

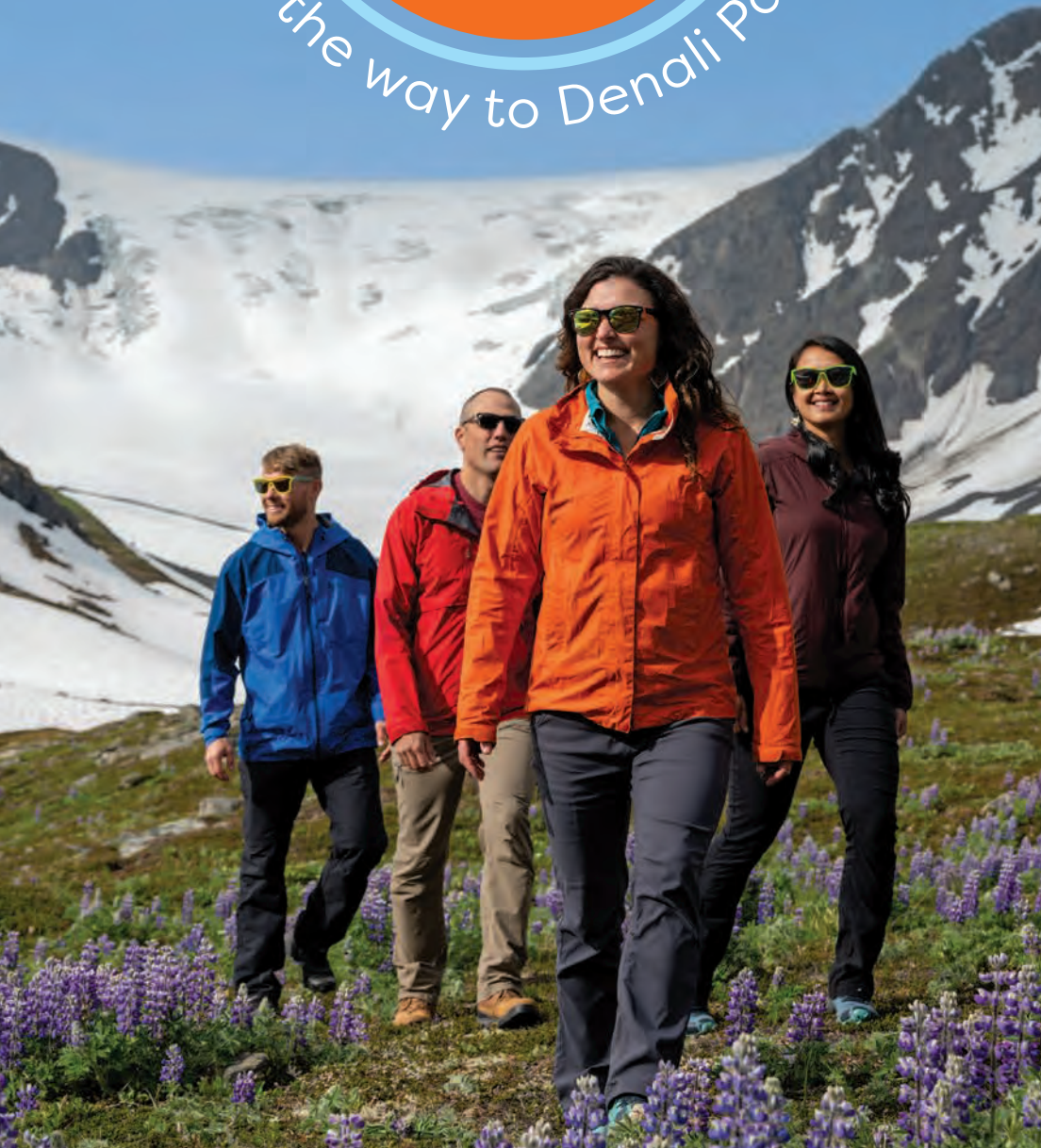
Just North of Anchorage

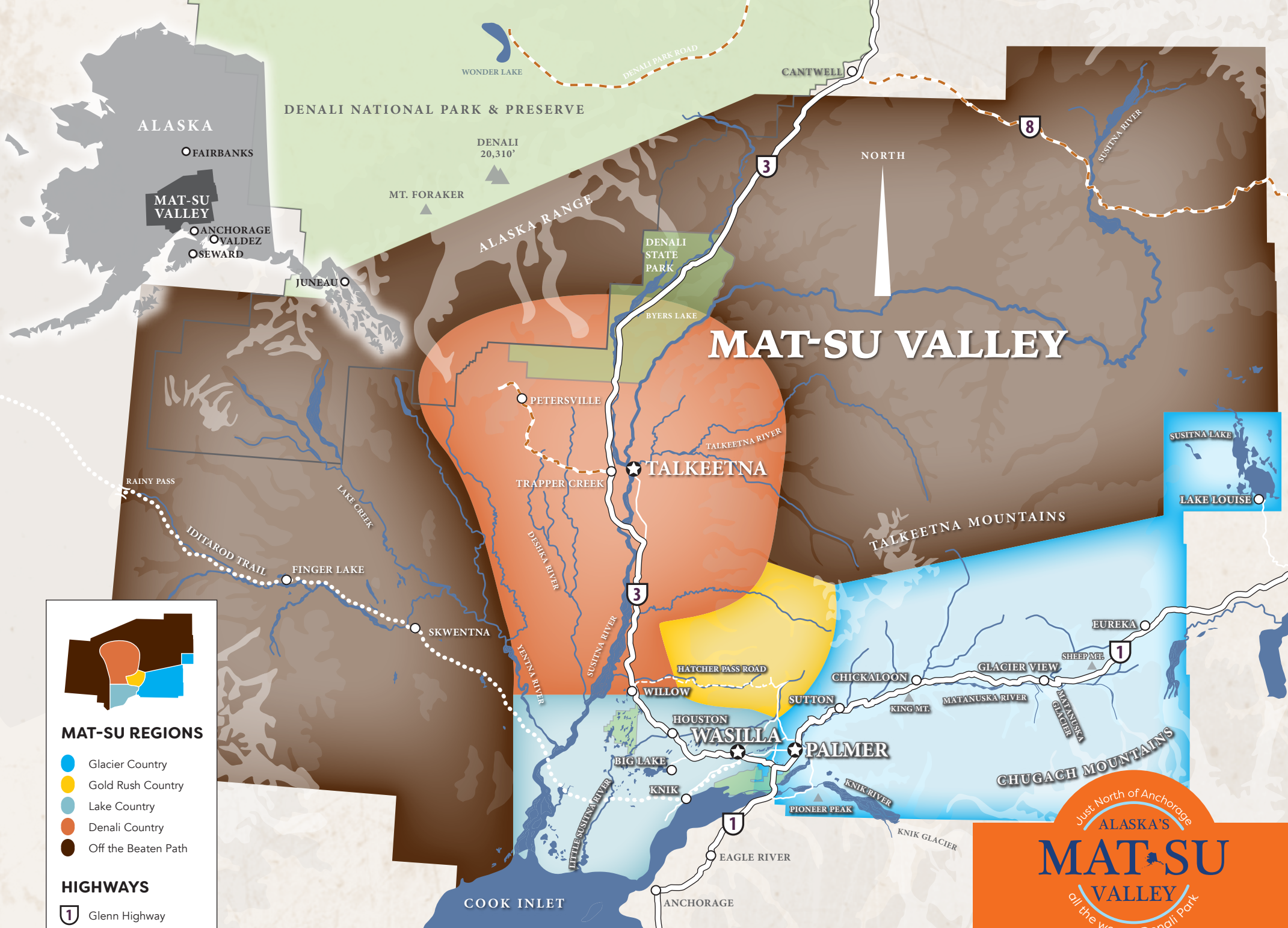
ALASKA'S

MATSU

VALLEY

all the way to Denali Park





**MAT-SU REGIONS**

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

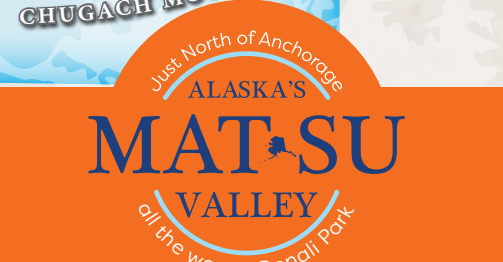
**HIGHWAYS**

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



**ALL ROUTES LEAD TO THE MAT-SU**

The Mat-Su Valley is centrally located just 35 miles north of Anchorage, extends all the way into a portion of Denali National Park and is at the convergence of Alaska's major highways, truly making the "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 "2022 Milepost"™  
 ^Via Glenn to Parks Highway \*Via Palmer-Wasilla Highway  
 \*\*Distance to Independence Mine State Historical Park

# MAT-SU MUST DO

## EXPLORE



Explore Denali, North America's tallest peak

## DISCOVER



Discover the Native Alaskan cultures

## TREK



Trek on timeless glacial ice

## ENJOY



Enjoy hundreds of miles of wilderness trails

## EXPLORE "THE VALLEY"



The Matanuska-Susitna Valley encompasses 23,000 square miles of mountains, glaciers, rivers and lakes. It's the Alaska you've always dreamed about, and bursts with adventures at every turn in the road.

Wide open spaces and the great outdoors make this area an ideal destination to relax and recharge. Locals call this region several names – "the Mat-Su Valley" or simply "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 a Southcentral Alaska adventure. Plan to stay awhile and discover all there is to see and do – you'll definitely say "Yahoo, Mat-Su!"

### 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, Talkeetna and Glacier View. Each town anchors a distinct region or "country" within the Mat-Su Valley, worth your visit.

