

Your 2018 Official Visitor Guide to Alaska's

# MAT-SU VALLEY

## ADVENTURE

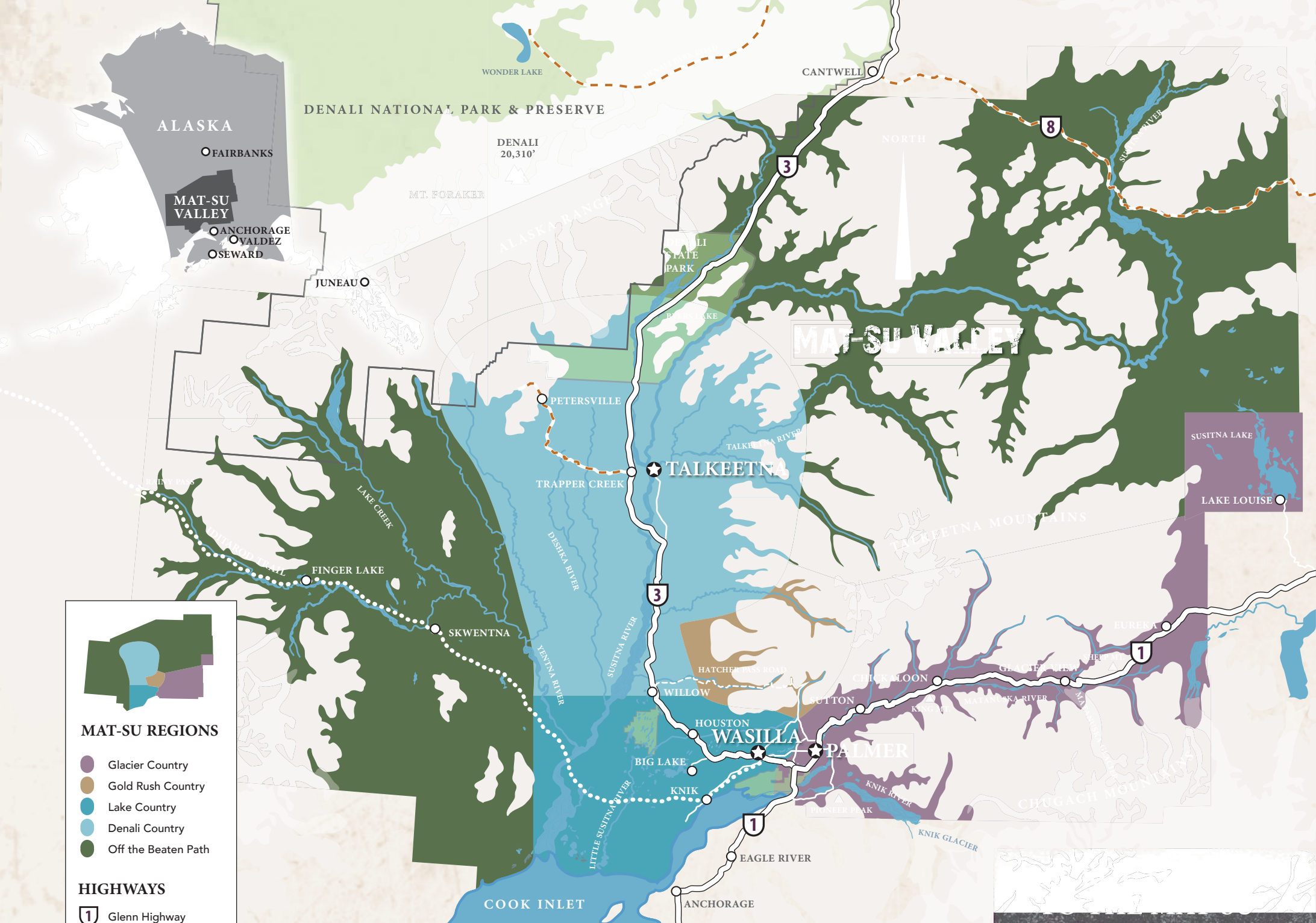
**EXPLORE** Denali, North America's Tallest Peak

**DISCOVER** the Culture

**TREK** on Timeless Glacial Ice

**WATCH** Wildlife

**ENJOY** Hundreds of Miles of Wilderness Trails



### MAT-SU REGIONS

- Glacier Country
- Gold Rush Country
- Lake Country
- Denali Country
- Off the Beaten Path

### HIGHWAYS

- 1 Glenn Highway
- 3 Parks Highway
- 8 Denali Highway

### LEGEND

- ★ Regional Center
- Mat-Su townsite
- Primary Highway
- Paved Road
- Unpaved Road
- Iditarod Trail
- Nat'l/State Park

ROAD DISTANCES mi/km	Anchorage	Wasilla	Palmer	Hatcher Pass**	Lake Louise	Talkeetna	Denali	Fairbanks	Valdez
<b>Anchorage</b>	0	42/68	42/68	60/97	160/260	113/182	237/381	362/583	304/489
<b>Wasilla</b>	42/68	0	10/16*	24/39	131/211	71/114	195/314	320/515	272/438
<b>Palmer</b>	42/68	10/16*	0	20/32	118/190	85/136	208/355	323/520	262/422
<b>Hatcher Pass**</b>	60/97	24/39	20/32	0	136/219	96/153	219/352	334/538	282/454
<b>Lake Louise</b>	160/260	131/211	118/190	136/219	0	203/326	326/525^	481/774^	163/262
<b>Talkeetna</b>	113/182	71/114	85/136	96/153	203/326	0	153/245	278/447	417/670
<b>Denali</b>	237/381	195/314	208/335	219/352	326/525^	153/245	0	125/201	470/756^
<b>Fairbanks</b>	362/583	320/515	323/520	334/538	481/774^	278/447	125/201	0	585/422^
<b>Valdez</b>	304/489	272/438	262/422	282/454	163/262	417/670	470/756^	585/422^	0

The Mat-Su Valley is centrally located north of Anchorage, south of Denali National Park and at the convergence of Alaska's major thoroughfares, truly making "the Valley" the Heart of Alaska.

Each region in this guide is identified by a corresponding color. Use this map to chart your course to adventure and guide you to exciting activities throughout the Mat-Su Valley.

**NOTE:** Distance figures have been rounded to the nearest m/km. Mileage has been taken from the "2013 Milepost"™  
 ^Via Glenn to Parks Highway \*Via Palmer-Wasilla Highway  
 \*\*Distance to Independence Mine State Historical Park

## COME EXPLORE “THE VALLEY”

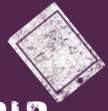
The Matanuska-Susitna Valley encompasses 23,000 square miles of mountains, glaciers, rivers and lakes, and bursts with adventures at every turn in the road. Locals call this area “Mat-Su” or “The Valley” for short. Mat-Su actually is a shortened version of the proper name of the region – Matanuska-Susitna, which represents the two major rivers and valleys that form the region. The Matanuska Valley stretches along the Glenn Highway National Scenic Byway (Highway 1) all the way to Lake Louise. The Parks Highway (Highway 3) takes you north to Denali State Park in the heart of the Susitna Valley. The Valley begins just 35 miles north of Anchorage, making it a convenient destination for a day trip. Better yet, use the Mat-Su as your hub for adventure. Plan to stay awhile and discover all there is to see and do – you’ll definitely say “Yahoo, Mat-Su!”

## YOUR PASSPORT TO ADVENTURE

While the Mat-Su Valley isn’t labeled on many state maps, you can’t miss it. The region is large, diverse and boasts remote wilderness and classic Alaska communities such as Palmer, Wasilla, Big Lake, Houston, Willow and Talkeetna. Each town anchors a distinct region or “country” worth your visit. This guide is organized by those regions, each highlighting a unique geographic draw: **GLACIER COUNTRY** – Lake Louise and Matanuska Glacier south to Palmer along the Glenn Highway National Scenic Byway (Hwy. 1), including Chickaloon and Sutton; **GOLD RUSH COUNTRY** – Hatcher Pass and Independence Mine State Historical Park; **LAKE COUNTRY** – Wasilla north to Big Lake and Houston along the Parks Highway (Hwy. 3); **DENALI COUNTRY** – including Willow, Talkeetna and Denali State Park; **OFF THE BEATEN PATH** and **THE REST OF ALASKA**. So begin planning your visit to each of these regions to fill your passport with adventure.

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TRIP  
PLANNING



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GLACIER  
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GOLD  
RUSH  
COUNTRY



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LAKE  
COUNTRY



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DENALI  
COUNTRY



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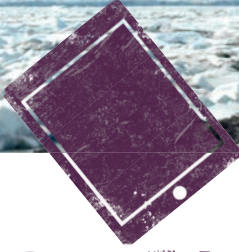
OFF THE  
BEATEN  
PATH



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THE REST  
OF ALASKA





# TRIP PLANNING

## TOOLKIT FOR ADVENTURE



### PLAN AHEAD

In addition to this guide, start your planning at **AlaskaVisit.com** to discover what awaits. The site is packed with information, as well as beautiful images of the area. Check out the suggested itineraries section for ideas ranging from day trips from Anchorage to multi-day adventures. When you start planning the details, use our database of member businesses to find the perfect fit for your vacation.

You'll find TripAdvisor reviews, an up-to-date calendar of events, and weather and highway conditions at the site. You can even request a digital version of the visitor guide, so you'll always have it on your computer or tablet. The website is mobile friendly, so you'll always be connected and just one click away from the most current information.

If you want to get a sneak peek at what you'll see, check us out on Instagram – we're **@matsuvallyak** – and don't forget to tag your photos with **#yahoomatsu**. Visit our Facebook page at **facebook.com/visitmatsu** to keep up with what's going on, and check out **alaskavisit.com/blog** for unique insights on things to see and do, from an Alaskan's perspective. To really get excited, visit our expanded channel on YouTube at **youtube.com/yahoomatsu**, where you'll find videos from every corner of the region.

### WEBSITES

LOCAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

[palmerchamber.org](http://palmerchamber.org)

[wasillachamber.org](http://wasillachamber.org)

[biglakechamber.org](http://biglakechamber.org)

[willowchamber.org](http://willowchamber.org)

[talkeetnachamber.org](http://talkeetnachamber.org)



# FIND YOUR WAY

The Mat-Su Valley, much like Alaska in general, is a big area and can seem overwhelming to first-time visitors. Friendly and helpful resources in every community will help make your trip a success.

