

On The Road From Anchorage

🚗 = Travel by Car 🚆 = Travel by Train 🚚 = Travel by Coach All transportation times are from Anchorage. Dark green balls reference the Southcentral Alaska map.



SOUTH OF ANCHORAGE

TURNAGAIN ARM
🚗 15-30 minutes [See Map Below](#)

One of America's Most Scenic Drives
The Seward Highway threads through narrow inlet waters and steep mountains in America's third-largest state park and second-largest national forest. Use headlights.

- 1 Photograph waterfall or search for spawning salmon from the boardwalk of Potter Marsh (mile 117).
 - 2 Hike to spectacular mountain views along the Turnagain Arm Trail (mile 115).
 - 3 Picnic at a tumbling waterfall at McHugh Creek (mile 111).
 - 4 Spot whales and take in the sweeping panorama of Cook Inlet at Beluga Point (mile 110).
 - 5 Photograph Dall Sheep that wander to the highway's edge at Windy Point (mile 106).
 - 6 Stroll the short boardwalk to view the bore tide, a rushing wall of water up to 6 feet high, at Bird Point (mile 99).
- Salmon Berry Tours (907-278-3572) offers several fully guided small-group tour options to explore Turnagain Arm and other destinations south of Anchorage.

GIRDWOOD 7
🚗 45 minutes 🚆 1.25 hours

Alaska's Resort Town
Originally called Glacier City for the icy behemoths which rim the surrounding mountains, Girdwood is ideal for exploring Prince William Sound and the Chugach Mountain Range.

- The 304 room Hotel Alyeska is Alaska's premier resort destination and the perfect basecamp for your Alaska adventures (907-754-1111).
- Soar 2,000 feet to a bird's-eye view of Alaska's stunning geography aboard the Alyeska Tram (907-754-2275).
- Hike the steep Crow Creek Trail, or the easier Winner Creek Trail through a lush temperate rainforest.

PORTAGE VALLEY & WHITTIER 9
🚗 1 hour 🚆 2.5 hours

Historic Trade Route to Prince William Sound
Turn-of-the-century prospectors dragged their supplies over the pass en route to the Kenai goldfields. Today, iceberged-riddled Portage Lake is the star attraction.

- Photograph the former boomtown of Portage, submerged 8 feet by the '64 quake (near Portage Turnoff, mile 79).
- Get close-up shots of bison, elk, bear, musk ox, eagles and more at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center (mile 80, 907-783-2025).
- Learn about the area at the Begich Boggs Visitors Center (907-783-2326) & touch icebergs brought to shore at Portage Lake.
- Take the 1-hour M/V Ptarmigan Portage Glacier cruise (907-277-5581) to the face of Portage Glacier.
- Drive North America's longest highway tunnel to the port town of Whittier (check tunnel schedule 877-611-2586).
- Take a glacier and wildlife cruise into Prince William Sound, the world's best place to see calving glaciers. Also, see waterfalls, seabirds, otters, seals, porpoises and whales. Call Major Marine Tours (800-764-7300), or Phillips 26-Glacier Cruise (907-276-8023) from May-Sept.

CENTRAL KENAI PENINSULA 10
🚗 2-3 hours

Alaska's Playground
Close to Anchorage, Central Kenai is endowed with world-class fishing, hiking, river rafting, and canoeing, as well as alpine lakes and gold-mining history.

- Fish or float world-famous Kenai River, with emerald-green waters, record-sized salmon and bald eagles galore (Alaska Wildland Adventures, 800-478-4100).
- Hike the well-marked Johnson Pass, Resurrection Pass or Russian River Trails. For maps and information, call the U.S. Forest Service (877-444-6777).
- Stay overnight in a riverside cabin with Alaska Wildland Adventures (800-478-4100) or at the elegant Kenai Princess Wilderness Lodge (800-426-0500) with bungalow-style rooms.
- Go bear viewing or flightseeing with Natron Air (877-520-8440).