This guide is organized by those regions, each highlighting a unique geographic draw:

**GLACIER COUNTRY** – Lake Louise and Matanuska Glacier (Glacier View) south to Palmer along the Glenn Highway National Scenic Byway (Hwy. 1), including Chickaloon, Sutton and the Knik River Valley;

**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**. Begin planning your visit to each of these regions to fill your passport with adventure.

TRIP  
PLANNING  
2

GLACIER  
COUNTRY  
12

GOLD RUSH  
COUNTRY  
23

LAKE  
COUNTRY  
27

DENALI  
COUNTRY  
34

OFF THE  
BEATEN PATH  
45

THE REST OF  
ALASKA  
47

# TRIP PLANNING

## YOUR TOOLKIT FOR ADVENTURE

### PLAN AHEAD

In addition to this guide, start your planning at [www.AlaskaVisit.com](http://www.AlaskaVisit.com) to discover what awaits. The site is packed with information, a calendar of events, an informative blog 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, use our database of member businesses to find the perfect fit for your vacation. Make sure to sign up for the e-newsletter to stay up to date.

You can request a digital version of the visitor guide, so you'll always have it on your computer or tablet.

### CONNECT WITH US!

If you want to get a sneak peek at what you'll see, check us out on Instagram – we're [@matsuvallyak](https://www.instagram.com/matsuvallyak) – and don't forget to tag your photos with [#yahoomatsu](https://www.instagram.com/yahoomatsu). Visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/visitmatsu](https://www.facebook.com/visitmatsu) to keep up with what's going on, and check out [www.alaskavisit.com/blog](http://www.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 [www.youtube.com/yahoomatsu](https://www.youtube.com/yahoomatsu), where you'll find videos from every corner of the region.

## Websites for Local Chambers of Commerce

[www.palmerchamber.org](http://www.palmerchamber.org)  
[www.wasillachamber.org](http://www.wasillachamber.org)  
[www.waco-ak.org](http://www.waco-ak.org)  
[www.talkeetnachamber.org](http://www.talkeetnachamber.org)

## Visitor information in every direction

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. Stop in and talk with the locals – they can steer you in the right direction.

**In Palmer, the Palmer Museum and Visitor Center** 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:**

May 1-Sept. 15, open daily 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.,  
 Sept. 16-April 30 open Tuesdays-Fridays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**The Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce** operates a visitor center in the historic train depot. Stop in even if you aren't on the train for more information about the Wasilla area.

**Location:** 1155 E. Depot Rd.

**Phone:** (907) 376-1299

**Hours:**

Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
 and Friday and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 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 rich history, including touring the actual old townsite, and get information for your next adventure.

**Location:** 391 N. Main St., Wasilla

**Phone:** (907) 373-9071

**Hours:**

Open Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**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 Athabaskan cultures in the Sutton and Chickaloon areas.

**Location:** Mile 61.6 Glenn Highway, Sutton

**Phone:** (907) 745-7000

**Hours:**

Open daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.,  
 mid-May through mid-September

**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 [www.talkeetnachamber.org](http://www.talkeetnachamber.org) for informative trip planning information.

**Glacier View has an informational kiosk located at Mile 99 Glenn Hwy.,** with information about the region near Matanuska Glacier including rafting, glacier trekking and helicopter tours and lodging.

### FIND YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE

Alaska is the only state where there are no interstate highways. Three state highways frame the Mat-Su Valley, however: 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 [www.alaskavisit.com](http://www.alaskavisit.com).

## STEP OFF THE SHIP AND INTO ADVENTURE

### CHOOSE MAT-SU WHEN YOU CRUISE

The Mat-Su Valley may be miles from the nearest cruise port of call, but it can be a major part of your Alaska cruise vacation. Don't limit yourself to just the coastline when visiting Alaska via a cruise, and add on a land portion – you'll see a whole other side of Alaska! 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.

The Mat-Su Valley's location is ideal to add a day trip (complete with round-trip transportation), a three-day or even week-long excursion either before or after your Alaska cruise. Take some time and explore Southcentral Alaska, including spectacular views of Denali.

**Step off the ship, and in just three days, you can:**

#### 1. Experience Denali –

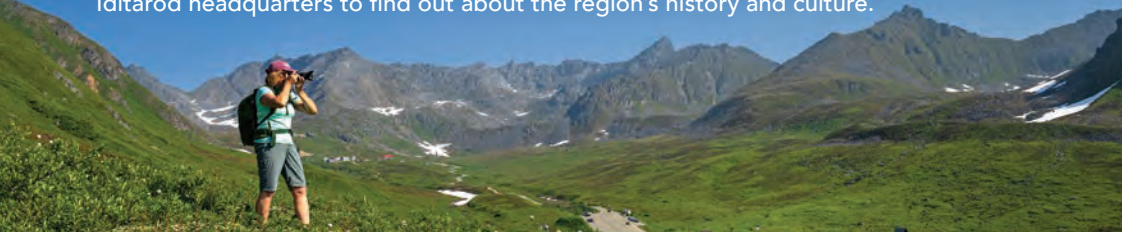
Stay in Talkeetna and marvel at the view. The town has a vibe all its own. From Talkeetna, you can flightsee around Denali, take a jet boat trip up the many rivers, raft and hike. The quaint town may be hundreds of miles from the nearest cruise port, but it's a destination you don't want to miss on your land portion.

#### 2. Walk on a glacier –

Matanuska Glacier is just two hours north of Anchorage, and you can trek on the timeless ice. If you are short on time, consider a helicopter tour to Knik Glacier.

#### 3. Experience our culture –

In the core area of Wasilla and Palmer, visit museums, the Musk Ox Farm and the Iditarod headquarters to find out about the region's history and culture.



### NEED MORE IDEAS?

Go to [www.alaskavisit.com](http://www.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 seeing you in our neck of the woods.

### SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES

Share your experiences in the Mat-Su Valley with us, long after you've returned home. Stay connected to the places and people you discover during your visit on social media. Tweet at us on Twitter (@visitmatsu) or "like" us on Facebook (**Visit Alaska's Mat-Su Valley**). Follow us on Instagram at @matsuvolleyak and don't forget to hashtag your photos #yahoomatsu. Get excited about your visit by watching our videos on YouTube (yahoomatsu). Finally, check out [www.alaskavisit.com/blog](http://www.alaskavisit.com/blog) to keep up with what's happening in the Mat-Su Valley.



### What to Pack

- Hiking boots
- Fishing pole
- Sense of adventure



## DO IT YOURSELF

### TRAIL MIX— RUN, BIKE OR HIKE

The Mat-Su Valley has more than 2,000 miles of trails, making it a hiker's paradise, regardless of your skill level. Take advantage of our wide open spaces by getting back to nature. Pick a destination, distance and degree of difficulty – the possibilities are limitless in all regions of the Mat-Su Valley. 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. Denali State Park has many trails with views of the Alaska Range, including an ADA-accessible trail at K'esugi Ken Campground. You can find trail maps at [www.alaskavisit.com/trails](http://www.alaskavisit.com/trails).

### HIT THE WATER

The Mat-Su Valley is home to countless rivers, lakes, creeks and streams, so the Mat-Su has something for every water enthusiast.

You can rent a canoe or kayak for a serene afternoon on a lake, or help paddle a raft down a river 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 Mat-Su Valley's history is diverse, from a rich Alaska Native Athabascan culture to gold mining and agriculture. Find out about this diverse history at one of the many museums.

- **The Wasilla Museum** is a great place to start. Wander through historic buildings and see exhibits that tell stories of the area's past.
- **The Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry** is filled with relics from Alaska's past, including airplanes, railroad cars and vintage automobiles.
- On the Glenn Highway, stop in at the **Alpine Historical Park** to learn about the Native Alaskan culture. Ahtna and Dena'ina Athabascans were the first people to live on this land.
- Palmer's agricultural roots are on display at the **Palmer Museum and Visitor Center** and the **Colony House Museum**.
- Take **Talkeetna's historic town walking tour** and learn for yourself how the miners and trappers lived. Don't forget the **Talkeetna Historical Society Museum** or the **Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station** to learn about Alaska's mountain climbing legends.

### MARVEL AT NORTH AMERICA'S HIGHEST PEAK

20,310-foot Denali is a spectacular sight to behold! Heading north on the Parks Highway (Hwy. 3), you'll get your first glimpse of the mountain in Willow. Farther north in Talkeetna, there are many activities focused on Denali. The southern views of Denali are widely considered the best in the state.

- Walk the lakeside trail around **Byers Lake** or climb to K'esugi 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 K'esugi Ken Campground** at Mile 135.4 offers amazing views of Denali as well with easy walking trails to viewpoints.
- Dramatic aerial views of Denali's lofty summit, flanking glaciers and granite canyons highlight flightseeing trips from **Talkeetna**.



## Scenic Drives

Leave the crowds in the city and head out on a scenic drive - the Mat-Su Valley is filled with gorgeous scenery and sweeping vistas in every region.

### TRIP 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.

### TRIP 2:

Drive over Hatcher Pass Road to Willow - it opens to traffic around the Fourth of July and stays open until mid-September, weather permitting. Check with Alaska State Parks to confirm the road is open if you are traveling in early summer or late fall. 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.

### TRIP 3:

Petersville Road runs through the rugged mining backcountry of Trapper Creek in Denali Country - watch for wildlife and have your camera ready! This is a rugged drive, so be sure your vehicle is capable of the drive.

## Day Trips from Anchorage

Less than an hour's drive north from Anchorage, the Mat-Su Valley is perfectly situated for day trips. Enjoy our parks and trails as you get away from the crowds - you'll feel recharged after a day exploring in the great outdoors.