Along the Glenn Highway, **Alpine Historical Park** at Mile 61.6 has information about the area's rich history, as well as visitor information for the Matanuska Valley. The open-air museum and historical park focuses on the early settlers and the Athabascan cultures in the Sutton and Chickaloon areas.

**Location:**

Mile 61.6 Glenn Highway,  
Sutton

**Phone:**

(907) 745-7000

**Hours:**

Open daily,  
9 a.m. to 7 p.m.,  
mid-May through  
mid-September

In Palmer, the **Palmer Visitor Center** and Palmer Museum of History and Art are open year-round. They have a wealth of knowledge about the Colony project and the agricultural history of Palmer. Check out their amazing garden in the summer, featuring Alaska wildflowers and vegetables. There's even a replica of a world-famous giant cabbage.

**Location:**

723 S. Valley Way, Palmer

**Phone:**

(907) 746-7668

**Hours:**

Oct. 1-April 30,  
open Wednesday-Friday,  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
  
2nd Saturday of the month  
open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
  
May 1-Sept. 30,  
open daily 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The **Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce** also operates a visitor center in the historic train depot, where the Alaska Railroad stops daily in the summer. Stop in even if you aren't on the train for more information about the Wasilla area.

**Location:**

415 E. Railroad Ave., Wasilla

**Phone:**

(907) 376-1299

**Hours:**

Open Monday, Wednesday,  
Thursday and Friday,  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Also in Wasilla, the **Wasilla Museum**, formerly known as the Dorothy Page Museum, doubles as a visitor information center. You can learn about Wasilla's history, including touring the actual old townsite, and also get information for your next adventure.

**Location:**

323 N. Main St., Wasilla

**Phone:**

(907) 373-9071

**Hours:**

Open Tuesday-Friday,  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In the small community of Talkeetna, there isn't a visitor information center, but an unmanned kiosk at the corner of Spur Road and Main Street (the main intersection) has a wealth of information about area attractions and lodging opportunities. Also, visit **[talkeetnachamber.org](http://talkeetnachamber.org)** for informative trip planning information.

## FIND YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE

There are no interstate highways in Alaska, although three state highways frame the Mat-Su Valley: the Glenn (Highway 1), Parks (Highway 3) and Denali (Highway 8) highways. The Denali Highway is not paved, but the Glenn and Parks are major highways. If you're a do-it-yourself traveler, fly to Anchorage, rent a car or motorhome and drive to the Mat-Su Valley and let the area be your hub for your adventure. Or, if you prefer more guidance, let tour professionals arrange one-day and multi-day tours with transportation included. Find a list on **[alaskavisit.com](http://alaskavisit.com)**.



## — STEP OFF THE SHIP AND INTO ADVENTURE —



### CHOOSE MAT-SU WHEN YOU CRUISE

Don't limit yourself to just the coastline when visiting Alaska via a cruise – there is much to see and do away from the port towns. Set aside time before or after your ocean journey to explore Alaska beyond its coastlines. Many companies offer inclusive land tour options to add to your trip, either before you embark or after your cruise. It's also easy to do it yourself with some planning.



Add a day trip (complete with round-trip transportation), a three-day or even week-long excursion to experience even more. The Mat-Su Valley is perfectly situated to be your hub for the land portion of a cruise itinerary. Take some time and explore Southcentral Alaska, including spectacular views of Denali.



The Alaska Railroad offers daily service north and south, and Talkeetna is just a few hours away from your ship via the railroad. Let it be your basecamp for your Denali experience – there are numerous bed-and-breakfasts, as well as the Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge and the Mt. McKinley Princess Wilderness Lodge, that serve this area. The town has a vibe all its own. From Talkeetna, you can flightsee around Denali, take a jet boat trip up the many rivers, raft and hike. The quaint town may be hundreds of miles from the nearest cruise port, but it's a destination you don't want to miss on your land portion. Who knows, you may end up eating breakfast at the famous Talkeetna Roadhouse with a climber who just summited Denali!

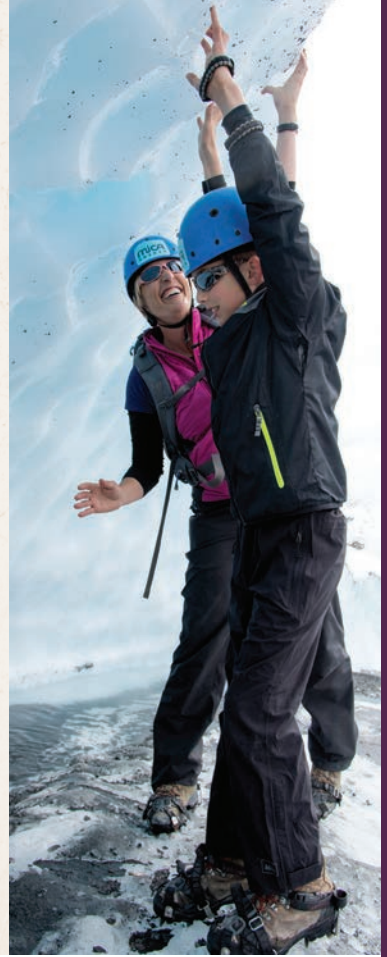
Independent cruise travelers can also rent a car or RV and explore on their own. In addition to the Denali experiences offered in Talkeetna, you can also head north on the Glenn Highway National Scenic Byway (Highway 1) and trek on Matanuska Glacier, the state's largest road-accessible glacier. Getting there is half the fun, as scenic beauty awaits around every corner. Stay at one of the historic roadhouses in the Glacier View area for a truly "Alaskan" experience.

## NEED MORE TRIP IDEAS?

Go to [alaskavisit.com](http://alaskavisit.com) to see suggested itineraries, a complete calendar of events, blog posts and listings for businesses that can assist your planning. Or call the Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureau at (907) 746-5000. We look forward to having you here.

## SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Stay connected to the places and people you discover during your visit. Tweet us on Twitter ([@visitmatsu](https://twitter.com/visitmatsu)) or "like" us on Facebook ([Visit Alaska's Mat-Su Valley](https://www.facebook.com/VisitAlaska)). Follow us on Instagram at [@matsuvolleyak](https://www.instagram.com/matsuvolleyak) and don't forget to use the hashtag [#yahoomatsu](https://twitter.com/yahoomatsu). Get excited about your visit by watching our videos on YouTube ([yahoomatsu](https://www.youtube.com/yahoomatsu)). Finally, check out our blog at [alaskavisit.com](http://alaskavisit.com) to keep up with what's happening in the Mat-Su Valley.



[knikriverlodge.com](http://knikriverlodge.com)  
(877) 745-4575





## DO IT YOURSELF

### TRAIL MIX — RUN, BIKE OR HIKE

With more than 2,000 miles of amazing trails, the Mat-Su Valley is a hiker's paradise. Just pick a destination, distance and degree of difficulty – the combinations are limitless. Take the family on a gentle, historic railroad trail near Palmer, or hike a ridge surrounding the mining region of Hatcher Pass, with views of the Matanuska Valley below. Explore the alpine wilderness of the Talkeetna Mountains on foot or ATV, or by professional guide service for even more adventure. For amazing views in just an hour, try the Butte just outside of Palmer. You can find trail maps at [alaskavisit.com/trails](https://alaskavisit.com/trails).

### TAKE TO THE WATER

The Mat-Su Valley is home to countless rivers, lakes, creeks and streams, so whether you like your water swift or still, the Mat-Su has something for everyone. You can rent a canoe or kayak for a serene afternoon on a lake, or help paddle a raft with an expert guide. The Lynx Lake Canoe Trail in Nancy Lake State Recreation Area off the Parks Highway in Willow offers easy portages between lakes, campgrounds and cabins for rent. Farther north in Denali State Park, you can rent canoes at Byers Lake. Lake Louise (off the Glenn Highway) is also a premier destination for water activities. Lake fishing is one of the Mat-Su Valley's best-kept secrets.

### LEARN ABOUT THE LOCALS

The restored townsite at the Wasilla Museum (formerly known as the Dorothy Page Museum) is a great place to start. Wander through historic buildings and see exhibits that tell stories of the area's past. Palmer's Colony roots are on display at the Palmer Museum of History and Art and the Colony House Museum. Take Talkeetna's 16-site historic town walking tour and learn for yourself how the miners and trappers lived. Don't forget the Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station to learn about Alaska's mountain climbing legends.

### MARVEL AT NORTH AMERICA'S HIGHEST PEAK

20,310 ft. Denali is a spectacular sight to behold, and the first glimpses begin once you hit Willow along the Parks Highway (Highway 3). Farther north in Talkeetna, there are a bevy of activities focused on Denali. Walk the lakeside trail around Byers Lake or climb to Kesugi or Curry Ridge in Denali State Park for undisturbed vistas of the "High One." Parks Highway pullouts at mileposts 135 and 147 provide safe areas to capture Denali's grandeur. The all-new K'esugi Ken Campground at Mile 135.4 offers amazing views of Denali as well. Dramatic aerial views of Denali's lofty summit, flanking glaciers and granite canyons highlight flightseeing trips from Talkeetna. The southern views of Denali are widely considered the best in Alaska.



# SCENIC DRIVES

The Mat-Su Valley is filled with gorgeous scenery – just head out on virtually any highway for a spectacular trip filled with mountains on every side.

- 1 Head north on the Glenn Highway National Scenic Byway (Hwy. 1) and enjoy the views of the Chugach and Talkeetna mountains, while the Matanuska River frames your drive. Trek on Matanuska Glacier or try an exciting raft trip through Lion's Head rapids, and stop at a local roadhouse for a tasty lunch or cozy overnight stay.
- 2 Drive over Hatcher Pass Road to Willow – it opens to traffic around the Fourth of July and stays open until mid-September. Visit Independence Mine and Willow Creek for a scenic loop of the Susitna Valley. Keep an eye out for the abundant wildlife in the area, including moose and bear.
- 3 Petersville Road runs through the rugged mining backcountry of Trapper Creek in Denali Country – watch for wildlife and have your camera ready!

# DAY TRIPS FROM ANCHORAGE

Less than an hour's drive north from Anchorage, the Mat-Su Valley is perfectly situated for day trips.

