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Alaskan Cruise with Ketchikan, etc.

5/16/15 - 5/29/15

Especially Prepared for: Sam Brown

Suggested Retail Price: \$9.95

Your Travel Agent says,
Here's your travel42 report - enjoy!

Saturday, May 16, 2015

Juneau, Alaska

Saturday, May 16, 2015

Overview

Introduction

Juneau, Alaska, enjoys a majestic setting in a narrow fjord with Mount Juneau and Mount Roberts towering above it. To the east is the vast expanse of glacial ice known as the Juneau Icefield, and to the west are the wilderness islands of the Inside Passage.

Because of the natural beauty that surrounds the city—as well as its gold-rush-era buildings and many shops—this state capital is a popular tourist destination. In fact, Juneau is visited by more cruise ships than any other port in Alaska.



Juneau Landscape

Highlights

Sights—Mendenhall Glacier, Nugget Falls and the visitors center; the view of Juneau from the top of Mount Roberts Tramway or from Glacier Gardens Rainforest Adventure overlook; a flight over the Juneau Icefield; a floatplane excursion past glaciers; bears at Pack Creek Brown Bear Preserve on Admiralty Island; whale-watching; seeing the glacier calve at Tracy Arm Fjord.

Museums—Relics from gold-rush days at the Juneau-Douglas City Museum; Alaska native culture, art and state history at the Alaska State Museum; maps of the mine tunnels and gold-mining equipment at the Last Chance Mining Museum.

Memorable Meals—An authentic salmon feast at Gold Creek Salmon Bake or the Taku Glacier Lodge; king crab legs and rich crab bisque at Tracy's King Crab Shack; barbecued king-salmon burgers at Twisted Fish Co. Alaskan Grill; sweet treats at Pie in the Sky Bakery and Cafe; pizza at Pizzeria Roma; breakfast at the Sandpiper Cafe; dinner at Zephyr.

Late Night—Blues and jazz at the Alaskan Hotel & Bar; views of the water and floatplanes at Hangar on the Wharf; an old-timey sing-along at the Red Dog Saloon; the Island Pub in Douglas.

Walks—Exploring Mendenhall Glacier trails; following the miners' path up Perseverance Trail; exploring the Douglas Treadwell Mine ruins near Sandy Beach; hiking along the alpine trails at the top of the Mount Roberts Tramway; exploring historic downtown Juneau from the docks to South Franklin Street and up the hill past St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox church.

Especially for Kids—Macaulay Salmon Hatchery; A-J Mine and Gastineau Mill; Sandy Beach and Savikko Park on Douglas Island; the Rock Dump indoor climbing gym; the Auke Recreation Area; a helicopter flight; dogsledding on a glacier; seeing seals in Tracy Arm Fjord; exploring the mining ruins at the Last Chance Mining Museum; playing with artifacts at the Alaska State Museum; hiking along Mendenhall Lake to Nugget Falls at the Mendenhall Glacier.

History

In 1880, Chief Cowee from the Auk Tribe led pioneers Joe Juneau and Richard Harris to a gold deposit, which started the famed Alaska gold rush. Hard-rock mining at the Alaska-Juneau mine in Juneau and the Treadwell mine in Douglas quickly replaced placer mining—gold panning—and became the most important industry in Juneau. (These two world-class mines, largest of their kind at the time, operated until a

cave-in and flood at the Treadwell in 1917 and a worker shortage during World War II at the Alaska-Juneau. Juneau's streets along Egan Drive and parts of South Franklin are built with gold tailings, the leftover dirt from mining.)

In 1906, Juneau was named the capital of Alaska, still a U.S. territory. It officially became the state capital on 3 January 1959, when Alaska achieved statehood. Southeast Alaska grew and prospered with its fishing, mining and logging industries.

The Tlingit culture retains a strong influence on the economy and arts, and some natives continue to practice a traditional way of life in outlying villages. As a tourist mecca, Juneau is one of the most-visited cities in Alaska, especially during the summer months.

Port Information

Location

Cruise ships dock at one of six locations, labeled A-F: A for the AJ Dock, B for the Franklin Dock, C for the Intermediate Vessel Float, D for the Cruise Ship Terminal, E for the Alaska Steamship Dock at Marine Park, and F for the Seadrome Dock for smaller vessels. The docks line the waterfront from Egan Drive to the southeast end of town on South Franklin Street.

If more than four large ships are in port—as is often the case in midsummer—some ships anchor in the channel and tender passengers in smaller craft to the terminals. As many as seven ships have been in port at one time, depositing throngs of visitors on the city. Downtown Juneau is within easy walking distance, but you'll need transportation (taxi, tour coach or local bus) to reach outlying attractions.

Visitor-information and tour-company kiosks are located at Marine Park and the Cruise Ship Terminal. In addition, the visitors center is at cruise dock D, near the Mount Roberts Tramway.

Shore Excursions

So many different tours are offered in Juneau; the hard part is deciding among them. The more adventurous should consider helicopter or floatplane tours of glaciers and fjords, glacier-trekking or dogsledding on a glacier. Those who prefer the water to the air might consider whale-watching, fishing for salmon or halibut, fly-fishing for Dolly Varden or cutthroat trout, or sea kayaking near seals, sea lions and whales. You can also enjoy a placid float down the Mendenhall River or a Mendenhall Lake canoe or kayak adventure.

Other options include exploring the historic sites of downtown Juneau, donning hard hats while touring a historic gold mine, panning for gold or taking a bike-and-brew tour of the Auke Bay area. You can tour the glacier by bus and then feast on salmon, or marvel at spawning Alaska salmon at a local hatchery. Hikes in the rain forest and rain-forest gardens are a great way to explore, and two ziplines through the rain forest provide additional adventure. Because most ships are in port eight hours or more, you can sometimes choose more than one tour.

If you have a bit more time, explore nearby Tracy Arm Fjord or Glacier Bay, home to 16 tidewater glaciers. Around Juneau, many outstanding wilderness lodges beckon sportfishing and whale-watching enthusiasts and ecotourists. Spend a day watching brown bears at Pack Creek on Admiralty Island. Fly to Yakutat for world-class fly-fishing and steelhead fishing or to surf Alaska's lost coast. Take a memorable fast-ferry day trip up Lynn Canal to Haines or historic Skagway. Ferries also go to Sitka, Petersburg, Wrangell, Hoonah and other southeast communities, but you'll need two to three days.

Potpourri

Land area around Juneau is increasing at a rate of about 0.5 in/1 cm per year, which is faster than rising global sea levels. With the decreasing weight of melting glaciers, the land is bouncing back. One nearby island is now 18 ft/6 m higher than it was when Capt. Vancouver sailed by it more than 200 years ago.

Located smack in the middle of a rain forest, Juneau receives an average of 62 in/157 cm of precipitation a year, 24 in/61 cm more than famously wet Seattle. Autumn is the wettest season.

Juneau is the only U.S. state capital not accessible by road. The city is serviced by air and water, but the highway only stretches 45 mi/72 km along the coastline.

You can't judge a bear by its color. Black bears actually come in a range of colors, including a rare blue-gray variation called the glacier bear. Many black bears are brown—not to be confused with brown bears, which are also brown. So how do you tell the difference? Size matters. Black bears tend to be the size of a very large dog, weighing up to 400 lbs/180 kg. Brown bears are usually much larger, closer to

pony size, and can weigh 500-1,000 lbs/230-450 kg.

Talking or singing as you walk through the woods is the best way to let bears know you're coming.

Prior to the discovery of gold in Juneau in 1880, the largest Alaska Native settlement in the area was Auk Village near Auke Bay. Juneau, called Džantik'i Heeni by the Tlingits (meaning *where the flatfish gather*) was a fish camp and summer home. People didn't live there year-round because of the horrendous frigid Taku winds barreling down the mountain passes from the Juneau Icefield. Auke Recreation Area, about 14 mi/22 km north of town, is where the Tlingit Auk people lived.

See & Do

Sightseeing

One of the first things you'll notice in Juneau is the contrast between the gold-rush-era buildings and modern high-rises—and, on the street, between the rubber-booted fisherfolk and the suit-and-tie government employees. The Historic District is crammed with shops, galleries, bars, hotels and restaurants. City and state buildings, churches and museums are a few blocks away, so most of the points of interest are within walking distance.

Before you make your way through the streets or take one of the tours, you may want to get the big picture by taking the Mount Roberts Tramway, which is located next to the cruise-ship docks.

Historic downtown can be easily explored on foot with the help of a walking-tour map (they're available at the visitor-information kiosks near the cruise-ship docks).

From the docks, head north along South Franklin Street, the city's former red-light district, to the Seawalk and Marine Park. Monuments located along the wharf include a community sundial near the ship terminal and a sculpture of Patsy Ann, a deaf dog that met steamships in days past. There are also memorials to the USS *Juneau*, to hard-rock or underground miners and to area fisherfolk. Downtown murals depict the Tlingit legend of creation and turn-of-the-century steamship passengers.

Along the waterfront, narrow lanes wind past art galleries, gift shops, restaurants and Victorian homes. This flat area is wheelchair-accessible and pleasant for strolls. The paths begin to climb steeply until they become natural staircases. Both the hills and the architecture were the inspiration for Juneau's nickname, "Little San Francisco of the North." The wooden buildings have colorful facades, and streets are decorated in summer with banners, baskets of flowers, and flags from all the states.

Juneau's best features are the mountains, the ice and the water that define this community. Think about a helicopter ride over the Juneau Icefield—it can include glacier landings or a dogsledding experience. You can go whale-watching for humpbacks and orcas along Stephens Passage, take a city bus or tour to Mendenhall Glacier, or visit a salmon hatchery. In late summer, when salmon swim upstream to spawn, black bears with cubs are often seen fishing in the stream near the Mendenhall Glacier around sunrise and twilight.

Historic Sites

The Windfall Fisherman, a life-size bronze bear sculpture by Skip Wallen, is situated near the state Capitol at Third and Main streets off the sidewalk in a small park—children enjoy climbing on it. Historic photos and colorful tales of the past line the seawalk.

A walk through Juneau's downtown historic district along South Franklin and Front streets is a walk through history. The area was once home to more than 30 bars and several bordellos, but they have been transformed into gift shops and restaurants. Emporium Mall, formerly the 1901 Alaska Steam Laundry and built in the late-Victorian style, features hallways decorated with historical photos of the city's colorful past. This was the center of Juneau's business district.

Across the street, the Alaskan Hotel & Bar is the state's oldest continuously operating hotel. Built in 1913, it was originally a miner's hotel and bordello—the ambience remains to this day. The restored Senate Building, a mini-mall, was the 1883 site of the Juneau Brewery. The 1896 Lewis Building (located at 130 Front St.) is on one of the first claimed lots in Juneau.

Alaska State Capitol

Completed in 1931, the Capitol housed the governor, the legislature and other territorial and federal offices until Alaska became a state in 1959. The building continues to serve as Alaska's seat of government. The marble and limestone in the portico columns and the lobby came from Prince of Wales Island in southeast Alaska.

Free 30-minute guided tours are available mid-May through mid-September.

Fourth and Main streets
Juneau, AK

<http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/misc/capitol.php>

Shrine of St. Therese

This beach-stone church dedicated to St. Therese of Lisieux, the patron saint of Alaska, is tucked on an island accessible by a 400-ft/125-m gravel causeway on Lynn Canal, 23 mi/37 km north of Juneau. It's a favorite spot for picnickers, fishermen and scuba divers, as well as people seeking spiritual renewal. Whales, seals, sea lions and eagles are often seen from the shrine, set against the majestic backdrop of the Chilkat Mountains. The log lodge and several cabins are used for retreats and weddings, as well as government and business workshops. The shrine also features outdoor Stations of the Cross, a columbarium and a labyrinth.

Open year-round. Mass is held Sunday at 1:30 pm during the summer. Donations accepted.

5933 Lund St. (Mile Marker 23)
Juneau, AK

Phone: 907-780-6112

<http://www.shrineofsainttherese.org>

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

St. Nicholas church was built from local timber and Russian plans in 1894. This octagonal structure with an onion dome is said to be the oldest continuously functioning Russian Orthodox church in Alaska. The church is filled with Russian icons and religious relics. On Sunday, the liturgy is sung in three languages: English, Slavonic and Tlingit.

The church and gift shop keep varying hours, but are open most days that cruise ships are in port. Donation.

326 Fifth St.
Juneau, AK

Phone: 907-586-1023

<http://www.stnicholasjuneau.org>

The Governor's Mansion

The mansion is a 14,400-sq-ft/1,340-sq-m, three-story, Federal-period Greek Revival-style house. It was built in 1912 for US\$40,000, and is the official residence of the governor of Alaska. It features a 1939 totem pole near the front entrance that tells the story of human and mosquito origins and why there are tides.

716 Calhoun Ave. (two blocks uphill from
the city museum)
Juneau, AK

Totem poles

Tlingit-carved totem poles link the capital city with its Alaska Native roots. The *Wooshkeetann* totem pole outside Centennial Hall, at the corner of Willoughby Avenue and Egan Drive, describes how people came via the Taku River to Juneau. The *Friendship* totem pole is in the Juneau Courthouse lobby on Fourth Street between Main and Seward streets. Two poles, *Harnessing the Atom* and the *Four Story* totem, are outside the city museum on Fourth and Main.

Across the street on the eighth floor of the State Office Building (Fourth and Calhoun streets) is the *Waasgo* or *Old Witch* totem. The *Governor's* totem, outside the Governor's House, tells the creation story of populating the earth with land animals, sea mammals and mosquitoes.

Museums

Alaska State Museum

The best museum in the city—if not the state—offers a wealth of Alaskan history within walking distance from the cruise ships. You can sit in a replica of a Tlingit clan house and examine Alaska Native clothing and a traditional walrus-skin boat. The museum also features exhibits about gold and copper mining, cultural artifacts from the Eskimo, Aleut, Tlingit, Haida and Athabascan Indians and the Russian period. Don't miss the exhibit on Alaska's major artists. An eagle's nest inhabited by stuffed birds sits atop a two-story nesting tree—a circular staircase allows you to see it from all angles. A children's room includes a replica of Vancouver's ship *Discovery* along with dress-up clothes and touchable furs. The gift store sells quality items. This museum is definitely a must-see.

395 Whittier St.
Juneau, AK

Phone: 907-465-2901

<http://museums.alaska.gov>

Mid-May to mid-September daily 8:30 am-5:30 pm; mid-September to mid-May Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-4 pm. US\$7, US\$3 in winter, free to those younger than 18.

Juneau-Douglas City Museum

This museum is dedicated to the history of Juneau and has more than 10,000 artifacts. You can watch the video *Juneau, A City Built On Gold*, study the topographic map, see a 700-year-old woven fish trap found in a local river or check out interpretive displays about gold mining and Juneau history. Originally built by public contributions as the Juneau Public Library in 1950, the structure was a memorial to veterans of World War I and World War II and was the official site of the statehood ceremony in 1959.

114 Fourth St. (at Main Street)
Juneau, AK

Phone: 907-586-3572

<http://www.juneau.org/parksrec/museum>

May-September Monday-Friday 9 am-6 pm, Saturday and Sunday 10 am-5 pm; October-April Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-4 pm. US\$6, free admission in winter, free for children 12 and younger. One-hour historic downtown walking tours Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 1:30 pm May-September, US\$20 for adults, US\$15 for children age 12 and younger.

Nature

Mendenhall Glacier

The mighty Mendenhall Glacier is the area's most famous natural landmark and a must-see. The drive-up glacier is a 1-mi-/2-km-wide river of ice emanating from the Juneau Icefield, which is larger than the U.S. state of Rhode Island. The river is also more than 13 mi/21 km long and 300 ft-1,800 ft/95 m-550 m deep. If the sky is overcast when you're there, consider yourself lucky: The glacier's blue ice is more spectacular than. But any day is a good day to visit the glacier. An elevated trail allows visitors to watch black bears fishing in a nearby salmon stream in summer. These are wild bears, so keep a safe distance from them.

Any visit to the glacier, which is 12 mi/19 km northwest of town at the end of Glacier Spur Road, should include a stop at the visitors center. It has a large map of the entire ice field, and a telescope provides you with a close-up view of Mendenhall and the sheep frequenting the steep slopes on either side. There's also a short video and interactive exhibits. U.S. Park Service rangers lead nature hikes near the glacier—there's a photo loop trail that's handicap-accessible. Black bears frequent the area in July and August so you may be able to take that once-in-a-lifetime photo.