### TRIP 1:

Strike it rich - head to Hatcher Pass, Independence Mine and the Willow area to see mining's historical influence on the area. Guided tours are offered daily in the summer at the mine. Don't forget your gold pan - if you do, you can rent one at the mine. There are many hiking trails in the area, and the views are spectacular as well.

### TRIP 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.

### TRIP 3:

Go big - as in Denali. North of Wasilla on the Parks Highway, you can visit Talkeetna for an afternoon spent flightseeing, dining, shopping, fishing, rafting or just photographing Denali. It's a great way to spend a leisurely afternoon.

## Family Vacations

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

### TRIP 1:

Go fossil hunting along the Glenn Highway, gold panning in Hatcher Pass, bird viewing on the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge, camping and more.

### TRIP 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 or Matanuska Lakes Recreation Area for exciting outdoor fun. Try Hatcher Pass for a great day trip with lots of views.

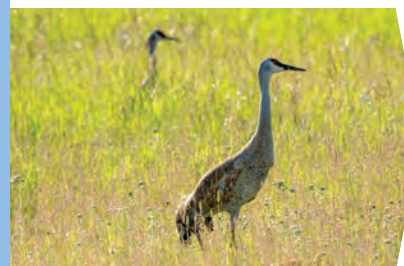
### TRIP 3:

Fun for all ages, Friday Flings, Colony Days or the Alaska State Fair are fantastic community celebrations in downtown Palmer. Don't forget about Wasilla and Talkeetna's annual Fourth of July parades and picnic.

## WILDLIFE AND PARKS

### PART OF OUR NATURE

Alaskans flock to the Mat-Su Valley for its many outdoor recreation opportunities. State parks, from Palmer to Denali, allow you to escape the crowds and enjoy the outdoors. The Mat-Su Valley is 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 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. When traveling in the backcountry, be sure to make noise to avoid any potential confrontations.

#### 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 on Trunk Road, attract many migratory birds such as cranes and geese in spring. Along the Glenn Highway north, watch for migrating hawks, falcons or other raptors. Download an Alaska Birders Checklist at [www.alaskavisit.com](http://www.alaskavisit.com).



## What to Pack

- Binoculars
- Bird guidebook
- Camera



## DENALI STATE PARK (2.5 hours north of Anchorage)

The best views of Denali in all of Alaska can be found in 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 K'esugi Ridge for incredible views. The newest campground in Alaska, K'esugi Ken, opened in 2017 and is located at Mile 135.4 Parks Hwy. It features easy hiking trails – some are ADA compliant – 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.

## OTHER STATE RECREATION AREAS INCLUDE



- Big Lake (north and south)
- Finger Lake
- Independence Mine and Hatcher Pass
- Matanuska Lakes
- King Mountain
- Lake Louise
- Matanuska Glacier
- Willow Creek
- Summit Lake

The Mat-Su Valley encompasses an area roughly the size of West Virginia, so plan ahead and spend some time exploring. Take a couple days to explore everything there is to offer.



## A HIKER'S PARADISE

The Mat-Su Valley is a hiker's paradise, with thousands of miles of trails in seemingly every direction. The Mat-Su Valley spans 23,000 square miles, so if hiking in Alaska is your dream, the Mat-Su Valley is the place for you.

No matter which region of the Mat-Su Valley you find yourself in, there are amazing trails. Here are a few of the more popular trails in every region. You can view trail maps at [AlaskaVisit.com](http://AlaskaVisit.com).

### Denali Country

- **K'esugi Ridge** is a very popular multi-day trek for hikers with lots of experience. It has expansive views of Denali, Mount Hunter, Mount Foraker and the rest of the Alaska Range.
- **K'esugi Ken Campground** at Mile 135 Parks Highway (Hwy. 3) offers an easy hike with great views. The loop is even ADA compliant.
- Talkeetna trails include the popular **Talkeetna Lakes** that offers an easy hike with great views.

### Lake Country

- **Lake Lucille Park** has a series of trails ideal for day hikers, located just north of Wasilla.
- **Settlers Bay Coastal Park** has a series of trails that lead to sweeping views of Cook Inlet. This is the newest trail system in the Mat-Su Valley.
- **Scout Ridge Trail** is part of the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge and is an easy 1.25-mile loop.

### Gold Rush Country

- **Gold Mint, Gold Cord and Reed Lakes** are popular hikes in Hatcher Pass with views of the Matanuska Valley.
- **Government Peak Trails** are located at the base of Hatcher Pass and have a series of loops that are ideal for mountain biking.
- **Independence Mine** has paved walkways around an abandoned gold mine. Guided hikes are available.



### Glacier Country

- **The Butte** is located near Palmer and includes a 900-foot vertical hike with a stair system. Once on top, you are treated to 360-degree views of the Matanuska Valley.
- **Matanuska Greenbelt** is a series of interconnected trails that go from Matanuska Lakes Park to the Crevasse-Moraine trail system.
- **Reflections Lake** has a 1-mile trail around the lake, along with a wildlife viewing platform where you can spot moose and migratory birds.
- **Around Matanuska Glacier**, try the Sheep Mountain trail system or the loop at the Matanuska Glacier State Recreation Area.



## Local Tip - Public-use cabins

There are a number of public-use cabins available for rent through the Alaska State Parks. These remote cabins are rustic but offer a true Alaska experience in the outdoors. Some are walk-in accessible, while others you can rent a canoe to access them. Don't delay, though – they rent up to six months in advance online. [www.alaskastateparks.org](http://www.alaskastateparks.org)

## 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, which is held the first Saturday of December. Community activities held throughout December. (907) 315-8012.

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

### Colony Christmas in Palmer

A "Norman Rockwell"-style Christmas celebration, featuring a tree lighting ceremony, horse-drawn carriage rides, fireworks, Made in Alaska craft fairs, a parade of lights and of course, Santa Claus. Held the second weekend in December. (907) 745-2880. [www.palmerchamber.org](http://www.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. [www.waco-ak.org](http://www.waco-ak.org)

### Iron Dog

The world's longest snowmobile race begins on Big Lake in mid-February. Racers travel all the way to Nome, before turning around and heading back to the finish line on Big Lake, a race of more than 2,200 miles. [www.irondog.org](http://www.irondog.org)

### Iditarod Trail Invitational

One of the most grueling events in the world, racers depart Knik Lake in early March and head out in the remote wilderness. Snowshoes, bikes or cross-country skis are their only modes of transportation, and the finish line is 350 miles away in McGrath, or 1,000 miles away in Nome.

[www.iditarodtrailinvitational.com](http://www.iditarodtrailinvitational.com)

### World Famous Iditarod Sled Dog Race

Known around the world, the Iditarod begins on Willow Lake the first Sunday in March. Racers and their teams of dogs traverse their way to Nome.

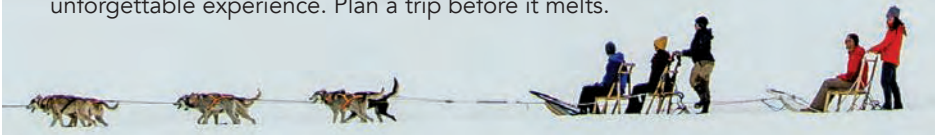
The restart is family-friendly and a great chance to meet a famous musher.

(907) 376-5155. [www.iditarod.com](http://www.iditarod.com)

### Looking For Snow?

See a whole new side of Alaska by visiting in the winter. The Mat-Su Valley is an ideal winter destination. The Mat-Su Valley's first-ever triple-chair lift access ski area, Skeetawk, located in beautiful Hatcher Pass, opened in 2020 and is very popular. It is open Thursday and Friday evenings for night skiing, and all day Saturday and Sunday, weather permitting. It is based at Mile 10.6 Palmer Fishhook Road, on the way up Hatcher Pass. Visit [www.skeetawk.com](http://www.skeetawk.com) for current conditions, hours and more. 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. A guided snowmobile trip to a local glacier is an unforgettable experience. 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!

### WHERE TO GO; WHAT TO DO

Escape the city lights and crowds of Anchorage for a view of our spectacular northern lights in Hatcher Pass, Knik River Valley or Denali State Park. Clear nights, January through April, are best. Dress warm!

Celebrate with the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. In 2023, the Iditarod is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first race. The race begins on Willow Lake on March 5, 2023 and continues all the way to Nome, more than 1,100 miles.

Visit a working sled dog kennel and find out what it takes to lead a team of huskies. Several Iditarod mushers offer sled 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. Many kennels are open year-round, so remember to come visit again in the summer.

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. Several guided tours go right up to glaciers.

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, with some mid-week trains available later in the winter. The Alaska Railroad is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2023.

Ice-fish for land-locked salmon, rainbow trout, arctic char and northern pike. Many Mat-Su Valley lakes are stocked throughout the year. Guides have all the gear and the knowledge you need to get started.

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.

Cross-country ski at Government Peak or ski and snowboard virgin powder at Skeetawk in Hatcher Pass. Government Peak has a warming chalet to complement the five kilometers of world-class groomed Nordic trails.

### PLAN AHEAD – 2024 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

The 2024 Arctic Winter Games are being hosted by the Mat-Su Borough on March 10-16, 2024. Approximately 2,000 athletes from around the circumpolar world will compete in 21 sports, from Heritage and Nordic sports to indoor games and ice sports. Athletes come from Alaska, the Northwest Territories, Yukon, Nunavut, Greenland, Nunavik (Northern Quebec), Northern Alberta and the Indigenous people (Sapmi) of Norway, Sweden and Finland. It is an international celebration of sport and Arctic culture. It is the first time the Mat-Su Borough will host the Arctic Winter Games.





