off point for Denali climbers
- Flightseeing tours over Denali depart from here
- Denali (20,310 ft) dominates the skyline on clear days
- NPS ranger station for Denali climbing permits

🎨 Town Character

- Famous for its quirky, bohemian spirit
- Art galleries, craft shops, and outdoor outfitters
- Historic log cabin downtown from early 1900s
- Lively local music and arts scene year-round

🌊 Rivers

- Confluence of Talkeetna, Susitna, and Chulitna rivers
- River bar visible from town — great moose habitat
- Rafting and fishing popular nearby
- Floatplane base on the river

☀️ Weather Guide

DENALI VIEWS



A Denali flightseeing tour from Talkeetna is the only way most people will ever truly see the summit — at 20,310 feet, the peak is often cloud-shrouded from the ground, but from a small plane you can circle the summit and understand its true scale.

Month	Avg High	Avg Low	Notes
May	55°F / 13°C	35°F	Spring arrives, rivers open
June	66°F / 19°C	44°F	Long days, excellent views
July	70°F / 21°C	48°F	Warmest month, busy season
August	67°F / 19°C	46°F	Still warm, berries ripe
September	50°F / 10°C	34°F	Fall colors, quieter
October	35°F / 2°C	21°F	Cold, early snow on peaks

✓ **Tip:** Clear days for Denali views are precious — if your visit day is clear, prioritize a flightseeing tour above everything else. It may be your only chance.



Top Attractions

FLIGHTSEEING FACT



Talkeetna's small bush plane operators have flown climbers and researchers to Denali since the 1930s. Today's flightseeing tours follow the same routes used to supply the highest climbers in North America.

1

Life-Changing

Denali Flightseeing Tour

Fly around North America's tallest peak in a small plane — glacier landings available. A true bucket-list experience.

2

Talkeetna Historical Society Museum

Fascinating exhibits on early Alaska aviation, Denali climbing history, and the town's colorful past.

3

River Confluence Viewpoint

Walk to where three rivers meet — dramatic mountain and river scenery with frequent wildlife.

4

Historic Downtown Walk

Stroll log-cabin-era buildings, art galleries, and craft shops in one of Alaska's most charming downtowns.



Food & Dining

★ WILD BERRY SEASON

The area around Talkeetna produces extraordinary cloudberrries each August — a delicacy rarely found outside Arctic regions, tasting vaguely like apricot and honey. Also called 'baked apple berries' by locals.

Must-Try Foods

- Talkeetna Roadhouse cinnamon rolls — legendary, enormous
- Fresh-caught salmon from the local rivers
- Wild cloudberry jam on sourdough
- Craft ales from Denali Brewing Company
- Mountain High pizza after a long hike or flight

Top Restaurants

1

Talkeetna Roadhouse

A true Alaska institution — enormous scratch-made cinnamon rolls and hearty breakfasts in a cozy cabin.

2

Denali Brewing Company

Award-winning craft ales in a beautiful taproom overlooking the mountains. The Twister Creek IPA is famous.

3


Mountain High Pizza Pie


Casual, beloved local pizza spot — the perfect post-flightseeing meal.



Tours & Excursions


Blue numbers = top-rated / likely to sell out. Red numbers = all available tours. Add your Viator affiliate links in the right column.

 VIATOR Top Tours & Excursions — Talkeetna, Alaska		
#	Tour Name & Description	Your Viator Affiliate Link
1	<p>★ TOP RATED Denali Flightseeing with Glacier Landing Fly around North America's tallest peak and land on the glacier — the ultimate Alaska experience</p>	Viator Link
2	<p>★ TOP RATED Denali Flightseeing (No Landing) Scenic flight around Denali — more affordable, still breathtaking</p>	Viator Link
3	<p>★ TOP RATED Talkeetna River Raft & Wildlife Float Float the Talkeetna River through spectacular mountain and wildlife scenery</p>	Viator Link
4	<p>Fly-In Fishing in Remote Alaska Lakes Float plane to a remote lake for world-class fly fishing</p>	Viator Link
5	<p>Talkeetna Lakes Hike Guided Hike the beautiful area of Talkeetna</p>	Viator Link


 **ALL TOURS IN TALKEETNA, ALASKA — [General Viator Page Link](#)**
This link goes to the full Viator listings page for this destination.