To get to Mendenhall, you could take a city bus to within 1 mi/2 km of the visitors center (US\$2 adults; US\$1 for ages 6-18; disabled visitors and seniors 65 and older ride free; children 5 and younger ride free with an adult; the bus arrives every 30 minutes) and walk the fairly level path. Several groups offer guided city and glacier tours for about US\$30 (check with the dockside visitors center for information). The Glacier Express shuttle from the docks is US\$8 each way. If you take a tour bus that sticks to its schedule, you'll only have about 45 minutes at the glacier before heading back. It's worth staying longer to maneuver around to the spectacular Nugget Falls on the right of the glacier, getting close enough to feel the spray coming down. Most flightseeing and helicopter tours also fly over the glacier.

In addition to the six trails around the Mendenhall Glacier, there are more than 100 hiking spots in the area. Pick up a copy of *Juneau Trails* at a local bookstore. The U.S. Forest Service has maps and other information.

May-September the Mendenhall Glacier Visitors Center is open daily 8 am-7:30 pm; October-April Thursday-Sunday 10 am-4 pm. US\$3 adults, free for children younger than 15; admission is free to everyone in winter. .

Wineries, Breweries & Distilleries

Alaskan Brewing Co.

Visit the Alaskan Brewing Co. to watch fermenting and bottling, and taste a free sample of Juneau's award-winning beers, including Smoked Porter and Alaskan Amber. There's also a gift shop. A shuttle (US\$15) takes you from the downtown depot storefront to the brewery for the tour.

Open May-September daily 11 am-6 pm, October-April Tuesday-Saturday 11 am-5:30 pm.

Juneau, AK

Phone: 907-789-0097

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/tongass>

Other Options

Mount Roberts Tramway

Ride in one of the two 60-person trams up to the 1,800-ft/549-m level of Mount Roberts for a spectacular view of downtown, the Gastineau Channel, Douglas Island, the Chilkat Mountains and nearby mining ruins from the 3,000-sq-ft/325-sq-m observation deck and Mountain House (Shaa Hit). Venture along one of the hiking trails through the rain forest; visit a live eagle at the Juneau Raptor Center Bald Eagle Display; shop at Raven Eagle gift store; watch *Seeing Daylight*, a short video about the Tlingit people; or eat lunch or dinner at the Timberline Bar and Grill. There are also craft demonstrations by Alaska Native artists.

The tram runs every five to 10 minutes. US\$31 adults, US\$15.50 children ages 6-12. .

Juneau, AK

Phone: 907-463-3412

<http://www.goldbelttours.com>

Recreation

Opportunities to hike, bike and paddle around Juneau are abundant. You can strike off on your own with a walking-trail map from the visitors center or rent a bike or a kayak and explore the area independently. Juneau offers more than 80 trails and 90 short walks.

If time is limited, however, consider taking a tour. Juneau has dozens of firms offering every possible recreational option—from fishing for salmon to bear-watching by floatplane to dogsledding on a glacier.

Hiking & Walking

Alaska's spectacular scenery beckons almost everyone for an outdoor walk or a hike up winding trails—and there are a variety of levels. Juneau is a walker's paradise. If you're downtown, Perseverance Trail will take you past old mining ruins to an elevation of 700 ft/213 m in three to four hours. Take Gold Street to Basin Road and follow the trail at the end. Granite Creek Trail branches off Perseverance Trail and reaches as high as 1,200 ft/366 m. For super-fit hikers, another branch off Perseverance Trail leads steeply to the top of Mount Juneau (3,576 ft/1,090 m).

Alpine trails at the upper level of Mount Roberts Tramway provide great overlooks of downtown Juneau. On Douglas Island, the Dan Moller Trail and the False Outer Point Loop Trail are near the end of North Douglas Highway.

Mendenhall Glacier offers a variety of trails from the easy 0.3-mi/0.5 km Photo Point Trail, 0.5-mi/0.8-km Trail of Time and 1.5 mi/3 km Moraine Ecology Trail to the more challenging East Glacier Loop, Nugget Creek and West Glacier trails. The Glacier Visitors Center has information. Phone 907-789-0097. <http://www.fs.usda.gov/tongass>.

In addition to the trails around the Mendenhall Glacier, there are more than 100 hiking spots in the area, including Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei Trail at Brotherhood Bridge, the Airport Dike, Auke Nu by Auke Bay as well as Treadwell Ditch, False Outer Point, Herbert Glacier, Montana Creek, Peterson Lake, Mount McGinnis, Windfall Lake and Point Bridget trails. Pick up a copy of *Juneau Trails* at a local bookstore.

The U.S. Forest Service has maps and other information about hiking and bears. Phone 907-586-8800. Trail Mix has a good website at <http://www.juneautrails.org>, and so does the Juneau Guide at <http://www.juneau-guide.com/juneau-alaska-hiking.htm>.

To find the best wildlife-viewing areas, visit <http://www.wildlife.alaska.gov>.

Nightlife

The best way to look for nightlife in Juneau is with your ears. Just listen for music as you walk up South Franklin Street, down Front Street and through the Merchant's Wharf. Usually, there's live music, DJs and karaoke. On a sunny summer night, don't be surprised if the locals are still outside playing.

Bars, Taverns & Pubs

Red Dog Saloon

With its sawdust floor and swinging doors, the Red Dog does pander to tourists. But it's a fun place with honky-tonk music, locally brewed beer and fascinating Alaska memorabilia cluttering the walls and ceiling. Make the special trip for the sing-along piano player.

Open daily 11 am-10 pm.

278 S. Franklin St.
Juneau, AK

Phone: 907-463-3658

<http://www.reddogsaloon.com>

Live Music

Alaskan Hotel & Bar

This Victorian hotel, built in 1913, has retained its gold-rush decor and two-story bar room. Located in the back of the Alaska Hotel, the bar has live music—blues or folk—Friday and Saturday 9 pm-3 am. Most Thursdays it hosts an open-mike night.

167 S. Franklin St.
Juneau, AK

Phone: 907-586-1000. Toll-free 800-327-9347

<http://www.thealaskanhotel.com>

Shopping

Juneau has more shopping options than any other port in Alaska—some stores are typical and some unique. But the variety of specialty and souvenir stores, art galleries, crafts, elegant furs and clothing are some of the best anywhere.

South Franklin Street, near the cruise terminals, is shopping central: It's packed with stores selling expensive Alaska Native art and beautiful gold and silver jewelry, as well as T-shirts and trinkets. Tram Plaza, at 495 S. Franklin St., is near Franklin Dock, the southernmost cruise-ship terminal. The Senate Building, at 175 S. Franklin St., houses several shops on two levels: Boheme (women's clothing), Changing Tides (quilting and fabrics), Skeins (knitting), Juneau Artists Gallery (handmade local art, jewelry, photography and prints), Bear's Lair (Alaska-themed gifts) and Juneau Fly Fishers.

In addition to the shops downtown, Juneau has two malls in the Mendenhall Valley: the Mendenhall Mall on Mendenhall Mall Road and Nugget Mall at 8745 Glacier Highway (<http://www.nuggetmalljuneau.com>). The Airport Shopping Center, a short walk from the airport, houses a used-book store, hardware store, flower shop and other specialty stores.

Shopping Hours: Usually daily 10 am-6 pm, but many shops open earlier and stay open late if a cruise ship is in port. Shopping malls often remain open until 8 pm.

Specialty Stores

Annie Kaill's

Annie Kaill's is a great place to pick up Alaskan art, pottery and jewelry. The coffee and jelly beans are free.

244 Front St.
Juneau, AK

Phone: 907-586-2880

<http://www.anniekaills.com>

Imagination Station

With a great assortment of toys, games, books and dolls, this is a favorite store not only for children but for the kid in all of us.

Open Monday-Friday 10 am-6 pm, Saturday 10 am-5 pm, Sunday 11 am-4 pm.

174-A S. Franklin St. (in the Emporium Mall)
Juneau, AK

Phone: 907-586-8697

<http://www.alaskantoys.com>

Taku Smokeries and Store

Stop in for a free sample of locally caught smoked sockeye or king salmon and for a self-guided tour of the smoking and packing operations.

Open daily.

550 S. Franklin St. (next to the tram and Twisted Fish restaurant)
Juneau, AK

Phone: 907-463-3474. Toll-free 800-582-5122

<http://takustore.com>

Dining

Dining Overview

Seafood is the specialty of most restaurants, but the city also has a surprising array of different cuisines. A salmon bake is an experience every visitor should have, so make reservations in advance.

If you like beer, ask for an Alaskan Amber, Stout, IPA, White or Pale Ale. They're brewed year-round by Juneau's award-winning Alaska Brewing Co. along with seasonal summer and winter ales.

For a snack while you're shopping downtown, be sure to sample some fudge from the Alaskan Fudge Co. To warm up on a drizzly day, savor a huge cup of hot chocolate and a cookie from Heritage Coffeehouse.

When several cruise ships are in town during the summer, or if there's a major event, it's best to make reservations. This is generally not necessary during the rest of the year.

Expect to pay within these guidelines for a meal for one, not including drinks, tax or tip: \$ = less than US\$15; \$\$ = US\$15-\$25; \$\$\$ = US\$26-\$40; and \$\$\$\$ = more than US\$40.

Local & Regional

Gold Room

Located at the beautiful and historic Westmark Baranof Hotel, the Gold Room has excellent Alaskan cuisine and fine wines. An Alaskan halibut stuffed with Dungeness crab and pistachio-crusted lamb loin are two indulgent options. You can also order up seafood classics such as salmon and king crab.

Open daily for dinner. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

127 N. Franklin St.
Juneau, AK

Phone: 907-586-2660. Toll-free 800-544-0970

<http://www.westmarkhotels.com/juneau-food.php>

Hangar on the Wharf

You can watch floatplanes take off and land while you eat at this waterfront restaurant at Merchants Wharf, an old converted airplane hangar built on pilings overlooking Gastineau Channel's busy floatplane dock and home to several restaurants and shops. Try the halibut tacos, hot ciabatta sandwiches, grilled chicken or blackened salmon Caesar salad, and crab legs. Be sure to sample a local Alaskan Brewing Co. microbrew from a selection of 100 beers, including more than 20 on draft—the biggest selection in southeast Alaska. Also a popular, smoke-free late-night hangout.

Open for lunch and dinner. Reservations available. \$-\$\$\$ Most major credit cards.

Merchants Wharf, 2 Marine Way, No. 106
Juneau, AK

Phone: 907-586-5018

<http://www.hangaronthewharf.com>

Seafood

T.K. Maguire's

Seafood—especially the captain's plate and king crab—along with steaks, prime rib, pastas and Alaska-sized salads are the specialties of this longtime Juneau restaurant. Maguire's has "Juneau's best Sunday brunch" as well as a lounge. Early mining photos decorate the walls.

Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

375 Whittier St. (in the Prospector Hotel across from the boat harbors on Gastineau Channel)
Juneau, AK

Phone: 907-586-3711

<http://www.prospectorhotel.com/restaurant.htm>

Security

Personal Safety

Crime isn't a significant problem in Juneau. Use common sense and be aware of your surroundings. There are many foreign visitors and crewmembers constantly in and out of the city. Also, be on the lookout for black bears.

Health

Mosquitoes and other nibblers aren't nearly as bad as in other parts of Alaska but can be a nuisance when you're out hiking or fishing near the woods around dusk—don't venture out of town without a good insect repellent.

Always be aware of the possibility of encountering a bear. If you do, don't approach it and try to avoid quick actions that may alarm it. Inquire locally for details on recent bear activity and advice on how to behave around the animals. Forest-service rangers offer bear-viewing advice at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center and at the U.S. Forest Service Tongass National Forest, Juneau Ranger District. Phone 907-586-8800. <http://www.fs.usda.gov/tongass>.

Bartlett Regional Hospital is located 4 mi/6 km north of downtown at 3260 Hospital Drive. Phone 907-796-8900. <http://www.bartletthospital.org>.

Facts

Dos & Don'ts

Do dress casually—and in layers. Be sure to take along comfortable walking shoes and a raincoat.

Don't make insulting comments about ravens or eagles—they're important mythological figures to Alaska Natives.

Do be very careful with trash, which will attract bears. Dispose of it in the latched trash cans you'll find around town, but don't deposit mail in those cans (they resemble mailboxes).

Don't be surprised to see people dressed in rubber boots, even in fine restaurants.

Don't hike alone. And do always tell someone where you're going and when you expect to return.

Geostats

Passport/Visa Requirements: All U.S. citizens must have a passport when traveling by air to or from Bermuda, Canada, the Caribbean, Central and South America and Mexico. Citizens of Canada, Mexico and the British Overseas Territory of Bermuda also must have a passport or other designated secure document to enter the U.S.

Passports are required for land crossings at the Canadian and Mexican borders with the U.S. and for cruise passengers returning to the U.S. from Mexico, the Caribbean, Canada or Bermuda. Reconfirm travel-document requirements with your carrier prior to departure.

Population: 31,275.

Time Zone: 9 hours behind Greenwich Mean Time (-9 GMT). Daylight Saving Time is observed from the second Sunday in March to the first Sunday in November.

Voltage Requirements: 110 volts.

Telephone Codes: 907, area code for all of Alaska;

Weather

Temperatures in Juneau are typically mild, with an average of 55 F/12 C. The warmest months are June-August when there is 18 hours of daylight in June. Daytime temperatures range 45 F/7 C to 75 F/24 C—and sometimes even warmer. Winter temperatures range in the 20s-30s F/-5 to 0 C and seldom dip further than that. Juneau is in a temperate rain forest, so you can expect rain—usually mist—any time of the year and about 280 overcast days annually. Snow alternates with rain during the winter.

Sunday, May 17, 2015

THE ORIGINAL JUNEAU SALMON BAKE

Sunday, May 17, 2015

Essential Juneau

Whether you like salmon or not, you will have lots of fun at this traditional event.

Please visit ShoreTrips.com for more information.

The last time we visited Alaska, we enjoyed this salmon bake while in Juneau. What a wonderful highlight, with something for everyone. Happy faces greet you while the aroma of salmon floats through the air. A rustic setting is the background for numerous activities, including a special fire for roasting marshmallows. The nature walk offers a neat look into the woods and its critters. Music is playing. People are coming and going. Everyone is happy!

This tour includes:

- All-you-can-eat buffet
- Musical entertainment
- Time to stroll through the forest to Salmon Creek waterfall and/or Wagner Mine

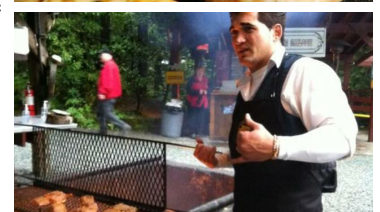
You really have to try a salmon bake at one of your port stops. The salmon, which you will see spawning on every river from mid-June through September, are fresh, thick, and delicious. For those of you who prefer other choices, you will also find BBQ chicken and ribs. The entrees are accompanied by a host of salads, including caesar, cole slaw, rice pilaf, and BBQ beans with reindeer sausage, as well as dessert, and, as this is all-you-can-eat, you may try everything more than once.

You will be outdoors, but in a protected area, which will allow you to roast marshmallows over an open fire. Music will accompany your meal whether you dine at lunch or dinner. And you will be able to explore a little before or after your meal, as the Salmon Creek waterfall and the Wagner Mine are right nearby.

This is a great value, as the ride up is narrated and you will be going through Juneau proper.

The little ones will love this and the rest of you will be taken back to your youth.

Special Instructions



- Dress comfortably and bring your camera.

Meeting Instructions

Specific pick up or taxi instructions will appear on your voucher after you purchase your trip.

Prices

Per Person: \$67.00

Child: \$52.00 (Ages 12 and under.)

Departures (local time)

Start Time: 12:00 PM | **Duration:** 2 hours

Start Time: 06:00 PM | **Duration:** 2 hours

Start Time: 05:00 PM | **Duration:** 2 hours

Start Time: 11:00 AM | **Duration:** 2 hours

Days of Operations

Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun

Westmark Baranof Hotel, Juneau, AK

Sunday, May 17, 2015

127 N Franklin St
Juneau, AK

Year Renovated: 2007
Check in Time: 3:00 PM
Check out Time: 11:00 AM
Number of Floors: 9
Total Number of Rooms: 196
General Manager: Steve Hamilton

STAR Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Amenity Rating: 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷



This hotel is a block from the city's downtown crossroads and an easy walk to waterfront, cruise ports and visitor attractions.

This hotel is the grande dame of Juneau (although more so for its age than for its palatial interiors). Opened in 1939 to rival the lavish hotels of its day, the property remains a classic landmark, fusing old-world ambience and modern amenities (quite the irregularity in this old-fashioned town).

The elegant art-deco public areas are finished with dark paneling punctuated with original art by acclaimed Alaskan painters Eustace Ziegler and Sidney Laurence. A striking oil portrait by Dusty Rhodes portrays Alexander Andreyevich Baranof, manager of the Russian-American fur-trading company and first governor of Alaska under the czars. A model of the Holland America Line cruise ship *Noordam* attracts attention, but the real thing can be seen

just a short stroll away where a shopping and dining strip attracts locals and cruise passengers alike.