# GLACIER COUNTRY

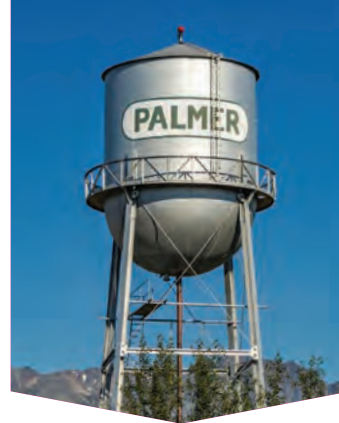


**“DEEP AGRICULTURE ROOTS, TOWERING MOUNTAINS AND ACCESSIBLE GLACIERS MAKE GLACIER COUNTRY A ‘MUST VISIT’ IN THE MAT-SU.”**

## GLACIERS & GIANT VEGGIES

The Matanuska Valley was carved by glaciers thousands of years ago, and their impact remains today. The fine, fertile silt left behind by these receding glaciers, combined with long daylight hours in the summer, makes the area perfect for growing lush hayfields and world-record veggies. The Palmer area 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.

- In Sutton and Chickaloon, learn about the region’s rich Athabascan 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. You can do it on your own, or go out with one of the many companies who guide on the glacier – they know the best spots. Take a rafting trip down the Matanuska for a grand adventure. Enjoy helicopter tours and luxury camping opportunities.
- 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 in both summer and winter. 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 north of 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 agricultural roots while nurturing a contemporary, Alaska “chic.” The downtown area is very walkable and features locally-owned shops, cafes and microbreweries. In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt sanctioned a relocation program that brought 203 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 at the Palmer Museum and Visitor 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. You can rent a headset for a narrated self-guided historical walking tour of the town, or take the guided tour every day at 1 p.m. 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 in late August and early September, ending on Labor Day.

## 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. Guided interpretative tours are available daily.



## WHERE TO GO; WHAT TO DO

Interested in agriculture? Tour Palmer’s backcountry roads to see working farms or sample locally grown products at one of Palmer’s restaurants. Guided farm tours are also available. 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. With three microbreweries, downtown Palmer is also a great place for brewery tours.

Get into the swing of things at the Palmer Golf Course, offering stunning views of the Chugach Mountains, Matanuska River and Knik Glacier.

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

### 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.” Stop at Alpine Historical Park to learn more about the history of those who were the first settlers in the region.

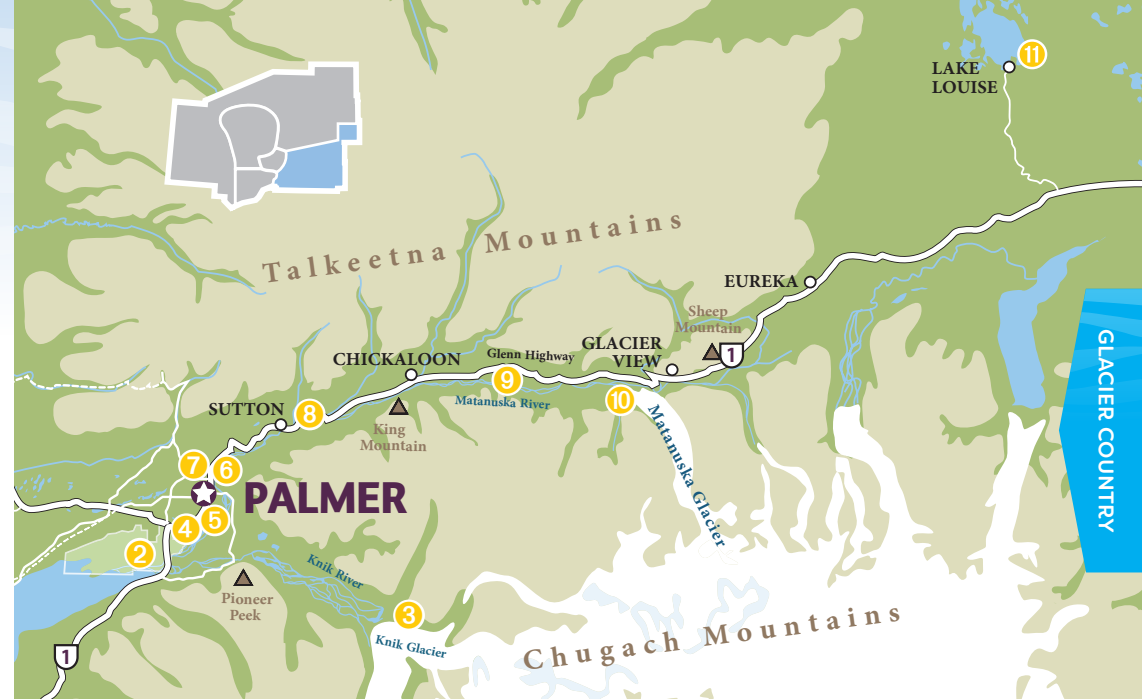


### Pick Your Own

A feast for the eyes and taste buds – Alaska’s freshest produce! Wasilla farmers market is held every Wednesday at the west end of the Iditapark complex. 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 138-pound giant cabbage, a 20-pound cucumber or a 65-pound cantaloupe. Amazing! These are just a few of the world records set at the Alaska State Fair. See the real thing as the huge veggies are weighed-in at the Fair in late August. World records are routinely broke for all types of vegetables.



### DON'T MISS THE ALASKA STATE FAIR



Alaska’s largest event, the Alaska State Fair, takes place in Palmer every August to early September. It’s 14 days of fun over three weekends (not open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays), food and excitement, and there is something for every visitor.

The fair ends on Labor Day and begins three weekends prior, and is the best place to see giant vegetables for which the Palmer area is so famous. There are “weigh-off” competitions for pumpkins and cabbages at the fair, and they bring them in on giant pallets to be weighed

in an arena, in front of the audience. Pumpkins weighing more than 2,000 pounds have been entered, and the world record for cabbages stands at 138-pounds.

In addition to the giant vegetables, the Alaska State Fair features numerous exhibits, cultural celebrations, concerts, live performances and much more – you’ll want to plan to stay an extra day to take it all in.

### DISCOVER KNIK RIVER VALLEY

The Knik River Valley is a local’s favorite! It’s a scenic, secluded valley nestled up against the Chugach Mountains, just a short drive from downtown Palmer. This hidden gem is an adventure seeker’s delight. It features everything you dreamed Alaska would be – tall mountain peaks, wide open spaces, wilderness, rivers, glaciers 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 many ways to experience Knik Glacier – on a guided ATV trip, helicopter tours including dog mushing adventures and even boat tours to the glacier.

Eklutna Tailrace is one of the Mat-Su Valley’s most popular fishing areas for all species of salmon. It typically gets the earliest run of fish in the summer. It has ample parking, and you can walk to the fishing hole with ease.

Knik River Road is a popular place to catch a glimpse of moose, as the large animals typically hang out in the many swampy areas along the route. Black bears are often spotted in this Valley as well. Don’t forget your camera!

### GLACIER COUNTRY ADVENTURES

Glenn Highway National Scenic Byway	1	One of three national scenic byways in Alaska.
Reflections Lake & Palmer Hay Flats Game Refuge	2	Easy hike around the lake; moose and migratory bird views.
Knik Glacier & Knik River Valley	3	Try a boat ride, helicopter trip, ATV adventure or airplane flight over the glacier. Just an hour from Anchorage.
Alaska State Fair	4	Late August through Labor Day. Giant Cabbage Weigh-off and other giant vegetable displays, food, entertainment, fireworks and more.
Palmer Golf Course	5	Fore! Palmer Golf Course boasts mountain views at affordable rates.
Palmer Museum and Visitor Center	6	Great starting point for visitor information, Colony history, gardens and guided tours.
Musk Ox Farm and Reindeer Farm	7	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.
Alpine Historical Park	8	Learn about the area’s coal mining history, and the Ahtna Athabascan culture. Located at Mile 61.6 of the Glenn Hwy.
Raft the Matanuska or Knik Rivers	9	Guided Class IV whitewater rafting or leisure floats on scenic stretches.
Matanuska Glacier	10	Mile 101, Glenn Hwy. Drive right up to Alaska’s largest road-accessible glacier. Easy guided treks and ice climbing.
Lake Louise	11	Excellent lake fishing, winter recreation and hiking opportunities. Off the Glenn Hwy. at Mile 159.8.

## PALMER

### Apartment/Cabin/Chalet Rentals

#### Aurora Guesthouse

8086 Timb Circle, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 746-4181 info@cateralaska.com

#### Attraction or Event

#### Alaska Horse Adventures

18810 E Walling Road, 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  
www.alaskastatefair.org

The Alaska State Fair is a non-stop, 14-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!

#### Friday Flings

PO Box 45, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 745-2880 director@palmerchamber.org

#### Palmer Museum & Visitor Center

723 S. Valley Way, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 746-7668 vic@palmermuseum.org

#### Pioneer Peak Farm

4350 S. Bodenburt Loop, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 745-4511 info@ppfarm.net

### Backcountry Adventures

#### Alaska Backcountry Adventure Tours

PO Box 2696/3901 S Lindsey Cir, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 745-2505 reservations@alaska.global

#### Alaska Sundog Guiding

1150 S Colony Way Ste 3 Box 732, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 570-4705 aksdguiding@gmail.com

#### Alaska Zipline Adventure Park

8801 N. Wolverine Rd., Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 745-4100  
www.akzipline.com



#### Revel Treks & Tours

Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 903-1664 info@revelak.com  
www.reveltreksandtours.com

#### Sunderland Ranch

10856 N Wolverine Rd, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 982-7268

### Bed & Breakfast/Inn



Luxurious home with 8 rooms, 7 bathrooms, sauna, jacuzzi, soaker tubs, ample wedding/event space, mountain views, with countless Alaska adventures nearby!  
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#### Alaska Knotty Pine Bed & Breakfast

3525 N Clark Wolverine Road, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 232-7674 alaskaknottypine@gmail.com  
www.alaskaknottypine.com



#### Alaska's Harvest Bed & Breakfast

PO Box 2092, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 232-8783 stay@alaskasharvest.com

#### Lulu's Tents and Events

8982 S Old Glenn Hwy, Palmer, AK 99645  
(603) 568-7849 lulustentsandevents@gmail.com  
www.lulustentsandevents@gmail.com



#### Our Alaskan Dream B&B

4504 N Heaton, Palmer, AK 99645  
(801) 791-0576 ouralaskandream@gmail.com  
www.ouralaskandream.com

Come as strangers, leave as friends! Visit a home away from home. Relax. Watch a movie in the media room or read a book in the library. Enjoy homemade treats. Sit on the deck and watch the moose wander through the property or stash your stuff and wander off to all the adventures Alaska has to offer!