Packing Essentials

amazon Talkeetna & Denali Day Trip Essentials

 **Camera with Wide Angle Lens**
Denali from a plane is the most photographed moment in Alaska.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Cruise Here](#)





Polarized Sunglasses

Glacier glare from the air is intense — protect your eyes.

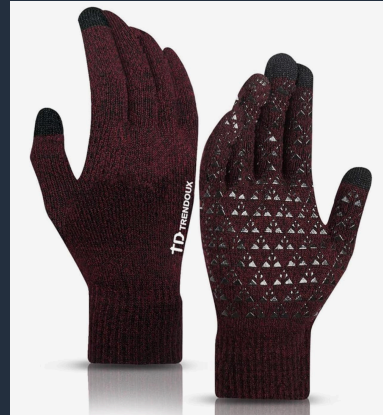
[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



Warm Gloves & Hat

Denali flightseeing reaches high elevations — pack warm.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)



Small Day Pack

For hiking the river confluence trails and exploring downtown.

[Shop For Your Alaska Cruise Here](#)



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Vancouver, BC

British Columbia, Canada · Major Cruise Embarkation Hub

One of the world's most beautiful cities — and the most stunning cruise departure port imaginable

⚡ QUICK REFERENCE — VANCOUVER, BC

📍 Location

British Columbia, Canada · Major Cruise Embarkation Hub

💰 Currency

CAD — Canadian Dollar (not USD)

🕒 Best Time to Visit

July–August (warmest & driest)

🚢 Port Notes

Canada Place cruise terminal; passport required

🌡️ Avg Summer Temp

64–72°F / 18–22°C

🦅 Top Wildlife

Orcas on whale tours, bears in Whistler area

🍣 Must-Eat

Aburi sushi at Miku + Nanaimo Bar

🛂 Don't Forget

Valid passport — it's Canada!

🌟 **Top Attraction:** Stanley Park Seawall + Granville Island





🌍 WORLD CITY FACT



Vancouver has been ranked one of the world's most livable cities for 30+ consecutive years. It is built on the traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, who have lived here for over 10,000 years.



Overview & Logistics


<p> Cruise Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Place is the main cruise terminal — stunning sailaway • Downtown is highly walkable from Canada Place • SkyTrain (Waterfront Station) nearby for wider city access • Currency: Canadian Dollar (CAD) — not USD 	<p> Entry Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. citizens: valid passport required • eTA needed if flying into Canada • Customs declaration required on arrival • Sales tax: expect 12–15% on purchases
<p> Money in Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian Dollar (CAD) • Most places accept credit cards • Tipping: same as U.S. standard (15–20%) • Cannabis is legal in BC — not near cruise terminals 	<p> Getting Around</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SkyTrain, buses, and SeaBus ferry • Uber and Lyft available throughout city • Hop-On Hop-Off bus near Canada Place • Excellent cycling infrastructure citywide

Weather Guide

★ STANLEY PARK TREES

Stanley Park contains old-growth Douglas fir trees over 800 years old. At 1,001 acres it is larger than Central Park in New York City, making it one of the few urban forests with truly ancient trees anywhere in the world.

Month	Avg High	Avg Low	Notes
May	64°F / 18°C	48°F	Spring blooms, some rain
June	68°F / 20°C	53°F	Mild and pleasant
July	72°F / 22°C	56°F	Warmest, driest month
August	72°F / 22°C	56°F	Warm, ideal for outdoor activities
September	66°F / 19°C	52°F	Still pleasant, rain increasing
October	57°F / 14°C	45°F	Cooling, rainy season begins

 **Tip:** July and August are Vancouver's best months — warm, relatively dry, and gorgeous. Even so, always pack a light rain layer.

Top Attractions

SUSHI CAPITAL OF CANADA



Vancouver is home to one of the largest Japanese-Canadian communities in North America and is widely considered to have the best sushi outside of Japan — the Pacific location and Japanese diaspora make it genuinely world-class.

1

Icon

Stanley Park & Seawall

1,001-acre urban park with 800-year-old trees, totem poles, beaches, and a stunning 10-mile coastal seawall.

2

Capilano Suspension Bridge

Famous bridge and treetop walkways 230 feet above the canyon floor. A classic Vancouver experience.