The marble-floored lobby, with generously sized lounging chairs and sofas, leads to the Bubble Room lounge and bar (4 pm-midnight) and the Gold Room Restaurant (5-9 pm), where exotic game and fresh seafood from Alaska's chilly waters are specialties. A beauty salon is on-site, and a meager gym provides workout equipment and free weights. Seven meeting rooms of varying sizes accommodate 300 people, and free wireless high-speed Internet access is available throughout the building. Parking is free but limited, and the hotel provides no airport shuttle service.

The comfortable guest rooms are on the small side, especially on the lower floors. Lumpy beds come in combinations of twin, double, queen and king. Consistent with the hotel's historic styling, much of the furniture runs to dark woods, complemented by patterned and quilted spreads and good lighting. Furnishings are far from new, and scuffs and dings are all too apparent. At least, new flat-screen cable TVs have been added to the rooms. At inspection, the front desk responded, "kind of" when queried about renovations. They include new carpeting and some paint patchwork, but no new furniture. Cheap artwork and thin synthetic fabrics are in most, and some of the baths



are tiled and feature curved shower rods. They have limited vanity space, however. Amenities include coffeemakers, phones with data ports offering free local calls, and irons and ironing boards, but not hair dryers. Missing is air conditioning, but it is rarely missed. Light-colored walls hold paintings of Alaska scenes and photographs by Ansel Adams. Some rooms have kitchenettes, and 40 are reserved for nonsmokers. Most desirable are upper-floor locations facing North Franklin Street. They boast waterfront views and the forested mountains of nearby Douglas Island.



Light sleepers are stuck with poor soundproofing no matter what their room number. Thankfully, pets are not permitted. Business and vacation travelers stop here, and legislators and lobbyists are long-staying guests. Visitors seeking a nostalgic experience (albeit with modern extras such as high-speed Internet access) will like this place, but exacting

standards are not exactly the cup of tea of housekeeping and management. Those who prefer a contemporary atmosphere should travel the few blocks to the Goldbelt Hotel Juneau for a slightly better-kept and affordably priced experience.

Latest Revision: October 2013

Basic Information

Year Renovated: 2007
Number of Floors: 9
Number of Rooms: 196
Chain: Westmark Hotels

Rates & Policies

Meals: No Meals Included
Deposit Policy: 1st night's deposit or credit card guarantee
Cancellation Policy: 24-hr cancellation notice

Credit Cards Are Accepted
Reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card

Location

In Juneau. Near the state capitol, conv ctr, shopping & major tour attractions.

Nearest Airports:
Juneau Intl- 9 mi, 15 min drive

Restaurants On-Site

Dining: 2 restaurants and 1 bar
On Site

Gold Room Restaurant (Gourmet dining)
The Bubble Room
Capital Cafe

Room Amenities

Recreation

(Amenities are in all rooms unless noted otherwise)

Coffeemaker
Daily Maid Service
Iron/Ironing Board
Kitchen/Kitchenette (some)
Microwave Oven (some)
Free Newspaper
Rooms for Non-smokers
Telephone
Refrigerator (some)
Cable/Satellite Television
Television

NEARBY
Beach
Bicycling
Boating/Sailing
Fishing
Golf Course
Health Spa/Massage
Horseback Riding
Jogging Trails
Pool (Indoor Pool)
Shopping Mall/Area
Snow Skiing
Tennis (Indoor Tennis, Outdoor Tennis)

ON-SITE
Health Club

Hotel Facilities

GENERAL SERVICES

ATM/Bank
Barber/Hair Stylist
Currency Exchange
Gift Shop
Laundry/Dry Cleaning Service
Free Onsite Parking
Wheelchair Access to
Common/Public Areas

BUSINESS SERVICES

Pets Allowed
Additional Fee for Pets

PET AMENITIES

Pets Allowed
Additional Fee for Pets

SECURITY

Electronic Key/Lock
Parking Area Well Lit
Smoke Alarm in Rooms
Sprinkler in Rooms

Meetings Facilities

7 Meeting Rooms holding 300 people.
5,082 sq ft of Meeting Space
5,082 sq ft of Exhibit Space

Treadwell

Location: Floor 1, Portable walls Available, Flooring: carpet
Capacity: Theater- 220, Classroom- 112, U-Shape- 40, Reception- 300, Banquet- 160

Gastineau

Location: Floor 9, Flooring: carpet
Capacity: Theater- 70, Classroom- 40, U-Shape- 28, Reception- 80, Banquet- 40

A-J

Location: Floor 1, Portable walls Available, Flooring: carpet
Capacity: Theater- 50, Classroom- 24, U-Shape- 28, Reception- 70, Banquet- 30

Douglas Room

Location: Floor 1, Flooring: carpet
Capacity: Theater- 70, Classroom- 40, Reception- 80, Banquet- 40

Monday, May 18, 2015

EXTENDED HELICOPTER AND DOG SLED TOUR

Monday, May 18, 2015

Air Touring and More

Imagine standing on the runners of a dogsled in the middle of a snowfield!

Please visit ShoreTrips.com for more information.

This is really something special. We happened to be in Alaska during the Iditarod Dog Sled Race and it seems to affect every corner of the state, although it takes place in the north. The company that is providing the dogs and sleds for your tour has participated in this race. This experience, along with your helicopter flight to the snowfield, will be a day you'll never forget!

This tour includes:

- Round trip transportation from the cruise ship pier
- 15-20 minute helicopter flight to Herbert Glacier
- 1 1/2 to 2-mile dogsled ride
- Iditarod tales from experienced mushers
- Second helicopter glacier landing and walkabout tour
- Once-in-a-lifetime photos and memories

This tour runs from May 11 until August 29th, weather permitting.

Glacier-carved mountains unfold in front of your eyes as you embark on your helicopter flight to the camp. The flight is about 15 to 20 minutes each way, depending on winds and weather. You will see that each glacier has its own personality.

As you land on the 20-30 feet of snow on Herbert Glacier, you will hear the 80 huskies barking their greeting, as they are as anxious to get moving as you are. You will have some time to chat with the mushers and hear unique personal accounts of the Iditarod backcountry experiences. You will be given instructions on stopping and using the brakes, if you want to drive the sled.

You will set out on a 1 1/2 to 2-mile loop and will be able to stop for photos, as well as to change places with your companion, if you wish. Your total time on the snow is one hour that you will never forget!

Instead of an immediate return to Juneau, you will helicopter to the lower level of the glacier for a 15-minute walkabout tour. This combination of dogsled and glacier walk give you the best of both worlds in Juneau!

The actual excursion length is approximately 1.5 hours from liftoff at the airport to return. The total trip length, including transfer time to and from the cruise ship pier, is approximately 3 hours.

This dogsled camp houses about 40 husky dogs, along with puppies and crew. These dogs enjoy nothing more than doing what they have been bred for--running and racing. Operation of tour is dependent on the weather and snow conditions. Snow conditions at the dog sled camp, particularly in the last half of August, can be unpredictable. If this trip is not able to operate, the helicopter company will make every effort to accommodate you on an alternate excursion.

Special Instructions

- Dress warmly and in layers. Often the temperature on the glacier is colder than you expect.
- You will be outfitted with a glacier over-boot prior to embarking on your trip.
- Bring sunglasses.



- NO MINIMUM FITNESS LEVEL REQUIRED.

Meeting Instructions

Specific pick up or taxi instructions will appear on your voucher after you purchase your trip.

Restrictions

When choosing a trip departure time, you must allow a minimum of 1 hour between the time your ship docks and the time you are picked up at the pier. Total actual tour time is about 1 hour 50 minutes.

- Each person must pay for a space. We do not allow any lap children, as they must be in a car seat (which we can provide if we know ahead of time).

- Heart patients, please beware this flight reaches heights of up to 5000'.

- No bags or backpacks of any sort are allowed on the helicopter. Everything you bring must fit in your pockets. Cameras or binoculars must fit into pockets or worn around your neck.

- You will be required to furnish the weight of each passenger. Be prepared to weigh in for this tour. **To ensure your safety and comfort, passengers weighing 280 pounds or more (including clothing, footwear, and cameras, which may add an additional 10-15 pounds) will be reserved extra space on-board the helicopter and will be required to pay an additional amount as reflected in our pricing chart. It is important to be accurate with the weights, as there may not be additional space available at the weigh-in should you go over 280 pounds.**

- **There is a maximum of 6 passengers per hour for this trip. If you have more than 6 people in your group, please contact ShoreTrips.**

- **This tour runs from May 11 until August 29th, weather permitting.** Operation of all tours is dependent on weather and snow conditions. If the dogsled tour is not able to operate because of snow conditions, the helicopter company will make every effort to accommodate you on an alternate excursion.

Prices

Per Person 280+ lbs: \$747.00 (Persons weighing 280 pounds or more.)

Per Person: \$610.00

Departures (local time)

Start Time: 09:15 AM | **Duration:** 3.5 hours

Start Time: 10:15 AM | **Duration:** 3.5 hours

Start Time: 11:15 AM | **Duration:** 3.5 hours

Start Time: 01:15 PM | **Duration:** 3.5 hours

Start Time: 02:15 PM | **Duration:** 3.5 hours

Start Time: 03:15 PM | **Duration:** 3.5 hours

Start Time: 08:15 AM | **Duration:** 3.5 hours

Start Time: 04:15 PM | **Duration:** 3.5 hours

Start Time: 05:15 PM | **Duration:** 3.5 hours

Start Time: 12:15 PM | **Duration:** 3.5 hours

Days of Operations

Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Skagway, Alaska

Tuesday, May 19, 2015 - Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Overview

Introduction

Located at the northern end of the Inside Passage, Skagway, Alaska, emerged in the late 1890s as a makeshift gold-rush town of tents and shacks with a population of 8,000-10,000 adventurers who arrived by boat with supplies for the hellish trek overland to the Yukon gold fields. Of course, the town had its temptations, too: painted ladies, gambling houses and 80 saloons. A famous person from that time is Jefferson R. "Soapy" Smith, a con artist who ran Skagway and swindled new arrivals out of their savings. (He was killed in a shoot-out in 1898.)

Today, Skagway's rushers arrive on cruise ships. Besides Juneau, Skagway is the most popular port in southeast Alaska. The town has become something of a gold-rush theme park: Much of Skagway has been painstakingly restored and designated as the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park. Locals dress in 1890s costumes and give tours in vintage autos. Dance-hall girls kick up their legs in restored saloons, and Soapy Smith is immortalized in the play *Days of '98*.

Although some may find Skagway overly cute and contrived (not to mention crowded when cruise ships are docked), the town can be a fun place to visit and relive the past with the friendly residents.



Skagway Harbor

Highlights

Sights—The Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park with many of Skagway's gold-rush era buildings, exhibits and a free movie; vistas from the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad; turnouts on the Klondike Highway.

Museums—Gold-rush artifacts in Skagway City Museum; exhibits in the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad train depot; family possessions at the Moore Cabin; the Mascot, a restored 1910 saloon, for a look at Skagway's Klondike history.

Memorable Meals—Sweet Tooth Cafe or Glacial Smoothies for breakfast or lunch; the Skagway Fish Co. on the waterfront for fresh Alaska halibut and salmon; Starfire for spicy Thai cuisine; Olivia's Restaurant in the historic Skagway Inn for chicken pot pie, beer-sauteed carrots and baby greens from the garden; Kone Kompany for ice cream.

Late Night—The Red Onion Saloon features a brothel museum, varied music and plenty of food; the Skagway Brewing Co. offers local microbrews and food; Eagles Hall has *Days of '98*, the state's longest-running play.

Walks—The Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park's free narrated walking tour of downtown; Lower Dewey Lake and the Chilkoot trails.

Especially for Kids—Earning a Junior Trail Ranger badge at the National Park Service visitors center at Second and Broadway; the Skagway Convention and Visitors Bureau's "Kids Itinerary," which involves walking, exploring, rides and ice cream.

Potpourri

The Canadian government required gold-seekers to carry huge amounts of supplies, including 400 lb/141 kg of flour, 200 lb/90 kg of bacon and 100 lb/45 kg of beans.

In the late 1800s, Skagway was the largest city in Alaska because of the number of gold prospectors who passed through town. Now it is one of the least populated, with fewer than 1,000 residents.

Of the 100,000 gold-seekers who started the Chilkoot Trail, only 30,000 arrived at Dawson City.

The Golden Circle consists of Skagway, Haines, Whitehorse, Haines Junction and Juneau, the capital cities of the Klondike Gold Rush.

In mid-December, Skagway receives about 12 minutes of sunlight each day. In the summer, it receives about two hours of darkness per day.

The White Pass & Yukon Railroad is an International Historic Civil Engineering Landmark (along with the Eiffel Tower, Statue of Liberty and the Panama Canal).

Thirty-five men died building the White Pass & Yukon Railroad.

Soapy Smith and his crew used to feed the hungry and then rob them in their sleep.

In 1916, Skagway was coined the "Garden City of Alaska" because more than half of the residents had gardens.

Skagway was the first city incorporated in Alaska, on 28 June 1900.

Skagway comes from a Tlingit word that has many interpretations, including *windy place with white caps on the water, home of the north wind, or end of saltwater.*

See & Do

Sightseeing

There is much to see in and around Skagway. For the visitor who is short on time, we recommend one of the many organized tours available. A sightseeing opportunity that shouldn't be missed is a ride on the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad.

Historic Sites

From the harbor northeast along Broadway (the town's main street) are seven blocks of restored saloons and storefronts that are part of the Historic Park, much of which is owned by the National Park Service. Among the more interesting sights on Broadway are Soapy Smith's Parlor (where the "boss" of Skagway held court until he was shot), the Mascot Saloon (with exhibits on saloon life), the Golden North Hotel (now shops full of gold-rush-era furnishings and, reportedly, a friendly female ghost) and Eagles Hall (the state's longest-running play, *Days of '98*, is still performed there).

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park

This historical park's visitors center makes an excellent introduction to Skagway. To get a stirring account of gold-rush fever, take time to watch the center's excellent 25-minute movie, *Gold Fever: Race to the Klondike*, about Skagway's Klondike history. It's shown every hour except 10 am, when the rangers give a 45-minute talk on various topics. The National Park Service rangers also offer 45-minute walking tours of the town seven times daily.

Visitors center open Monday-Friday 7:30 am-7 pm, Saturday and Sunday 8 am-6 pm early May-late September. Museum (downstairs) open daily 8 am-6 pm May-September, daily 8 am-5 pm October-April.

Second and Broadway (in the restored White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad depot)
Skagway, AK

Phone: 907-983-9200

<http://www.nps.gov/klgo>

White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad

The most spectacular scenery in the area is from the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad, a narrow-gauge line built in 1898 that takes you on a scenic ride along the historic Klondike Trail. Ride in old-fashioned, wheelchair-accessible parlor cars as you climb to the 3,000-ft-/930-m-high summit of White Pass. Most visitors opt for the three- to four-hour summit loop that includes stunning views of Bridal Veil Falls in a 20-mi/32-km stretch past Dead Horse Gulch and Inspiration Point.

Tickets are sold at the depot. US\$122 adults, US\$61 for children ages 3-12.

231 Second Ave.
Skagway, AK

Phone: 907-983-4444. Toll-free 800-343-7373

<http://www.wpyr.com>

Museums

Mascot Saloon Exhibit

This restored 1910 saloon, filled with displays and exhibits from the early 1900s, shows visitors the seedy side of Skagway, when the town's high density of brothels, bars and gambling dens fostered notoriety as one of the hardest-drinking towns west of the Mississippi.

Open daily 8 am-6 pm May-September. Free.

Broadway and Third Avenue
Skagway, AK

Skagway Museum

This museum is located in the 1899 stone McCabe Building (also the city hall). The descendants of Skagway's first settlers meticulously preserved artifacts, photos and records of the town's history, and those items form the nucleus of the museum. Also on display are artifacts of the Native American tribes of southeast Alaska, as well as some Inupiat and Yup'ik Eskimo materials.

Open Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm, Saturday 10 am-5 pm, Sunday noon-4 pm May-September. Call for an appointment in winter. US\$2 adults, \$1 children.

Seventh Avenue and Spring Street
Skagway, AK

Phone: 907-983-2420

<http://www.skagwaymuseum.org>

Nature

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

This place can only be reached by boat or plane May-September, but it is well worth a visit to see snow-covered mountain ranges rising more than 15,000 ft/4,650 m, coastal beaches, tidewater glaciers and deep fjords. Several companies offer flightseeing tours, another excellent way to see the park. Park headquarters are at Bartlett Cove in Gustavus, and the park's visitors center is located in Glacier Bay Lodge.