SEWARD 11 [See Map Below](#)
🚗 2.5 hours 🚆 4.5 hours 🚚 3 hours

Gateway to Kenai Fjords
This tiny village is a seaside paradise with a bustling harbor, quaint shops & an abundance of alpine & marine adventures.

- Board a cruise into Kenai Fjords for a wildlife spectacle of humpback and killer whales, otters, seals, sea lions and puffins. Call Kenai Fjords Tours (888-478-3346) or Major Marine Tours (800-764-7300).
- Go nose-to-glass with Alaska's marine mammals at the Alaska SeaLife Center, a one-of-a-kind facility that lets you observe research as it's being conducted (800-224-2525).
- Slice through the glassy waters of Resurrection Bay on a kayak with Sunny Cove Sea Kayaking (907-224-4426).
- Explore Resurrection Bay and fish for halibut or salmon with local charter ProFish-n-Sea Charters (888-385-1312).
- Spend the night at Seward Windsong Lodge (888-959-9590), which borders on Kenai Fjords Nat'l Park, the Holiday Inn Express-Seward Harbor (907-224-2550) on the boardwalk, or in one of 8 cabins at the Kenai Fjords Wilderness Lodge (888-959-9590) accessible only by a Kenai Fjords Tours boat.
- Exit Glacier Tours: Seward Windsong Lodge (907-224-7116) provides multiple daily guided tours.
- Visit a remote dog mushing camp on a mountain gully with Seward Helicopter Tours (907-362-4354).

MAT-SU VALLEY
🚗 30 minutes-3 hours

Passage to Alaska's Heartland
Follow the Glenn Highway en route to Glennallen and the Copper River Valley. Pass jutting mountains and scenic farmlands. Just 35 miles out of Anchorage, the Glenn meets the Parks Highway, which leads north to Talkeetna, Denali Park and the continent's highest peaks. Or take the Glenn Highway East and head towards the historical and adventure-filled towns of McCarthy, Kennicott and Valdez.

- 13 Hike the alpine trails of the dramatic Eagle River Valley at the Eagle River Nature Center (907-694-2108).
- 14 Walk a gorgeous mile through mossy forest to Thunderbird Falls. Photograph colorful spirit houses at Eklutna Village Historical Park. Picnic, fish or hike at secluded Eklutna Lake.
- 15 Visit Wasilla's Litorator Headquarters (907-376-5155 ext 108), take a summer dog sled ride, and learn lore of the "Last Great Race."
- 16 Drive into the high country of Hatcher's Pass. Hike, pick berries and explore old gold mines.
- 17 Admire 3-mile-wide Matanuska Glacier (mile 102.5), a rare roadside glacier you can actually look down on.
- 18 Marvel at giant vegetables at the Palmer Visitor Center (907-745-2880). Watch mating bulls butt heads at the world's only Musk Ox Farm (907-745-4151), pet and feed reindeer at the Reindeer Farm (907-745-4000), or enjoy the 1 mile easy trail around Reflections Lake in the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge (mile 30 on the Glenn Highway).