- 1 Strike it rich – head to Hatcher Pass, Independence Mine and the Willow area to see mining's historical influence on the area. Don't forget your gold pan. There are many hiking trails in the area, and the views are spectacular as well.
- 2 Get cultured - visit Wasilla and Palmer in an afternoon – you'll see the Iditarod Headquarters, a variety of museums, the Palmer Musk Ox Farm and the Reindeer Farm. Take a farm tour to see Palmer's historical roots, and stop at a local restaurant for an Alaska Grown lunch.
- 3 Go big – as in Denali. North of Wasilla on the Parks Highway, you can visit Talkeetna for an afternoon spent flightseeing, dining, shopping, rafting or just photographing Denali. Don't forget your fishing pole, as Talkeetna has plenty of angling opportunities as well.

# FAMILY VACATIONS

Bring the whole family to the Mat-Su Valley for an exciting, and educational, experience.

- 1 Go fossil hunting, gold panning, bird viewing on the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge, camping and more.
- 2 There are endless hiking opportunities for people of all ages and abilities, or rent a canoe and take advantage of Nancy Lake State Recreation Area for exciting outdoor fun. Try Hatcher Pass for a great day trip with lots of views.
- 3 Fun for all ages, Friday Flings, Colony Days or the Alaska State Fair are fantastic community celebrations in downtown Palmer.

# WHAT TO PACK

hiking boots  
fishing pole  
mountain bike  
canoe paddle



## WILDLIFE AND PARKS

### JUST PART OF OUR NATURE

The Mat-Su Valley is favored by Alaskans as a premier recreational destination. There are several popular and well-established state parks, from Palmer to Denali. We are where Alaskans come to play! Keep an eye out for wildlife and the scores of migrating birds that come here to nest and raise their young. Be safe, and remember to respect the wildlife.



**Moose:** Winter and spring are particularly good times to spot these large creatures on the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. Keep an eye out along the highway, especially near rivers and ponds. Enjoy them from afar – don't try to feed the moose. They are also prominent along the Glenn Highway north to the Sheep Mountain area. Knik River Road off the Old Glenn Highway is another popular spot to view moose.



**Caribou:** Related to moose and elk, caribou live in the northern and eastern reaches of the Mat-Su Borough. Herds are frequently spotted along the Denali Highway and near Lake Louise, along Hwy. 1.



**Bear:** Both brown and black bears are found throughout the Mat-Su Valley. Spotting bears is easiest on a flightseeing tour or by hiking off the main road system. They're also found along creeks and streams when the salmon are spawning. Be "bear aware" and carry bear spray.



**Birds:** From bald eagles and red-tailed hawks to songbirds and swans, a wide variety of birds travel through or spend the year in the Mat-Su. Identify them by their calls or keep an eye to the sky. The Palmer Hay Flats and Rabbit Slough, as well as the University of Alaska agriculture fields, attract many migratory birds such as cranes and geese in spring. Download an Alaska Birders Checklist at [alaskavisit.com](http://alaskavisit.com).

## DENALI STATE PARK

(2.5 hours north of Anchorage)

If you want a spectacular view of Denali, make sure you visit Denali State Park, the smaller and less-crowded area south of the national park entrance. The views from Denali State Park are actually better than in the national park! Stop at the Denali Overlook (MP135.2 Parks Hwy) or hike the trail to Kesugi Ridge for incredible views. The newest campground in Alaska, K'esugi Ken, is located at Mile 135.4 and features easy hiking trails that have overlooks with panoramic views of Denali and the Alaska Range. Guided or self-guided nature hikes are available around Byers Lake. There are numerous opportunities for tent and RV camping, as well as kayak rentals.

## PALMER HAY FLATS STATE GAME REFUGE

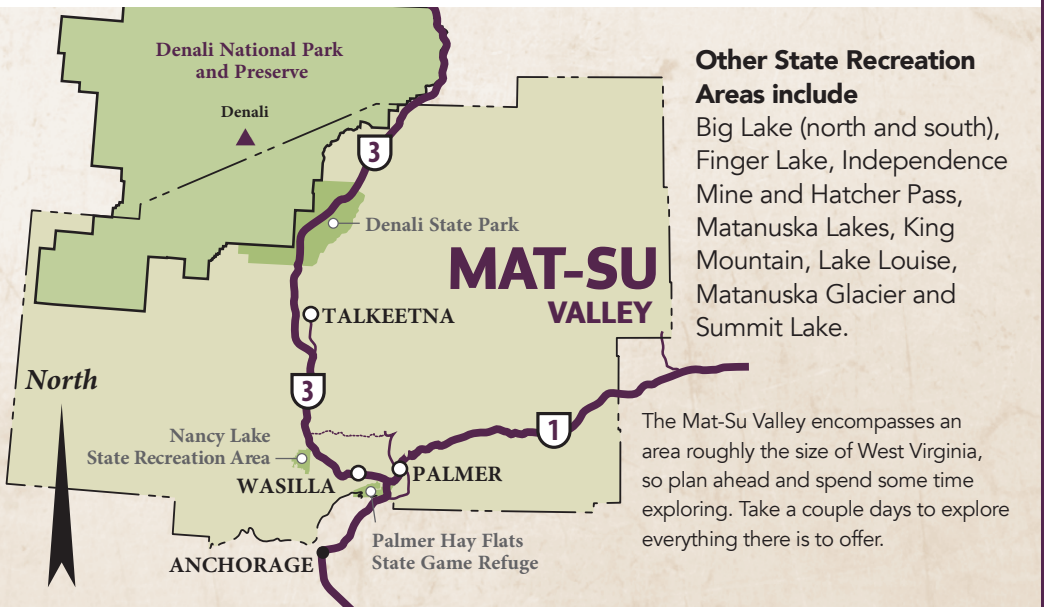
(35 minutes north of Anchorage)

The gateway to the Mat-Su Valley from Anchorage, this refuge has endless photography and recreation possibilities, including kayaking, canoeing and hiking. Birders, wildflower lovers and outdoor enthusiasts flock to the area. Access hiking trails from the Knik River exit (Reflections Lake) or Cottonwood Creek in Wasilla (Scout Ridge Trail). Reflections Lake also has fantastic recreational opportunities in the winter, with ice skating and cross-country skiing trails.

## NANCY LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA

(1.5 hours north of Anchorage)

Near Willow, this network of 130 lakes features camping areas, canoe rentals, and hiking and ski trails. Fish for rainbow trout, arctic char and northern pike. Reserve public-use cabins, available for rent on a nightly basis. Plan ahead and rent your cabin up to six months in advance through the Alaska State Parks' website [alaskastateparks.org](http://alaskastateparks.org).



## WHAT TO PACK

binoculars  
bird guidebook  
sense of adventure



## KNEE DEEP IN WINTER

### SEASONAL CELEBRATIONS!

**Talkeetna Winterfest** – A month-long celebration that features various activities, including the internationally recognized Talkeetna Bachelor Society Auction & Ball and Wilderness Woman Competition, held the first Saturday of December, and the Taste of Talkeetna, held the second Saturday in December. Activities held throughout December. (907) 733-2330. [talkeetnachamber.org](http://talkeetnachamber.org)

**Colony Christmas in Palmer** – A “Norman Rockwell”-style Christmas celebration, featuring a tree lighting ceremony, horse-drawn carriage rides, fireworks, a parade of lights and of course, Santa Claus. December 9-10, 2017. (907) 745-2880. [palmerchamber.org](http://palmerchamber.org)

**Willow Winter Carnival** – A celebration of winter includes dog sled races, snowmobile racing, arts and crafts, and even outhouse races. Last weekend in January and first weekend in February. (907) 495-6800. [waco-ak.org](http://waco-ak.org)

**Iditarod Trail Invitational** – One of the most grueling events in the world, racers depart Knik Lake on Feb. 25, 2018 and head out in the remote wilderness. Snowshoes, bikes or cross-country skis are their mode of transportation, and the finish line is 350 miles away in McGrath, or 1,000 miles away in Nome. [iditarodtrailinvitational.com](http://iditarodtrailinvitational.com)

**World Famous Iditarod Sled Dog Race** – Known around the world, the Iditarod begins on Willow Lake on March 4, 2018. Racers and their teams of dogs traverse their way to Nome. The restart is family-friendly and a great chance to meet a famous musher. (907) 376-5155. [iditarod.com](http://iditarod.com)

### LOOKING FOR SNOW?

The Mat-Su Valley is an ideal winter vacation destination. The Hatcher Pass area gets some of Southcentral Alaska’s best snow and has world-class Nordic skiing trails at Government Peak. Whether you prefer first tracks in fresh powder or groomed trails, the Mat-Su is the place to be. Removed from city lights, our starry darkness sets the stage for the brilliant colors of the northern lights. From alpenglow sunsets on Denali to the fresh, deep snow covering our lakes and peaks, you’ll find yourself inspired and invigorated by a winter visit. Plan a trip before it melts.

Keep an eye out for business listings that are open year round ☀️, summer only ☀️ and winter only ❄️. You’ll be amazed by the number of things to see and do throughout the year.



# WINTER AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!

For more ideas or updates on the latest trail conditions, check out our website: [alaskavisit.com](http://alaskavisit.com). There is a whole section devoted to winter ideas.



## WHERE TO GO WHAT TO DO

- 1** Escape the city lights of Anchorage for a view of our spectacular **NORTHERN LIGHTS** in Hatcher Pass. Clear nights, January through April, are best.
- 2** Follow the **IDITAROD** - watch the restart on Willow Lake or plan a day trip to an official checkpoint such as Skwentna or Rainy Pass. Cheer on your favorite mushers and their dog teams. Packaged Iditarod tours are available.
- 3** Visit a working sled dog kennel and find out what it takes to lead a team of huskies. Several mushers offer **IDITAROD KENNEL TOURS** throughout the year. Enjoy an exhilarating ride in the basket of the sled of an Iditarod champion, or try your hand at leading a team.
- 4** Explore our endless fields of snow by renting a snowmobile and picking up a trail map, or for a grand adventure, take a guided snowmobile excursion into Alaska's **BACKCOUNTRY**. No experience necessary.
- 5** Glide on the rails of the **ALASKA RAILROAD** and stop in Talkeetna to see Denali's towering alpenglow peak. Rail service is available northbound on Saturdays and southbound on Sundays only during the winter.
- 6** **ICE-FISH** for land-locked salmon, rainbow trout, arctic char and northern pike. Many Mat-Su Valley lakes are stocked throughout the year.
- 7** Cruise the skies on a **FLIGHTSEEING** adventure of Knik Glacier and Chugach State Park, or Denali and the Alaska Range. Many say winter is the best time to see these peaks.
- 8** Cross-country ski or snowboard virgin powder at **HATCHER PASS**. Government Peak has a warming chalet to complement the 8 miles of **WORLD-CLASS GROOMED NORDIC TRAILS**.



