



Alaska is more accessible than you might think. No matter how you get here — a few hours by air, several days by road or perhaps a journey of a week or more if traveling by cruise ship — Alaska is just a hop, skip and jump away.

By Air

At its southernmost, Alaska is just an hour and a half by jet from Seattle, the closest major airport outside the state. Alaska is also served by direct flights from other major cities throughout the United States including Seattle, Vancouver, Arizona, Chicago, Denver, Dallas/Fort Worth, Denver, Portland, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Salt Lake City, Las Vegas and Minneapolis/St. Paul. Most direct flights fly into [Anchorage](#), [Fairbanks](#), [Juneau](#) or [Ketchikan](#).

By Sea

[Cruise ships](#) to Alaska offer round-trip and one-way voyages beginning or ending as far north as [Anchorage](#) in [Southcentral Alaska](#) and, in the south, the ports of Vancouver, BC, Seattle or San Francisco. Itineraries run both north and south through the [Inside Passage](#), with most ships beginning or ending the Alaska portion of the itinerary in the port communities of Seward and Whittier. Most itineraries include the Gulf of Alaska, and some venture as far west as [Dutch Harbor](#), located on the [Aleutian Chain](#). Some of the major Alaska ports of call include [Juneau](#), [Homer](#), [Ketchikan](#), [Sitka](#), [Skagway](#), [Wrangell](#), [Seward](#), [Whittier](#) and [Valdez](#).

Alaska is also accessible via the [Alaska Marine Highway](#), the state's ferry system, which has southern ports in Bellingham, Wash., and Prince Rupert, British Columbia. The Alaska Marine Highway travels from the [Inside Passage](#) across the Gulf of Alaska and out to the [Aleutian Islands](#). Ferries stop in dozens of ports along the Inside Passage, and travelers who wish to stop at these destinations for a side trip may also bring cars, trucks, RVs and even bicycles and kayaks aboard the ferry for easy transportation in the port communities. Most of these towns offer visitor services, and many are off the beaten path, providing a closer look at life in Alaska.

By Road

Alaska can be accessed by road via the [Alaska Highway](#), the main corridor between Alaska and the Lower 48. The highway's 1,520 miles of paved road officially begins in Dawson Creek, British Columbia, and ends in [Fairbanks](#). Drivers should be on the lookout for wildlife along the way including bears, moose and caribou, to name a few.

While Alaska has fewer highways than most states, a good portion of it is accessible to visitors traveling by private vehicle.

[Travel Around Alaska](#)

With more than 586,000 square miles, there are infinite ways to explore Alaska. Hop aboard a bush plane to reach rural Alaska; travel Alaska's highways by car, RV or motorcoach while taking in the breathtaking scenery; experience marine wildlife aboard a ferry or on a day cruise; or ride the [Alaska Railroad](#) for panoramic views of hanging glaciers and sweeping mountain ranges.

By Plane

Even the distant parts of Alaska are more accessible than they may seem. Jet service reaches the following communities: [Anchorage](#), [Fairbanks](#), [Juneau](#), [Ketchikan](#), Adak, [Barrow](#), [Bethel](#), [Cordova](#), [Dillingham](#), [Dutch Harbor](#), [Glacier Bay/Gustavus](#), [King Salmon](#), [Kodiak](#), [Kotzebue](#), [Nome](#), [Petersburg](#), [Sitka](#), [Wrangell](#) and [Yakutat](#). Additionally, bush planes offer access to hundreds of small villages in remote reaches of the state and offer visitors the opportunity to experience [Alaska Native](#) culture. [Flightseeing](#) tours operate throughout the state and are another popular option for viewing Alaska's vast landscape.

By Boat

[Day cruises](#) are a popular way to see glaciers while in Alaska. Major day cruise destinations include [Misty Fjords National Monument](#), [Tracy Arm Fjord](#), [Glacier Bay National Park](#), [Prince William Sound](#), [College Fjords](#) and [Kenai Fjords National Park](#). Traveling by ferry is also a primary mode of transportation with excellent opportunities for marine wildlife viewing via the [Alaska Marine Highway](#), which offers scheduled service up the [Inside Passage](#) to [Prince William Sound](#), the [Kenai Peninsula](#), [Kodiak Island](#) and the [Aleutian Islands](#). Travelers may also bring a car, RV, bicycle or kayak onboard the ferry to better explore the destination.

