



## WELCOME TO THE CITY OF LIGHTS AND FLOWERS

Anchorage is Alaska's biggest city; in fact, nearly half of the state's entire population live here. A culturally rich city surrounded by beautiful Alaskan wilderness, Anchorage attracts many outdoor adventurers. When you're in town, you can see breathtaking views of mountains and glaciers, watch moose strolling down the streets, and even go salmon fishing among the skyscrapers.

In summer, you can count on temperatures between 55 and 78 degrees Fahrenheit (13 to 26 degrees Celsius). In winter though, prepare for frigid temperatures of 5 to 30 degrees (-15 to -1 degrees Celsius). No wonder the Inupiat people wore parkas made from sturdy caribou skin, lined with warm fur.

Experience some of what the area has to offer in books such as the award-winning Scott O'Dell's *Black Star, Bright Dawn*; Annie Booschever's *Bristol Bay Summer*; and the picture book *Way Back Then* by Neil Christopher and Germaine Arnaktauyok.

### KEY FACTS

STATE	ALASKA
<b>NAMED FOR</b>	The anchorage (place where ships dock) at the mouth of Ship Creek
<b>FOUNDED IN</b>	1914
<b>STATE POPULATION</b>	738,432
<b>CITY POPULATION</b>	298,695
<b>CITY AREA</b>	1,705 square miles
<b>TALLEST BUILDING</b>	Conoco-Phillips Building: 296-feet (22 stories)
<b>NICKNAME</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City of Lights and Flowers</li> <li>Los Anchorage</li> <li>Anchortown</li> </ul>
<b>BEST PLACE TO ...</b>	TK.
<b>BRAGGING RIGHTS</b>	Anchorage was the first city in Alaska to make it illegal to discriminate over sexual orientation.
<b>LOCAL LINGO</b>	Cheechako or a sourdough? (Are you new to Alaska or have you been here a long time?)
<b>CAN YOU FIND?</b>	5 salmon

### A DAY IN ANCHORAGE

- 9 AM** Pick your breakfast: discover seven types of berries, like the sweet, juicy, vitamin-A-rich salmonberry, at Chugach State Park.
- 10 AM** Learn how to say "How are you?" in one of Alaska's 20 official languages. In Haida, it's *Sánuu dǎng giidang?*
- 11 AM** Sniff some forget-me-nots at the Botanical Gardens. The abundance of this state flower helped earn Anchorage its nickname, "City of Flowers."
- 12 PM** Listen for the chirps and whistles of the "canary of the sea" at Beluga Point, named for the sociable whale that can be spotted here.
- 1 PM** For lunch, sniff out some salmon, which can be enjoyed smoked, cured, jerkied, or even sweetened in candy!
- 2 PM** Strap on a pair of cross-country skis and explore the trails of the 1,400-acre Kincaid Park.
- 3 PM** Practice your Alaskan High Kick—a traditional Arctic sport. This involves standing on just one hand to kick a hanging ball.
- 4 PM** On a weekend, visit the downtown market to shop for native Alaskan crafts and local food specialties.
- 5 PM** In winter, pet an Alaskan malamute before it sets off to sprint across rugged mountain ranges in the annual Iditarod Sled Race.
- 6 PM** Cheer on the Rage City Rollergirls at a roller derby bout in Spenard.
- 7 PM** Chomp on tasty king crab, which, for its dinner, probably ate snails, sea stars, sea urchins, barnacles, and algae.
- 8 PM** Snuggle up with a book about sled dogs, such as *Alone Across the Arctic* by local adventurers Pam Flowers and Ann Dixon.

# ANCHORAGE

**ANCHORAGE MUSEUM**  
On display here you'll find traditional Aleut headgear worn for kayak hunts; the type of hat was linked to the wearer's status.

**FUR RENDEZVOUS FESTIVAL**  
This winter festival includes an ice-carving competition and a Mr. Fur Face Contest, awarding impressive beards!