Skagway, AK

Phone: 907-697-2230

<http://www.nps.gov/glba>

Nightlife

Skagway is certainly a small town, and nightlife options are therefore limited. The most popular option is a rowdy night at The Red Onion Saloon.

Bars, Taverns & Pubs

Red Onion Saloon

Claiming to have been Skagway's most exclusive brothel, the Red Onion Saloon is a renovated dance hall and bordello built in 1898, now on the National Historic Register. It was moved to its present location in 1914 (the movers accidentally installed it backward). Now it's a thoroughly respectable establishment, though it can still get pretty wild at night. It serves sandwiches, pizza, chili, stew and nachos and is smoke-free. You can tour the historic brothel; be sure to keep an eye out for Lydia, the resident ghost.

Open April-October daily from 10 am. \$-\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

205 Broadway (at Second Avenue)
Skagway, AK

Phone: 907-983-2222

<http://www.redonion1898.com>

Skagway Brewing Co.

Dating from 1897 and starting again in 2007, the Skagway Brewing Co. is a local hot spot with handcrafted microbrew beers and pub grub, including crab cakes, hot wings and Philly steaks. It offers a beer garden, brewers lounge and a private rooms for events.

Open year-round.

Seventh Avenue and Broadway
Skagway, AK

Phone: 907-983-2739

<http://www.skagwaybrewing.com>

Shopping

Gold nuggets, jewelry, fur hats, train whistles, train T-shirts—Skagway's shops, both on and just off Broadway, are packed with such items. Many Skagway shops don't have set hours but vary according to cruise-ship schedules. Quite a few are open mid-May to mid-September and closed in winter.

Markets

You Say Tomato

A good but pricey natural-foods store with freshly baked bread and provisions for hikers. North Eden Cafe, located inside the store, offers wraps and range-raised buffalo burritos seasonally.

Open Monday-Friday 10:30 am-7:30 pm, Saturday and Sunday noon-6:30 pm in summer; Tuesday-Saturday noon-6:30 pm in winter.

State at 21st Avenue
Skagway, AK

Phone: 907-983-2784

<http://yousaytomatoskagway.blogspot.com>

Dining

Dining Overview

Many of Skagway's restaurants are open only in the summer—they're definitely geared to tourists. Prices are high, and waits can be long if several ships are in port at the same time.

Expect to pay within these general guidelines for a dinner for one, not including drinks, tax or tip: \$ = less than US\$10; \$\$ = US\$10-\$25; \$\$\$ = US\$26-\$40; and \$\$\$\$ = more than US\$40.

Local & Regional

Sweet Tooth Cafe

We like this restaurant for its fresh halibut burgers, sandwiches with freshly baked breads, and homemade soups.

Open year-round for breakfast and lunch, closes 2 pm. \$-\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

315 Broadway
Skagway, AK

Seafood

Olivia's Restaurant

Located in the historic Skagway Inn, this restaurant features creatively prepared fresh Alaskan seafood and tapas, including chicken pot pie, halibut chowder, and fresh-from-the-garden rhubarb crisp. Cooking courses also available.

\$-\$\$.

Seventh and Broadway
Skagway, AK

Phone: 907-983-2289. Toll-free 888-752-4929

<http://www.skagwayinn.com/olivias.php>

Skagway Fish Co.

This is a true Alaskan seafood restaurant with checkered tablecloths and rock 'n' roll music. It is noted for its great halibut-and-chips.

Open for lunch and dinner mid-May to October. \$-\$\$\$.

201 Congress Way (on the waterfront overlooking the Small Boat Harbor)
Skagway, AK

Facts

Dos & Don'ts

Don't forget to obtain the necessary permits and pay reservation fees if you plan to hike the Chilkoot Trail.

Do cross the Yukon Suspension Bridge over the white waters of the Tutshi River. It is located about 30 mi/48 km from Skagway.

Do ride the legendary White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad, known as the "toughest 110 miles of track in the world."

Do look for mink, great blue herons, kingfishers, seals, otters and whales.

Do visit the Gold Rush Cemetery and find Soapy Smith's tombstone.

Don't use an umbrella if you want to blend in with the locals. Because of the afternoon breezes, it will probably blow away anyway.

Weather

Skagway's maritime climate features cool summers and mild winters. Average summer temperatures range from 45-67 F/7-19 C and winter temperatures average 18-37 F/-8 to 3 C.

Skagway gets less rain than most southeast Alaskan communities, with an average annual precipitation of only 26.5 in/67 cm. Annual snowfall is also light: 49.1 in/125 cm.

This "home of the north wind" has winds from the south in summer and from the north in winter at a mean wind speed of 15-22 mph/24-35 kph. Most people visit in summer; others prefer the quieter seasons of early May or mid-September when golden leaves transform the gold-rush town.

CHILKOOT HORSEBACK RIDE

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Active Tours

Escape the hustle and bustle of port and come discover Alaska just as the pioneers did!

Please visit ShoreTrips.com for more information.

If you're looking to experience the mesmerizing landscape of Skagway up-close-and-personal, there is no better way to do so than on

horseback. Your knowledgeable guides will entertain and inform you and the Alaskan wilderness will inspire you!

This tour includes:

- Round trip transfers
- Expert guides
- A tour through Skagway and a ride along the coastline
- A horseback ride through the Klondike National Park

Your tour begins with a historic tour of Skagway and its majestic coastline. Upon arrival at a ranch in Dyea, you'll receive a safety briefing from your expert guides and then you'll be ready to hop on your very own horse, with help from your guides, of course!

You'll ride along the famous Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park for 1 hour and 45 minutes. Your knowledgeable guides will first take you through the rain forest, while they share entertaining stories about the crazed gold rush that struck this region many years ago. You'll see remnants of what was once a booming gold rush town of 10,000. You'll then emerge from the rain forest and ride to the Dyea tidal flats, where you'll be surrounded by mountains, streams, Alaskan wildflowers, and the Lynn Canal. A favorite spot among locals for wildlife viewing, the natural beauty of this Alaskan landscape is breathtaking.

Upon completion of the horseback riding portion of your tour, you'll be able to relax around a firepit with your guides. You'll then enjoy a scenic ride back into town.

Special Instructions

- Wear clothing suitable for the outdoors.

Meeting Instructions

Specific pick up or taxi instructions will appear on your voucher after you purchase your trip.

Restrictions

- Participants must be at least 4'10" and weigh less than 250 lbs.
- Any personal physical restrictions must be announced, for safety purposes, upon confirmation of payment received.
- NOT ADVISABLE FOR PREGNANT WOMEN OR THOSE WITH NECK OR BACK PROBLEMS.

Prices

Per Person: \$188.00

Departures (local time)

Start Time: 01:00 PM | **Duration:** 3.5 hours

Start Time: 03:30 PM | **Duration:** 3.5 hours

Start Time: 08:00 AM | **Duration:** 3.5 hours

Days of Operations

Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun



Wednesday, May 20, 2015

PHOTOGRAPH ALASKA WITH A PRO

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Photography

Turn your photos from incidental to excellent!

Please visit ShoreTrips.com for more information.

We have forgotten what it is like to take a great photo. So if you carry a real camera and want to return with photos that really show the beauty of this state, accompany our friend, a professional photographer, whose tips will be with you for your future vacations as well.

This tour includes:

- Round trip transportation from the cruise ship pier
- Local and professional photography guide
- Access to the best photo stops in Skagway
- No more than 6 passengers in your group!

The beauty of Alaska is breathtaking but the question is always how to translate what your eye sees to a photo. On this tour you will have a rare opportunity to focus on photographing the stunning scenery of Skagway and the surrounding area. Your local professional photography guide will take you in a small group no larger than 6 people and often less. That way you will really leave his company with tips and lessons to better your photos forever.

As a local, your guide knows the terrain and he will take you to his favorite locations with ample time to set up the best shots. Depending on conditions you may be shooting the dramatic scenery of the White Pass summit, which is a wonderland of azure lakes and stunted forests. Along this mother nature carved valley are glaciers, thundering waterfalls, majestic mountain vistas and pristine wilderness.

Or you may travel along the scenic coastline towards the ghost town of Dyea, which lies inside the Klondike Goldrush Historical Park. There remains of a number of gold building foundations surrounded by scraps of lumber and metal, 3 cemeteries, lots of nature particularly in spawning season and again, the most beautiful vistas and valleys.

The emphasis on this tour will be learning and experiencing the time for excellent photography rather than having your pictures be 'incidental'. Your guide will be open and helpful in suggesting shots and learning all that your camera can do for you. Issues such as composition, exposure, and depth of field are invaluable when shooting scenery as vast as Alaska's.

The theme - flexibility instead of adhering to a rigid schedule!



We met in 2004 and have worked together ever since! We love him...

Special Instructions

- This tour requires a minimum of 2 passengers and will take a maximum of 6.
- No specialized equipment is necessary. Your tour guide will be able to make suggestions to travelers of any experience level.

Meeting Instructions

Specific pick up or taxi instructions will appear on your voucher after you purchase your trip.

Restrictions

- Your main visiting point for this excursion will be the White Pass Summit. Dyea will serve as the back-up if weather conditions are poor throughout the White Pass. There is not enough time to visit both locations.
- **Since this excursion enters Canada, all citizens MUST carry a valid passport. The only exception to this requirement is for U.S. citizens under the age of 16 (or under 19, if traveling with a school, religious, or other youth group) who need only present a birth certificate. If you plan to travel to Canada with a minor who is not your own child or for whom you do not have full legal custody, you may be required to present a notarized affidavit of consent from the minor's parents. It should include dates of travel, parents' names, and photocopies of their state-issued IDs.**

Prices

Per Person: \$115.00 (Based on a minimum of 2 passengers)

Departures (local time)

Start Time: 02:15 PM | **Duration:** 2.5 hours

Start Time: 05:15 PM | **Duration:** 2.5 hours

Days of Operations

Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Ketchikan, Alaska

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Overview

Introduction

Ketchikan, Alaska, is the site of an ancient Tlingit fish camp and was a supply town during the gold rush. Ketchikan is about 3 mi/5 km long but only a couple of blocks deep. Located on the southwest shore of Revillagigedo Island, it's the first port of call into Alaska, hence its nickname, The First City.

Ketchikan is considered an Alaska Native cultural center for the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian tribes, as well as a sportfishing mecca. The town generally gets more than 150 in/388 cm of rain annually, but don't let the liquid sunshine (as residents prefer to call it) keep you inside—Ketchikan is worth exploring in any kind of weather.



Ketchikan Totem Pole

Highlights

Sights—Saxman Native Village; Totem Bight State Historical Park for restored totems; a tour of George Inlet Cannery.

Museums—Exhibits on Ketchikan's history and collectibles and art at Tongass Historical Museum; Totem Heritage Center for its collection of 19th-century totem poles; natural exhibits at Southeast Alaska Discovery Center.

Memorable Meals—Annabelle's Restaurant for the seafood chowder in a sourdough loaf; any salmon or halibut entree at Heen Kahidi; the seafood or steaks at Salmon Falls Resort.

Late Night—First City Saloon for billiards and 20 beers on tap; the First City Grill for the original halibut taco; live entertainment and chowder at the Fish Pirates Saloon.

Walks—A stroll through the Saxman Native Village; a hike on the Deer Mountain Trail; the boat harbor and Tongass Narrows; the Historic Ketchikan walking tour in downtown and the West End.

Especially for Kids—The Great Alaskan Lumberjack Show; kayaking up Ketchikan Creek or fishing off Stedman Street Bridge; the Bear Creek zipline by Alaska Canopy Adventures.

Geography

Ketchikan is only accessible by air or water. It is located on Revillagigedo Island, in the heart of the 17-million-acre/6.9-million-hectare

Tongass National Forest. The city sits at the base of Deer Mountain and its downtown in on the Tongass Narrows waterway. Behm Canal encircles most of the island.

Tongass Avenue is the main north-south highway, but its name changes as it progresses through town—it is Stedman Street at the base of Ketchikan Creek, Mill Street as it heads toward the docks, Front Street along the downtown docks, then Water Street north of Front Street.

A number of streets are really stairs or short passages. A few blocks from the dock is the once-rowdy Creek Street, now a tame boardwalk. It is really a walkway on pilings along Ketchikan Creek, featuring quaint shops that were once bordellos.

History

For generations, the proud and resourceful Tlingit and Haida tribes spent the summer months near where Ketchikan now stands. They caught salmon in the rivers and creeks, and hunted bear and deer. There is almost no evidence of the Tlingit and Haida being whalers.

Spanish and Russian explorers arrived in the 17th and 18th centuries; the first Russians arrived in 1741 searching for new travel routes, fur and opportunities for settlements and political expansion. Their arrival gave rise to clashes.

The U.S. purchased the Alaska territory from Russia in 1867, after Canada passed on the opportunity. Entrepreneurs Mike Martin and George Clark opened a salmon saltery in Ketchikan in 1886 along with a trading post and the city's first post office.

The gold rush of 1898 brought thousands of newcomers to the territory. Ketchikan became a major port of entry, supplying goods and passage to the Yukon. After the gold rush, commercial canning companies sprang up along the coast as the demand for salmon grew. Logging also became a major industry during World War II.

Today, Ketchikan relies on tourism as travelers flock to the area for its untamed beauty.

Potpourri

The town's main highway, Tongass Avenue, is 32 mi/50 km long, but it has only four traffic lights.

At one time, Ketchikan had 13 canneries, earning it the nickname "Salmon Capital of the World."

Visitors can still follow the Married Man's Trail from the old red-light district back to town.

Ketchikan is at 55 degrees latitude, the same as Malmo, Sweden; the southern portion of Canada's Hudson Bay; and Moscow.

Ketchikan, Alaska's rain capital, boasts an average annual rainfall of 155 in/394 cm, which locals refer to as "liquid sunshine."

Ketchikan has the world's largest number of standing totem poles at Saxman Village, Totem Bight and the Totem Heritage Center.

Ketchikan comes from the Tlingit word *Kitsch-kan*, which can be translated as "spread wings of a prostrate eagle" or "Kitsch's home." There is no record of any area chief being named Kitsch.

Mike Martin and George Clark originally purchased the town site next to the creek from an Alaska Native named Paper Nose Charlie, according to the original deeds. But Paper Nose Charlie was not a member of the local Tlingit tribe, so it's not clear how he had the authority to sell the town site in the first place.

See & Do

Sightseeing

Stop by the visitors center on the dock to pick up the Historic Ketchikan walking-tour map and guide to area attractions. The 2-mi/3-km tour is an excellent way to see many of Ketchikan's sights. Even if you stray from the map, don't worry: The town isn't big enough to get lost in. The city has also put up signage to make it even easier for visitors to find sites of interest and then return to the docks.

The walking tour will take you past the turreted, Victorian-style Burkhardt House; the 1954 tunnel on Front Street, which claims to be the only tunnel that you can go over, around and through; and E.C. Phillips & Sons, one of the few remaining cold-storage and fish-processing plants in the city.

You might also want to drop by the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center, one block inland from the cruise docks. It provides interpretive exhibits about the rain forest, wildlife and Alaska Native cultures, a film about the Tongass National Forest, and information on public lands, area hiking, kayaking and local ecosystems.

Along with the prosperity brought by salmon and mining came a red-light district built on the pilings above Ketchikan Creek. The community had as many as 30 bordellos before prostitution became illegal in 1953. Most of the women moved on; one who didn't was Dolly Arthur, whose bordello is now a museum, Dolly's House.

Strolling along the rest of Creek Street and checking out the various shops can be great fun. There are also a few cafes where you can eat outside if the weather is nice. Or just hang over the railings and watch the fish and kayakers go by. While you're on Creek Street, catch the tram up to Cape Fox Lodge. From there you'll be treated to one of the best views of Ketchikan.

Historic Sites

George Inlet Cannery

Built in 1913 as the Libby, McNeill & Libby Cannery, it employed workers from China and the Philippines. Closed in 1958, it reopened in 1996 as a historic landmark, with guided tours of the early cannery operations and equipment available to cruise-ship passengers only. Tours are available through local operators, likely along with a stop at Saxman Village and other city attractions.

Open May-September.

13194 S. Tongass Highway (12 mi/19 km south of downtown)
Ketchikan, AK

Saxman Native Village

This village, named after a Presbyterian teacher who was lost at sea, has a collection of 24 totems planted in the ground. In addition to the poles, there's a cedar replica of the Beaver Clan House and a carving shed. The Clan House hosts open-mike nights during the off-season.

Open Monday-Friday. Free admission. Tours, demonstrations and performances have fees.