TALKEETNA 19 [See Map Below](#)
🚗 2.5 hours 🚆 3 hours

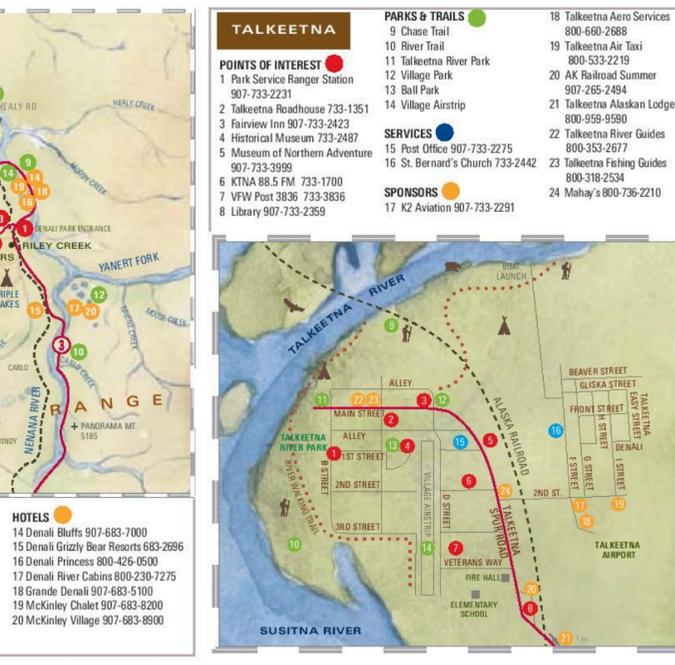
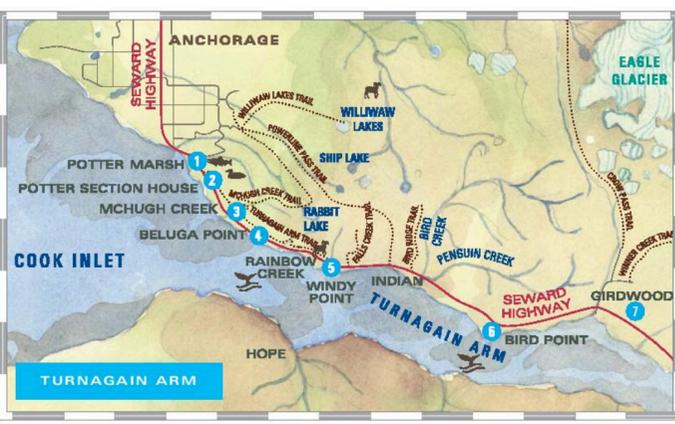
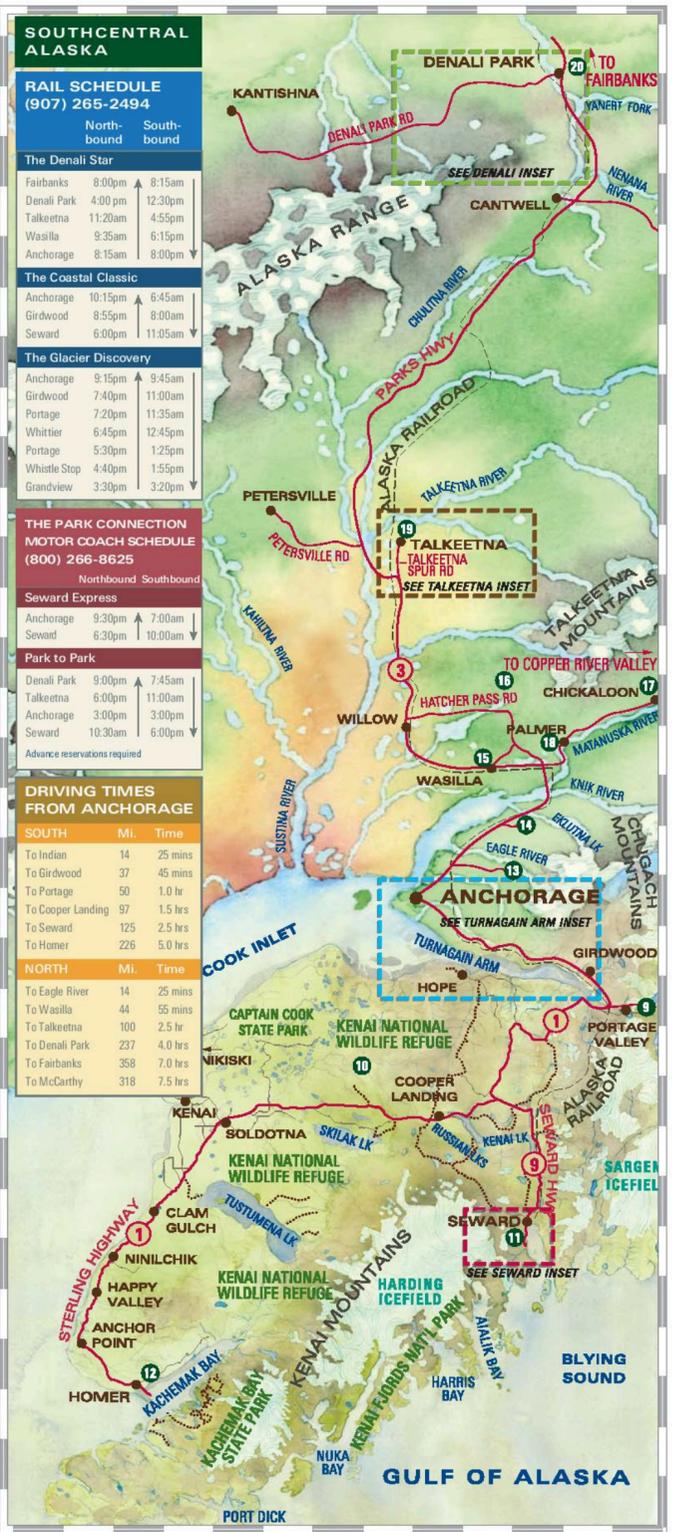
Doorway to Denali
The nearest town to Denali, yet only 2.5 hours by car from Anchorage, Talkeetna is an authentic Alaska pioneer town with historic buildings and log cabins lining the one-block-long main street.

