

At the Top of the World

Alaska is at the center of the world's most active trading hemisphere, with ice-free ports close to many major trade centers. Nearly equidistant from Tokyo, London, and New York, Anchorage International Airport is one of the nation's busiest.



Mileage Log

Table with columns for Mileage Log, listing distances between various Alaska locations and their corresponding state abbreviations.

Wildlife Viewing in Alaska



Superimposing Alaska on the Lower 48 state emphasizes its vastness. It also illustrates that choosing wilderness areas to visit must be done on the ground rather than as a planning trip across several continents.

Alaska is rich in wildlife, including species that are rare or extinct in the rest of the world. Habitat areas marked on this map are easy-to-access or have an especially rich animal population.

- Alaska Coastal Bald Eagle Preserve (bird eagles, osprey)
Chugach State Park (large and small mammals, birds, salmon)
Copper River Delta, Chugach National Forest (waterfalls, shorebirds, bald eagles)
Denali National Park and Preserve (large and small mammals, birds, bears)
Kenai Fjords National Park and SWNS National Refuge (marine birds and mammals)
Ketchikan-Island Gateway State Sanctuary (access by permit only) (brown bears, salmon and marine birds)
Mendenhall Wildlife State Game Refuge (waterfalls, shorebirds, bald eagles)
Prince of Wales Coastal Wildlife Refuge (waterfalls and salmon)
Pribilof Islands, USWS National Refuge (marine birds and mammals)
Pumotui Bay and the Dalton Highway, HLM (caribou, Dall's sheep, moose, muskox, other large and small animals, tundra birds)
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (access by permit only) (wolverine and moose)
Snohomish Wildlife State Game Refuge (waterfalls, shorebirds, bald eagles)
Siatic River Plains, Yungas National Forest (waterfalls and shorebirds)
Greater Bay National Park (wolverine and other marine mammals and birds)
Purto Barre National Wildlife Refuge (waterfalls, moose, Dall's sheep, mountain goats, salmon, bald eagles, porcupine)
Kenai National Wildlife Refuge-Copper Landing (moose, Dall's sheep, mountain goats, salmon, bald eagles, porcupine)
Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge (brown bears, moose, marine and forest birds, mammals, salmon, bald eagles)
Nome area (waterfalls, tundra and aquatic birds and mammals)
Pacheco Creek, Tugay National Forest (brown bears)
Anchorage, Tugay National Forest (brown bears, black bear)
Wadeye, Tugay National Forest (black bear)

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609 W. 11th St., Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
1000 W. 10th St., Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Interesting Geographic Facts

SIZE: One-fifth the size of the United States, Alaska's 586,412 square miles measure 2,480 miles east to west and 1,420 miles north to south. This makes it larger than the states of Texas, California and Montana combined.
MOUNTAINS: Of the 20 highest peaks in the United States, 17 are in Alaska, which has 19 peaks over 14,000 feet. Mt. McKinley, the highest peak in North America, is 20,320 feet high; it is about 60 miles from the geographic center of the state. Denali, the Indian name for the peak, means "The Great One."
WATERSHEDS: The Yukon River, about 2,000 miles long, is the third longest river in the U.S. There are more than 3,000 rivers in Alaska and over three million lakes. The largest, Lake Tazewell, encompasses over 1,000 square miles.
GLACIERS: There are more active glaciers and ice fields in Alaska than in the rest of the inhabited world. The largest glacier is Malaspina at 850 square miles.
FLAG: Alaska's flag was designed by 13-year-old Benny Benson, from Chugiak, Alaska. His design was selected from 142 entries, and was adopted as the national flag in 1927. The blue field is for the sky and state flower, the forget-me-not. The North Star is for the future of Alaska.

Alaska's Climate

Table showing Alaska's climate data by region (Fairbanks, Anchorage, Seward, etc.) and month, including precipitation and daylight hours.

Legend: Symbols for Great Fronts, Flood Plains, State (Buryal) and other symbols used on the map.

Customs Information

Customs is permanent residents of the U.S. who usually cross the Canadian border either way without difficulty or delay. A passport or proof of U.S. citizenship, such as a birth certificate, naturalization certificate, or divorce decree, is required for entry.
All U.S. driver's licenses are valid in Canada. Please indicate expiration time. Should be renewed and carry with you when you cross the border.
Proof of motor vehicle liability insurance is required in Canada.
Travelers are advised to check with the U.S. Customs Agency for the latest information on Customs and Border Protection.