2706 S. Tongass Highway (2.3 mi/3.7 km south of town)
Ketchikan, AK

Totem Poles

Ketchikan has one of the world's largest collections of totem poles. Cedar totem poles are symbolic storytellers, characterized by creatures such as eagles, killer whales, beavers, bears and wolves. They are carved for a variety of reasons—from celebrations to mortuary poles that hold ashes of the deceased. During the early 1900s, as Alaska Natives moved closer to towns where employment could be found, whole villages were abandoned, and the totems were left. In 1938, the U.S. Forest Service began a rescue program to preserve and repair many of these monuments.

Each pole has a name, such as Thunderbird and Whale, Man Wearing Bear Hat, Sea Monster Pole and Halibut Pole. Two parks outside of town feature large collections of totem poles: Saxman Native Village, about 2.5 mi/4 km south of town; and Totem Bight State Park, about 10 mi/17 km north of town. Many of the totem poles around Ketchikan are replicas; older poles require regular maintenance and repair.

Museums

Dolly's House Museum

This popular bordello from 1903-53 was owned by Creek Street's famous madame, Dolly Arthur. The distinctive sea-green house with red trim can't be missed. Costumed ladies stand at the front door and the second-floor window beckoning visitors in for a tour.

May-September daily. US\$10.

24 Creek St.
Ketchikan, AK

Phone: 907-225-6329

<http://www.margaretdeefholts.com/dollyarthur.html>

Southeast Alaska Discovery Center

Explore the exhibits on Native culture, the rain forest, natural resources and ecosystems. The museum is also an information center for camping facilities, outdoor activities and public lands. It stocks comprehensive guides on bird-watching and maps for biking and hiking. Gift shop, theater and bookstore on-site.

Open May-September Monday-Friday 8 am-5 pm, Saturday and Sunday 8 am-4 pm; October-April Thursday-Sunday 10 am-4 pm. US\$5, free for children age 15 and younger.

Tongass Historical Museum

Stop by this museum to learn about the town's fishing heritage. Exhibits on Ketchikan history, Native culture and art rotate every three months.

May-September daily 8 am-5 pm; October-April Tuesday-Friday 1-5 pm, Saturday 10 am-4 pm. Admission US\$3.

Totem Heritage Center

This museum collects and preserves totem poles retrieved from abandoned Alaska Native villages. The center contains 33 poles and pole fragments, many of which are more than a century old.

May-September daily 8 am-5 pm (a 15-minute tour is available), October-April Monday-Friday 1-5 pm. US\$5.

Parks & Gardens

Totem Bight State Historical Park

This park has 14 poles, most of which are more than 50 years old. You can also stop by a Tlingit clan house. To reach the site from the North Tongass Highway at Mile 9.9, walk along a short path through the rain forest to a clearing covered with wildflowers. The totems and the scenery are truly spectacular—if you really want to appreciate the view, take along a picnic lunch and spend an hour or more there. Kiosks near poles interpret the carvings.

Free, but donations are accepted. Camping, parking and guided tours require an additional fee.

Other Options

Great Alaskan Lumberjack Show

The show is a rowdy re-creation of logging competitions from Alaska's past. You can watch chopping, sawing, axe-throwing, pole-climbing and log-rolling events from a heated, covered facility.

The hour-long performances take place May-September three to four times a day, depending on the number of ships in port. US\$35 adults, US\$17.50 children ages 3-12, free for children age 2 and younger.

Recreation

50 Main St.
Ketchikan, AK

Phone: 907-228-6220

<http://www.alaskacenters.gov/ketchikan.cfm>

629 Dock St.
Ketchikan, AK

Phone: 907-225-5600 for general information, 907-225-5900 for group tours

<http://www.city.ketchikan.ak.us/departments/museums/tongass.html>

601 Deermount St.
Ketchikan, AK

Phone: 907-225-5900

<http://www.city.ketchikan.ak.us/departments/museums/totem.html>

Ketchikan Ranger Station, 9883 N.
Tongass Highway
Ketchikan, AK

Phone: 907-247-8574

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/totembg.htm>

420 Spruce Mill Way (behind the
Southeast Alaska Discovery Center)
Ketchikan, AK

Phone: 907-225-9050. Toll-free 888-320-9049

<http://www.lumberjacksports.com>

Ketchikan fishing is legendary with all five species of salmon plus halibut, red snapper, cod, shrimp and crab. Freshwater fly-fishing is also popular locally and on Prince of Wales Island.

Salmon lure eagles, bears and other wildlife, so a hike through the Tongass National Forest may provide glimpses of wildlife and more than 250 species of birds.

Kayak the Tongass Narrows around islands or through majestic Misty Fjords National Monument, a northern version of the Grand Canyon.

Fishing

Because of all its canneries, Ketchikan bills itself as the "Salmon Capital of the World." Exploring the waters around the town while casting for fish is an exhilarating experience. Several charter firms offer trips. The visitors center has a complete list of operators. Expect to pay about US\$150 per person for a half-day trip (four-person minimum). Fishing licenses cost extra: US\$20 per day, or US\$35 for three days, for nonresidents, and US\$10 for a king-salmon sticker (if you catch a king but don't have a sticker, you'll have to release it).

Processing of caught fish is done at dockside for an additional charge (by the pound) and is shipped via FedEx to whatever address you provide.

Nightlife

Ketchikan once had more than a dozen bars in its downtown area alone. Most were kept going by the large numbers of fishermen and loggers in town during the summer. But with those industries in decline and tourism growing, economics have driven most of the bars out. There are still a few longtime bars left, such as the Arctic Bar in Newtown, but Ketchikan's days as the nightlife capital of Alaska are gone.

Nightlife in Ketchikan can include anything from pizza at My Office Sports Bar and Godfather's Pizza to dancing at First City Saloon. Nights are long in winter, and many bars are open late.

During the off-season, the Saxman Native Village Clan House hosts open-mike nights. Anyone in the community who wants to perform can do so. Admission is US\$5 and tickets must be purchased in advance from the Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council.

Bars, Taverns & Pubs

First City Saloon and First City Grill

This bar features 20 beers on tap, a dance floor, TV screens, pool tables and live entertainment. The First City Grill serves the original halibut taco. Locals like this place. Wi-Fi is also available.

Nightly till 2 am. No cover.

830 Water St.
Ketchikan, AK

Fish Pirates Saloon

Decorated with fish and cannery memorabilia, this bar serves seafood, including good fish-and-chips, chowders and salads. It also has live entertainment.

Open daily 8 am-9 pm May-September, although the kitchen doesn't serve hot food until 10 am.

76 Front St.
Ketchikan, AK

Shopping

There's a wide variety of shopping in Ketchikan, especially for Alaska-made items. The best shops are along Front Street and on nearby Dock, Mission, Mill, Spruce Mill and Main streets. Creek Street, off Stedman Street in the old red-light district, is home to many quaint stores.

Visitors should keep in mind that some of the Alaskan-themed items for sale are imported from Asian countries. However, Ketchikan does

offer excellent Alaska Native and native-made goods such as carvings, jewelry, pottery and crafts. There are also excellent books written by Alaskans about totem poles, the area's history and native culture, as well as cookbooks.

If you are purchasing local arts or crafts, you should look for a little silver-and-black sticker on the item. The one with a polar bear designates the item was made in Alaska; the one with a hand indicates the item was made by an Alaska Native. Although this is meant to guarantee the item is an Alaskan original, not all Alaskan artists pay to have the stickers on their items. Often, a store proprietor will tell you about the artist of a piece you admire, or the item will have a tag with information about the artist.

Shopping Hours: During cruise-ship season (May-September), most shops are open daily or when cruise ships are in port. The rest of the year, hours are generally Monday-Saturday 9 am-5 pm.

Galleries

Ketchikan has more master carvers than anywhere else in Alaska. You can see artists at work in their shops at the Crazy Wolf Studio (607 Mission St.; phone 907-225-9653) and Ketchikan Carvers at the Creek (28 Creek St.; phone 907-225-3018).

Crazy Wolf Studio

This studio carries items by Tsimshian artist Ken Decker. His specialty is drums, along with paddles, carved argillite figures, totem poles and bentwood boxes. Other local artists are also featured.

607 Mission St.
Ketchikan, AK
Phone: 907-225-9653
<http://www.crazywolfstudio.com>

Dining

Dining Overview

As would be expected, king crab, salmon and halibut are Ketchikan's seafood specialties, and they're always fresh. You can also find home-style chowders, cannery bread, wraps and great cheeseburgers. Most of the popular restaurants are within walking distance of downtown.

Coffee is big in Ketchikan. Kiosks along Tongass Avenue offer drive-through services. Favorite companies include Refiner's Roast (Phone 907-247-6278) and Raven's Brew (<http://www.ravensbrew.com>).

Expect to pay within these general guidelines for a dinner for one, not including drinks, tax or tip: \$ = less than US\$10; \$\$ = US\$10-\$25; \$\$\$ = US\$26-\$40; and \$\$\$\$ = more than US\$40.

Local & Regional

Annabelle's Restaurant

This 1920s-style roadhouse cafe is a favorite with locals. Wall-sized murals of Ketchikan's red-light district decorate the place, along with a 24-ft/8-m mahogany bar. It serves three kinds of hearty seafood chowder as well as fresh king crab and steaks. Try the sourdough pancakes or the steamer (seafood) basket, if it's later in the day. Both are house specialties, as is the home-style cannery bread.

Open for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended for lunch in the summer. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

326 Front St. (in the Gilmore Hotel)
Ketchikan, AK
Phone: 907-225-6009
<http://www.gilmorehotel.com/annabelles.htm>

Pioneer Cafe

This cafe offers down-home cooking and is a local hangout.

Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. \$-\$\$.

617 Mission St.
Ketchikan, AK

Salmon Falls Resort

This sportfishing lodge serves excellent food in a beautiful setting. Views include a waterfall, Clover Passage islands and Behm Canal. Specialties include fresh halibut, salmon, filet mignon and the best cheesecake in town.

Nightly for dinner May to mid-September (last dinner order at 8:30 pm). Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

16707 N. Tongass Highway (18 mi/29 km
north of downtown)
Ketchikan, AK

Phone: 907-225-2752. Toll-free 800-
247-9059

<http://www.salmonfallslodge.com>

Seafood

Heen Kahidi

For fresh seafood and great views of Tongass Narrows, be sure to take a ride on the funicular from Creek Street up to this upscale restaurant.

Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

800 Venetia Way (inside the Cape Fox
Lodge)
Ketchikan, AK

Phone: 907-225-8001. Toll-free 866-
225-8001

http://www.capefoxlodge.com/dining_hkdr.html

Facts

Dos & Don'ts

Don't cross streets except at crosswalks, especially along Tongass Avenue near the docks. Vehicle traffic can be heavy along the main streets.

Do dress in layers and take rain gear. Ketchikan gets a lot of rain.

Do be sensitive to the distinctions between local tribes. Do not refer to the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshians as clans.

Do make noise when hiking trails to give bears a chance to hide, and never feed wild animals.

Do visit galleries and studios to see artists at work. Ketchikan has more master carvers than any other Alaska location.

Don't try to pronounce the full name of the island where Ketchikan is located: Revillagigedo (*ruh-vil-uh-gi-GAY-doh*). Locals shorten the name to Revilla (*ruh-VIL-la*).

Do take off your shoes or boots when entering someone's home, as per standard Alaskan etiquette.

Friday, May 22, 2015: Depart from Ketchikan, AK

7 Night Alaskan Cruise from Ketchikan, AK on the Safari Explorer

Friday, May 22, 2015 - Friday, May 29, 2015

Sailing Departing May 22, 2015 Schedule & Itinerary

Stop #	Location/ Port of Call
	Depart from Ketchikan, AK
1	Kasaan, AK
2	El Capitan, AK
3	Baranof Island, AK
4	Frederick Sound, AK
5	The Brothers, AK
6	Endicott Arm, AK
7	Ford's Terror, AK
	Arrive at Juneau, AK

Un-Cruise Adventures Safari Explorer Ship Details

Cruise Line: Un-Cruise Adventures
Toll-free: 877-901-1009

Web: <http://www.Un-Cruise.com>

Passengers: 36
Tonnage: 97
Crew: 15

Year Built: 1998
Year Refurbished: 2008
Decks: 2
Registry: USA

★ STAR Review



American-registered and -crewed, the Safari Explorer has 18 cabins with a double capacity of 36 passengers and triple capacity of 40. She weighs in at 97 GRT with a length of 150 ft and a 36-ft beam. She travels at 10 knots.

Built in 1998 by Freeport Ship Building, the Safari Explorer underwent a \$3.3 million refurbishment for its May 2008 launch.

The Safari Explorer caters to couples ages 45-65 years, mostly North American. A growing number of passengers from other English-speaking countries (U.K., Australia, South Africa) are coming aboard. Children older than 12 are welcome on the cruises but to accommodate those families with younger children, two options are available: a full ship charter; and the Kids in Nature Cruises, which are geared specifically to families. The Kids in Nature Cruises offer a 25% discount off the published fare, and the young passengers receive a backpack

full of exploration tools.

The Safari Explorer sails along the Alaskan coast and around the Hawaiian Islands. All cruises benefit from the expertise of an onboard expedition leader or naturalist. Many of the crew members have college degrees and/or experience that enhance the guests' understanding of the area visited.

In Alaska, Park Service Rangers board and offer insight into the areas that they protect. Passengers don't just observe nature, but immerse themselves in their surroundings as well. The Safari Explorer comes equipped with kayaks and skiffs enabling more intimate exploration of the region. In addition to water activities, passengers can go hiking and take part in excursions not available to larger groups. The use of the equipment, guides and other shore excursions is included in the fare. For instance, if there are humpback whales in the area, the skiffs are launched and passengers jump in for a close-up view and the chance to listen to their calls via an onboard hydrophone.

In Hawaii one of the highlights allows guests to get an up-close experience with manta rays on a night dive after a presentation by an authority on the rays. The Hawaiian Adventure visits four of the Hawaiian Islands (the Big Island, Maui, Lanai and Molokai) making it a great way to visit and experience most of the Hawaiian Islands.

Casual is the theme of the ship, both in decor and passenger dress. The lower deck of the ship has two staterooms, the dining area, a lounge area, bar and a nice library stocked with books and board games. There are tables out on the back deck, and this is where kayaks and skiffs are launched during the day. The bow of the ship is the gathering point for wildlife viewing—signaled when the engines slow down or shut down. Toward the bow is the massage room. All guests are offered a complimentary massage during the cruise.



The top deck comprises a fitness area with early-morning yoga exercises, exercise equipment, hot tub, sauna, deck chairs and kayak storage at the stern. The two Commodore Suites are located here. These suites feature a separate living area and sliding glass doors to a small balcony. The bridge on this deck is open to guests, who are welcome to chat with the captain and the rest of the crew. This fits with the casual atmosphere of the cruise.

Crew and passengers readily intermingle. The crew takes pride in pleasing guests and little niceties such as a performance welcoming back kayakers and skiffers are not uncommon. Hot chocolate delivered to the kayakers, a warm drink after hiking, and the bartender remembering your favorite beverage are some of the small touches that create an intimate experience. Guests returning to the ship on the Hawaiian cruise can expect to find cocktails and mocktails waiting.

The food onboard is prepared with much care. The preset lunch and dinner menu includes a choice of seafood or meat dishes, using local specialties when possible. The chef warns not to expect restaurant-sized portions, but the serving sizes are more than adequate. The meals on the Hawaiian cruise could easily be classified as gourmet with many of the ingredients locally sourced. Guests with special dietary needs will be accommodated. There is open seating. Cocktail hour brings tasty appetizers to complement drinks and cookies available at tea time.



The middle deck is entirely staterooms, which vary in size from 124 to 275 sq ft. Most have queen beds; one single is in the mix. Mariner cabins have a queen or twin beds. There is storage space at the foot of the bed and under the bed. The baths have heated tile floors, commode and shower. The sink and vanity are in the room itself with a hair dryer in the drawer. The two Captain staterooms have twins that can be combined into a king. A full bath with whirlpool is featured in these cabins. All rooms are equipped with a safe, TV/DVD (a large DVD library is near the bar), toiletries, robes, radio-alarm clock, hair dryers, chair, stool

and desk. The day's schedule and interesting information is posted daily on the in-room TV. Depending on location of the ship, cell phone service and the Internet are sometimes available. The large window and sliding glass doors look out to the sea.

Only on small ships like this can the crew become familiar with guests' preferences for meals, drinks and excursions. Tips are not included; 5%-10% of the cruise fare is suggested. Major credit cards are accepted. Passengers receive a DVD with photos, maps, menus and contact information to remember their trip.

Guests aboard this all-inclusive luxury yacht enjoy adventure, flexibility and attentive service. There are a number of repeat guests, and many guests sign up for another cruise before leaving the ship and receive an early-booking discount. The Safari Explorer adventures are for those who want to experience nature and culture in a luxurious setting without packing all their finery and "putting on the dog." It is a great multigenerational experience. The cruise fare includes pickup and drop-off at the airport with add-on hotel stays and airfare provided at an additional cost.