- Talkeetna is a base station for McKinley climbing expeditions, flightseeing adventures, and salmon fishing safaris along its three great rivers.
- Explore Mt. McKinley's peaks and glaciers on a breathtaking flightseeing adventure with K2 Aviation (800-764-2291), Talkeetna Air Taxi (800-533-2219) or Talkeetna Aero Services / Fly Denali (888-733-2899).
- Take a thrilling jet boat adventure with Mahay's Jet Boat Adventures (800-736-2210).
- Kick back on a relaxing float trip down the Talkeetna River with Talkeetna River Guides (800-353-2677), or take part in the action and paddle down the swifter Chulitna River.
- Check out the room-sized model of McKinley at the Historical Museum (907-733-2487) or hear live radio communications with climbers at the Ranger Station (907-733-2231).
- Get breakfast from heaven at the Talkeetna Roadhouse.
- Indulge yourself at the Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge (888-959-9590) with unbeatable views of Mt. McKinley.
- Watch the Talkeetna Alaska Channel in your room for previews of top tours and attractions.

DENALI 20 [See Map Below](#)
🚗 5 hours 🚆 7.5 hours 🚚 5.75 hours

Crown Jewel of America's National Parks
Six million acres of lakes, tundra, peaks and wildlife dominated by N. America's highest peak and interrupted only by a single, 90-mile road, Denali offers your best chance to see Dall Sheep, caribou, fox, wolves and bears. No private cars beyond mile 15; use the tour and shuttle buses.

- Take a narrated tour into the park. Denali Park Resorts (800-276-7234) offers a 3-hour Natural History Tour which goes 17 miles into the park and a 6.5-hour Tundra Wilderness Tour that heads 53 miles in. Or go all the way to Kantishna (the end of the park road) with Kantishna Wilderness Trails (800-230-7275).
- Explore Mt. McKinley and Denali National Park from the air with McKinley Flight Tours / Fly Denali (888-733-2899) or Denali Air (907-683-2261).
- Climb behind the wheel of your own 4WD Jeep Wrangler for an adventure into Denali's backcountry with Denali Jeep™ Backcountry Safari (800-323-5757) or Denali Jeep Excursions (907-683-5337).
- Enjoy a scenic float trip down the Nenana River - or take part in the action and paddle yourself - with Explore Denali Rafting (800-776-7234).
- Tee off under the midnight sun, or take an ATV or guided horse-drawn carriage tour, with Black Diamond (907-683-4653).
- Hike trails near the entrance or trailless tundra just about anywhere in the park.
- Sit down to a gourmet meal right in the heart of the Alaskan wilderness at the Black Diamond Grill (907-683-4653).
- Overnight in a more intimate setting at the McKinley Village Lodge (883-8900), The McKinley Chalet Resort (907-683-8200) and the Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge (800-426-0500) offer a grand hotel style.
- Watch the Denali Alaska Channel in your hotel room for previews of top tours and attractions.