### Brewery



#### Matanuska Brewing Company

513 S Valley Way, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 745-2337

### Business Services



#### Cache Camper Manufacturing Inc.

PO Box 2063, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 745-4061 cachecamper@live.com  
www.cachecamper.com

#### First National Bank Alaska

303 W Evergreen Ave, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 746-8900

#### The UPS Store

1150 S. Colony Way, Suite 3, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 746-6245 store3548@theupsstore.com

#### Wolf Architecture, Inc.

625 S Cobb St. Ste 200, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 746-6670 info@wolfarchitecture.com

### Cabin/Vacation Home

#### Alaska Backcountry Cottages

PO Box 2696/3901 S Lindsey Cir B, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 745-2505 reservations@alaska.global



#### Alaska Glacier Lodge

29979 E Knik River Road, Palmer, AK 99645  
(877) 745-4575 (907) 745-5002 info@akglacierlodge.com  
www.akglacierlodge.com

Alaskan-owned and operated, we offer true Alaska adventures, comfortable cabins with first-class amenities, and delicious food at our on-site Raven's Perch Restaurant. And you're going to love our panoramic mountain views!



#### Glacier Breeze Cabin

Knik River Road, Palmer, AK  
(706) 525-9914 theglacierbreeze@gmail.com  
www.theglacierbreeze.com



#### Hatcher Pass Cabins

9000 N. Palmer-Fishhook Road, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 745-6788 stay@hpcabins.com

### Campground/RV Park

#### Fox Run Lodge, RV Campground, & Restaurant

4466 S. Glenn Highway, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 355-8641 (call/txt)





**Kepler Park**  
E Kepler Dr, Mi 37.4 Glenn Hwy, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 745-3053 keplerpark@gmail.com

**Lulu's Tents and Events**  
8982 S Old Glenn Hwy, Palmer, AK 99645  
(603) 568-7849 Lulustentsandevents@gmail.com  
www.lulustentsandevents@gmail.com

#### Dining

**Colony Kitchen / Noisy Goose Cafe**  
1890 Glenn Highway, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 746-4600  
noisygoosecafe.com



**Everett's Dining • Bar • Bistro**  
1850 E Bogard Road, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 357-5000 info@mat-suresort.com

**Palmer Alehouse**  
320 E Dahlia Street, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 746-2537 steve@palmeralehouse.com



**Turkey Red**  
550 S Alaska Street, 100, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 746-5544 turkeyredak@gmail.com  
Turkey Red serves fresh, high quality ingredients prepared in traditional ways with care & creativity. We serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner, Tuesday through Saturday. We have fresh breads, pastries & pizza baked in our stone hearth oven as well as steak, Alaska seafood, espresso, teas, craft beer & fine wine. We also use Alaska Grown produce!

#### Entertainment

**Alaska Raceway Park**  
5599 S Race Way, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 746-7223 info@raceak.com  
www.raceak.com

#### Flightseeing

**Fly Around Alaska, LLC**  
821 Airport Road, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 746-2290 info@flyaroundalaska.com

#### Golf Resorts

**Palmer Golf Course**  
PO Box 4773, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 745-4653 eaglegolf@mtaonline.net

#### Hotel/Motel/Resort

**Colony Inn**  
Box 118, Palmer, AK 99645  
(800) 478-7666 (907) 745-3330  
akcolonyinn.com Book direct & save!

**Pioneer Motel and Apartments**  
124 W. Arctic, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 745-3425 info@thepioneermotel.com

**Valley Hotel**  
606 S. Alaska Street, Palmer, AK 99645  
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#### Land/Wildlife Conservation



**Musk Ox Farm**  
12850 Archie Road, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 745-4151 info@muskoxfarm.org  
Visit the nonprofit Musk Ox Farm. Gentle, low-stress animal handling has guided this nonprofit for over 55 years raising musk oxen for their incredible underwool-qiviut. Gently hand-combed qiviut is 8 times warmer than wool and softer than cashmere. Visit our brand-new world class educational center too! Huge pull-through parking for all size rigs. Open year round. Call or visit www.muskoxfarm.org.

#### Medical Services

**Mat-Su Regional Medical Center**  
2500 S. Woodworth Loop, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 861-6000

#### Outfitters/Galleries/Gift Shops

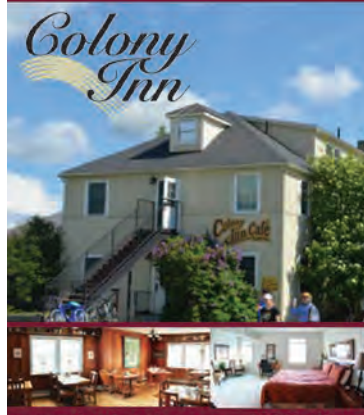


**AKTive Soles Performance Footwear**  
642 S Alaska St #100, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 746-0600 info@aktivesoles.com  
www.aktiveak.com  
We are a performance footwear store located in downtown Palmer. Our focus is on bringing the community together through running events and helping individuals find the best performance shoes and gear to stay active. Stop by to see our selection and check out our local races.



The Valley Hotel became a proud part of Palmer in 1948 and has been the place to be in the Mat-Su Valley for over 65 years. Offers a comfortable nights stay, the **Open Cafe** – open 24/7, the **Caboose Lounge, Coffee Shop, and Iron Horse Liquor Store**. An easy walk to the visitor's center, shops, restaurants, & local attractions. Weekly and monthly rates available for those who find Palmer so charming they can't leave.

www.akvalleyhotel.com . 606 S Alaska Street, Palmer, AK. 99645



#### Historic Charm in the Heart of Palmer

Enjoy a sense of American history at the Colony Inn. Relax in your individually decorated room with views of the surrounding mountains, amenities include Whirlpool tub, TV, free Wi-Fi, & coffee bar in the upstairs hall. Read a book in the cozy great room. Guests **Check in at Valley Hotel** 606 S. Alaska Street.

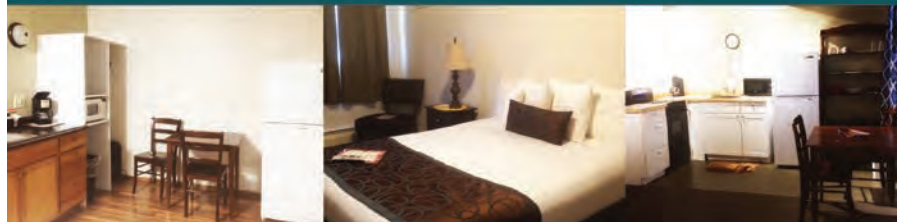
Stroll along the self-guided walking tour, visit the local museums, Reindeer Farm or cute baby Musk Ox just down the highway. Take in hiking trails along Lazy Mountain or Hatcher's Pass. Visiting during the winter? Palmer offers amazing cross-country skiing trails at Government Peak, sledding hills and alpine skiing in Hatcher's.

www.akcolonyinn.com . 325 E. Elmwood, Palmer, AK. 99645 . (907)-745-3330 . Reserve Today!



The Pioneer Motel is again awarded the honor of being the highest rated motel, out of all the other accommodations in the area.

Newly remodeled rooms, excellent service and top quality bedding make the Pioneer the perfect place to stay. Palmer's 2022 Beautification Award recipient!



## Sightseeing/Custom/Package Tours

### Alaska Farm Tours

10170 N Solid Rock Circle, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 519-7067 info@alaskafarmtours.com

### Say Yes Alaska

8982 S Old Glenn Hwy, Palmer, AK 99645  
(603) 568-7849 Sayyesak@gmail.com  
www.sayyesalaska.com

### The Alaska Experience Company

3901 S Lindsey Circle #E, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 351-6736 myakadventure@gmail.com

### Visitor Center/Chamber/Gov't Agency

### Mat-Su CHARR

PO Box 3910, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 830-1858 matsucharr@gmail.com



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### Palmer Museum & Visitor Center

723 S. Valley Way, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 746-7668 vic@palmermuseum.org

## SUTTON

### Attraction or Event

#### Alpine Historical Park

PO Box 266, Sutton, AK 99674  
(907) 745-7000  
alpinehistoricalpark.org

## CHICKALOON

### Visitor Center/Chamber/Gov't Agency

#### Chickaloon Village Traditional Council

PO Box 1105, Chickaloon, AK 99674  
(907) 745-0749 cvadmin@chickaloon-nsn.gov  
www.chickaloon-nsn.gov

## MATANUSKA GLACIER AREA

### Attraction or Event

#### Glacier Park

66500 S Glacier Park Road, Sutton, AK 99674  
(907) 745-2534 (907) 232-9046  
matanuska-glacierpark@gmail.com

## Local Tip - Calendar of events

Live music, theater, 5K races and more - there is always something going on in the Mat-Su Valley. A great way of keeping up with what is going on when you'll be visiting is to head over to the online calendar of events - [www.alaskavisit.com/events](http://www.alaskavisit.com/events).