Latest Revision: May 2014

Profile

Cruise Line: Un-Cruise Adventures
Ship Type: Coastal Ship
Line Class: Specialty
Registration: USA
Year Built: 1998
Year Refurbished: 2008
Deck Quantity: 2
Passenger Capacity: 36

Statistics

Gross Tonnage: 97
Length: 145 ft
Beam: 36 ft
Speed: 10 knots
Outside Cabins: 18
Nationality of Officers: American
Nationality of Crew: American
Number of Crew: 15

Recreation

Indoor Pools: No
Outdoor Pools: No
Is there a Spa? No
Is there a Casino? No

Dining

Dining Room
Cuisine: Regional
Room Capacity: 36

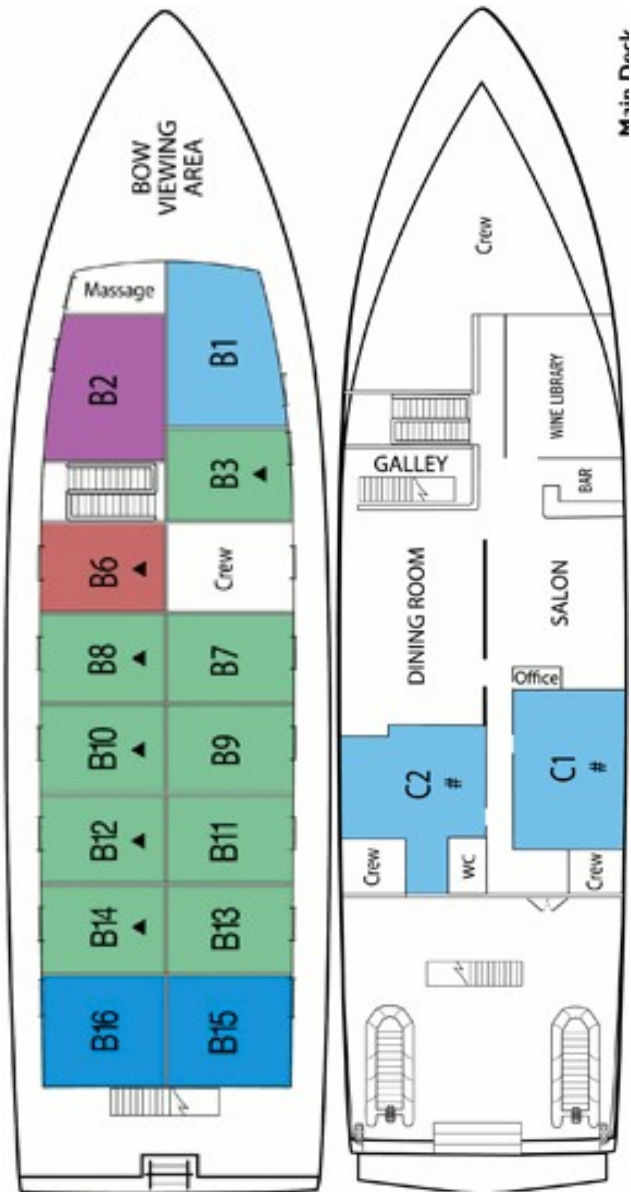
Entertainment

Salon
Wine Library

Safari Explorer Deck Plans

Cabin Deck

Main Deck



★ STAR Cruise Line Overview

Created in 2013, when American Safari Cruises and InnerSea Discoveries merged, Un-Cruise Adventures offers a unique take on small-ship cruising. Cruises are broken down into several styles, including Active Adventures on expedition vessels to Alaska and the Pacific Northwest; Luxury Adventures aboard upscale yachts to Alaska, Mexico and Hawaii; and Heritage Adventures on a historical coastal steamboat to Alaska and the Pacific Northwest.

Fleet

Un-Cruise operates a number of small ships, all of which have a passenger capacity of fewer than 90. The Active Adventure fleet, which previously operated under the InnerSea Discoveries Line, includes three ships that are geared toward the adventurer. The ships in the Luxury Adventure fleet, composed of four luxury yachts, and the Heritage Adventure ship, the S.S. Legacy, were operated by American Safari Cruises before the lines merged.

Itineraries

Un-Cruise Adventures offers 7- to 21-day cruises around Alaska, aboard Active Adventure or Luxury Adventure ships.

Dining and Decor

Meals are usually based around local cuisines and catches, and drinks are included in the price of Luxury Adventure cruises. For decor, the Luxury Adventure ships delight and while the Active Adventure fleet is far from lavish, it is quite comfortable and fulfills the needs of those who probably wouldn't spend much time in their cabin, anyway.

Programs

Outdoor activities are offered aboard all of the ships, and they are perfect for adventurous travelers. Programs are informative and fun, and much more personal than many larger cruise ships offer.

Onboard Experience

On some of the Luxury Adventure cruises, children younger than 13 are not allowed, and most of the passengers are middle-aged or older. However, the Active Adventure cruises welcome a wide age range of passengers.

Saturday, May 23, 2015: Cruise Stop #1- Kasaan, AK

Sunday, May 24, 2015: Cruise Stop #2- El Capitan, AK

Monday, May 25, 2015: Cruise Stop #3- Baranof Island, AK

Sitka, Alaska

Monday, May 25, 2015: Cruise Stop #3- Baranof Island, AK

Overview

Introduction

The setting of Sitka, Alaska, in a tranquil bay on Baranof Island, is nothing short of spectacular. Tiny islands dense with evergreen trees dot the blue-green water, which is crisscrossed by dozens of fishing boats. Looming over the town and waterfront is Mount Edgecumbe, a Mount Fuji look-alike located on a nearby island.

Sitka also has a rich legacy of artifacts and traditions from the Alaska Native, Russian and early-U.S. eras. It is the ancestral home of the Kiksadi Tlingit people. In the 1800s, before Alaska was sold to the U.S., the town was a major Russian port, headquarters of the Russian-American Company, established to promote the fur trade, and the capital of Russian North America.

Sitka has 24 listings on the National Register of Historic Places, seven of which are National Historical Landmarks, and Sitka was named one of America's Dozen Distinctive Destinations by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

But don't spend all your time touring historic buildings—Sitka also has an abundance of wildlife. Humpback whales frolic in the bay; massive brown bears and Sitka black-tailed deer roam through nearby forests of Sitka spruce and hemlock; and thousands of seabirds, including the rare rhinoceros auklet and tufted puffin, flock to St. Lazaria National Wildlife Refuge at the mouth of Sitka Sound.



Sitka Harbor

Highlights

Sights—Get a sense for Sitka's history by touring St. Michael's Cathedral, Castle Hill, Sitka National Historical Park and the Russian Bishop's House.

Museums—The Sheldon Jackson Museum; the Sitka Historical Society and Museum.

Memorable Meals—Alaskan tapas or the Katlian special salmon at Ludvig's Bistro; beautiful views at The Raven Dining Room; fresh seafood and ocean-view dining at The Channel Club.

Late Night—Calamari and drinks at the Kadataan Lounge in the Westmark Sitka Hotel; fraternize with locals, sip a beer and sample a sandwich at the Pioneer Bar.

Walks—Get a copy of *Sitka Trails* and try some easy hikes in the area; climb to the top of Mount Edgecumbe.

Especially for Kids—Search for sea stars and hermit crabs at a beach; see bald eagles at the Alaska Raptor Center; attend a kid's talk at the Sitka National Historical Park; pet orphaned cubs at Fortress of the Bear.

Geography

Sitka is one of southeast Alaska's most picturesque communities. Accessible only by air or sea (like most southeast Alaska communities), Sitka sits on the outer coast of Baranof Island in serene Sitka Sound, a body of water that protects the community from the pounding Pacific Ocean but not from the rain. The average annual precipitation measures 96 in/244 cm, including 39 in/99 cm of snow.

Hundreds of spruce- and hemlock-studded islands dot the sound, and snowcapped volcano Mount Edgecumbe rises majestically 3,200 ft/992 m in the background. (It last erupted 8,000 years ago.) Sitka has only 14 mi/23 km of paved roads.

History

The Russian-American Company's insatiable search for sea-otter fur lured the Russians to the Sitka region in 1799. The Kiksadi Clan of the Tlingit people living in the area refused to become slaves to the fur traders and attacked the Russian outpost in 1802, killing most of the Russians and their Aleut slaves. Two years later, company manager Alexander Baranof retaliated and drove out the Tlingits, founding New Archangel—which became Sitka—and built a stockade on what became known as Castle Hill.

In the 19th century, Sitka was the fur-trading capital of the world. It was the busiest port on the eastern side of the Pacific and the only shipyard north of Hawaii. By 1867, however, overhunting had diminished the sea-otter and fur-seal trade, so the Russians sold Alaska to the U.S. for US\$7.2 million on 18 October. It was the equivalent of US\$0.02 per acre in today's currency value. At the time, the sale was widely derided as wasteful by the majority of U.S. citizens—at least until the late 19th century, when gold was discovered in the area.

After 60 years as the capital of Russian North America, Sitka continued to function as the capital of the territory of Alaska until 1906, when the capital was moved to the gold-rich town of Juneau. Sitka's legacy is its blending of Tlingit, Russian and U.S. culture and history, evident in the landmarks, tours and museums around town.

Port Information

Location

Plan to be on deck when your ship sails into Sitka Sound, particularly if it's a sunny day: The views of the town from the ship are beautiful.

Large cruise ships anchor in the sound, which is protected from the rough seas of the Pacific. Passengers are tendered to the visitors pier near Crescent Harbor or to O'Connell Bridge. Smaller cruise ships are at the visitors docks. It's an easy walk to town and to most of the sites, including the Sitka National Historical Park.

Visitor information can be obtained from the visitors desk at Harrigan Centennial Hall, near Crescent Harbor, one block from O'Connell Bridge, or at the Sitka Convention & Visitors Bureau, 303 Lincoln St. A visitor kiosk at O'Connell Bridge also is available when cruise ships are in town. Open Monday-Friday 8 am-5 pm in summer. Phone 907-747-5940. <http://www.sitka.org>.

Shore Excursions

Explore Sitka's Russian history via bus tour followed by a Russian dance performance, learn about eagles at the Alaska Raptor Center, or bike and hike through the area. Boat tours allow you to watch sea otters and other wildlife, experience a working salmon hatchery, enjoy sportfishing and watch whales.

Tranquil Sitka Sound is the perfect place to learn to maneuver a two-person sea kayak or experience the underwater environment from the comfort of a semisubmersible vessel.

Shore excursions and their prices vary. Check with your travel agent for additional information.

Potpourri

Archaeologists excavated 300,000 artifacts weighing a total of 4,100 lbs/1,845 kg from four buried Russian-American Company buildings in the Castle Hill area of Sitka.

Known as the "Paris of the Pacific" in 1867, Sitka was the busiest port on the west coast of North America in the mid-19th century.

Sitka is the largest city in terms of area in the U.S. at 4,811 sq mi/12,461 sq km, of which 1,937 sq mi/5,017 sq km (or 40%) is water.

The name Sitka is from the Tlingit phrase *Shee At'ika*, which means people on the outside of Shee, the Tlingit name for Baranof Island or for the volcano at Mount Edgecumbe.

During World War II, 30,000 military personnel and 7,000 civilians were entrenched on Japonski Island, currently the location of the airport and Mount Edgecumbe High School.

In July, Sitka averages 18.5 hours of daylight per day. In December and January, the city sees as little as four hours of daylight per day.

The Sitka National Historical Park is the oldest federally designated park. It was established in 1910 to commemorate the Battle of Sitka.

Sitka was featured in the movie *The Proposal*. Although the actors never got farther north than Rockport, Massachusetts, the film crew did insert some great shots of Sitka into the film.

Since 2009, a Spirit of Alaska Statehood design adorns an Alaska Airlines Boeing 737-400 aircraft. Winner of the Paint the Plane competition, 16-year-old Sitka resident Hannah Hamburg envisioned a musher and sled dog, Alaska Native canoe, whale, state ferry and a bear, with the theme: "We're all pulling together."

Hotel Overview

Sitka has hotel rooms in addition to bed-and-breakfasts, lodges, campgrounds, RV parks, a youth hostel and even a lighthouse on a private

island for large groups. Lodge stays often include various tours and gourmet meals.

Reservations are a must May-August. Accommodations tend to fill up six to 12 months ahead of time for summer.

See & Do

Sightseeing

Sightseeing in Sitka provides visitors with a glimpse of Russian, U.S. and Tlingit cultures and conflicts in the area. A must-see is the Sitka National Historical Park.

The major wildlife attractions in the area focus on bears, humpback whales, sea otters, seabirds and birds of prey.

Historic Sites

Start your tour with a stroll around downtown Sitka. A walking-tour map is available at the Harrigan Centennial Hall visitors center or online at <http://www.sitka.org/plan/transportation/walking-map>.

Castle Hill

A state park near Totem Square that was an early stronghold of the Kiksadi Tlingit people and the site of Baranof Castle (1837-98), former home of the first Russian governor. It's also the site where Alaska was officially transferred from Russia to the U.S. in 1867. The sweeping views of the sound make climbing all those steps (100, we think) more than worth it. (There's also a wheelchair ramp that begins at the bridge.)

Lincoln Street
Sitka, AK

Japonski Island

Now home to the University of Alaska Southeast at Sitka, Mount Edgecumbe High School, the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Center, U.S. Coast Guard air and boat station, and Rocky Gutierrez airport, the island was the headquarters for U.S. military forces based in Sitka during World War II. The ruins of bunkers and gunning sites can be visited.

Japonski Island
Sitka, AK

Pioneers Home

This big red-roofed building that has a lovely garden and a gift shop was built in 1934 on the Russian parade grounds.

120 Katlian St.
Sitka, AK

Russian Bishop's House

East of town is the Russian Bishop's House, the town's oldest intact Russian building. Painted mustard yellow, the two-story house is one of the few log buildings still standing and the largest Russian log building in North America—it was built in 1842 as a residence for the bishop of the Russian Orthodox Church. Now a museum, it houses artifacts from the Russian colonial period, including a priest's robe and an antique samovar.

Open daily in summer 9 am-5 pm with ranger-led tours every 30 minutes; call for a reservation in winter. US\$4 for admission and tour of the second floor.

Lincoln Street (at Monastery Street)
Sitka, AK

Phone: 907-747-0135

<http://www.nps.gov/sitk/historyculture/russian-bishops-house.htm>

Russian Block House

A replica of the block house that separated the Russian and Tlingit sections of town starting in the late 1820s, when the Tlingit returned to town after being driven out by the Russians in 1804.

120 Katlian St.
Sitka, AK
<http://www.sitka.org>

Russian Cemetary

Contains the grave of Princess Maksoutoff, the wife of Alaska's last Russian governor.

Observatory Street (north end)
Sitka, AK
<http://www.sitkalutheranchurch.org/cemetery.htm>

Sitka Lutheran Church

This church contains artifacts from the Finnish Lutheran Church (built in 1843), the first Lutheran church on the west coast of North America. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Free, volunteer-led tours are available mid-May to mid-September.

224 Lincoln St.
Sitka, AK
Phone: 907-747-3338
<http://www.sitkalutheranchurch.org>

St. Michael's Cathedral

Located in the heart of downtown, St. Michael's Cathedral is a National Historic Landmark. Its onion dome and cross-topped steeple symbolize Sitka's Russian history. Built 1844-48, the original building burned in 1966; however, it was rebuilt according to the original design. The interior is dark and sparsely furnished (churchgoers stand during the service), but it contains several treasures, including a tabernacle made by Faberge and icons painted by Russian artists.

Open 9 am-4 pm Monday-Saturday, Sunday by appointment unless a service is being held. US\$10 donation requested.

240 Lincoln St.
Sitka, AK

St. Peter's by the Sea Episcopal Church

This church was built in 1899. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

611 Lincoln St.
Sitka, AK
Phone: 907-747-3977
<http://stpeters-sitka.org>

Totem Square

Across from the Pioneers Home, it contains an old Russian cannon, three anchors, petroglyphs and a totem pole with a double-headed eagle that was carved by a local artist. It symbolizes Sitka's Russian heritage.

Museums

Sheldon Jackson Museum

The oldest museum in Alaska and its first concrete building (built in 1895), this has one of the state's best collections of Alaska Native artifacts. The items, many of which belonged to Sheldon Jackson, a missionary in the late 1800s, include dogsleds and umiaks (Inuit boats) as well as Alaska Native carvings and clothing.

May-September daily 9 am-5 pm, October-April Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-4 pm. US\$5 in summer; US\$3 in winter.