# GLACIER COUNTRY

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**"Towering mountains, accessible glaciers and Colony-era agriculture roots make Glacier Country a 'must-do' in the Mat-Su."**

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## GLACIERS & GIANT VEGGIES

This Matanuska Valley was carved by glaciers thousands of years ago, but their impact remains today. The fine, fertile silt left behind by these receding glaciers, combined with long daylight hours, makes the area perfect for growing lush hayfields and world-record veggies. This is the agricultural hub of Alaska - look for Alaska Grown vegetables! You'll be able to taste the difference - carrots are typically sweeter than those grown in the "Lower 48," for example.

Just north of Palmer, in Sutton and Chickaloon, learn about the region's rich Athabaskan culture at the Alpine Historical Park. In the Glacier View area, explore Matanuska Glacier on a trek or ice climb. Easy to get to, it's Alaska's largest road-accessible glacier. Explore the northern region of Glacier Country by visiting Lake Louise, located halfway between Anchorage and Valdez, just 19 miles off the scenic Glenn Highway. The peaceful lake is a hub of recreational opportunities. The Nelchina caribou herd migrates through this area each year. Lodges, campgrounds and a public boat launch are available. Closer to Palmer, boat, helicopter or take an ATV tour to Knik Glacier. This is only an hour from Anchorage. Stop at a roadside stand or farmers market for fresh organic vegetables, wild honey or dairy products.

## PALMER

Just 45 minutes north of Anchorage, this small town takes pride in its deep agricultural roots while nurturing a contemporary, Alaska “chic.” The downtown area is very walkable and features locally-owned shops and cafes. In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt sanctioned a relocation program that brought 202 farming families to Palmer from the Midwest. Parcels of land were distributed to the “colonists” by lottery to farm and raise dairy cattle. Celebrate the anniversary of this historic event in June at Colony Days.

Start your stay in Glacier Country at the Palmer Visitor Information Center, which has an amazing garden and replicas of those giant vegetables. Pick up a downtown walking map while you’re there and tour the original Matanuska Colony. On Fridays, an open-air market, featuring local artisans and growers, opens across from the center. Just up the street, tour a restored Colony home (circa 1935). And don’t forget Palmer’s most celebrated attraction, the Alaska State Fair, which takes place Aug. 23 to Sept. 3, 2018.

## FARMS & FLOWERS

### *Nine Times Warmer than Wool* –

Learn about the prehistoric Musk Ox at the Musk Ox Farm near Palmer. Native artists use the precious underwool (qiviut) to make beautiful knitted garments with superior warmth.

### *A rich Athabascan culture* –

The Chickaloon Native Village is a rich Ahtna Athabascan tribe in Sutton, along the Matanuska River on the Glenn Highway. The tribe has occupied the area for 10,000 years, and their culture and traditional way of life has been unwavering. In the Ahtna language, Chickaloon means “the river with the two logs across it.”

*Pick Your Own* – A feast for the eyes and taste buds – Alaska’s freshest produce! Wasilla farmers market is held every Wednesday at the Wasilla Museum. Palmer’s Friday Flings market runs every Friday from late May to the end of August, across from the Palmer Visitors Center. Visit [alaskavisit.com](http://alaskavisit.com) for market and u-pick farm locations and hours.

*Alaska-sized veggies* – Imagine a 135-pound giant cabbage. See the real thing as lots of huge veggies are weighed-in at the Alaska State Fair in late August. World records are routinely broke for all types of vegetables.

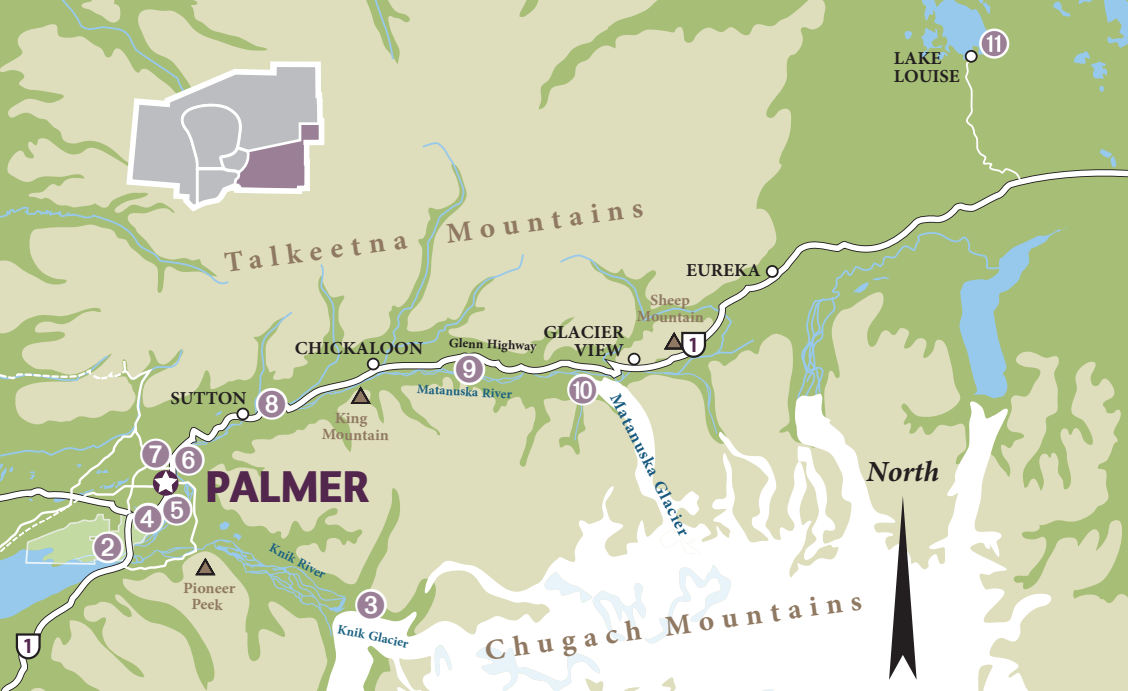
## WHERE TO GO WHAT TO DO

**1** Interested in agriculture? Tour country roads to see working farms or sample locally grown products at one of Palmer’s restaurants. Guided farm tours are also available, complete with transportation and lunch. The downtown area has a feel all its own, and you can spend an afternoon visiting the quaint shops and restaurants, many of which serve **ALASKA GROWN** products on their menus.

**2** If you need to get in the swing of things, the Palmer Golf Course offers **STUNNING VIEWS** of the mountains and Knik Glacier.

**3** Hike, bike or ATV one of the many **TRAILS** that begin just off the Glenn Highway; loop through miles of wilderness.





# GLACIER COUNTRY

## ADVENTURES

- |  |           |  |
|--|-----------|--|
| <b>Glenn Highway National Scenic Byway</b>                         | <b>1</b>  | One of three national scenic byways in Alaska.   |
| <b>Reflections Lake &amp; Palmer Hay Flats Game Refuge</b>         | <b>2</b>  | Easy hike around the lake; moose and migratory bird views.   |
| <b>Knik Glacier &amp; Knik River Valley</b>                        | <b>3</b>  | Try a boat ride, helicopter trip, ATV adventure or airplane flight over the glacier. Just an hour from Anchorage.                                  |
| <b>Alaska State Fair</b>   | <b>4</b>  | Aug. 23 – Sept. 3, 2018. Giant Cabbage Weigh-off and other giant vegetable displays, food, entertainment, fireworks and more.                      |
| <b>Golf Courses</b>  | <b>5</b>  | Fore! Golf courses in Palmer boast mountain views at affordable rates.   |
| <b>Palmer Visitor Information Center Museum of History and Art</b> | <b>6</b>  | Great starting point for visitor information, Colony history, gardens.   |
| <b>Musk Ox Farm and Reindeer Farm</b>                              | <b>7</b>  | See prehistoric animals on guided tours through the farm, museum and gift shop. These farms are a few miles apart, but worth the trip to see both. |
| <b>Alpine Historical Park</b>                                      | <b>8</b>  | Learn about the area's coal mining history, and the Ahtna Athabaskan culture. Located at Mile 61.6 of the Glenn Hwy.                               |
| <b>Raft the Matanuska or Knik Rivers</b>                           | <b>9</b>  | Guided Class IV whitewater rafting or leisure floats on scenic stretches.  |
| <b>Matanuska Glacier</b>   | <b>10</b> | Mile 101, Glenn Hwy. Drive right up to Alaska's largest road-accessible glacier. Easy guided treks and ice climbing.                               |
| <b>Lake Louise</b>   | <b>11</b> | Excellent lake fishing, winter recreation and hiking opportunities. Off the Glenn Hwy. at Mile 159.8.  |



## DON'T MISS THE ALASKA STATE FAIR

Alaska's largest event, the Alaska State Fair, takes place in Palmer every August to early September. The 12-day fair is filled with fun and excitement, and has something for every visitor.

The fair runs Aug. 23-Sept. 3, 2018, and is the best place to see the giant vegetables for which the Palmer area is so famous. Each year, pumpkins weighing more than 1,000 pounds and cabbages that have tipped the scale at 138 pounds are entered in contests. You have to see them to believe them!

In addition to the giant vegetables, there are numerous exhibits, cultural celebrations, concerts, performances and much more – you'll want to plan to stay an extra day to take it all in.



## DISCOVER A HIDDEN GEM – KNIK RIVER VALLEY

The Knik River Valley is a scenic, secluded valley nestled up against the Chugach Mountains, just a short drive from downtown Palmer. This hidden gem of the Mat-Su Valley is an adventure seeker's delight, as you'll find everything you dreamed Alaska would be - wilderness, outdoor recreation opportunities, mountains, glaciers, rivers and wildlife. The Knik River Valley is located off the Old Glenn Highway, with Knik River Road providing access to trails, fishing, and spectacular views.

Knik Glacier is the closest glacier to Anchorage, Alaska's largest city, just an hour to the north. There are numerous ways to experience Knik Glacier, with operators providing air boat tours to the foot of the glacier, helicopter tours including dog mushing experiences, and even ATV trips.