Start Your Adventure

Glacier Tours | Zipline | Heli Adventures | ATV Tours | Luxury Camping

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### MICA Guides

200 W. 34th Avenue #82, Anchorage, AK 99503  
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www.micaguides.com

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### Backcountry Adventures

#### AK Mountain Tours

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akmountaintours.com  
Mile 113.5 Glenn Highway

#### Alaska Backcountry Adventure Tours

PO Box 2696/3901 S Lindsey Cir, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 745-2505 reservations@alaska.global

#### Majestic Heli Ski

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MajesticHeliSki.com

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NOVALASKA.COM (907) 745-5753

### NOVA River Runners Inc.

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www.nova-alaska.com

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## Bed & Breakfast/Inn

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An Alaska glamping experience at the Matanuska Glacier!  
Breathtaking glacier and mountain views,  
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Visit [alpenglowluxurycamping.com](http://alpenglowluxurycamping.com)

### Alpenglow Luxury Camping, LLC

Mile Post 102.5 Glenn Hwy, Glacier View, AK 99674  
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www.alpenglowluxurycamping.com  
Canvas glamping tent with views of the Matanuska Glacier. Complimentary hot Alaskan breakfast. Hot tub in the evenings, showers, flushing toilets, and common area with games and fire pit.

### Campground/RV Park

### Slide Mountain Cabins & RV Park

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[slidemountaincabins.net](http://slidemountaincabins.net) (907) 822-3883

### Slide Mountain Cabins & RV Park

Mile 135 Glenn Highway, Glennallen, AK 99588  
(907) 822-3883 [slidemountaincabins@gmail.com](mailto:slidemountaincabins@gmail.com)  
www.slidemountain.net

### Dining

### GRAND VIEW CAFE & RV PARK

CALL (907) 746-4480 [GRANDVIEWRV.COM](http://GRANDVIEWRV.COM)

### Grand View Cafe & RV Park

22488 W Glenn Hwy, Glacier View, AK 99674  
(907) 746-4480 info@grandviewrv.com

### Flightseeing

#### Sheep Mountain Air

17701 W. Glenn Highway, Sutton, AK 99674  
(877) 645-5121 (907) 745-5121 info@sheepmountain.com  
sheepmountainair.com  
Mile 113.5 Glenn Highway

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**Hotel/Motel/Resort**



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(907) 746-2930 info@majesticvalleylodge.com  
majesticvalleylodge.com

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*Lake Louise Fish Guides*

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Call (907) 822-3311



**Lake Louise Lodge**

25600 Lake Louise Road, Mile 16.1, Glennallen, AK 99588  
(907) 822-3311 lakelouiselodgeak@gmail.com

**Local Tip - Beautiful berries**

The Mat-Su Valley is a popular place to pick wild berries toward the end of summer. Blueberries and cranberries are among the most popular and can be found throughout the region. Hatcher Pass is one of the most popular spots to pick berries – when in season, you’ll often find people lining the hillsides carrying buckets as they pick berries. Remember that animals also like berries, so be bear aware when picking!



**GOLD RUSH COUNTRY**

**“HATCHER PASS IS ALASKA’S FINEST BACKCOUNTRY PLAYGROUND, WITH GRANITE MOUNTAINS, GLACIAL-CARVED VALLEYS AND ALPINE VEGETATION. IT IS A SIGHT TO BEHOLD.”**

**HATCHER PASS**

Just 1.5 hours from Anchorage, Hatcher Pass is a favorite among Alaskans. 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, Gold Mint and Gold Cord 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 Hatcher Pass. Skeetawk, the Mat-Su Valley’s first-ever lift access downhill skiing area, operates Thursday through Sunday. The Government Peak Recreation Area, at the base of Hatcher Pass, offers 6.5 kilometers of Nordic skiing trails designed by a former Olympian. Snowmobiling is permitted in designated areas and is very popular west of the pass.



**Local Tip - Drive over Hatcher Pass**

One of the most gorgeous drives in all of Alaska connects the Wasilla/Palmer side of Hatcher Pass to Willow. This road is unpaved, and opens for traffic around the Fourth of July. In late summer, take this drive and stop to pick fresh blueberries while enjoying amazing views. Willow Creek runs alongside the road for part of the trip.



### 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 restored structures and interpretive displays connected by easily accessible, paved walking paths. Several historic buildings are open to the public, and daily guided tours of the park area and gold panning demonstrations are available from June through 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

Pick blueberries in the alpine fields or photograph spectacular wildflowers. Berry picking is at its peak in late summer and early fall.

Deep snow and treeless slopes provide perfect terrain for backcountry winter enthusiasts on both sides of

Hatcher Pass. The northern lights are best viewed here.

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

Little Susitna River	1	Along Hatcher Pass Road from Mile 7-15. Watch for wildlife and pan for gold.
Archangel Valley/Reed Lakes	2	Mile 16 Hatcher Pass Road. Hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing and winter sports.
Lodges	3	Premium meals, lodging, seasonal amenities, event venues.
Independence Mine State Historical Park	4	Gold! Mile 18 Hatcher Pass Road. Open daily June through Sept. Guided tours available in the summer.
Summit Lake Recreation Area	5	Mile 19 Hatcher Pass Road. Berry picking, ridgetop hiking. Pass road opens around July 4th until first snow.
Summer Recreation		Hiking, berry picking, recreational gold panning, mountain biking.
Winter Recreation		Cross-country and backcountry skiing, Skeetawk downhill ski area, Government Peak Nordic trails, sledding.



## MAT-SU EVENTS

### MARKETS, FESTIVALS, RACES, DERBIES, CELEBRATIONS

#### Farmers 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.

#### Mat-Su Hawkwatch

Glenn Highway, Glacier View area

Mid- to late-April, Mile 120 Glenn Highway.

[matsubirders.org](http://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. (907) 745-2880.

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

#### Houston Founder's Day

Live band, free barbecue, fireworks and more. Third Saturday in August.

(907) 892-6869

#### Alaska State Fair

Alaska's largest event combines delicious food booths, legendary giant vegetables and nonstop entertainment for the whole family. Fourteen days of fair fun over three weekends (closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays) ending on Labor Day. (800) 850-FAIR

[www.alaskastatefair.org](http://www.alaskastatefair.org)



**"BETWEEN STANDS OF BIRCH, ASPEN AND SPRUCE, SCORES OF GLACIER-CARVED LAKES DOMINATE THE REGION. IF WATER IS YOUR ELEMENT, THEN LAKE COUNTRY IS YOUR DESTINATION."**

### HATCHER PASS AREA

#### Attraction or Event

**Independence Mine State Historical Park**  
(907) 278-3572 [reservations@salmonberrytours.com](mailto:reservations@salmonberrytours.com)  
[salmonberrytours.com](http://salmonberrytours.com)  
23264 Gold Cord Road, Palmer Ak 99645

#### Backcountry Adventures

**Skeetawk Alpine Ski Area**  
PO Box 924, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 746-7277 [info@skeetawk.com](mailto:info@skeetawk.com)  
Skeetawk Ski Area is located at mi 10.6 of Palmer-Fishhook Road in the beautiful Hatcher Pass region outside of Palmer. Our new triple-chairlift whisks you to the top of nine groomed trails with access to the backcountry. Don't hesitate to visit in summer as well for the miles of trails, wildflowers, blueberries, wildlife and vistas. Find out more at [skeetawk.com](http://skeetawk.com)!

#### Cabin/Vacation Home



**Hatcher Pass Cabins**  
9000 N. Palmer-Fishhook Road, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 745-6788 [stay@hpcabins.com](mailto:stay@hpcabins.com)

### Hotel/Motel/Resort

An advertisement for Meier Lake, Alaska's Premier Boutique Resort. The ad features a dark blue background with white text and several circular images showing resort amenities: a mountain view, a lake, a hot tub, and a horse. The text includes the resort name, "ALASKA'S PREMIER BOUTIQUE RESORT", and lists "Luxury Cabins", "Lake Activities", and "Private Retreats". Contact information for 6059 Wasilla-Fishhook Rd, (907) 315-9760, and the website www.meierlake.com is provided, along with a QR code.

**Meier Lake**  
6059 Wasilla Fishhook Road, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 315-9760 [info@meierlake.com](mailto:info@meierlake.com)



### WASILLA

Nestled between Lake Lucille and Wasilla Lake, 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 retailers can be found. Fresh produce is available weekly at a farmers market.

Wasilla was originally 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.



### Local Tip - Birch syrup capital

With birch trees everywhere, the Mat-Su Valley is one of the world's leading producers of birch syrup. The birch syrup is used in everything from candies to soaps. It takes up to 110 gallons of sap to produce one gallon of syrup. The sap is harvested in the spring when the snow starts to melt. In Talkeetna, you can tour a birch syrup production facility. Take home a piece of the Mat-Su Valley with a box of birch caramels.





## Local Tip - Vibrant Microbrewery Scene

The Mat-Su Valley has a growing and bustling microbrewery scene, from Palmer to Talkeetna. Many of our breweries offer tours and tastings, along with food trucks throughout the summer. Denali Brewing Company in Talkeetna is one of the largest – and most remote – breweries in Alaska.

### BIG LAKE

With 67 miles of shoreline, the size of this lake is downright remarkable. Big Lake is a local favorite because of 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 activities 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.



## WHERE TO GO; WHAT TO DO

Learn about the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race and take a dog sled ride at Iditarod Trail Headquarters.

Step back in time at the Wasilla Museum, where some of the original townsite has been restored.