104 College Drive
Sitka, AK

Phone: 907-747-8981

http://www.museums.state.ak.us/sheldon_jackson/sjhome.html

Sitka Historical Society and Museum

This museum in Harrigan Centennial Hall contains a scale model of Sitka as it looked in 1867, Tlingit and Russian cultural artifacts, a gift shop and a map of the National Register of Historic Landmarks sites in Sitka. The New Archangel Dancers (Russian folk dancers) perform when cruise ships are in town in the main auditorium of the building (check with the visitors center for times). Outside, you can admire a hand-carved 50-ft/15-m canoe—a replica of the ones used by the Tlingits for special ceremonies.

May-September Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm, Saturday 10 am-4 pm; October-April Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-4 pm. Museum admission US\$2.

330 Harbor Drive
Sitka, AK

Phone: 907-747-6455 (museum) or 907-747-5516 (New Archangel Dancers)

<http://www.sitkahistory.org>

Nature

The waters around Sitka are wonderful for viewing wildlife. Sea otters are abundant, and you can sometimes see humpback whales. Humpback whales pass Sitka during their annual spring and late fall migrations; however, some whales remain in southeast Alaska year-round. Whale Park on Sawmill Creek Road, 6 mi/10 km south of town, is a good place to look for them.

Parks & Gardens

There are a variety of state parks in the Sitka area, including Baranof Castle, Halibut Point, Old Sitka, Sealion Cove and others. More information is available at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/sitka.htm>.

Sitka National Historical Park

This park reveals another side of the area's heritage. It is also known by locals as Totem Park. Stop first at the park's visitors center, where there are displays of Russian and Alaska Native artifacts, and ranger programs. See demonstrations of native crafts, such as a silversmith or wood carvers working on totem poles at the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center inside the visitors center. You can also watch the short, informative video *Voices of Sitka*.

A 1-mi/1.6-km trail winds through the 100-acre/40-hectare park's dense second-growth spruce forest along the sound. The free, self-guided oceanside trail is dotted with totem poles, many of which are replicas of poles collected for the 1904 celebration of the Louisiana Purchase. (Ask park rangers to lend you a copy of the booklet "Carved History." It explains the various carvings.) Don't rush through the park—you'll want to spend time contemplating the intricately carved poles.

The trail takes you past the site of the 1804 Battle of Sitka between the Russians and Tlingits. (The Russians won.) You'll also cross a bridge over the Indian River, which teems with spawning salmon at times. A connecting trail takes you to a memorial to the Russians who died in the battle. The park is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Trails open 6 am-10 pm mid-May to September and 7 am-8 pm in winter. Visitors center open 8 am-5 pm daily mid-May to September, Monday-Saturday October to mid-May.

106 Metlakatla St. (visitors center is at the end of Lincoln Street)
Sitka, AK

Phone: 907-747-6281

<http://www.nps.gov/sitk>

Whale Park

In early spring and late fall in particular, head to this park, about 6 mi/10 km south of downtown. It's one of the best places to view the giants of the sea through telescopes or listen to whale sounds using hydrophones from shore. There's also a sheltered picnic area.

Free.

Sawmill Creek Road
Sitka, AK

Zoos & Wildlife

Alaska Raptor Center

For a look at some of the great winged creatures that live in Alaska, head to this nature center just a short walk from Sitka National Historical Park (a trail joins the two). At the center, dedicated volunteers and veterinarians nurse injured or sick birds of prey back to health so they can be returned to the wild. Birds that don't fully recover are kept at the center and can be seen on your own or as part of a tour. The center also has a flight barn where visitors can watch eagle recuperative flight training, which helps the birds strengthen their wings. Guided tours available, and there is a gift shop on-site.

Mid-May to mid-September Sunday-Friday 8 am-4 pm; Monday-Friday 8 am-4 pm in winter. US\$12 adults, US\$6 children age 12 and younger.

1000 Raptor Way
Sitka, AK
Phone: 907-747-8662
<http://www.alaskaraptor.org>

Fortress of the Bear

This 3-acre/1-hectare habitat for orphaned brown bear cubs replicates their natural setting in southeast Alaska. There's also a petting farm. Located about 5 mi/8 km from the dock, the fortress offers a US\$3 shuttle to and from the site on cruise-ship days; otherwise, taxis are easily available.

May-September daily 9 am-5 pm, October-April Friday-Sunday 1-4 pm. US\$10 adults, US\$5 children ages 6-18.

4639 Sawmill Creek Road
Sitka, AK
Phone: 907-747-3550
<http://www.fortressofthebear.org>

Sitka Sound Science Center

Part of the Sheldon Jackson Hatchery, the Ahlgren Aquarium features a self-guided tour of an 800-gal/3,028-l observation tank, touch tanks, five in-wall aquariums, whale bones, exhibits and an artist's mural.

Open Monday-Saturday 9 am-4 pm in summer. Call for winter hours. US\$5; family passes are available.

834 Lincoln St.
Sitka, AK
Phone: 907-747-8878
<http://www.sitkasoundsciencecenter.org>

Recreation

Perhaps Sitka's greatest attraction is the outdoors. Fishing, hiking, bird and wildlife-watching and even golf are all available in the surrounding area.

Bicycling

Yellow Jersey Bike Shop

This bike shop rents bikes and offers a list of 10 biking trails, including Starrigavan Bay and Valley Harbor Mountain Road, Thimbleberry Lake, Blue Lake, Green Lake and Kruzof Island.

Open Monday-Friday 9 am-6 pm, Saturday 9 am-5:30 pm. US\$20 for two hours, US\$25 per day 9 am-6 pm, US\$30 for 24 hours, US\$100 per week.

329 Harbor Drive
Sitka, AK

Phone: 907-747-6317

<http://www.yellowjerseycycles.com>

Bird Watching

St. Lazaria Island is a seabird haven in the summer. This is the place to see tufted puffins and rhinoceros auklets, but you must do your viewing from the water. You can rent a kayak or boat, or join a tour.

St. Lazaria National Wildlife Refuge

One of the 2,500 islands in the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, this 65-acre/26-hectare island hosts some 500,000 seabirds, including the comical-looking tufted puffins and the rhinoceros auklet. Several tour operators offer trips to the island, 20 mi/32 km west of Sitka at the mouth of Sitka Sound, and a remote camera captures the activity, shown in Harrigan Centennial Hall.

Boating & Sailing

Sitka Sound is one of the best places to learn to kayak, and there are thousands of miles/kilometers of sheltered waterways to explore. Sitka Sound Ocean Adventures (phone 907-752-0660) provides kayak and gear rentals, training and guides.

Fishing

With so many boats in town, the fishing has to be good—and it is, especially June-August. A variety of fishing trips can be arranged, depending on how much time you have. The Sitka Convention & Visitors Bureau keeps a list of charter operations and prices (phone 907-747-5940). Expect to pay around US\$165-\$199 for a half-day excursion.

Golf

Sea Mountain Golf

This nine-hole course includes a covered driving range, restaurant and lounge.

Open daily 8 am-6 pm in summer, covered driving range until 10 pm. US\$47.50 for nine holes, US\$55 for 18 holes; cart included.

301 Granite Creek Road
Sitka, AK

Hiking & Walking

Sitka has more than 40 mi/64 km of trails, including an easy 2.5-mi/4-km (one-way) Sitka Cross Trail and the 4-mi/6-km Indian River Trail that follows a salmon stream through a rain forest and ends at an 80-ft/25-m waterfall (allow six hours round-trip).

The moderately difficult Gaven Hill Trail is 3 mi/5 km one-way to the top of 2,500-ft/775-m Gaven Hill, then up a steep 200-ft/62-m climb to Harbor Loop Trail, with impressive vistas (allow six hours).

These and other trails are described in the *Sitka Trails* booklet, available from Alaska Geographic. <http://www.alaskageographic.org>.

Another good resource is www.sitkatrailworks.org, which has information on its website and arranges hikes in summer.

Another guide, also called *Sitka Trails*, is available from the Tongass National Forest Sitka Ranger District at 204 Signaka Way. US\$7.95. Phone 907-747-6671.

The visitors centers also have recreational guides, maps and information on bear safety and wildlife viewing.

Nightlife

Typical of a small town, Sitka isn't brimming with nightlife activities. What you will find, however, is a handful of classy and salty bars filled with colorful locals.

Bars, Taverns & Pubs

Ernie's Old Time Saloon

Ernie's has chips, peanuts, billiards and darts to offer its patrons, along with live music Friday and Saturday nights.

130 Lincoln St.
Sitka, AK

Kadataan Lounge

Offers seafood, steaks and deep-fried calamari along with drinks.

Open mid-May to mid-September Monday-Friday 10 am-11 pm, Saturday and Sunday 10 am-midnight.

330 Seward St. (in the Westmark Sitka Hotel)
Sitka, AK

Phone: 907-747-0980

<http://www.westmarkhotels.com/sitka-food.php>

Ludvig's Wine Bar and Gallery

Above Ludvig's Bistro, this small wine bar serves tapas and dessert; it's a great place to wait for a table downstairs or enjoy a post-prandial glass of wine. The art decking the walls is always local.

256 Katlian St.
Sitka, AK

Phone: 907-966-3663

<http://www.ludvigsbistro.com>

Pioneer Bar

Also known as P-Bar, this place features an Alaska maritime theme with hundreds of photos on the walls. There's also a billiard table, and hot dogs, chips and nuts are available.

212 Katlian St.
Sitka, AK

Performing Arts

There aren't many regular performing-arts activities in Sitka, though special events are scheduled throughout the year. Your best bet is to visit the events section of the Sitka Convention & Visitors Bureau website. <http://www.sitka.org>.

Dance

New Archangel Dancers

The New Archangel Dancers offer 30-minute shows of Russian and Ukrainian folk dances by local women in authentic costumes. They perform when cruise ships are in town. Tickets are sold 30 minutes before the performance.

330 Harbor Drive (Harrigan Centennial Hall)
Sitka, AK
Phone: 907-747-5516
<http://www.newarchangeldancers.com>

Sheet'ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi Native Dancers

The Naa Kahidi Dancers offer a 30-minute Tlingit dance performed in full regalia at the Sitka Tribal Community House, a traditional Tlingit Clan house. Look for performance times posted around town.

200 Katlian St. (next to the Pioneers' Home)
Sitka, AK
Phone: 907-747-7137
<http://sitkatours.com/sheetka.html>

Venues

Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center

Check out performances at the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center in Sitka National Historical Park visitors center. Tlingit artists are often working on their art at the center. Classes are also offered in Tlingit crafts, such as beadwork, weaving, bentwood-box and box-drum making.

106 Metlakatla St.
Sitka, AK
Phone: 907-747-8061
<http://www.nps.gov/sitk/parkmgmt/southeast-alaska-indian-cultural-center.htm>

Spectator Sports

Sporting events in Sitka are often centered on festivals and holidays, such as the Mud Ball and softball tournaments on Labor Day weekend, or the many running events during festivals, such as the 10K run during WhaleFest in November.

Shopping

For such a small town, Sitka has plenty of interesting shops. Its Russian items—lacquer boxes, paintings, icons and nesting dolls—are what set this town apart from the rest in southeast Alaska.

Contemporary Alaskan art and sculpture by local artists are available, too, as are quality traditional goods made by the Tlingits (including silver jewelry, totem poles, carvings and woven baskets).

For campy Alaska souvenirs to take home, there are plenty of shops near the pier that sell gold nuggets, totem-pole key chains and T-shirts. You can also buy smoked salmon (by the can and the slab).

Bookstores

Old Harbor Books

This independent bookstore sells most everything and is also a great place to find books relating to the environment and Alaska Native works.

201 Lincoln St.
Sitka, AK

Galleries

Artist Cove Gallery

This gallery has a large selection of local sculpture, paintings and other works of art.

Open daily in summer 10 am-6 pm. Call for winter hours.

241 Lincoln St. (behind St. Michael's, the
Russian cathedral)
Sitka, AK

Phone: 907-747-6990

<http://www.artistcovegallery.com>

Baranof Arts and Crafts Association

This local artist gallery is open in summer at Harrigan Centennial Hall.

330 Harbor Drive
Sitka, AK

Sitka Rose Gallery

This shop carries Alaskan art—sculptures, paintings, baskets, pottery and jewelry—by more than 100 Alaska artists. It is located in a historic Victorian house with bright pink Sitka roses cascading from a fence. The gallery makes a colorful backdrop for a picture.

Open May-September daily 8:30 am-5:30 pm; October-April Tuesday-Saturday 11 am-5:15 pm.

419 Lincoln St.
Sitka, AK

Phone: 907-747-3030. Toll-free 888-
236-1536

<http://www.sitkarosegallery.com>

The Fishermen's Eye

This gallery of Alaska art prominently features works by Sitka residents.

Open daily 9 am-6 pm in summer, Monday-Friday 10 am-5 pm in winter.

239 Lincoln St. (across from the Russian
church)
Sitka, AK

Specialty Stores

Abby's Reflection Apparel and Quiltworks

This is a quilter's store, with Alaska-themed fabrics, needlework and apparel.

231 Lincoln St.
Sitka, AK
Phone: 907-747-3510
<http://www.abbysreflection.com>

Alaska Raptor Center Gift Shop

Unique eagle, raven and other raptor-oriented gifts. The proceeds fund bird education and hospitalization.

Open mid-May to mid-September daily 8 am-4 pm, Monday-Friday 8 am-4 pm in winter.

1000 Raptor Way
Sitka, AK
Phone: 907-747-8662
<http://www.alaskaraptor.org>

Big Blue Fisheries

An excellent source of fish to ship home.

Open in summer Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm.

216 Smith St., Unit B
Sitka, AK
Phone: 907-966-9999
<http://www.alaskasmokedfish.com>

Chocolate Moose and Sitka Flowers

Satisfy your sweet tooth with a sampling of chocolates and truffles from this shop.

Open Monday-Saturday year-round.

104 Lincoln St.
Sitka, AK
Phone: 907-747-5577. Toll-free 800-747-5177
<http://www.sitka-flowers.com>

Goldsmith Gallery

From opals to gold nuggets to cloisonne, this locally owned jewelry shop has it all.

407 Lincoln St.
Sitka, AK
Phone: 907-747-5744
<http://www.alaskajewelry.com>

Made in Sitka Gift Shop

This small gift shop in the Sitka Tribal Community House sells locally made artwork, lovebird apparel and Alaska Native dance T-shirts.

Open daily mid-May to mid-September 10 am-3 pm.

200 Katlian St.
Sitka, AK

Russian American Co.

As the name implies, this company sells Russian-made items: antique samovars, amber and Faberge jewelry, lacquer boxes, porcelain and Matryoshka nesting dolls (ranging in price US\$10-\$3,000). This store has been the place to shop for anything Russian since 1980.

Open in summer Monday-Saturday 10 am-5:30 pm, Sunday 10 am-4 pm; in winter Monday-Saturday 10 am-5 pm.

134 Lincoln St.
Sitka, AK

Phone: 907-747-6228. Toll-free 800-742-6228

<http://www.russianamericancompany.com>

Sheldon Jackson Museum Gift Store

The Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum sells Alaska Native woodcarvings, masks, baskets, dolls, ivory and other items made by Alaska Natives statewide. Its book selection is also focused on Alaska Natives. Native artists demonstrate their crafts on-site.

Open daily mid-May to mid-September 9 am-5 pm; Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-4 pm the rest of the year.

104 College Drive
Sitka, AK

Sitka Historical Society and Museum Gift Store

The museum store sells quality Alaska Native arts and gifts, including shawls, potlatch bowls, drums, silver jewelry and spirit boxes, plus historical books.

Open Monday-Friday early May to mid-September 9 am-5 pm; Saturday and Sunday 10 am-4 pm; winter hours vary.

330 Harbor Drive
Sitka, AK

Phone: 907-747-6455

<http://www.sitkahistory.org/art-gifts.shtml>

WinterSong Soap Co.

This store sells locally made herbal soaps, lotions and salves.

321 Lincoln St.
Sitka, AK

Phone: 907-747-8949. Toll-free 888-819-8949

<http://www.wintersongsoap.com>

Itinerary

Local Tours

The Sitka visitors centers have a list of companies and individuals that offer fishing, wildlife and other tours. Be aware that because Sitka is so small, the cruise lines prebook many tours when a ship is in port. (The sea-otter tour is often booked solid, for example.) Most of the tours offered by local operators are similar to those arranged by cruise ships. Prices vary.

Allen Marine Tours

This outfit offers sea otter and other wildlife tours, including a nesting-bird tour to St. Lazaria Island in a fully enclosed catamaran with wraparound windows.

Mid-May to mid-September. Call for weekday departures. .

Sitka, AK

Phone: 907-747-8100. Toll-free 888-747-8101

<http://www.allenmarinetours.com>

Dove Island Lodge

This lodge offers fishing and fly-out fly-fishing trips to its guests.