Eklutna Tailrace provides easily accessible fishing for all species of Alaska salmon, and typically gets the earliest run of fish in the summer. It has ample parking, and you can walk right to the fishing hole with ease.

Knik River Road is a popular spot to catch a glimpse of moose, as the large animals typically hang out in the many swampy areas along the route. Bring your camera and be on the lookout!

## PALMER

### ATTRACTION OR EVENT

#### Alaska Horse Adventures

4403 Silver Bullet Circle, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 229-4445 akhorseadventures@gmail.com



#### Alaska State Fair


2075 Glenn Highway, Palmer, AK 99645  
(800) 850-3247 (907) 745-4827 info@alaskastatefair.org  
alaskastatefair.org



The Alaska State Fair is a non-stop, 12-day party for all Alaskans, with nightly concerts featuring some of the nation's hottest entertainers, world-famous, record-breaking giant vegetables, menus overflowing with the freshest Alaska Grown ingredients, shopping for unique, only-in-Alaska arts and crafts, and lots of attractions free with Fair admission!

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 See ad above

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## Palmer Museum of History and Art & Visitor Center

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## SUTTON

### ATTRACTION OR EVENT

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### VISITOR CENTER/CHAMBER/ GOV'T AGENCY

**Chickaloon Village Traditional Council**  
PO Box 1105, Sutton, AK 99674  
(907) 745-0737 cvadmin@chickaloon.org

## MATANUSKA GLACIER AREA

### ATTRACTION OR EVENT



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# GOLD RUSH COUNTRY

"Alaska's finest backcountry playground, Hatcher Pass' granite mountains, glacial-carved valleys and alpine vegetation are sights to behold."



## HATCHER PASS

Just 1.5 hours from Anchorage, Hatcher Pass is a locals' favorite. The area is home to Independence Mine State Historical Park, but also features a wealth of year-round multi-use trails and limitless alpine terrain. Hike, bike or snowmobile. Some hot spots include Reed Lakes, Craigie Creek and Gold Mint trails. The area offers world-class hiking with breathtaking views of the valley below. With the headwaters of the Little Susitna River originating here, avid kayakers will find the excitement of Class V whitewater appealing.

Winter sports enthusiasts flock to telemark, cross-country ski and snowboard. The Government Peak Recreation Area, at the base of Hatcher Pass, offers 8 miles of Nordic skiing trails designed by a former Olympian. Snowmobiling is permitted in designated areas and is very popular west of the pass.



## INDEPENDENCE MINE

Once a bustling mining camp, Independence Mine is now on the National Register of Historic Places. You can wander amid the preserved ruins. Independence Mine covers 271 acres and includes a score of restored structures and interpretive displays connected by easily accessible, paved walking paths. The visitor center museum (formerly the mine manager's home) is open and provides daily tours of the Park from mid- to late-June through early September.



## GOLD FEVER!

Gold played a pivotal role in establishing many of Alaska's communities, including Hatcher Pass. One of the first discoveries in the Mat-Su happened in 1896 by Robert Lee Hatcher. In 1941, with 83 mining claims, the Alaska-Pacific Consolidated Mining Co. was the largest producer in the mining district, employing more than 200 workers, opening nearly a dozen miles of tunnels, and producing more than 34,000 ounces of gold. Today you can catch a glimpse of what mining was like at the Independence Mine State Historical Park located in Hatcher Pass. Grab your gold pan and see if you have the same luck.



## WHERE TO GO WHAT TO DO

- 1 PICK BLUEBERRIES** in the alpine fields or **PHOTOGRAPH** spectacular wildflowers. Berry picking is at its peak in late summer and early fall.
- 2** Deep snow and treeless slopes provide perfect terrain for winter enthusiasts on both sides of Hatcher Pass. The **NORTHERN LIGHTS** are best viewed here.
- 3 EXPLORE** abandoned buildings and machinery from a 200-worker camp and gold mining operation, one of Alaska's biggest gold producers until World War II.





# GOLD RUSH COUNTRY

## ADVENTURES

<b>Little Susitna River</b>	<b>1</b>	Along Hatcher Pass Road from Mile 7-15. Watch for wildlife and pan for gold.
<b>Archangel Valley/Reed Lakes</b>	<b>2</b>	Mile 16 Hatcher Pass Road. Hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing and winter sports.
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<b>Independence Mine State Historical Park</b>	<b>4</b>	Gold! Mile 18 Hatcher Pass Road. Open daily mid June-Sept. Guided tours available in the summer – call Visitor Information Center at (907) 745-2827.
<b>Summit Lake Recreation Area</b>	<b>5</b>	Mile 19 Hatcher Pass Road. Berry picking, ridgetop hiking. Pass road opens around July 4th until first snow.
<b>Summer Recreation</b>		Hiking, berry picking, recreational gold panning, mountain biking.
<b>Winter Recreation</b>		Cross-country and backcountry skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, snowmobiling and sledding.



# MAT-SU EVENTS 2018

Markets  
Festivals  
Races  
Derbies  
Celebrations

## FARMER'S MARKETS

*Wasilla/Houston/Willow/  
Talkeetna/Palmer*

Purchase Alaska Grown produce, flowers and crafts at one of the Valley's weekly markets throughout the summer months, including Friday Flings in downtown Palmer.

## HOUSTON FOUNDER'S DAY

Live band, free barbecue, fireworks and more. Third Saturday in August annually (Aug. 18, 2018).  
**(907) 892-6869**

## MAT-SU HAWKWATCH

Mid – to late – April, Mile 120 Glenn Highway  
**matsubirders.org**

## PALMER COLONY DAYS

A festival honoring the 1935 Colonists who started the Matanuska farming community. Events include a car rally, parade, craft fairs, farmers market, carnival rides, fun run, parade and live entertainment. Second weekend in June annually (June 8-10, 2018).  
**(907) 745-2880**

**palmerchamber.org**

## ALASKA STATE FAIR

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## HATCHER PASS AREA

### BACKCOUNTRY ADVENTURES

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PO Box 924, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 746-7277 skihatcherpass@gmail.com  
skihatcherpass.org

### CABIN/VACATION HOME

**Alaska's Caribou Cabins** ☀️ ❄️  
PO Box 378, Palmer, AK 99645  
(888) 408-2246 (907) 746-6881

**Hatcher Pass Bed & Breakfast** ☀️ ❄️ 📍  
9000 N. Palmer-Fishhook Road, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 745-6788 cabins@hatcherpassbb.com

### CATERING SERVICES

**Alaska Events & Catering LLC** ☀️ ❄️ 📍  
8086 E Timb Circle, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 746-4181 info@cateralaska.com  
cateralaska.com

### HOTEL/MOTEL/RESORT



**Hatcher Pass Lodge** ☀️ ❄️ 📍  
PO Box 763, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 745-5897 info@hatcherpasslodge.com



# LAKE COUNTRY

"Scores of glacier-carved lakes stretch between quiet stands of birch, aspen and spruce. If water is your element, then Lake Country is your destination."

## WASILLA

Nestled between two lakes, Wasilla is a bustling community that is home to the world-famous Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race headquarters.

Wasilla is the largest city in the Mat-Su Valley and is a hub of commerce, as a variety of national and local stores can be found. Fresh produce is available weekly at a farmers market. Several cultural attractions can be found as well – check out the impressive collection of planes, trains and automobiles housed at the Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry. History buffs will appreciate the area's mining history and exploring the Old Townsite Park (including Wasilla's first schoolhouse) at the Wasilla Museum (formerly known as the Dorothy Page Museum).



## BIG LAKE

With 67 miles of shoreline, the size of this lake is downright remarkable. Big Lake is a favorite among Alaskans for its many recreational opportunities, both in summer and winter. Boating, fishing and riding personal watercraft highlight summer activities. In the winter, the frozen lake allows for Alaska winter staples such as snowmobiling, dog mushing and cross-country skiing. Terrific views north, east and west toward the towering Alaska and Talkeetna ranges abound. Camp under the midnight sun or stay and dine at one of several area lodges and bed-and-breakfasts.



## HOUSTON

Located on the banks of the Little Susitna River along the Parks Highway, this colorful town offers a gentle river to float with great salmon fishing. In the winter, come back and give a snowmobile or sled dog tour a go to feel the crisp air as you zip through the countryside blanketed with pristine snow.

## OPENING UP THE COUNTRY

Wasilla celebrated its 100-year anniversary in 2017. It was founded to be a supply crossroads for gold mines at Willow Creek Mining District. The Alaska Railroad built lines through the town to Fairbanks in 1917, providing an immediate “boom” to the area. Today, Wasilla remains one of the fastest-growing communities in Alaska.



## WHERE TO GO WHAT TO DO

**1** All aboard for a journey on the **ALASKA RAILROAD**. Southbound and northbound trains stop daily at the Wasilla Depot in the summer, and on the weekends in the winter.

**2** Learn about the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race and take a **DOG SLED RIDE** at Iditarod Trail Headquarters.





# LAKE COUNTRY

## ADVENTURES

### Wasilla Area Lakes

- 1** Fish, ride personal watercraft and bird-watch at Lake Lucille, Wasilla Lake and more just off the Parks Hwy.

### Wasilla Museum

- 2** Variety of exhibits showcasing the area's trading post history and original town buildings. Self-guided tours available, and a farmers market every Wednesday in the summer.

### Iditarod Headquarters

- 3** Mile 2.2 Knik-Goose Bay Rd. Museum, gift shop, summer dog sled rides.

### Museum of Transportation & Industry

- 4** Home to Alaska's transportation and industrial relics. Airplanes, trains, steam engines and more.

### Big Lake

- 5** Haven for boating and snowmobiling - year-round recreation. Campgrounds and lodging available.

### Knik Museum & Townsite

- 6** Mile 13.9 Knik-Goose Bay Rd. Built in 1910, is now a museum and holds the Musher's Hall of Fame.

### Little Su River & Lakes

- 7** Excellent salmon fishing in the summer and ice fishing in the winter.

### Susitna River Drainage

- 8** King and silver salmon fishing. Guided fishing trips available. Canoeing and camping.