The Museum of Alaska Transportation & Industry is filled with exhibits, planes, railroad cars and vintage automobiles.



## 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.
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.
Settlers Bay Golf Course	6	Tee off under the Midnight Sun, with fantastic views of the Chugach Mountains and the best putting greens in Alaska.
Knik Museum & Townsite	7	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	8	Excellent salmon fishing in the summer and ice fishing in the winter.
Susitna River Drainage	9	Salmon and trout fishing. Guided fishing trips available. Canoeing and camping.



## What to Pack

- Waders
- Tackle box
- Fillet knife
- Fish story



## GET HOOKED!

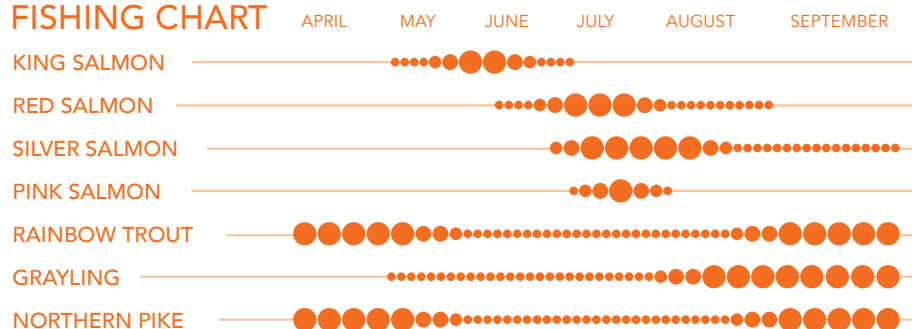
### MAT-SU: FISH-ON!

The Mat-Su Valley has several thousand miles of fishable rivers, streams and lakes. 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 salmon as well as rainbow trout, grayling and pike. At many of these places, you can walk right up to a fishing hole. Spirited silver salmon run strong in the drainage in mid- to late- summer. 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.



### FISHING CHART



### WASILLA

#### Attraction or Event

**Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race**  
2100 S. Knik-Goose Bay Rd, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-5155 x-108

**Museum of Alaska Transportation & Industry**  
3800 W. Museum Drive, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-1211 mati@mtaonline.net  
www.museumofalaska.org



**Wasilla Museum & Visitor Center**  
391 N. Main Street, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 373-9071 museum@cityofwasilla.gov  
www.cityofwasilla.gov/museum  
The Wasilla Museum and Visitor Center offers maps, brochures and information about local activities, events and attractions. Open Tuesdays - Fridays from 10 am to 3 pm. Digital info available upon request.

**Wasilla-Knik Historical Society**  
300 N. Boundary Street, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-7755 wkhociety@yahoo.com

#### Bed & Breakfast/Inn

**Alaska's Lake Lucille Bed & Breakfast**  
South shore of Lake Lucille, Wasilla, AK 99687  
(888) 353-0352 (907) 357-0352

**Lady Gray Bed & Breakfast**  
1151 E. Glenwood Ave., Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 355-8454 ladygray@mtaonline.net  
ladygraybnb.com

**Pioneer Ridge B&B Inn**  
2221 S. Yukon Circle, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-7472 info@pioneeridge.com  
Renovated from a former cattle barn, this 5-room/1-suite bed and breakfast offers early Alaska memorabilia and a full hot breakfast for your enjoyment. Reserve at [www.pioneeridge.com](http://www.pioneeridge.com).

#### Brewery

**The Last Frontier Brewing Company**  
238 N Boundary Street, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 357-7200 LFBrew58@gmail.com

#### Cabin/Vacation Home

**Alaskan Hillside Cabins**  
PO Box 871748, Wasilla, AK 99687  
(907) 376-4912

#### Campground/RV Park

**Big Bear Campground & RV Park**  
2010 S. Church Street, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 745-7445 bigbearcampgroundinfo@gmail.com



**Settlers Bay Golf Course**  
7307 S Frontier Dr, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-5466 customerservice@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 Dining • Bar • Bistro**  
1850 E Bogard Road, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 357-5000 info@mat-suresort.com

**Locals Pub & Pizza**  
3100 E Parks Hwy, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 357-3100



**Settlers Bay Lodge**  
5801 S. Knik Goose Bay Road, Wasilla, AK 99623  
(907) 357-5678 contact@settlersbaylodge.com  
www.settlersbaylodge.com



**The Albatross @ Settlers Bay Golf Course**  
7307 S Frontier Dr, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-5833 customerservice@settlersbay.com



**Chop House at Lake Lucille**  
1300 W Lake Lucille Drive, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 373-1776 contact@chophouseak.com



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

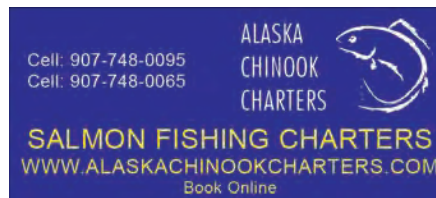
**The Grill**  
2900 E. Parks Highway, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 352-1777 thegrillgv@gmail.com

#### Entertainment

**Extreme Fun Center & Valley Cinema**  
3501 E Old Matanuska Road, Wasilla, AK 99654  
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www.extremefuncenters.com

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#### Fishing



**Alaska Chinook Charters**  
950 N Balsam Circle, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 748-0095 infoalaskachinookcharters@gmail.com

**Alaska Lakes Guide Service**  
3101 Glenn Don Dr, Anchorage, AK 99504  
(907) 297-9499 letsfishalaska@gmail.com



**Deshka Landing Charters & Lodge**  
11745 N Recreation Street, Willow, AK 99688  
(907) 495-5873 jim@deshka.com  
www.deshka.com

**Drill Team 6 Fishing Excursions, LLC**  
Wasilla, AK  
(702) 465-4747 dt6fishingexcursionsllc@gmail.com



**Fishtale River Guides**  
PO Box 155, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 746-2199 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!

**Highway 3 Angler**  
3265 S Heritage Farm Road, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 306-7851 highway3angler@gmail.com  
www.highway3angler.com

## Flightseeing

**Neocola Mountain Air**  
6200 East Beechcraft Road, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 350-3982  
neacolamtnair.com

## Golf Resorts



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## Settlers Bay Golf Course

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## Hotel/Motel/Resort

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(888) 357-4768 (907) 357-4768

## Best Western Lake Lucille Inn

1300 W. Lake Lucille Dr., Wasilla, AK 99654  
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## Grand View Inn & Suites

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

## Mat-Su Resort

1850 E Bogard Road, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 357-5000 info@mat-suresort.com

## Outfitters/Galleries/Gift Shops

## Gold Rush Jewelers

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



**Sylvia's**  
QUILT + DEPOT  
www.sylviasquiltdepot.com

## Sylvia's Quilt Depot

1261 Seward Meridian Road, Suite E, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-6468 Sylvia@sylviasquiltdepot.com  
www.sylviasquiltdepot.com

## Rail



**ALASKA**  
RAILROAD

AlaskaRailroad.com // 800.544.0552

## Alaska Railroad

PO Box 107500, Anchorage, AK 99510  
(800) 544-0552 (907) 265-2494 reservations@akrr.com  
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## Travel Agency/Reservations

### ABC Travel Services

191 E. Swanson Avenue, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-5231 donna@travelservicesinc.com

### Visitor Center/Chamber/Gov't Agency

### Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce

1155 E Depot Road, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 376-1299 contact@wasillachamber.org

### Wasilla Museum & Visitor Center

391 N. Main Street, Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 373-9071 museum@cityofwasilla.gov  
www.cityofwasilla.gov/museum  
The Wasilla Museum and Visitor Center offers maps, brochures and information about local activities, events and attractions. Open Tuesdays - Fridays from 10 am to 3 pm. Digital info available upon request.

## Wilderness Lodge

### Deshka Landing Charters & Lodge

11745 N Recreation Street, Willow, AK 99688  
(907) 495-5873 jim@deshka.com  
www.deshka.com

## BIG LAKE

## Brewery

### Susitna Brewing Company

5120 S. Big Lake Rd, Big Lake, AK 99652  
(907) 892-2337 (BEER) susitnabrewing@gmail.com

### Cabin/Vacation Home

### Alaska Sunset View Resort

PO Box 521402, Big Lake, AK 99652  
(907) 892-8885 stay@alaskasunsetviewresort.com  
www.alaskasunsetviewresort.com  
5322 S. Big Lake Road



**BLUE LANTERN**  
LODGE AT BIG LAKE

(907) 227-3439 WWW.THEBLUELANTERNLODGE.COM

### Blue Lantern Lodge at Big Lake

5682 S Big Lake Road, Wasilla, AK 99645  
(907) 227-3439 khansmeier@yahoo.com

## Dining



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see Denali  
enjoy local flavor!

(907) 892-2337 (BEER)  
SUSITNABREWING.COM

### Susitna Brewing Company

5120 S. Big Lake Rd, Big Lake, AK 99652  
(907) 892-2337 (BEER) susitnabrewing@gmail.com

## Dog Sledding

### Alaska Mushing School

(907) 793-0647 mushingschool@gmail.com  
alaskamushingschool.com  
Operating out of Big Lake and Willow

## Visitor Center/Chamber/Gov't Agency

### Big Lake Chamber of Commerce

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

## HOUSTON

## Entertainment

### Gorilla Fireworks

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



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LODGE



# 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 along the Parks Highway (Hwy. 3) 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 unique 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. 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. Here you’ll find one of Alaska’s top breweries, a number of great restaurants and shops that sell goods made by local artists.



