

WELCOME TO JUNEAU!

NATIVE HISTORY

As you walk through Juneau, take time to enjoy our rich and colorful history. For centuries, the Tlingit people, Juneau's native inhabitants, hunted and fished along the shores of Gastineau Channel. As you walk through town, be sure to notice the designs carved in totems and other Tlingit art, which tell the stories of the rich and varied history of Juneau's first residents.

MINING

In the 1870s, a mining engineer from Sitka, George Pilz, offered a reward to anyone who could lead him to gold-bearing ore. Chief Kowee, of the Auk Tlingit tribe, arrived with ore samples from Gastineau Channel. Pilz enticed prospectors Richard T. Harris and Joseph Juneau to investigate. The pair reached Gastineau Channel in August 1880 and sampled gravel in what is now known as Gold Creek. They found plenty of color, but didn't follow the gold to its source. At Chief Kowee's urging, Pilz sent the pair back again. This time, they climbed Snow Slide Gulch and found the mother lode in Silver Bow Basin. On October 18, they staked a 160-acre town site on the beach. Soon, they were joined by boat loads of prospectors bound for gold. Juneau was born.

Within a few years, Juneau grew from a seasonal, Native fishing village to one of the hubs of a large-scale hard-rock mining industry. The surrounding hills were honeycombed into two great mines: the Alaska-Juneau Mine and the Alaska-Gastineau Mine. On Douglas Island, the ground once reverberated with the 960 stamps from the mills of world-renowned Treadwell Gold Mining Company. That mine reached peak production in 1915, two years before a cave-in flooded three of the Treadwell's four mines and ended the Treadwell mining era. Shortages of manpower and supplies brought about by World War II led to the closure of the A-J Mine in 1944. Still today, however, there are more miles of underground tunnels within Mount Roberts than there are roads in all of Juneau.

THE STATE CAPITAL

Serving as the seat of government for the territory of Alaska, Juneau became a state capital on January 3, 1959 when Alaska was granted statehood. Federal, state and local government employs one out of every two Juneau workers. Juneau's 31,000 residents are proud to act as hosts for Alaska's Capital, along with enjoying the benefits of a small community, beautiful surroundings and the adventure of living on the last frontier. The tourism industry is now the community's largest private employer, with commercial fishing, retail services and mining - on nearby Admiralty Island - still playing major roles in the economy.

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST

You are in the heart of the Tongass National Forest. The Tongass National Forest is the largest temperate rainforest in North America, covering nearly 17-million acres, including nearly all of Alaska's Inside Passage. The mighty Sitka Spruce, Alaska's state tree, dominates the Tongass and can be identified by its very straight top and sharp-tipped needles. Another common species in the forest is the Western Hemlock, with its drooping top and soft, flat needles. The old growth trees of the Tongass can be 200 to 700 years old. The Tongass is a temperate rainforest, different from tropical rainforests in two ways: temperate rainforests are much cooler and are home to fewer species of plants and animals than their tropical counterparts. But what temperate rainforests lose in biodiversity, they more than make up in biomass.

HIKING GALORE!

Juneau is home to 262.2 miles of hiking trails! Compare that to Juneau's 41 miles of roadways from Thane at the South to Echo Cove at the North! And there are only 22 miles of roads on Douglas Island. Did you know Alaska has one mile of road for every 42-square miles of land, compared to the US average of one to one?

WILDLIFE

Look for eagles along saltwater coastlines, rivers and streams. And don't forget to scan the trees for white spots. You'll soon see eagles everywhere. Look for the white heads and tails of adult eagles and the brown-speckled plumage of juveniles. And watch the Channel for harbor seals - about 74,000 live in Alaska waters. While it's not uncommon for black bears, marmots and porcupines to wander into town, please remember never to approach or feed wild animals or birds - for your safety and theirs.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

There's a lot to do in Juneau, and even more to discover off the beaten path. Because your safety is really important to us, please keep the following in mind:

- Remember to watch out for traffic. Downtown Juneau is bustling with energy.
- Use crosswalks throughout the city. Juneau's courteous drivers will stop allowing for safe passage.
- Never approach or feed wild animals or birds - for your safety and theirs.
- Be prepared for inclement weather. It's important to dress in layers and bring along good rain gear.
- If you go on a hike, please remain on marked trails. It's important to tell someone where you plan to go and when you plan to return, to carry along food and water and to have good information and a map along with you.

TRANSPORTATION

Public transportation is available in Juneau via Capital Transit (789-6901). Schedules can be found at all visitor information centers. The public bus will not take you to the Mendenhall Glacier; the closest stop is about one mile away. Trolleys, taxis, tours and charters are available to meet your transportation needs.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Alaska State Troopers, City Police, Fire Department, Ambulance Dial 911
Bartlett Regional Hospital 796-8900

POINTS OF INTEREST

1 Federal Building

Main Post Office, Time Capsule and Alaska Native Museum.

2 Governor's House

Built in 1912, this elegant home still houses Alaska's first family.

3 House of Wickersham

Home of Judge Wickersham, a leading proponent of statehood and an architect of Alaska's Territorial legal system.

4 St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Built in 1894, it's the oldest original Russian Orthodox Church in Alaska.

5 Scottish Rite Temple

Built in 1928, this Temple has a unique architectural style.

6 Alaska State Capitol

Free tours throughout the summer. Houses the Governor's office and many historic photos.

7 Juneau-Douglas City Museum

The museum offers artwork, mining and pioneer exhibits and historic video.

8 Alaska State Museum

Impressive exhibits of Alaskan history, Native culture, wildlife and guided tours.

9 State Office Building

The eighth floor houses a restored pipe organ and an observation deck with a great view of Juneau and the Gastineau Channel.

10 Windfall Fisherman

A life-sized bronze brown bear stature by local artist R.T. Wallen.

11 Juneau Visitor Information Center

Located in Centennial Hall. Open year round. Public phones, restrooms and displays. US Forest Service information.

12 Centennial Hall Convention Center

Offers 40,000 square feet of professional meeting space, in the heart of historic downtown. Convenient to hotels.

13 Municipal Building - City Hall

The side of City Hall has a mural by former local artist Bill Ray, depicting a Tlingit story of creation.

14 Marine Park Kiosk

A seasonal visitor information site offers brochures and is staffed by local volunteers.

15 Hard Rock Miner

A bronze sculpture depicting Juneau's hard rock mining origins, by local artist Ed Way.

16 Juneau Founders

The bronze cast of Joe Juneau, Chief Kowee and Richard Harris are displayed on the outside of the Marine View Building.

17 Patsy Ann

In the 1930s, Alaska's steamships and visitors were greeted daily by Juneau's most famous dog, Patsy Ann.

18 Library and Parking Garage

Alaskan historical reference materials, information and a stained glass display.

19 USS Juneau Memorial

This anti-aircraft cruiser was christened by the Mayor's wife in 1942 and sunk that same year in World War II combat.

20 Visitor Information Center (Seasonal)

Visitor information, tour bookings and phones are available here.

21 Archie Van Winkle Memorial

A tribute to the first Alaskan to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor.

22 Fisherman's Memorial

A monument in remembrance of those who dedicated their lives to the commercial fishing industry.

23 Juneau Community Sundial

Use your own shadow to tell the time!



COMPLIMENTS OF THE
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