Sitka, AK

Phone: 907-747-5660. Toll-free 888-318-3474

<http://www.doveislandlodge.com>

Harris Aircraft

This company offers floatplane tours of the area. All tours have a two-person minimum.

US\$205 per person for a one-hour tour with a water landing; US\$110 for 20 minutes; US\$175 for 40 minutes.

404 Airport Road
Sitka, AK

Phone: 907-966-3050. Toll-free 877-966-3050

<http://www.harrisair.com>

Sitka Sound Ocean Adventures

This company offers guided kayaking tours.

112 Toivo Circle
Sitka, AK

Phone: 907-752-0660

<http://www.ssoceanadventures.com>

Sitka Tours

This outfit offers tours of Sitka from a Russian perspective. Tours last about three hours and are primarily for cruise-ship passengers.

Crabapple Drive
Sitka, AK

<http://www.sitkatoursalaska.com>

Sitka Tribal Enterprises

Walking and bus cultural tours that focus on Alaska Native history.

US\$53 for a tour of the town, Sitka National Historical Park and a performance by the Naa Kahidi dancers. US\$66 includes the Raptor Center as well.

204 Katlian St.
Sitka, AK

Phone: 907-747-7137

<http://sitkatours.com>

Sitka Wildlife Tours

Offers a two-hour van tour of Japonski Island, Totem Park, Silver Bay and Fortress of the Bear.

US\$55. .

Sitka, AK

Phone: 907-738-1733

<http://www.sitkawildlifetours.com>

Dining

Dining Overview

Sitka's restaurant options are limited, and most prominently feature seafood.

On occasion, a colorful tent, labeled "Crab Feast," is set up to sell freshly steamed Dungeness crabs. Find it behind Brenner's Fine Clothing and Gifts at 124 Lincoln St.

Expect to pay within these general guidelines for a dinner for one, not including drinks, tax or tip: \$ = less than US\$10; \$\$ = US\$10-\$25; \$\$\$ = US\$26-\$40; and \$\$\$\$ = more than US\$40.

Local & Regional

The Channel Club

A local favorite for grilled steaks, seafood and a large salad bar, plus a lounge. Try the king crab and prime rib specials in season. The nautical decor complements views of Sitka Sound. A courtesy van is available.

Open nightly for dinner. Closed late December-January. \$\$-\$\$\$.

2906 Halibut Point Road (about 4 mi/6 km outside of Sitka)
Sitka, AK

Phone: 907-747-7440

<http://www.sitkachannelclub.com>

Cuisines

American

Homeport Eatery

A small collection of indoor food carts, including crepes, espresso, paninis and a small bar. You can order from each cart and then choose a wooden table to sit at. It's comfortable yet classy.

Open Monday-Saturday 7:30 am-6 pm. \$-\$\$.

209 Lincoln St.
Sitka, AK

Phone: 907-623-0850

<http://www.homeporteatery.com>

Sea Mountain Restaurant and Lounge

Overlooking Sitka Sound and Mount Edgecumbe volcano, this restaurant is north of downtown Sitka overlooking a nine-hole golf course. It serves American fare—prime rib, steaks, seafood (including king crab in season) and pasta. Good selection of wine as well as a full bar.

Open May-October daily except Tuesday for dinner. \$\$.

301 Granite Creek Road
Sitka, AK

Phone: 907-747-5663

<http://www.seamountaingolf.com>

The Larkspur Cafe

In a small old house near the bridge, the Larkspur serves soups, salads and sandwiches, plus homemade desserts and coffee. It's part coffeehouse, part cafe, and there is often live music in the evenings.

Open Tuesday-Saturday 8 am-10 pm, Sunday 9 am-2 pm. \$-\$\$.

2 Lincoln St. (in the Raven Radio building)
Sitka, AK

Mediterranean

Ludvig's Bistro

This tiny, 30-seat Mediterranean restaurant features a great menu and Sitka's most elegant dining. Named for Beethoven, Ludvig's is cozy, with Moroccan tapestries and wooden wine racks decorating the mustard-colored walls. Try the chef's Spanish-influenced fare, Alaska-style tapas, Caesar salad with bacon-wrapped scallops, the chef's Katlian special salmon, Sitka rose-covered chocolate cake and the freshly baked breads.

Open May-September for dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$.

256 Katlian St.
Sitka, AK

Phone: 907-966-3663

<http://www.ludvigsbistro.com>

Cafes & Tearooms

Harry's Soda Shop

A 1950s-style soda fountain located inside Harry Race Pharmacy and Photo, Harry's is the place for ice cream. Try the Blue Lake shake, a Tsunami or Mount Edgecumbe Eruption.

Open year-round Monday-Friday 9 am-6 pm, Saturday 9 am-5 pm, Sunday noon-4 pm.

106 Lincoln St.
Sitka, AK

Phone: 907-966-2130

<http://www.whitesalaska.com>

Coffeehouses

Highliner Coffee Co.

This coffeehouse and Internet cafe has excellent pastries. Try the breakfast-stuffed croissants and Scandinavian cookies. Old fishing photos provide the decor.

Monday-Saturday 6 am-5 pm, Sunday 7 am-4 pm. \$.

327 Seward St.
Sitka, AK

Phone: 907-747-4924

<http://www.highlinercoffee.com>

The Backdoor Cafe

Free-trade organic coffee, homemade soups, yummy baked goods, freshly squeezed juices and a delightful environment with local art on display.

Monday-Friday 6:30 am-5 pm, Saturday 6:30 am-2 pm, closed Sunday. \$.

104 Barracks St.
Sitka, AK

Seafood

The Raven Dining Room

Wonderful views of the harbor accompany excellent seafood and salads.

Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. \$\$-\$\$\$.

330 Seward St. (inside the Westmark
Sitka Hotel)
Sitka, AK

Phone: 907-747-6241

<http://www.westmarkhotels.com/sitka-food.php>

Security

Personal Safety

Crime is minimal in Sitka. But use common sense: Be aware of your surroundings at all times.

Sitka is in brown bear country, so the city of Sitka offers "Living with Bears," a pamphlet about bear safety. <http://www.cityofsitka.com/documents/livingwithbears.pdf>.

Health

Mosquitoes and other nippers can be bothersome, so carry a good insect repellent on hikes, preferably one containing deet as an active ingredient. And always be aware of the possibility of encountering a bear. If you do, don't approach it and try to avoid quick actions that may alarm it. Inquire locally for details on recent bear activity and more advice on how to behave around them.

The Sitka Community Hospital is north of town at 209 Moller Ave., off Halibut Point Road. Phone 907-747-3241. <http://www.sitkahospital.org>.

Moore Clinic is at 814 Halibut Point Road. Phone 907-747-3446.

There are also two pharmacies: Harry Race Pharmacy and Photo at 106 Lincoln St. (phone 907-747-2130) and White's Pharmacy, at 705 Halibut Point Road. Phone 907-747-2150. <http://www.whitesalaska.com>.

Disabled Advisory

Downtown Sitka is generally handicapped-friendly, with decent sidewalks in the town's center. Buses are accessible, and most sites have ramps. Sitka National Historic Park is a particularly friendly place to visit nature, with a smooth bike path leading out to it.

Sitka Tours and Sitka Tribal Tours both have vans that accommodate wheelchairs. All major attractions are wheelchair accessible, as is the Sitka Tribal Enterprises Community Ride bus. For assisted rides, phone 907-747-8617 (Monday-Friday 8 am-4 pm).

Facts

Dos & Don'ts

Don't forget your rain jacket, because Sitka is in a rain forest.

Do look for the differences between Haida poles, which leave blank spaces between figures, and Tlingit poles.

Do walk to the top of Castle Hill, which offers views of Sitka Sound.

Don't leave Sitka without visiting Princess Maksoutoff's grave at the Russian Cemetery.

Do pick up a tide table from Sitka National Historical Park or any store that sells fishing supplies and head to Totem Beach, John Brown's Beach or Halibut Point State Recreation Area to look for sea stars, sand dollars, hermit crabs, mussels, anemones and barnacles.

Do tune into Whale Radio at 88.1 FM to listen to live whale songs 24 hours daily.

Don't forget to remove your hat if you are male and cover your head with a scarf if you are female when visiting St. Michael's Cathedral. Most parishioners will lend you a scarf.

Do be considerate of locals and ask permission before taking photographs.

Don't stand in the middle of the street when taking photographs.

Geostats

Passport/Visa Requirements: All U.S. citizens must have a passport when traveling by air to or from Bermuda, Canada, the Caribbean, Central and South America and Mexico. Citizens of Canada, Mexico and the British Overseas Territory of Bermuda also must have a passport or other designated secure document to enter the U.S.

Passports are required for land crossings at the Canadian and Mexican borders with the U.S. and for cruise passengers returning to the U.S. from Mexico, the Caribbean, Canada or Bermuda. Reconfirm travel-document requirements with your carrier prior to departure.

Population: 8,881.

Time Zone: 9 hours behind Greenwich Mean Time (-9 GMT). Daylight Saving Time is observed from the second Sunday in March to the first Sunday in November.

Voltage Requirements: 110 volts.

Telephone Codes: 907, area code for all of Alaska;

Money

Currency Exchange

Currency can be obtained at any of the banks in town. First National Bank (318 Lincoln St., phone 907-747-7000) and Wells Fargo Bank (300 Lincoln St., phone 907-747-3226) are near the pier, and both have ATMs.

Other options include Alaska Pacific Bank (315 Lincoln St., phone 907-747-8688), ALPS Federal Credit Union (401 Halibut Point Road, phone 907-747-6261) and First Bank (203 Lake St., phone 907-747-6636).

Taxes

Sitka has a 6% sales tax, a 6% bed tax and an 11% hotel-occupancy tax. May-September, the sales tax increases to 6% and the hotel-occupancy tax to 12%.

Tipping

Tip 15%-20% in restaurants unless good service warrants more.

Weather

Sitka has an average summer temperature of 60 F/15 C. The coldest month is January, which has an average high of 29 F/-2 C. August is the warmest month, averaging 62 F/16 C. June-August tends to be drier than the rest of the year. The weather in Sitka is generally unpredictable because Sitka is located in a temperate rain forest.

What to Wear

Layering is the key to comfort in southeast Alaska. Start with a short- or long-sleeve shirt and long pants; add a fleece vest or jacket, sweater or hooded sweatshirt. The next layer should be a light waterproof jacket with a hood or hat for drizzly days, accompanied by comfortable weather-resistant walking shoes. Take shorts just in case the sun shines. Attire is casual and practical.

Communication

Telephone

There are public telephones in Harrigan Centennial Hall at 330 Harbor Drive.

Cell phone coverage is generally good in town, but check with your service provider to make sure your phone will work once you arrive.

Internet Access

Sitka has free Wi-Fi throughout downtown, thanks to a head tax on cruise ship passengers.

Highliner Coffee Co.

This cafe offers Internet access. It also has pay phones, and phone cards are available. Open Monday-Saturday 6 am-5 pm, Sunday 7 am-4 pm. 327 Seward St., Sitka, AK. Phone 907-747-4924. <http://www.highlinercoffee.com>.

Kettleon Memorial Library

Computers and Internet access. Open Monday-Friday 10 am-9 pm, Saturday 10 am-6 pm, Sunday 1-9 pm. 320 Harbor Drive. Sitka, AK. Phone 907-747-8708. <http://www.cityofsitka.com/government/departments/library>.

Mail & Package Services

The post office, located east of the town center, is open Monday-Friday 8:30 am-5:30 pm. 1207 Sawmill Creek Road. Phone 907-747-3381.

There is also a Pioneer Station Postal Unit at 338 Lincoln St. Open Monday-Friday 8:30 am-5:30 pm. Phone 907-747-8491.

Newspapers & Magazines

Sitka's weekday newspaper is *The Daily Sitka Sentinel* (<http://www.sitkasentinel.com>). It also produces the free travel guide *All About Sitka*, available at many locations throughout town and online at <http://www.travelsitka.com>.

The *Alaska Dispatch News* is a good source for all-Alaska coverage. <http://www.alaskadispatch.com>.

Transportation

Named after a former city mayor, the Sitka Rocky Gutierrez Airport (SIT) is about 2 mi/3 km west of Sitka on Japonski Island. Phone 907-465-1786. Car rentals and taxis are available at the airport. Sitka Tours (phone 907-747-8443) offers an airport shuttle to your hotel or downtown for US\$6 (one-way) or US\$10 (round-trip).

Alaska Marine Highway ferries also stop in Sitka during the summer months. From Juneau, it's about six hours aboard the fast ferry *Fairweather*. The Sitka Tours ferry shuttle bus provides service from the ferry terminal for US\$8 one-way. The ferry terminal is 7 mi/11 km from downtown at 5307 Halibut Point Road. Phone 907-747-3300. Toll-free 800-642-0066 for reservations. <http://www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs/index.shtml>.

Sitka is such a small town that you can see almost everything on foot, unless you have difficulty walking or are very short of time. Transportation options include the Visitors Shuttle that loops the attractions every half-hour when large cruise ships are in town (1,000 or more visitors). US\$10 for an all-day pass; 12-ride punch cards US\$20 adults; monthly passes also available. Runs 6:30 am-7:30 pm. Phone 907-747-7290.

Sitka Tribal Enterprises operates a public bus called The Ride, which operates year-round 6:30 am-7:30 pm. A one-way ride is US\$2. An all-day pass is US\$5 adults; a 12-ride pass is US\$20 adults. The buses are wheelchair-accessible. Phone 907-747-7103. <http://www.travelsitka.com/bus-schedule.shtml>.

Several taxi companies serve the area. You can usually find a cab near the pier or cruising the city. Most offer tours. Rental cars also are available, but make reservations in advance during summer months. Expect to pay US\$65 a day. The minimum age to rent a car is 25 years with valid government-issued identification, but may vary by location. Surcharges may apply.

For More Information

Convention & Visitors Bureau

Sitka Convention & Visitors Bureau

Provides a variety of information for visitors, including city and trail maps. 303 Lincoln St., Suite 4. Sitka, AK. Toll-free 800-557-4852.
<http://www.sitka.org>.

Events

Calendar

Sitka's diverse history means there are plenty of festivals and events year-round. During Russian Orthodox Christmas (7 January), people carry brightly decorated stars around town, eating and drinking along the way—an event that's called "starring." It's sponsored by St. Michael's Russian Orthodox Church. Phone 907-747-8120.

February features the Sitka Jazz Festival (<http://www.sitkajazzfestival.com>). March is Arti Gras, Sitka's spring gallery walk and music celebration (<http://www.artigras.info>). April is when the town's fishing fleet is blessed.

Following the Mother's Day Quilt Show, the Sitka Salmon Derby is in late May, and the popular Sitka Summer Music Festival is in June. This monthlong chamber-music festival attracts famous artists and includes daily concerts, a crab feed, boat parties, a Chocolate Rhapsody Dessert party, an ice-cream social and other events. <http://www.sitkamusicalfestival.org>.

The Sitka Fine Arts Camp at Mount Edgecumbe High School, also in June, is a month of fine arts for teenagers and elementary students (<http://www.fineartscamp.org>). The Fourth of July features a crafts fair, parade, fireworks and food. Also in July is the Home Skillet Music Festival, an all-ages event featuring local and out-of-town bands playing soul, hip-hop and rock-n-roll.

The annual Sitka Seafood Festival is celebrated in August, with local merchants offering seafood walks and seafood and beer pairings. <http://sitkaseafoodfestival.org>.

The appropriately named Mudball Classic Softball tournament is in September, a rainy month (<http://www.sitkasoftball.com>). The Running of the Boots and Season's End Celebration is an annual family event, also in September, involving decorated rubber boots (locals refer to them as Sitka sneakers). <http://www.runningoftheboots.org>.

18 October is known locally as "Alaska Day." It's the day the Russians sold Alaska to the U.S. in a ceremony that took place in Sitka in 1867. The flag-raising and -lowering ceremony is re-created every year. <http://www.alaskadayfestival.org>.

November is the Native American Heritage Festival, an annual fashion show and parade, and a gathering of Alaska Native peoples. WhaleFest in early November celebrates marine wildlife with educational lectures by biologists, a sea chantey concert and marine tours. Phone 907-747-7964. <http://www.sitkasoundsciencecenter.org/sitka-whalefest>.

In late November and December, Sitkans celebrate the holidays with a bazaar, polar dip, parade and the Sitka Artisans Market. <http://sitkacoc.com/sitka-artisans-market.html>.

Tuesday, May 26, 2015: Cruise Stop #4- Frederick Sound, AK

Wednesday, May 27, 2015: Cruise Stop #5- The Brothers, AK

Thursday, May 28, 2015: Cruise Stop #6- Endicott Arm, AK

Friday, May 29, 2015: Cruise Stop #7- Ford's Terror, AK