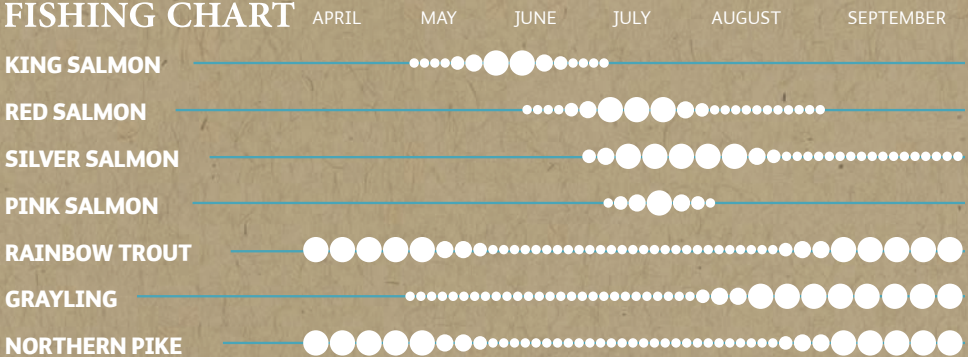
# GET HOOKED!

**Mat-Su: Fish-On!** – Thanks to several thousand square miles of fishable rivers, streams and lakes, the Mat-Su Valley offers great fishing for many species. Best of all, our fishing is accessible – bank-side off the road, by air taxi to remote spots or contact one of our local expert fishing guides. The Susitna River drainage has several small creeks and tributaries that are easily accessible via the Parks Highway (Hwy. 3) and feature king and silver salmon as well as rainbow trout, grayling and pike. At many of these places, you can walk right up to a fishing hole. King salmon average 20-30 pounds, but every summer, we see pictures of 50-60 pounders coming from these streams! Spirited silvers run strong in the drainage. In the fall, rainbow trout fishing is exceptional. Make sure you check local regulations before heading out, and purchase a fishing license. Use the chart below to gauge when the fish will be running.

**A Local Secret** – There are more than 80 lakes within an hour’s drive of the core area of Wasilla and Palmer, and many offer beautiful rainbow trout, pike and landlocked silver salmon. Within six minutes you can hop to new lakes and catch a different experience: semi-remote lakes, hike-in lakes, drive-to lakes. With this kind of opportunity, the Mat-Su is gaining a reputation as the Stillwater Fishing Capital of Alaska! Of course, true fishermen and women not only enjoy warm summer days, but return for winter ice fishing. Wet your line and get hooked in the Mat-Su. Many lakes are stocked by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, giving you great odds of hooking into a fish.



## FISHING CHART



## WHAT TO PACK

- waders
- tackle box
- fillet knife
- fish story

## WASILLA

### ATTRACTION OR EVENT

#### Alaskans for Palmer Hay Flats

4900 E Palmer-Wasilla Hwy, Suite 106, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 357-8711 [alaskans@palmerhayflats.org](mailto:alaskans@palmerhayflats.org)  
[palmerhayflats.org](http://palmerhayflats.org)

#### Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race

2100 S. Knik-Goose Bay Rd, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-5155 x-108

#### Iron Dog

7100 Old Seward Highway, Unit C, Anchorage, AK 99518  
(907) 563-4414

#### Museum of Alaska

**Transportation & Industry**  
3800 W. Museum Drive, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-1211 [mati@mtaonline.net](mailto:mati@mtaonline.net)

#### Wasilla Museum & Visitor Center

391 N. Main Street, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 373-9071 [museum@ci.wasilla.ak.us](mailto:museum@ci.wasilla.ak.us)  
[cityofwasilla.com/museum](http://cityofwasilla.com/museum)  
Come discover historic Wasilla! Enjoy interactive dog mushing and gold mining exhibits. View 11 historic buildings. Experience the history and people of Wasilla and surrounding areas. Open year round.

#### Wasilla-Knik Historical Society

300 N. Boundary Street, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-7755  
Visit the old Knik Townsite and Museum along the Iditarod Trail, Mile 13.9 Knik Goose Bay Road. Open 1-6 pm Wed-Sun, all summer, off season by appointment. While in Wasilla, visit the historic Herning-Teeland-Mead-Building at 405 E Herning, now home to Crazy Moose Subs. Stroll the Farmers' Market on Wednesdays in the west end of Iditapark, Weber Drive and Nelson.



### BED & BREAKFAST/INN

#### Alaska Garden Gate Bed & Breakfast

950 S. Trunk Road, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 746-2333  
[gardengatebnb.com](http://gardengatebnb.com)

#### Alaska's Lake Lucille Bed & Breakfast

South shore of Lake Lucille, Wasilla, AK 99687  
(888) 353-0352 (907) 357-0352

#### Alpine Rose Inn

3105 N. Talbot Cir., Wasilla, AK 99654  
(877) 631-3048 (907) 631-3048 [alpinerosenn@gmail.com](mailto:alpinerosenn@gmail.com)

#### Lady Gray Bed & Breakfast

1151 E. Glenwood Ave., Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 355-8454 [ladygray@mtaonline.net](mailto:ladygray@mtaonline.net)  
[ladygraybnb.com](http://ladygraybnb.com)

#### Pioneer Ridge B&B Inn

2221 S. Yukon Circle, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(800) 478-7472 (907) 376-7472 [info@pioneeridge.com](mailto:info@pioneeridge.com)  
[pioneeridge.com](http://pioneeridge.com)

### BREWERY

#### The Last Frontier Brewing Company

238 N Boundary Street, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 357-7200 [LFBrew58@gmail.com](mailto:LFBrew58@gmail.com)

### BUSINESS SERVICES

#### Tegeler & Associates, CPA

2801 E Palmer-Wasilla Hwy Ste B, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-4925 [wes@tegelercpa.com](mailto:wes@tegelercpa.com)

### CABIN/VACATION HOME

#### Alaska Creekside Cabins

PO Box 4356, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 355-4632 [info@alaskacreeksidecabins.com](mailto:info@alaskacreeksidecabins.com)  
[alaskacreeksidecabins.com](http://alaskacreeksidecabins.com)



#### Alaska Kozev Cabins

351 E. Spruce Avenue, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-3190 [kozevcabins@gci.net](mailto:kozevcabins@gci.net)

#### Alaskan Hillside Cabins

PO Box 871748, Wasilla, AK 99687  
(907) 376-4912

### CAMPGROUND/RV PARK

#### Alaskan Trails RV & Camper Park

6570 W Parks Hwy, Wasilla, AK 99623  
(907) 376-5504 [aktrails@mtaonline.net](mailto:aktrails@mtaonline.net)

#### Big Bear Campground & RV Park

2010 S. Church Street, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 745-7445 [bigbear@mtaonline.net](mailto:bigbear@mtaonline.net)

#### Settlers Bay Golf Course

7307 S Frontier Dr, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-5466 [customerservice@settlersbay.com](mailto:customerservice@settlersbay.com)  
[settlersbay.com](http://settlersbay.com)

### DINING

#### E Lu Fa

1875 E Palmer-Wasilla Hwy, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 357-1368

#### Evangelo's Restaurant

PO Box 875609, Wasilla, AK 99687  
(907) 376-1249

#### Everett's Fine Dining \* Bar & Bistro

1850 E Bogard Road, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 357-5000 [info@mat-suresort.com](mailto:info@mat-suresort.com)  
[Mat-SuResort.com](http://Mat-SuResort.com)

#### Locals Pub & Pizza

3100 E Parks Hwy, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 357-3100 [localspizzapub@gmail.com](mailto:localspizzapub@gmail.com)

#### Qdoba Mexican Grill

1515 Parks Hwy, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 373-7639

#### Settlers Bay Lodge

PO Box 877869, Wasilla, AK 99687  
(907) 357-5678 [contact@settlersbaylodge.com](mailto:contact@settlersbaylodge.com)  
[settlersbaylodge.com](http://settlersbaylodge.com)



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**(907) 376 5822**

7307 S. FRONTIER DR. SETTLERS BAY ALASKA

**The Albatross @ Settlers Bay Golf Course**

7307 S Frontier Dr, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-5833 [customerservice@settlersbay.com](mailto:customerservice@settlersbay.com)  
[settlersbay.com](http://settlersbay.com)

**Restaurant & Wine Bar**  
Creative Food, Unique Wines, & Craft Beers  
907-376-8466  
Reservations Recommended

**The Grape Tap**  
322 N. Boundary St., Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-8466 [grapetapak@gmail.com](mailto:grapetapak@gmail.com)

**The Grill**  
2900 E. Parks Highway, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 352-1777 [thegrillgv@gmail.com](mailto:thegrillgv@gmail.com)

**ENTERTAINMENT**

**Brown Jug Friendly Spirits**  
2521 E. Mtn. Village Road / Lowes, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(800) 478-2413 (907) 376-2300

**EXTREME FUN CENTER**  
ELECTRIC RACING KARTS • LASER TAG • ARCADE GAMES  
3501 E. OLD MATANUSKA RD. WASILLA, AK 99654  
[WWW.EXTREMEFUNCENTERS.COM](http://WWW.EXTREMEFUNCENTERS.COM)

**Extreme Fun Center & Valley Cinema**  
3501 E Old Matanuska Road, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 770-RACE (7223) [info@extremefuncenters.com](mailto:info@extremefuncenters.com)  
[extremefuncenters.com](http://extremefuncenters.com)

The most fun indoor entertainment venue in Alaska!  
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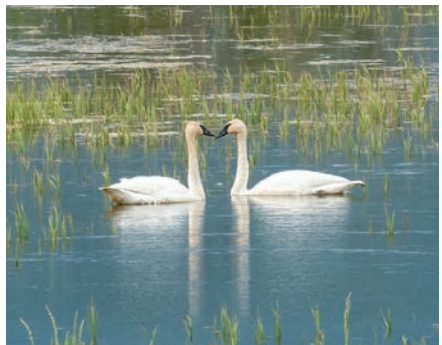
**FISHING**

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[www.fish4salmon.com](http://www.fish4salmon.com)  
907 746-2199

**Fishtale River Guides**  
PO Box 155, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 746-2199 [fishing@fish4salmon.com](mailto:fishing@fish4salmon.com)  
Alaska Fishing Guides charter to Little Susitna and Deshka River salmon fishing. Helpful instruction, quality tackle, roomy boats, fish filleting provided. Fun winter ice fishing trips to Mat-Su Valley lakes near Palmer, Wasilla, Anchorage. Visit [www.fish4salmon.com](http://www.fish4salmon.com) for free fishing reports, pictures, information and map. Catch your Alaskan fishing dream!