3

Granville Island Public Market

Bustling artisan market under the bridge — fresh food, crafts, galleries, and waterfront restaurants.

4

Gastown Historic District

Vancouver's oldest neighborhood — cobblestone streets, famous steam clock, restaurants, and galleries.

5

Vancouver Lookout

360° observation deck offering views of the city, harbor, Burrard Inlet, and North Shore mountains.



Food & Dining

★ POUTINE ORIGIN

Poutine — fries, cheese curds, and gravy — originated in Quebec in the late 1950s and is now Canada's most iconic dish. Vancouver's version often features gourmet upgrades like truffle, lobster, or pulled pork.

Must-Try Foods

- Wild Pacific salmon — smoked or candied, a perfect souvenir
- Poutine — the Canadian classic in many gourmet variations
- Japadog — Japanese-style hot dogs from famous street carts
- Nanaimo Bar — the iconic no-bake Canadian dessert
- World-class sushi — Vancouver's Pacific location makes it exceptional

Top Restaurants

1

Miku

Upscale aburi (flame-seared) sushi steps from Canada Place — beautiful waterfront views.

2

Steamworks Brewing Co.

Gastown favorite with craft beer and excellent comfort food in a historic building.

3

The Flying Pig

Canadian bistro-style dishes with a warm, local feel — popular with locals and visitors alike.

4

Blue Water Café

High-end seafood and raw bar in stylish Yaletown. Perfect for a special first or last night dinner.



Tours & Excursions

VIATOR Top Tours & Excursions — Vancouver, BC

#	Tour Name & Description	Your Viator Affiliate Link
1	<p>★ TOP RATED Stanley Park Guided Bike Tour Cycle the famous seawall and forest trails with a local guide — the best way to see the park</p>	Viator Link
2	<p>★ TOP RATED Capilano Suspension Bridge & Canyon Tour Walk 230 feet above the canyon on the famous bridge and treetop walkways</p>	Viator Link
3	<p>★ TOP RATED Vancouver City & Granville Island Food Tour Taste your way through Canada Place, Gastown, and the famous public market</p>	Viator Link
4	<p>Whale Watching from Vancouver Orcas and humpbacks in the Salish Sea — departs from downtown waterfront</p>	Viator Link
5	<p>Whistler Day Trip from Vancouver Scenic drive or train to the world-famous ski resort village 75 miles north</p>	Viator Link

 **ALL TOURS IN VANCOUVER, BC** — [General Viator Page Link](#)
This link goes to the full Viator listings page for this destination.



 **Packing Essentials****amazon Vancouver City Essentials** **Stylish Rain Jacket**

Light and packable — Vancouver is fashion-forward and it rains.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)

 **Comfortable Walking Shoes**

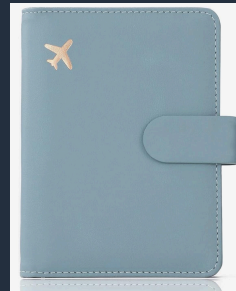
Stanley Park Seawall is 10 miles — good shoes matter.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)

 **Passport Holder / Wallet**

Valid passport required for Canada entry — keep it safe.

[Shop For Your Alaskan Vacation Here](#)

 **Stylish City Daypack**

For exploring Granville Island, Gastown, and Stanley Park.

[Shop For Your Alaska Vacation Here](#)



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Whittier, Alaska

Southcentral Alaska · Prince William Sound · 1 hr from Anchorage

The town that lives under one roof — gateway to Prince William Sound's wild fjords

⚡ QUICK REFERENCE — WHITTIER, ALASKA



Location

Southcentral Alaska · Prince William Sound · 1 hr from Anchorage



Currency

USD — US Dollar



Best Time to Visit

June–August



Port Notes

Embarkation port; 1 hr from Anchorage via tunnel



Avg Summer Temp

55–59°F / 13–15°C



Top Wildlife

Orcas, sea lions, puffins, harbor seals



Must-Eat

Fresh halibut & Dungeness crab



Don't Forget

Full rain gear + dry bags



Top Attraction: Prince William Sound Glacier Cruise





ONE BUILDING TOWN



Almost all of Whittier's 220 residents live in a single building — Begich Towers, a former Army barracks. It contains apartments, a store, a church, a health clinic, and a post office. Underground tunnels connect it to the school.



