



explore  
FAIRBANKS  
ALASKA

Fairbanks, Interior and Arctic Alaska



**THE GREENING OF FAIRBANKS** Some examples of sustainability in a northern climate: *Chena Hot Springs Resort's* groundbreaking advances in sustainability equals success for this natural hot springs. *Pike's Waterfront Lodge* recycles and reduces their carbon footprint with solar energy and nontoxic products. The *Cold Climate Housing Research Center* facilitates the development, use, and testing of sustainable, durable, healthy, and cost-effective building for people living in the circumpolar north.



**THE OTHER NATIONAL PARKS** Leave all roads behind you to experience a one-of-a-kind adventure into the wild of two awesome national parks (the story *other* than Denali): *Wrangell – St Elias* finds stunning glaciers, compelling mining history, and four mountain ranges and nine of North America's 16 highest peaks tower within its 13.2 million acres. In *Gates of the Arctic*, fly above the Arctic Circle to access "The Gates," where most people fly into the park on floatplanes that land on lakes or bush planes that land on gravel bars.



**THE AURORA DISPLAYS ROCK IN THE FAIRBANKS REGION** Why do we have some of the best aurora viewing in the world? Fairbanks sits under what is called the Auroral Oval, a ring-shaped region around the North Pole. Our location offers a great balance of occurrence, frequency and activity. Intensity varies from night to night, with the best viewing from late evening through the wee hours of the morning, between August 21 through April 21- also known as the "Aurora Season". During any two-week period, there will be aurora visible on an average of nine out of 10 clear nights. If you stay a minimum of three nights and are actively out during the evening hours, your chances of seeing the aurora increase to 90 percent.



**ICE ROAD TRUCKERS** Head for the "Top of the World"... Look for adventure on the ultimate road trip via the "Haul Road." Truly a wilderness journey the road offers tundra, mighty rivers, wild animals and vistas to die for. Go north on the Dalton Highway cross that geographic line and earn an Arctic Circle certificate and bragging rights too!



**A RIVER RUNS THROUGH** our town and connects us with a vast array of rivers throughout the Interior. Waterways literally are the roads that connect our villages and cities together. The mighty Yukon, Tanana and Chena Rivers are all bustling with year-round activity from boating in the summer to snow machining and dog mushing during the winter months. When you come visit make sure you plan a summer or winter excursion down one of our river-roads.



**ENJOY THE STILL LIFE** One of the signature features of the University of Alaska Museum of the North's expansion is the "Place Where You Go to Listen." Award-winning composer John Luther Adams created an ever-changing musical ecosystem that gives voice to the actual real-time rhythms of daylight and darkness, the phases of the moon, the seismic vibrations of the earth and the dance of the aurora borealis. Or simply peruse the amazing natural and cultural history objects or explore the extraordinary architecture- so much to see and do in one brilliant space.



**FORE!** Add another notch in your golfing belt by teeing-off at 10pm during the summer and play 18 holes in daylight! Share the northernmost golf courses where a fox may abscond with golf balls. An extremely long sunset is followed by an extremely long sunrise during many of our summer days here in the interior- but the sun never really sets and darkness never comes for close to two months. There are many ways to enjoy the midnight sun and golfing is definitely one of the best!



**SIMPLY ASTONISHING** View larger-than-life-size blocks of ice are transformed into truly beautiful works of art at the annual World Ice Art Championships late February through early March. Be a kid again on your hands and knees in twirlees, slides and mazes constructed of Fairbanks ice – known as the "Arctic Diamond". Look for the pre-cursor at North Pole's Christmas In Ice in December and look for the ice art located at businesses all around Fairbanks.



**MORRIS THOMPSON CULTURAL AND VISITORS CENTER** The Land and People of Interior Alaska is the focus of interpretive themes for our new building that opened in late 2008. A first-of-its-kind public/private partnership between the Fairbanks Convention & Visitors Bureau, Tanana Chiefs Conference Cultural Programs, Denakanaaga, Alaska Public Lands Information Center and Alaska Geographic Store yields a special place with exhibits, programs and answers to all of your Alaskan questions.