**FLIGHTSEEING**

**Bear Mountain Air**  
PO Box 873286, Wasilla, AK 99687  
(907) 373-3347 (907) 354-4623  
[bearmountainair@mtaonline.net](mailto:bearmountainair@mtaonline.net)



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**ALASKA RAILROAD**

## GIFTS/GALLERIES/SOUVENIRS

### Gold Rush Jewelers

212 N. Boundary Street, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(800) 770-3650 (907) 376-4912



### Sylvia's Quilt Depot

1261 Seward Meridian Road, Suite E, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-6468 [Sylvia@sylviasquiltdepot.com](mailto:Sylvia@sylviasquiltdepot.com)  
[sylviasquiltdepot.com](http://sylviasquiltdepot.com)

### Wal-Mart

1350 South Seward Meridian Parkway, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-9780

## GOLF RESORTS

An advertisement for Settlers Bay Golf Course. It features a photo of a golf cart on a green. Text includes: 'Settlers Bay Golf Course', 'The Albatross Restaurant', 'Full service Golf Course and Restaurant', 'BOOK YOUR TEE TIME TODAY', '(907)376-5466', and 'www.settlersbay.com'. There is also a 'SETTLERS BAY GOLF COURSE' logo and a quote: 'Reader's Choice Award Best of the Valley'.

### Settlers Bay Golf Course

7307 S Frontier Dr, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-5466 [customerservice@settlersbay.com](mailto:customerservice@settlersbay.com)  
[settlersbay.com](http://settlersbay.com)

## HOTEL/MOTEL/RESORT

An advertisement for Alaska's Select Inn Motel. It shows a photo of the motel building and an interior view of a kitchen area. Text includes: 'FREE WIRELESS INTERNET', 'Full Kitchens', 'ALASKA'S SELECT Inn MOTEL', 'WWW.ALASKASELECTINN.COM', and '1-888-357-4768'.

### Alaska's Select Inn Motel

3451 E. Palmdale Drive, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(888) 357-4768 (907) 357-4768

An advertisement for Best Western Lake Lucille Inn. It features a photo of the hotel building at night with lights reflecting in a lake. Text includes: 'BW Best Western Lake Lucille Inn', 'www.BestWestern.com/LakeLucilleInn', and '(800) 897-1776'.

### Best Western Lake Lucille Inn

1300 W. Lake Lucille Dr., Wasilla, AK 99654  
(800) 897-1776 (907) 373-1776  
[info@bestwesternlakelucilleinn.com](mailto:info@bestwesternlakelucilleinn.com)  
[BestWesternLakeLucilleInn.com](http://BestWesternLakeLucilleInn.com)

Superb location on beautiful Lake Lucille with breathtaking views of the Chugach Mountains. Complimentary deluxe breakfast bar. Convention facilities and fitness room with sauna.

### Grand View Inn & Suites

2900 E. Parks Highway, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(866) 710-7666 (907) 352-1700 [grandview@ak.net](mailto:grandview@ak.net)

### Mat-Su Resort

1850 E Bogard Road, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 357-5000 [info@mat-suresort.com](mailto:info@mat-suresort.com)  
[Mat-SuResort.com](http://Mat-SuResort.com)

### Windbreak Cafe, Bar & Hotel

2201 E Parks Highway, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-4484

## MEDICAL SERVICES

### Geneva Woods Pharmacy

3674 E. Country Field Circle, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(800) 478-0005 (907) 376-8200

## RAIL

### Alaska Railroad

PO Box 107500, Anchorage, AK 99510  
(800) 544-0552 (907) 265-2494 [reservations@akrr.com](mailto:reservations@akrr.com)  
Since 1923, the Alaska Railroad has connected Alaska's most popular destinations: Anchorage, Denali, Seward, Fairbanks, Talkeetna and more. Take advantage of daily summer service to see glaciers, mountains, wildlife and incredible views from our comfortable railcars (ask about our premium GoldStar Service). Ideal for day trips or vacations; open year-round.

## TRAVEL AGENCY/RESERVATIONS

### ABC Travel Time LLC - Reservations Center

191 E. Swanson Avenue, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-5231

## VISITOR CENTER/CHAMBER/ GOV'T AGENCY

### City of Wasilla

290 E. Herring Avenue, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 373-9055 [cityofwasilla@ci.wasilla.ak.us](mailto:cityofwasilla@ci.wasilla.ak.us)

### Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce

415 E. Railroad Avenue, Wasilla Depot, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-1299 [contact@wasillachamber.org](mailto:contact@wasillachamber.org)



FIND US ON  
INSTAGRAM AT  
[matsuvallyak](https://www.instagram.com/matsuvallyak)

## BIG LAKE

### CABIN/VACATION HOME

#### Alaska Sunset View Resort

PO Box 521402, Big Lake, AK 99652  
(907) 892-8885 stay@alaskasunsetviewresort.com  
alaskasunsetviewresort.com



### VISITOR CENTER/CHAMBER/ GOV'T AGENCY

#### Big Lake Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 520067, Big Lake, AK 99652  
(907) 892-6109



## HOUSTON

### CABIN/VACATION HOME

#### Creekside Lodge

977 S Kenlar Road, Houston, AK 99654  
(907) 315-9545 creeksidelodgeak@gmail.com  
sunsetcreekside.com

### ENTERTAINMENT

#### Gorilla Fireworks

PO Box 871906, Wasilla, AK 99687  
(907) 892-6557



# MAT-SU — R E S O R T —

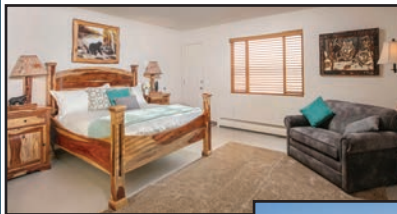
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Come and enjoy the breathtaking views from the newly renovated rooms or our lakefront deck. The beautiful landscapes that frame the Mat-Su Resort are sure to delight no matter the season.



Every room overlooks Wasilla Lake with direct access to our lakeside dock. Watch the salmon swim or revel in the majesty of the mountains surrounding the resort.

On-site amenities include a fine dining restaurant, a full bar and a bistro with free parking. At Everett's our chefs use fresh local Alaskan ingredients to create mouthwatering dishes worthy of writing home about.





# DENALI COUNTRY

“The highest point in North America, Denali – elevation 20,310’ – dominates the region south of Denali National Park.”

TOWERING PEAKS | ABUNDANT WILDLIFE | ICONIC TOWNS



## WILLOW

The first grand views of Denali are on the way to Willow. While you're there, take advantage of the campgrounds, fishing streams, snowmobile trails and dog mushing tours (yes, even in the summer). Paddle the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area canoe trail and spend a night in a public-use cabin. This area is very popular among locals for the many outdoor recreational opportunities.

## TALKEETNA

Talkeetna has a vibe all its own. This small town is the staging area for the more than 1,000 climbers who attempt to climb Denali each spring. On average, only 50 percent of them make the summit. In May and June, you can spot climbers milling around town or having breakfast at Talkeetna Roadhouse. The first successful summit of Denali was June 7, 1913 by a party led by Hudson Stuck. Alaska Native Walter Harper became the first to reach the summit in that party, and the Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station bears his name today. They ascended via the Muldrow Glacier route, which is still a popular route. Located at the confluence of three major rivers, Talkeetna keeps its mining history alive with renovated miners' cabins used as lodging, shops and restaurants.

The rivers also lend to a multitude of activities such as guided river rafting, boat tours and sport fishing. The Alaska Railroad stops daily in the summer and weekly in winter. Spend a day perusing the many shops that feature local artisans. Flightseeing trips around Denali are spectacular, and depart from Talkeetna daily.

## TRAPPER CREEK/ PETERSVILLE

For the adventurer, Petersville Road extends nearly 35 miles from Trapper Creek into the Dutch Hills, offering spectacular views of Denali. The scenic gravel road is ideal for mountain biking or snowmobiling. (In the summer, 4-wheel drive vehicles are recommended after first 10 miles.)

## DENALI STATE PARK

Adjacent to Denali National Park, this 325,000-acre wildland boasts stunning and accessible recreational opportunities. Whether camping here or just stopping for the view, don't miss this gem of the state park system. Camp, canoe and explore amidst stunning views of Denali from the ridgeline or from Byers Lake. Many feel the views of Denali are better from Denali State Park than its larger brother, Denali National Park & Preserve. The new K'esugi Ken Campground at Mile 135.4 Parks Highway (Hwy. 3) has an easy .5-mile hike to a spectacular Denali overlook. With RV and tent sites as well as an interpretive center and public-use cabins, the campground is a popular spot.

## WHERE TO GO WHAT TO DO

- 1** Rent a kayak or canoe on **BYERS LAKE** and paddle to schools of spawning red salmon. Watch for swans, loons and feeding bears.
- 2** Take a **FLIGHTSEEING TRIP** around Denali, and **LAND ON A GLACIER** high in the Alaska Range. Most visitors rank this as their most impressive Alaska experience.
- 3** Feast on the Alaska-sized breakfast at the **LOCAL ROADHOUSE** – a favorite among returning climbers.
- 4** Come back this winter for the restart of the world-famous **IDITAROD TRAIL SLED DOG RACE**.
- 5** Learn about the area's Denali climbing history at the Walter Harper **TALKEETNA RANGER STATION**.





# DENALI COUNTRY

## ADVENTURES

### Nancy Lake Recreation Area

1

Mile 67.2 Parks Hwy. 130 interconnected lakes. Lynx Lake Canoe Trail. Link to canoe rental information at [alaskavisit.com](http://alaskavisit.com)

### Dog Sledding

2

Mush your own team of huskies, ride the runners or sit in the sled.

### Talkeetna Historic District

3

Historic walking tour – museum, log cabins, school, roadhouse, inn and other mining-era structures dating to 1916. Food, tours, lodging and shopping. Year-round Alaska Railroad stop.

### Petersville Road

4

Mile 114.8 Parks Hwy. 35-mile road has great biking, hiking, and fishing.

### Susitna, Chulitna, Talkeetna Rivers

5

Boat, camp, fish and explore these glacial rivers. Guided tours, rafting and fishing available.

### Denali State Park

6

See Denali and visit the Veterans Memorial, or stay at the K'esugi Ken Campground. Camping, kayaking, fishing and nature walks. Access to Kesugi and Curry Ridge trailheads.