**CROW CREEK MINE**  
Pan for gold like the quarter-of-a-million prospectors who stampered the area in the 1880s

**CONOCO-PHILLIPS BUILDING**  
The tallest building in the entire state is named for Alaska's largest producer of oil and gas.

**OSCAR ANDERSON HOUSE MUSEUM**  
Oscar Anderson claimed to be the 18th non-native person to arrive in town. He built this wood-frame house in 1915.

**STATE TROOPER MUSEUM**  
Discover the history of Alaska's law enforcers. Exhibits include antique handcuffs and leg irons, vintage radios, and a 1952 Hudson Hornet car.

**FIRE ISLAND**

**GOVERNMENT HILL**  
Watch traditional games of strength and endurance, like the Alaskan High Kick contest.

**SADLER'S CHALLENGE**  
The world's longest wheelchair and hand-cycle race runs 250 miles from Fairbanks to Anchorage.

**EARTHQUAKE PARK**  
commemorates the tragic 1964 quake which caused an entire neighborhood to slip into the ocean.

**BOTANICAL GARDEN**  
Every spring Anchorage explodes with colorful flowers, including fireweed, Nootka roses, and Himalayan blue poppies.

**ALASKA WILD BERRY PRODUCTS**  
This seller of jams, jellies, and candies has a flagship store with an enormous chocolate waterfall.

**THE 20 STATE LANGUAGES**  
include Inupiaq, Siberian Yupik, Alutiiq, Tlingit, Haida, Tsimshian... and English.

**TAX FREE**  
Anchorage is one of only five U.S. cities that does not have a sales tax.

**ALASKA ZOO**  
is home to many native Alaskan animals, including Dall sheep, whose curly horns can grow 33 inches long!

**CHUGACH STATE PARK**  
Here you'll find wild fruit such as watermelon berries and crowberries. But avoid the white baneberry—it's poisonous!

**ANCHORAGE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
is one of the world's busiest for cargo traffic.

**DENALI STAR**  
This train carries visitors to Denali National Park through stunning scenery.

**TURNAGAIN ARM**  
This narrow inlet sees bore tides that can climb 10 feet tall, reaching speeds of 15 mph. Spot surfers and harbor seals riding the tide.

**RED KING CRABS**  
These kings of the local fishing industry can live up to 30 years—and taste great with lemon and butter!

**HELLO! HALAUĞIKPIŃ!**

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**CALLAN CHYTHLOOK-SIFSOF**  
b.1989  
This Yu'pik Inupiaq snowboarder was the first Alaskan native to compete in the Olympics.

**NATHAN JACKSON**  
b.1938  
This Tlingit artist is best known for his carved totem poles.

**ANN DIXON**  
b.19XX  
A librarian and author, this winner of the National Outdoor Book Award is a champion of Alaskan literature.

**ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE CENTER**  
Discover Tlingit totem poles, traditionally carved with animals such as ravens, eagles, orcas, and beavers.

**EKLUTNA HISTORICAL PARK**  
The brightly colored "spirit houses" built in the cemetery here show a melding of Russian Orthodox and Native American traditions.

**IDENTAROD RACE**  
Every March some 60 teams of huskies and mushers race 1,000 miles through blizzards and sub-zero temperatures.

**MANY MOOSE**  
As many as 1,000 moose roam the city streets in winter!

**IRENE BEDARD**  
b.1967  
Anchorage-born, this actor with Inupiat and Yupik heritage was the voice of Disney's Pocahontas.

**MICHAEL JAMES HENEY**  
1864-1910  
This famous railway contractor built two Alaskan railroads over terrain once considered impassable.

**SUSAN BUTCHER**  
1954-2006  
The four-time winner of the Iditarod Sled Race is a member of the Alaska Sports Hall of Fame.

**BELUGA POINT**  
is named for the white whales that swim these waters. Unlike many other whales, belugas have no dorsal fins.

**BEAR BUSINESS**  
Grizzly bears have shorter ears and longer claws than black bears; you can find both in the areas around Anchorage.

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