Overview & Logistics

<p> Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connected to Anchorage via Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel • Longest combined vehicle/rail tunnel in North America (2.5 miles) • Major embarkation port for Prince William Sound cruises • 1-hour drive from Anchorage 	<p> Prince William Sound</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to some of Alaska's most pristine fjords • Tidewater glaciers, islands, and abundant wildlife • Less visited than Southeast — more wild and remote • Columbia Glacier is one of the highlights
<p> Weather</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of Alaska's wettest spots — over 175 inches yearly • Always bring full rain gear • Summers mild, winters can be very harsh • Fog common — adds dramatic atmosphere 	<p> Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very limited shops and restaurants in town • Stock up on supplies in Anchorage before arriving • Marina has fuel and basic supplies • Excellent tour operators based in Whittier


Weather Guide

COLUMBIA GLACIER SCALE



Columbia Glacier near Whittier has retreated over 20 miles in 40 years — one of the fastest-retreating glaciers in the world. Yet it is still a staggering 34 miles long and 3 miles wide.

Month	Avg High	Avg Low	Notes
May	48°F / 9°C	36°F	Cool, frequent rain and fog
June	55°F / 13°C	42°F	Mild, still rainy
July	59°F / 15°C	47°F	Warmest month
August	58°F / 14°C	46°F	Mild, rain increasing
September	50°F / 10°C	39°F	Cooling, heavy rain
October	39°F / 4°C	30°F	Cold, early snow possible

 **Tip:** Whittier is one of Alaska's rainiest towns — full rain gear including pants is strongly recommended. Even in summer, always be prepared for wet conditions.

Top Attractions

★ BLACKSTONE BAY

Blackstone Bay, accessible from Whittier, contains six tidewater glaciers — more than almost any other accessible bay in Alaska. Kayaking among calving icebergs here is one of the most extraordinary outdoor experiences in North America.

1

Must Do

[Prince William Sound Glacier Cruise](#)

Boat through pristine fjords to calving tidewater glaciers — orcas, sea lions, puffins, and glaciers.

2

Blackstone Bay Kayaking

Paddle among icebergs — one of Alaska's most dramatic kayaking experiences. Six glaciers in one bay!

3

Portage Glacier (nearby)

Just 15 miles away — accessible by boat tour or visitor center road. Dramatic scenery and easy access.

4

Visit Begich Towers

Tour Alaska's most unusual building — the entire town living under one roof. A genuinely unique experience.



Food & Dining

WHITTIER DINING TIP



Whittier has very limited dining options — stock up on snacks and supplies in Anchorage before you arrive, especially if you're spending multiple days here for cruise embarkation.

Must-Try Foods

- Fresh halibut and salmon from local charter boats
- Prince William Sound Dungeness crab
- Clam chowder at Varly's Swiftwater Café
- Cold weather comfort foods from Swiftwater Café
- Alaska craft beer to warm up after glacier tours