Activities & Tours



FLIGHTSEEING

Alaska Begins When You Leave the Ground
Scenic flights in a small plane or helicopter bring you face to face with Alaska's dramatic beauty. Visitors consider it a highlight of their vacation. Civilization fades into distant memory as you soar above massive Mount McKinley, glide over glacier-filled valleys, land in a floatplane on a mountain lake or touch down on a glacier in a skiplane or helicopter.

- Most flights offer all window seats, pilot narration, individual headsets, and set prices for trips to popular destinations.
- Denali Air (907-683-2261, Denali)
 - K2 Aviation (800-764-2291, Talkeetna)
 - McKinley Flight Tours / Fly Denali (888-733-2899, Talkeetna, Denali)
 - Natron Air (877-520-8440, Soldotna)
 - Regal Air (907-243-8535, Anchorage)
 - Rust's Flying Service (907-243-1595, Anchorage)
 - Seward Helicopter Tours (907-362-4354 Seward)
 - Talkeetna Air Taxi (800-533-2219, Talkeetna)
 - Wrangell Mountain Air (907-554-4411, McCarthy/Kennicott) [alaska.org/flightseeing](#)

BEAR VIEWING

Extraordinary Encounters
Air-taxi operators can fly you to places where bears congregate like nowhere else in the world. Many of them have become so accustomed to human presence they tend to ignore visitors and carry on with their normal routines. You'll see throngs of bears up close—belly-flopping into rivers, jaw-sparming for the best fishing grounds or swatting for fish.

- Bald Mountain Air (907-235-7969, Homer)
- Homer Air (907-235-8591, Homer)
- Natron Air (877-520-8440, Soldotna)
- Regal Air (907-243-8535, Anchorage)
- Rust's Flying Service (907-243-1595, Anchorage)

Bear viewing lodges offer unparalleled intimacy and time with bears, gourmet cuisine, resident bear biologists, and wilderness comfort.

GLACIER & WILDLIFE CRUISES

Amidst Nature's Splendor
There is no better way to experience Alaska's glaciers. Witness one of the most dramatic events in all of nature: calving—when glaciers unleash house-sized ice blocks into the ocean. See a lifetime's worth of marine mammals in a few hours—otters, harbor seals, killer and humpback whales, puffins, and lively seabird colonies. Emerald-green fjords, plummeting waterfalls, and towering mountains top off the experience.

- Cruises into Prince William Sound depart from Whittier (1.5 hrs by car from Anchorage); cruises into Kenai Fjords National Park depart from Seward (2.5 hrs by car from Anchorage). Both ports offer bus or train transfers from Anchorage. Cruises run 2, 4, or 6 hours, with narration by naturalists and meals served on board.
- Kenai Fjords Tours (from Seward, Mar-Sept, 888-478-3346)
 - Lazy Otter Charters (from Whittier, Year Round, 907-694-6887)
 - Major Marine Tours (from Whittier and Seward, May-Sept, 800-764-7300)
 - M/V Ptarmigan (from Portage, May-Sept, 907-277-5581)
 - Phillips 26-Glacier Cruise (from Whittier, May-Sept, 907-276-8023)
 - Stan Stephens (from Valdez, May-Sept, 866-867-1297)
 - Non-cruise option: Exit Glacier Tour (Seward, May-Sept, 907-224-7116) [alaska.org/glaciers](#)

FISHING

Jewels of the Water
With 34,000 miles of coastline and countless pristine lakes and rivers, Alaska is a fisherman's paradise. Five species of salmon range from pan-sized to 80 pounds. Bamdoor halibut can top the scales at several hundred pounds. Guides offer all the instruction and equipment you'll need to catch a trophy fish.