**WITNESS RURAL ALASKA LIFESTYLE** Learn from the subsistence lifestyle of Athabascan Alaska Natives whose ancestors have inhabited this land for thousands of years. Of the 42 tribal communities in Interior Alaska, only 11 are accessible by road. Now reached primarily by bush plane, the villages were built on the rivers for trade and the river continues to be a highway link to one another. Or take a trip to the Western Arctic coast and meet Inupiat Eskimos who thrive in some of the toughest, yet most beautiful terrain on the planet.



**CARS, VINTAGE FASHION AND ALASKAN HISTORY UNDER ONE ROOF** The Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum collection houses over 70 historically significant automobiles produced in the United States prior to World War II. Can you believe U.S. car manufacturers used electric, internal combustion and gas powered motors as early as the late 1800s? Historical Alaskan photographs line the walls and a vintage fashion collection follows the cars through time. Compelling for all visitors and an over the top destination for car aficionados.



**ZANY UNDER THE MIDNIGHT SUN** Midnight Sun Festival is Fairbanks' largest one-day event and held downtown each summer solstice in June for 12 hours. The annual baseball ritual on summer solstice played with no artificial lights at 10:30pm is the Midnight Sun Baseball Game. The Alaska Goldpanners have yielded major league players. Both part of a zany event-filled days during our zany time of all-day daylight.



**MULTI-DISCIPLINE STUDY-PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL EACH JULY** The Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival is the dream and reality of local retired music educator, Jo Scott, who has attracted Cab Calloway and others. Professionals and novices alike learn more about art and the art of performance. Want to play the steel drums?



**HAVE AN ICE DAY** Sipping that martini from an ice glass and photo ops of ice sculptures can be yours year-round at the Aurora Ice Museum at Chena Hot Springs Resort. Or in summer, go to the Ice Museum in downtown Fairbanks to learn about the World Ice Art Championship or the wonders of the aurora.



**GOOD MIGRATIONS** Ducks, geese, sandhill cranes and other migratory birds make Fairbanks their home in transit. Got 5 minutes? That's how close they are to downtown. While checking out the bird scene embark on a nature hike through the boreal forest and witness the flora and fauna of the region year around.



**HONORABLE SPUDS** Our Tanana Valley yields over 60 varieties of potatoes that are celebrated at the annual Potato Extravaganza in September, where each course is spud-friendly. Ever try an all blue potato-stuffed quesadilla with crab and chorizo?



**FISHING FOOLS** The best-kept secret of Alaskan fishing are the voracious and hard fighting Arctic grayling. Whether you want to embark on a fly-in to a close by yet remote lake or if you just want to jump in your car and head to a local fishing hole, big ones can be found throughout the interior.



**ROADHOUSES, TRUCK STOPS AND LODGES** The ultimate community centers provide respite for travelers: Manley, Rika's, Black Rapids, Chatanika, Hilltop, Bettles, Coldfoot to name a few. These cool places tell great stories- many dating back to the gold rush days.



**KIDS TAKE TO THE RUNNERS** Junior Yukon Quest trains the young ones for what lies ahead in conjunction with the Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race each February.



**GO FAST OR GO HOME** What do skis and snowmachines have in common? See it at the Arctic Man. Alaska's 4<sup>th</sup> largest city for one week in April, watch Sno-Cross and drag races in the Hoodoo mountain wilderness!



**NORTHERNMOST OR FARTHEST NORTH OR MIDNIGHT SUN** All in a name and Fairbanks is full of it.



**DO THEY REALLY GROW THERE?** Hibiscus, Asian pears, grapes, corn, apples, you say? Learn the secrets of gardening in Alaska's Interior. Farmers markets are huge in our town where the sun never sets. Veggies and flowers love the light and grow and grow and grow.



**DENALI NATIONAL PARK** Just a short two hour drive down the highway. Denali, also known as Mount McKinley, rises 20,237 into the sky and is North America's highest peak. Steeped in history, glorious to view the mountain beckons like no other. About a two-hour drive from Fairbanks, Denali National Park is a magnificent journey's end.



**FUN, FREE OR CHEAP IN FAIRBANKS** You can find it for \$1 or less. See movies, hear lectures, walk back in history, tap your toes to music, watch geese, hike the boreal forests, visit a botanical garden are just some of those things.

**FOR AN ON-LINE PHOTO LIBRARY OF FAIRBANKS, INTERIOR AND ARCTIC ALASKA VISIT <http://www.fairbanksphotos.com>.**  
All photos with third-party permissions free-of-charge for media use.