### Denali

7

Flightsee the Alaska Range and view glaciers, sheer rock faces, rivers and wildlife.



## WILLOW

### ATTRACTION OR EVENT

**Dream A Dream Dog Farm** ☀️❄️  
PO Box 389, Willow, AK 99688  
(866) 4AK-MUSH (907) 495-1197 vhalter@mtaonline.net

### BACKCOUNTRY ADVENTURES



**Fishtale River Guides** ☀️❄️  
PO Box 155, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 746-2199 fishing@fish4salmon.com

### CABIN/VACATION HOME

**Johnson Investments** ☀️❄️  
PO Box 241245, Anchorage, AK 99524  
(800) 770-2247 (907) 561-2257

### CAMPGROUND/RV PARK

**Montana Creek Campground** ☀️  
HC 89 Box 543, Willow, AK 99688  
(877) 475-CAMP (907) 733-5267  
montanacreek@mtaonline.net  
montanacreekcampground.com



**Susitna RV Park & Campground** ☀️❄️f  
HC 89 Box 301, Willow, AK 99688  
(907) 495-7700 susitnalanding2015@gmail.com  
susitnalanding.net  
Location: 14400 E Susitna Landing Road  
Many have called this "Alaska's Hidden Gem" located one mile off the Parks Highway at mile 82.5. Susitna Landing is a boat launch with 70 spacious RV and tent sites. View our website, susitnalanding.net, for more information about summer and winter activities.

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(907) 495-6343 theresacdean@yahoo.com  
willowcreekresort.com

### CONFERENCE CENTERS/ MEETING FACILITIES

**Willow Area Community Center** ☀️❄️  
PO Box 1027, Willow, AK 99688  
(907) 495-6633

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Outdoor Association LLC** ☀️❄️f  
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(907) 495-3374 dloanager@hotmail.com  
deshkalanding.com

**Montana Creek Campground** ☀️  
HC 89 Box 543, Willow, AK 99688  
(877) 475-CAMP (907) 733-5267  
montanacreek@mtaonline.net  
montanacreekcampground.com

### VISITOR CENTER/CHAMBER/ GOV'T AGENCY

**Willow Chamber of Commerce** ☀️❄️  
PO Box 183, Willow, AK 99688  
(907) 495-9000

### WILDERNESS LODGE

**Deshka Wilderness Lodge** ☀️❄️f  
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(907) 733-6915 fishdeshka@verizon.net  
deshkawildernesslodge.com

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PO Box 705, Talkeetna, AK 99676  
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## HOTEL/MOTEL/RESORT

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 aklodges@princesscruises.com  
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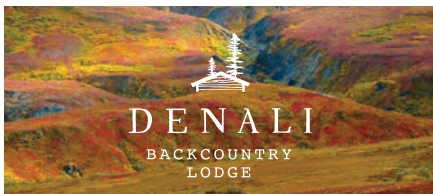
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## WHERE TO GO WHAT TO DO

**1** **CAMP, HIKE, FLOAT** the rivers, photograph a wide variety of **BIRDS**, look for **CARIBOU, MOOSE**, black and brown **BEARS**.

**2** **DINE** on seasonal, Alaska delights served **FRESH** from the river or garden.

**3** Cheer on the leaders of the **IDITAROD TRAIL SLED DOG RACE** as they pass along the trail heading toward Rainy Pass.





# THE REST OF ALASKA

## ANCHORAGE

### ATTRACTION OR EVENT

**Alaska Native Heritage Center** ☀️❄️  
8800 Heritage Center Drive, Anchorage, AK 99504  
(800) 315-6608 (907) 330-8000 info@alaskanative.net

**Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center** ☀️❄️  
PO Box 949, Girdwood, AK 99587  
(907) 783-2025 info@alaskawildlife.org

**Eklutna Historical Park** ☀️❄️  
26600 Eklutna Village Rd, Chugiak, AK  
(907) 688-6026 mbock1@gci.net

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flyrusts.com  
*Location: 4525 Enstrom Circle, Anchorage, AK 99502*  
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qiviut.com

### HOTEL/MOTEL/RESORT

**Alyeska Resort** ☀️❄️  
PO Box 249, Girdwood, AK 99587  
(800) 880-3880 (907) 754-1111 info@alyeskaresort.com  
alyeskaresort.com  
*Location: Girdwood, Alaska*  
Alyeska Resort is Alaska's premier year-round destination featuring Hotel Alyeska, a 302 room full-service property. Located 40 miles from Anchorage, Alyeska is your base camp for summer and winter adventure.

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(907) 268-0872 info@bigswigtours.com  
bigswigtours.com

**Salmon Berry Tours** ☀️  
515 W 4th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501  
(888) 878-3572 (907) 278-3572  
reservations@salmonberrytours.com  
salmonberrytours.com



## TRAVEL AGENCY/RESERVATIONS

**Alaska.org & The Alaska App** ☀️❄️📱  
PO Box 100519, Anchorage, AK 99510  
(907) 777-7700 yael@alaska.org

## VISITOR CENTER/CHAMBER/ GOV'T AGENCY

**Anchorage Chamber of Commerce** ☀️❄️  
1016 W. 6th Avenue Suite 303, Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 272-2401

**Visit Anchorage** ☀️❄️📱  
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### ATTRACTION OR EVENT

**Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum** ☀️❄️📱  
212 Wedgewood Drive, Fairbanks, AK 99701  
(800) 528-4916 (907) 450-2100  
willyv@fountainheadhotels.com

### HOTEL/MOTEL/RESORT

**Fountainhead Hotels & Resort** ☀️❄️📱  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
(800) 528-4916 (907) 456-3642  
askus@fountainheadhotels.com  
fountainheadhotels.com

*Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum is a Fountainhead Hotels attraction located at Wedgewood Resort, a 105 acre resort that also includes a wildlife sanctuary with nature trails & all locally owned lodging at Bear Lodge. Fountainhead Hotels has four distinct hotels in Fairbanks offering affordable rates, exceptional service & convenient locations.*

**Pike's Waterfront Lodge** ☀️❄️  
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pikeslodge.com

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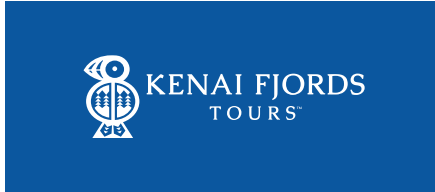
## KENAI PENINSULA

### ATTRACTION OR EVENT

**Alaska SeaLife Center** ❄️  
PO Box 1329, Seward, AK 99664  
(888) 378-2525 (907) 224-6300 [visitaslc@alaskasealife.org](mailto:visitaslc@alaskasealife.org)

**Alyeska Resort** ❄️  
PO Box 249, Girdwood, AK 99587  
(800) 880-3880 (907) 754-1111 [info@alyeskaresort.com](mailto:info@alyeskaresort.com)  
[alyeskaresort.com](http://alyeskaresort.com)  
Location: Girdwood, Alaska

### BOAT EXCURSIONS



**Kenai Fjords Tours** ❄️  
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(888) 604-6361 [info@kenaifjords.com](mailto:info@kenaifjords.com)  
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9170 Jewel Lake Road Ste. 203, Anchorage, AK 99502  
(800) 764-7300 (907) 274-7300 [info@majormarine.com](mailto:info@majormarine.com)  
[majormarine.com](http://majormarine.com)  
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### HOTEL/MOTEL/RESORT

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**Seward Windsong Lodge** ❄️  
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**Homer Chamber of Commerce** ❄️  
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(907) 235-7740

**Kenai Convention & Visitors Bureau** ❄️  
11471 Kenai Spur Highway, Kenai, AK 99611  
(907) 283-1991 [info@visitkenai.com](mailto:info@visitkenai.com)

### WILDERNESS LODGE



**Kenai Fjords Wilderness Lodge** ❄️  
1304 4th Avenue, Seward, AK 99664  
(888) 604-6361 [info@kenaifjordslodge.com](mailto:info@kenaifjordslodge.com)  
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**Valdez Convention & Visitors Bureau** ❄️  
PO Box 1603, Valdez, AK 99686  
(907) 835-2984 [info@valdezalaska.org](mailto:info@valdezalaska.org)

## SOUTHEAST ALASKA

### VISITOR CENTER/CHAMBER/GOV'T AGENCY

**Haines Convention & Visitors Bureau** ❄️  
Box 530, Haines, AK 99827  
(800) 458-3579 (907) 766-2234 [hcvb@haines.ak.us](mailto:hcvb@haines.ak.us)

**Juneau Convention & Visitors Bureau** ❄️  
800 Glacier Ave, Ste 201, Juneau, AK 99801  
(888) 581-2201 (907) 586-2201 [info@traveljuneau.com](mailto:info@traveljuneau.com)

**Ketchikan Visitors Bureau** ❄️  
50 Front St., Ste. 203, Ketchikan, AK 99901  
(800) 770-3300 (907) 225-6166 [info@visit-ketchikan.com](mailto:info@visit-ketchikan.com)

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### VISITOR CENTER/CHAMBER/GOV'T AGENCY

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## AREAWIDE SERVICES

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### Lifetime Adventures

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*Kayak rentals and tours available at Eklutna Lake, located midway from Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley. Bike rentals available at Eklutna Lake and in downtown Anchorage at the start of the Coastal trail. Remote outfitting also available including folding kayaks.*



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[alaskatravelconnections.com](http://alaskatravelconnections.com)

**AlaskaTours.com** ❄️  
 600 Barrow Street, Ste 200, Anchorage, AK 99501  
 (866) 317-3325 (907) 277-3000 [myvacation@alaskatours.com](mailto:myvacation@alaskatours.com)  
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 501 East 40th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99503  
 (907) 762-9202 [njohnson@ktuu.com](mailto:njohnson@ktuu.com)



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## NEED MORE INFO?

**Mat-Su CVB Office**  
(907) 746-5000  
alaskavisit.com

**Public Use Cabins**  
(907) 745-3975  
dnr.alaska.gov/parks/cabins

**Fishing Report**  
adfg.alaska.gov/sf/fishingreports

**Alaska Marine Highway**  
(800) 642-0066  
ferryalaska.com

**Statewide Info**  
(907) 929-2842  
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**Highway Conditions**  
511 or (866) 282-7577  
511.alaska.gov

**Time and Temperature**  
844

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