By Train

Each year, roughly 500,000 people ride the [Alaska Railroad](#). The railroad stretches from [Seward](#) to [Fairbanks](#) connecting [Anchorage](#), [Talkeetna](#) and [Denali National Park and Preserve](#) along the way. The Alaska Railroad also offers one of the last [whistle stop](#) services in North America, allowing passengers to disembark for [rafting](#), [hiking](#), [fishing](#) or other activities.

By Car or RV

Some of Alaska's most popular destinations are primarily accessible by highway. The [Alaska](#), [Richardson](#) and [Dalton](#) highways travel the vast distance of the state while the [Glenn](#), [Parks](#) and [Seward](#) highways best connect the more populated areas of the state. The [National Scenic Byways](#) program recognizes several Alaska highways for their scenic, natural, historic and cultural attributes. Car and RV rentals are available in most communities.

By Motorcoach/Charter

[Motorcoaches](#) travel all of Alaska's highways, including the unpaved Dalton and Top of the World highways. A number of tour companies provide motorcoach services for visitors during the summer. Some companies focus on point-to-point transportation, while others specialize in day trips or longer excursions.

If You Go

State of Alaska

<http://www.travelalaska.com/media>

Phone: (800) 327-9372

Phone: (907) 697-2230

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

www.dot.state.ak.us

Phone: (907) 269-0772

Greater Whittier Chamber of Commerce

www.whittieralaskachamber.org

Phone: (907) 677-9448

Alaska Marine Highway System

www.ferryalaska.com

Phone: (800) 642-0066

Juneau Convention & Visitors Bureau

www.traveljuneau.com

Phone: (888) 581-2201

Alaska Railroad

www.alaskarailroad.com

Phone: (800) 544-0552

Kenai Fjords National Park

www.nps.gov/kefj/index.htm

Phone: (907) 422-0500

Cordova Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center

www.cordovachamber.com

Phone: (907) 424-7260

Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council

www.kenaipeninsula.org

Phone: (800) 535-3624

Denali National Park and Preserve

www.nps.gov/dena/index.htm

Phone: (907) 683-2294

Ketchikan Visitors Bureau

www.visit-ketchikan.com

Phone: (800) 770-3300

Dillingham Chamber of Commerce

www.dillinghamak.com

Phone: (907) 842-5115

Discover Kodiak

www.kodiak.org

Phone: (800) 789-4782

Explore Fairbanks

www.explorefairbanks.com

Phone: (800) 327-5774

National Scenic Byways Program

www.byways.org

Phone: (800) 4-BYWAYS

Glacier Bay National Park

www.nps.gov/glba/index.htm

Nome Convention & Visitors Bureau

www.visitnomealaska.com

Phone: (907) 443-6555

Petersburg Chamber of Commerce

www.petersburg.org

Phone: (907) 772-3646

Port of Vancouver, B.C.

www.portvancouver.com

Phone: (604) 665-9000

Seward Chamber of Commerce

www.seward.com

Phone: (907) 224-8051

Sitka Convention & Visitors Bureau

www.sitka.org

Phone: (800) 557-4852

Skagway Convention & Visitors Bureau

www.skagway.com

Phone: (888) 762-1898

Talkeetna Chamber of Commerce

www.talkeetnachamber.org

Phone: (907) 733-2330

Unalaska/Port of Dutch Harbor

Convention & Visitors Bureau

www.unalaska.info

Phone: (877) 581-2612

Valdez Convention & Visitors Bureau

www.valdezalaska.org

Phone: (907) 835-2984

Wrangell Convention & Visitors Bureau

www.wrangell.com

Phone: (800) 367-9745

Visit Anchorage

www.anchorage.net

Phone: (907) 276-4118