

# Downtown Anchorage

- **Anchorage Museum**  
The Anchorage Museum houses a trove of Alaska art, history, science and Alaska Native artifacts in the Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center, Imaginarium Discovery Center and Thomas Planetarium. The Alaska Gallery's timeline of Alaska history includes a twisted girder from the '64 quake and a cross-section of the Trans-Alaska pipeline.  
[www.anchoragemuseum.org](http://www.anchoragemuseum.org)
- **Aurora - Alaska's great northern lights**  
Experience the wonder of Alaska's aurora borealis, or northern lights, during the summer! Dave Parkhurst's aurora photography is paired with original music in a breathtaking show at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts.  
[www.TheAlaskaCollection.com](http://www.TheAlaskaCollection.com)
- **Tony Knowles Coastal Trail**  
This scenic 11-mile, multiuse trail begins in downtown Anchorage on Second Avenue and passes several major points of interest, including Earthquake Park, before terminating at Kincaid Park Outdoor Center. The trail affords incredible views of Cook Inlet and six different mountain ranges. Bicycle rentals are available at several locations in downtown Anchorage.
- **Native Arts Gallery 4th street**  
Located in Ship Creek Center, the 4th Avenue Market Place features Alaska's largest display about the 1964 Earthquake, Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race™ murals, Tlingit bear totem pole and a permanent Fred Machetanz art exhibit. Alaska Native shows, artist demonstrations and live music are available during the summer.  
[www.alaskaexperiencetheatre.com/4th-avenue-market-place](http://www.alaskaexperiencetheatre.com/4th-avenue-market-place)
- **Segway Tours**  
Wheel around downtown Anchorage on a self-balancing electric-powered transporter, or Segway. [Bear Square](#) offers tours with stops at several historic and scenic locations with tips on the best places for shopping, dining, and entertainment.
- **Ulu Factory**  
Grab the free brown trolley at Fourth and F Street for a short narrated ride to [The Ulu Factory](#) at Ship Creek. Watch craftsmen fashion the sharp-bladed ulu knives and check the historical ulu display that dates back thousands of years.
- **Downtown Trolley**  
[Anchorage City Trolley Tours](#) roll on a narrated approximately 1-hour loop from downtown to Ship Creek, through the Turnagain neighborhood to Earthquake Park, to the world's busiest floatplane base at Lake Hood. Board the red trolley downtown at Fourth and F Street.

- Oomingmak Musk Ox Producers Co-op  
Qiviut (pronounced "kiv-ee-ute"), the downy-soft underwool *from the [Arctic musk ox](#)*, is shed naturally each year during the spring months. Eight times warmer than wool and extraordinarily lightweight, Qiviut is one of the finest natural fibers known to man. Visit the store in downtown Anchorage, 604 H Street and experience the downy softness of this amazing fiber. Oomingmak is the [Alaskan co-operative](#) that has sold exquisite Qiviut items as a unique northern gift since 1969.

## Around Anchorage

- Alaska Native Heritage Center  
Get to know Alaska's first people at the [Alaska Native Heritage Center](#). This renowned facility shares the heritage of Alaska's 11 major cultures. Visitors experience Alaska Native cultures firsthand through stories, dance and more. [www.alaskanative.net](http://www.alaskanative.net)
- Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum  
Learn about the state's unique aviation history. See vintage aircraft, view a short film in the theater, and watch takeoffs and landing from the observation deck at Lake Hood Air Harbor. [www.alaskaiarmuseum.org](http://www.alaskaiarmuseum.org)
- Westchester Lagoon Overlook  
Westchester Lagoon, near downtown Anchorage, offers excellent bird watching as migrating shorebirds, waterfowl, and terrestrial species seek out the marshy ponds, coastal waters, and streams. Views of the Chugach Mountains can be spectacular, particularly at sunset.
- Alaska Botanical Garden  
Learn about flora native to Southcentral Alaska with a stroll through the 110-acre Alaska Botanical Garden. Wildflowers, perennials, annuals and herbs grow along interpretive nature trails in a natural boreal forest. [www.alaskabg.org](http://www.alaskabg.org)
- Alaska Zoo  
The Alaska Zoo is home to the largest variety of Alaska wildlife in the state including polar and brown bears, moose, wolves, snow leopards, caribou, musk ox, arctic fox and more. The Zoo is a private nonprofit providing a home for more than 130 orphaned, injured and endangered animals just 15 minutes south of downtown Anchorage. [www.alaskazoo.org](http://www.alaskazoo.org)
- Chugach State Park  
The half-million-acre park holds some of Alaska's most accessible camping, hiking and climbing, ATViing, boating, biking, horseback riding, fishing and rafting. Eklutna Lake, the Eagle River Nature Center, Glen Alps Trailhead, Bird Creek and the town of Girdwood all lead into the heart of Chugach State Park.