Top Restaurants

1

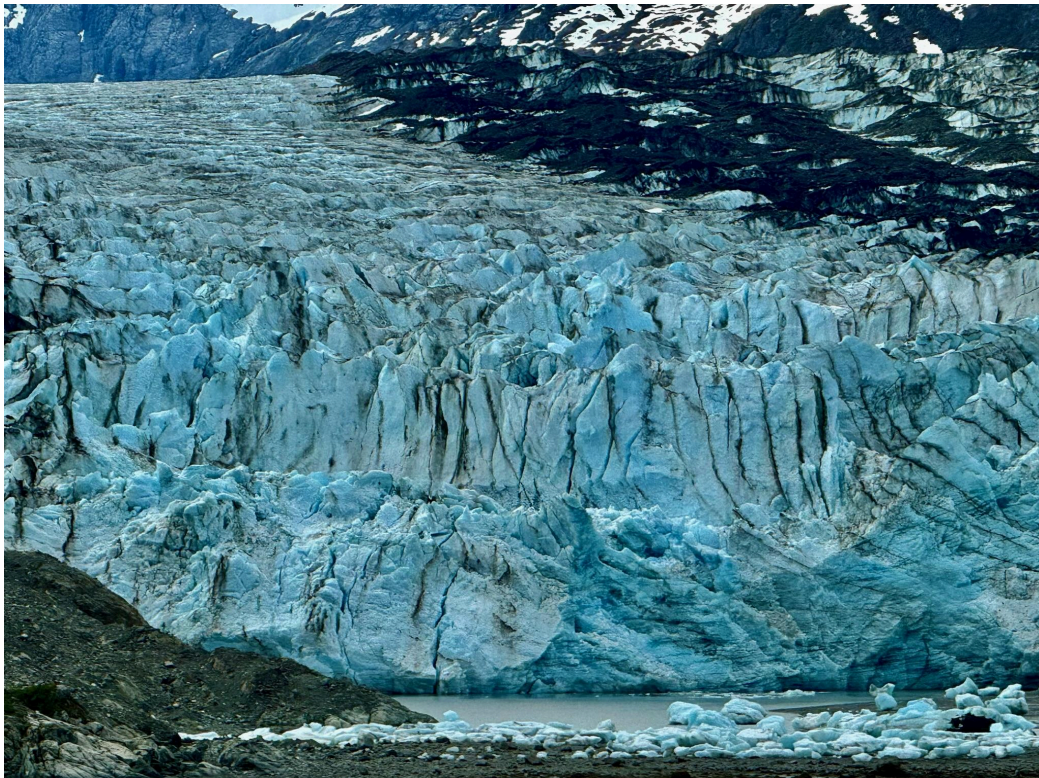
Varly's Swiftwater Café

Whittier's main dining option — hearty food, salmon, halibut, and soups in a casual setting.

2



Stock up in Anchorage

Seriously — Whittier has very limited dining. Bring snacks and consider pre-ordering restaurant food.



Tours & Excursions

Blue numbers = top-rated / likely to sell out. Red numbers = all available tours. Add your Viator affiliate links in the right column.

 VIATOR Top Tours & Excursions — Whittier, Alaska Paste your Viator affiliate link in the [Link] column for each tour. Blue dot = top-rated / likely to sell out.		
#	Tour Name & Description	Your Viator Affiliate Link
1	★ TOP RATED Prince William Sound Glacier & Wildlife Cruise Full-day cruise through pristine fjords — orcas, sea lions, puffins, tidewater glaciers	Viator Link
2	★ TOP RATED Blackstone Bay Kayak Tour Paddle among icebergs with six glaciers in one bay	Viator Link
3	★ TOP RATED Columbia Glacier Helicopter Tour Fly over and land on the Columbia Glacier	Viator Link
4	Sport Fishing in Prince William Sound Halibut and salmon in Alaska's most pristine waters	Viator Link
5	Portage Glacier Lake Cruise Boat tour to Portage Glacier — dramatic ice and scenery	Viator Link
 ALL TOURS IN WHITTIER, ALASKA — General Viator Page Link This link goes to the full Viator listings page for this destination.		



Packing Essentials

amazon Whittier Essentials — Alaska's Rainiest Embarkation Port

Replace each link below with your Amazon Associate URL

Full Rain Gear Set (Jacket + Pants)

Whittier gets 175 inches of precipitation yearly — pants matter here.

[Shop For Your Alaska Vacation Here](#)





Dry Bags (Set of 3)

Protect everything on kayak and glacier tours.

[Shop For Your Alaska Vacation Here](#)



Thermal Base Layers

Whittier is colder and wetter than most Alaska ports.

[Shop For Your Alaska Vacation Here](#)



Seasickness Prevention

Prince William Sound boat tours can have ocean swells.

[Shop For Your Alaska Vacation Here](#)



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Don't see a tour or excursion that fits your needs? **We're here to craft a personalized experience just for you.**

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- www.TravelByMike.com

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- www.AlwaysTheAdventurer.com

PACKING RESOURCES

Not sure what to pack? Check out these curated lists:

- [Cruise Must-Haves for Smooth Sailing](#)
- [Jet Set Essentials: Travel Must-Haves](#)
- [Shop My Amazon Favorites](#)

- [All Things Cruising: Beyond the Wake](#)
- [Cruise Port Tips and Trips](#)
- [Retired and Traveling](#)
- [Florida Keys Tours & Excursions](#)

SCAN TO CONNECT WITH AMY



We look forward to helping you create lifelong memories on your next journey!

Safe travels, — **Amy English**

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