- Solo: For licenses, equipment or advice, in Anchorage stop by Mountain View Sports (563-8600) or The Bart Shack (522-3474), then drop a lure right in Anchorage. Process and ship your catch home with 10th and M Seafoods (272-3474), Alaska Sausage & Seafood (562-3636) or Captain Jack's Seafood Locker (877-323-6638, Seward)
- Fly-In: The quickest way to the backcountry! In just one hour you'll be waist deep in wilderness and fish (from Anchorage: Regal Air, 907-243-8535; Rust's Flying Service, 907-243-1595; Natron Air (Soldotna), 877-520-8440)
- River or Ocean Charters: Hiring a pro is the fastest and easiest way to catch dinner. (Kenai River: Alaska Wildland Adventures, 800-478-4100; Seward: ProFish-n-Sea, 888-385-1312; Homer: Inlet Charters, 800-770-6126)
- Lodges: Exclusive and full of pampering touches, fly-in and other remote fishing lodges are the ultimate wilderness luxury (Alaska Wildland Adventures, 800-478-4100; Tordillo Lodge, 907-783-4354; Northwoods Lodge, 800-999-6539) [alaska.org/things-to-do/fishing-charters](#)

FAIRBANKS

The Interior's Golden Nugget
Gold strikes helped put Alaska's second-largest city on the map. Today, Fairbanks boasts a university, operating gold mines and a wealth of attractions, making for a fun, quirky slice of real Alaska.

- Explore Alaska's interior on a three-hour cruise on Riverboat Discovery (907-479-6673), a traditional sternwheeler.
- Travel back to the time of the Gold Rush. With Gold Dredge 8 (907-479-6673), you'll take a 2-hour guided tour by rail into the gold fields and by foot into their mining camp. Try your hand at gold panning!
- Cross the border of the Arctic Circle on a five-hour jaunt by plane with Northern Alaska Tour Company (907-474-8600) and experience this vast, undisturbed territory.
- Explore the ice-age animals and Native Alaskan culture at the UA Museum of the North (907-474-4505)
- Take a soak in the natural mineral waters of Chena Hot Springs (907-451-8104), a 440-acre resort 60 miles from Fairbanks.
- Drop by the Great Alaskan Bowl Company (800-770-4222) and see birch trees being crafted into unique bowls. You can purchase the gorgeous end result.
- Overnight at one of several great accommodations including the Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge (800-426-0500) on the Chena River, or the Holiday Inn Express Fairbanks (907-328-1100) which is adjacent to dining, shopping and entertainment. [alaska.org/fairbanks](#)

- POINTS OF INTEREST**
- 1 Morris Thompson Visitors Center 907-459-3701
 - 2 University of Alaska Museum 907-474-7505
 - 3 Geopron Botanical Garden 907-474-1944
 - 4 Alaska State Fairgrounds 907-474-1944
 - 5 Creamer's Field 907-459-7307
 - 6 Pipeline Viewing Station
- TOURS/ACTIVITIES**
- 7 Riverboat Discovery 907-479-6673
 - 8 Gold Dredge 8 907-479-6673
 - 9 Northern Alaska Tour Co. 907-474-8600
 - 10 Pioneer Park 907-459-1087
 - 11 Great Alaskan Bowl Company 800-770-4222
- ACCOMMODATIONS**
- 12 Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge 800-426-0500
 - 13 Holiday Inn Express 907-328-1100