- **Mount McKinley Flightseeing**  
Experience the magnificence of Mount McKinley, North America's tallest peak (20,320 feet), on a flightseeing tour. Scenic flights depart from Anchorage or Talkeetna, a two-hour drive north.  
[www.anchorage.net/flightseeing](http://www.anchorage.net/flightseeing)
- **Alaska Railroad Train Ride**  
Hop on board the Alaska Railroad. Trains depart north and south every day from Anchorage to Seward, Whittier, Talkeetna, Denali National Park and Fairbanks. Take the Alaska Railroad Whistle Stop to Spencer Glacier for a ranger hike, or glacier float trip on the Placer River.  
[www.alaskarailroad.com](http://www.alaskarailroad.com)

## South of Downtown Anchorage

- **Potter Marsh Bird Watching**  
Potter Marsh, part of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge, is just 12 miles south of downtown. The 2,300-acre wetland serves as home or migratory stopover to more than 220 species of birds, including bald eagles, trumpeter swans, Canada geese and a broad variety of ducks.
- **Turnagain Arm**  
A drive south of downtown on the Seward Highway, a National Scenic Byway, is not to be missed. Look for beluga whales, Dall sheep and the Turnagain Arm bore tide – a true tidal surge that occurs when a rising tide enters a narrow and shallow basin.
- **Alyeska Resort Tram Ride and Dinner, Girdwood**  
Take a journey on the 60-passenger Alyeska Aerial Tram to 2,300 feet above sea level for breathtaking glacier, mountain and water views. Dine at the mountaintop AAA Four Diamond Award winner Seven Glaciers Restaurant, offering dinner daily in the summer.  
[www.alyeskaresort.com](http://www.alyeskaresort.com)
- **Crow Creek Historic Gold Mine**  
Nestled in the mountains near Girdwood, Crow Creek Mine's historical buildings hold antiques and rare mining equipment and line the path for amateur gold panners.  
[www.crowcreekmine.com](http://www.crowcreekmine.com)
- **Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, Portage**  
The Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center is a nonprofit organization that takes in orphaned and injured animals from the wild. Drive the 1.5 mile loop, or spend your time walking through the 200 acres for an up-close look at black and brown bears, moose, wood bison, elk, lynx, caribou and musk ox. [www.alaskawildlife.org](http://www.alaskawildlife.org)

- **Begich, Boggs Visitor Center at Portage Glacier**  
The Begich, Boggs Visitor Center offers a unique opportunity to learn about the Chugach National Forest, America's third-largest national forest. Built upon the terminal moraine left behind by Portage Glacier, the Center features award-winning exhibits, educational presentations, the film "**Voices from the Ice**," interpretive services, and a bookstore.
- **Fishing Charters on the Kenai Peninsula**  
The famous Kenai River is just a couple hours drive south of Anchorage. Halibut and other saltwater fishing are within a half-day's drive. Prince William Sound (Whittier) is just over an hour away; Resurrection Bay (Seward) is 2.5 hours; and Kachemak Bay (Homer) is 5 hours south.  
[www.anchorage.net/ak/fishing](http://www.anchorage.net/ak/fishing)
- **Prince William Sound Glacier Cruises**  
Accessed from Whittier, 60 miles south of Anchorage, Prince William Sound day cruises offer abundant glacier viewing in a more protected area with generally calmer seas. Wildlife is often encountered such as sea otters, whales, sea birds and seals basking on floating icebergs.  
[www.26glaciers.com](http://www.26glaciers.com)  
[www.majormarine.com](http://www.majormarine.com)
- **Kenai Fjords National Park**  
Located out of Seward, 127 miles south of Anchorage, Kenai Fjords National Park is weighted by wildlife. Glaciers are prevalent too, but it's astounding how many animals can be encountered on one cruise, including orca, gray and humpback whales, Stellar sea lions, sea otters, Dall porpoises surfing the bow wave, or puffins and a multitude of other sea birds.  
[www.kenaifjords.com](http://www.kenaifjords.com)  
[www.majormarine.com](http://www.majormarine.com)
- **Alaska Sealife Center, Seward**  
Alaska's premier public aquarium in Seward. On the shores of Resurrection Bay, visitors to this world-class cold water marine research facility have close encounters with puffins, octopus, sea lions, seals and more.  
[www.alaskasealife.org](http://www.alaskasealife.org)
- **Dog Sledding**  
The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race starts on the streets of downtown Anchorage on the first weekend of March. But that's just the beginning of adventures with Alaska's state sport. Hop on the runners and discover dog sledding year round. Even in summer, glaciers provide plenty of chances to explore one of Alaska's oldest methods of transportation.  
[www.anchorage.net](http://www.anchorage.net)

## North of Anchorage

- **Hatcher Pass/Independence Mine**  
Drive north of Palmer to Hatcher Pass for breathtaking views of the Talkeetna Mountains, gold rush history and hiking trails. Independence Mine State Historical Park (60 miles from Anchorage) features the fascinating remains of a gold mine abandoned in 1955.