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

Petersville Road extends nearly 35 miles from Trapper Creek into the Dutch Hills, offering spectacular views of Denali. The rugged, scenic gravel road is ideal for mountain biking or snowmobiling in the winter. (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 Alaska State Parks system. Camp, canoe and explore amidst stunning views of Denali from the ridgeline or from Byers Lake. While Denali National Park & Preserve offers the wilderness and wildlife experience, don’t miss Denali State Park for the ultimate scenic Denali experience. K’esugi Ken Campground is located at Mile 135.4 Parks Highway (Hwy. 3) and has an easy .5-mile hike to a spectacular Denali overlook. With RV and tent sites as well an interpretive center and public-use cabins, the campground is a popular spot for those looking for peace and quiet away from the crowds.

## WHERE TO GO; WHAT TO DO

Rent a kayak or canoe on Byers Lake and paddle to schools of spawning red salmon. Watch for swans, loons and feeding bears.

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.

Explore the rivers with a jet boat or rafting trip.

Come back this winter for the restart of the world-famous Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

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 <a href="http://www.alaskavisit.com">www.alaskavisit.com</a>
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 K'esugi 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](mailto:vhalter@mtaonline.net)

### Backcountry Adventures

**Deshka Landing Outdoor Association LLC**  
29691 W. Deshka Landing Road, Willow, AK 99688  
(907) 495-3374 [dloamanager@hotmail.com](mailto:dloamanager@hotmail.com)  
[www.deshkalanding.com](http://www.deshkalanding.com)

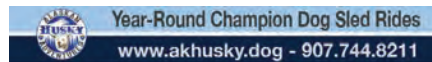


**Fishtale River Guides**  
PO Box 155, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 746-2199 [fishing@fish4salmon.com](mailto:fishing@fish4salmon.com)

### Campground/RV Park

**Willow Creek Resort**  
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### Dog Sledding



**Alaskan Husky Adventures**  
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**Talkeetna Historical Society Museum**  
PO Box 76, Talkeetna, AK 99676  
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**PEONY FARMING**

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The flowers are very popular for weddings and particularly in Asia, making Alaska's location and growing season ideal for uses throughout the summer.

Peony farms cultivate the flowers while in the bud stage and place them in cold storage. Once shipped and taken out of cold storage, the flowers bloom throughout the summer. Stop in to a farmer's market in the Mat-Su Valley during the summer for a bouquet of Alaska peonies.







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www.denalibackcountryadventure.com/adventure  
Denali Backcountry Adventure will not be running in 2023. Visit our website and subscribe to our email list for the latest updates on what we'll be doing for 2024.

##### Northern Alaska Tour Company

PO Box 82991, Fairbanks, AK 99708  
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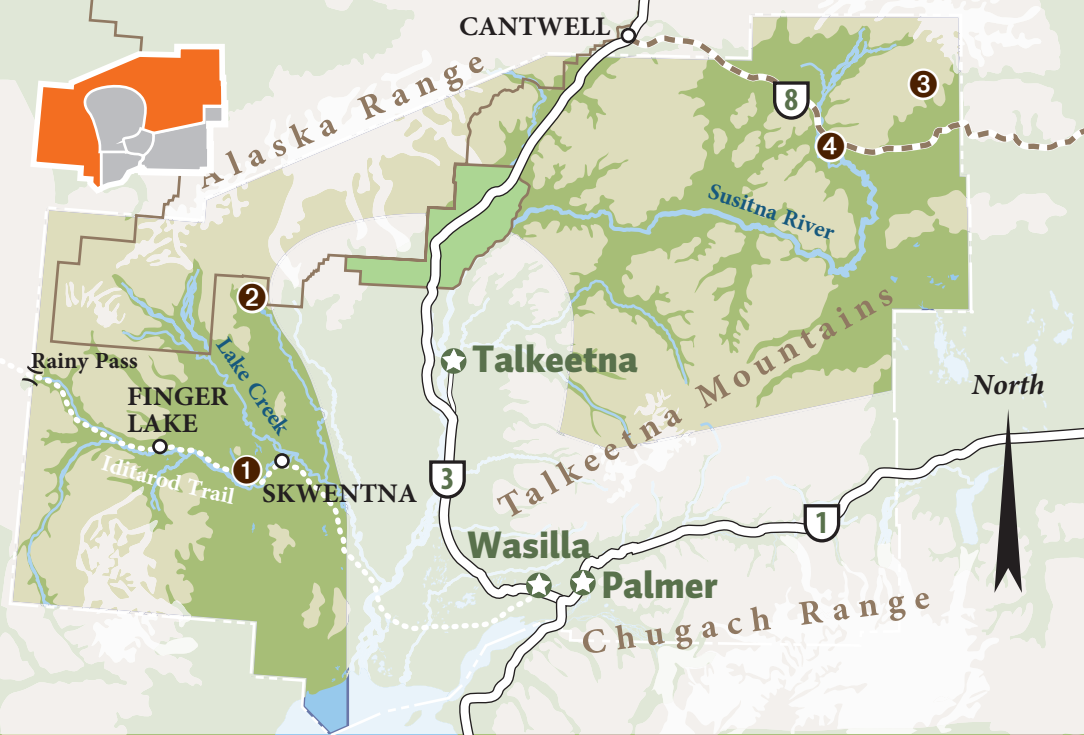
Camp, hike, float the rivers, photograph a wide variety of birds, look for caribou, moose, black and brown bears.

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Fly in to Remote Lakes	2	For the ultimate fishing experience. Day trips also available.
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### OFF THE BEATEN PATH

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**Alaska Adventure Company**  
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concierge@alaskaadventurecompany.com  
www.alaskaadventurecompany.com

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#### Attraction or Event

**Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center**  
Mile 79 Seward Highway, Girdwood, AK 99587  
(907) 783-0058 info@alaskawildlife.org  
www.alaskawildlife.org

**Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center**  
625 C Street, Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 929-9200 museum@anchoragemuseum.org  
www.anchoragemuseum.org

#### Backcountry Adventures

**Go Hike Alaska**  
727 Depot Drive, Suite 2, Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 444-9008 matt@gohikealaska.com  
www.gohikealaska.com

#### Fishing

**Alaska Lakes Guide Service**  
3101 Glenn Don Dr, Anchorage, AK 99504  
(907) 297-9499 letsfishalaska@gmail.com

### Flightseeing

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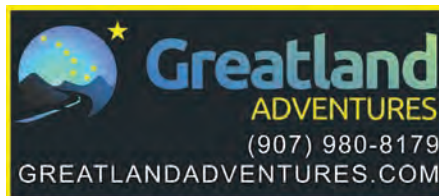
**Copper Whale Inn, LLC** ❄️  
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anchoratrolley.com



**Greatland Adventures** ❄️  
410 K Street, Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 980-8179 info@greatlandadventures.com



**Salmon Berry Travel & Tours** ❄️  
515 W 4th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 278-3572 reservations@salmonberrytours.com  
www.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 info@anchoragechamber.org

**Visit Anchorage** ❄️  
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PO Box 770353, Eagle River, AK 99577  
(907) 694-4702 info@cer.org

## FAIRBANKS/INTERIOR

### Attraction or Event

**Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum** ❄️  
212 Wedgewood Dr., Fairbanks, AK 99645  
(907) 450-2100 willyv@fountainheadhotels.com  
www.fountainheadmuseum.com

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(907) 822-5555 chamber@cvinternet.net

## KENAI PENINSULA

### Attraction or Event

**Alaska SeaLife Center** ❄️  
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www.majormarine.com  
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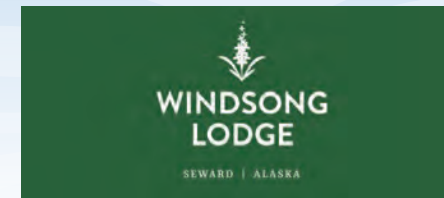
**Drifter's Lodge** ❄️  
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**Harbor 360 Hotel** ❄️  
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www.SewardWindsong.com

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**Kenai Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center** ❄️❄️  
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### Wilderness Lodge



**Kenai Fjords Wilderness Lodge** ❄️  
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 (907) 835-2984 info@valdezalaska.org  
 www.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

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

**Travel Juneau**  
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**SOUTHWEST ALASKA**

**Visitor Center/Chamber/Gov't Agency**

**Discover Kodiak**  
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**Unalaska/Dutch Harbor Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
 PO Box 545, Unalaska, AK 99685  
 (907) 581-2612 info@unalaska.org

**AREAWIDE SERVICES**

**Visitor Center/Chamber/Gov't Agency**

**Alaska Airlines**  
 3600 International Airport Rd., Anchorage, AK 99502  
 (800) 252-7522

**Attraction or Event**



**Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation**  
 PO Box 652, Palmer, AK 99645  
 (907) 746-8757 info@matsutrails.org

**Backcountry Adventures**



**Alaska ATV Adventures**  
 17023 Kantishna Drive, Eagle River, AK 99577  
 (907) 694-4294

**Business Services**

**Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman**  
 5751 E. Mayflower Court, Wasilla, AK 99654  
 (907) 352-2250 news@frontiersman.com

**Matanuska Valley Federal Credit Union**  
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 (907) 745-4891

**Campground/RV Park**

**Alaska Campground Owners Association (ACOA)**  
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 alaskacampgrounds@gmail.com  
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 alaskapivatetouring.com

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 www.skylartravel.com  
 Wholesale operator offering tours in Mandarin Chinese for individuals and groups.

**Alaska Travel Connections**  
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 www.alaskatravelconnections.com  
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**Travel Guides**

**KTUU Channel 2**  
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(907) 746-5000 | [alaskavisit.com](http://alaskavisit.com)
- Public Use Cabins  
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- Fishing Report  
[adfg.alaska.gov/sf/fishingreports](http://adfg.alaska.gov/sf/fishingreports)
- Alaska Marine Highway  
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844

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