

Ketchikan Visitors Bureau media resources

Whether you need the 101 on Ketchikan, a photo or video clip or just a quick fact check, the Ketchikan Visitors Bureau provides the following resources to qualified media.

Media assistance

Fact checking, media inquiries and itinerary planning assistance

media@visit-ketchikan.com

Patti Mackey, President/CEO Ketchikan Visitors Bureau

liz@thompsonpr.com

Liz Baker, VP, Thompson & Co. Public Relations

Fact checking for travel guidebooks

info@visit-ketchikan.com

Kerri Hassett, Visitor Services Manager

Quick links

visit-ketchikan.com

General consumer and traveler information

ketchikanstories.com

A companion to our Emmy Award winning film series, The Ketchikan Story Project reflects the lifestyle and culture of our community

ketchikanarts.org

Showcasing the work of Ketchikan's arts community

meetinalaska.com

Group travel, event spaces and meeting planning

Instagram

[@visitketchikan](https://www.instagram.com/visitketchikan)

Facebook

[visitketchikan](https://www.facebook.com/visitketchikan)

Twitter

[visitketchikan](https://twitter.com/visitketchikan)

Pinterest

[VisitKetchikan](https://www.pinterest.com/VisitKetchikan)

LinkedIn

[Ketchikan Visitors Bureau](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ketchikan-visitors-bureau)

Image library and B-roll

Ketchikan Visitors Bureau has an extensive collection of HD-quality b-roll as well as a series of short films and features that can be used by journalists to augment work. For assistance with a specific image or to review b-roll, please use the contact information above for your request.

Access photos via [Dropbox](https://www.dropbox.com) at: <http://bit.ly/KVBmediapics>.

Media passes

Journalists who want to tour on their own schedule can request a media pass, offering free or greatly reduced rates to attractions and popular tours.

Regional partners in Alaska

Southeast Alaska Tourism Council

Promotes independent travel opportunities along Alaska's Inside Passage
Consumer web site www.alaskasinsidepassage.com
Media information www.alaskasinsidepassage.com/press-kit
SATC executive director info@alaskainsidepassage.com

Alaska Travel Industry Association

Manages the State of Alaska's travel marketing program
Consumer web site www.travelalaska.com
Media center <https://www.travelalaska.com/Media-Center>
Media email (U.S. & Canada) alaskatravelmedia@thompsonpr.com
Media email (international markets) media@alaskatia.org

About Ketchikan, Alaska

Scenic, diverse Ketchikan, Alaska, is a coastal island community located within Alaska's Inside Passage and surrounded by the magnificent Tongass National Forest. Ketchikan is easily accessible, just 90 minutes by air or 36 hours by sea from Seattle. Long a popular destination for independent-minded travelers, Ketchikan is also Alaska's second largest cruise port. Visitors enjoy superb fishing, wildlife viewing, outdoor recreation, thriving Native culture and amazing scenery. Ketchikan's impressive variety of shops and galleries feature work by many of the island's resident artists. This close-knit community of 13,700 works hard and plays hard, and it welcomes visitors who seek to explore a community rich in history and culture. Come see for yourself why we say our lifestyle is your reward!

VISITOR ACTIVITIES

Sportfishing	Totem poles and Native cultural activities
Misty Fjords National Monument	Outdoor activities
Shopping	Walking tours
Wildlife viewing	Flightseeing
Dining on wild Alaska seafood	Museums and attractions

ATTRACTIONS

Historic Creek Street	Great Alaskan Lumberjack Show
Tongass Historical Museum	Totem Heritage Center
Dolly's House Museum	Southeast Alaska Discovery Center
Saxman Totem Park	Totem Bight State Historical Park
Potlatch Park	

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Hiking trails
Kayaking
Mountain cart and jeep tours
Skiff and boat rentals

Zip line tours
Biking
Inflatable boat tours
Snorkeling

DINING TOURS

Multi-course seafood tasting
Crab feed
Pub crawl

Fishing/beach cookout
Seafood boil
Culinary tour

SIGHTSEEING TOURS

Group tours by bus
Floatplane and helicopter
Humvee
Commercial crab boat

Van and vehicle small group
Day cruise boats
Amphibious craft
Sea cycling

For more information see our Ketchikan Trip Planner online: <http://www.visit-ketchikan.com/en/About-Ketchikan/Free-Guide>.

Calendar of Events

Ongoing/Monthly

Monthly Grind featuring local performance artists – January through May; September through December

First Friday of each month

New exhibits open at Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council and at select galleries

January

First City Players Jazz & Cabaret Evening Gala

February

Festival of the North – this series of arts events includes the Wearable Art Show

May

Celebration of the Sea – Blessing of the Fleet, Art Walk, Annual Spring Wine and Beer Tasting
Annual Totem to Totem Half Marathon
King Salmon Derby
Prince of Wales Island Marathon

June

King Salmon Derby continues
R2AK – Race to Alaska
Only Fools Run at Midnight

July

Fourth of July parade, booths featuring local crafts and cuisine, duck race, fireworks
Fish Pirate's Daughter – Ketchikan's original melodrama performed live every Friday and Saturday evening in July

August

Blueberry Arts Festival and Gigglefeet Dance Festival

November

Winter Arts Faire
Downtown tree lighting

December

Clarke Cochran Christmas Classic (invitational high school basketball tournament)

For a complete list of events, visit our online calendar: <https://www.visit-ketchikan.com/about-ketchikan/calendar.aspx>.

Good to know

Ketchikan's earliest visitors were Tlingit natives who set up fish camps along the shores of Ketchikan Creek and spent their summers catching and drying fish for winter food storage.

Ketchikan has the largest collection of totem poles still in existence anywhere in the world. Some of the oldest poles are listed on the National Historic Register and are carefully preserved at the Totem Heritage Center.

19% of community residents are of Tlingit, Haida and/or Tsimshian descent.

The Ketchikan area is a sportfishing haven due to the various species of salmon returning at different times throughout the year. The town is known as the Salmon Capital of the World.

Ketchikan is just 680 air miles north of Seattle and a 90-minute flight. That's less time than it takes to drive from Seattle to Portland, Oregon, or Vancouver, B.C.

Ketchikan's thriving arts culture and industry was recognized as one of America's Top 100 small arts communities.

The Creek Street boardwalk is an actual city street – no vehicles allowed. There are several examples of wooden "stair streets" throughout the community along with wooden trestles created to provide access to homes that were built uphill from the waterfront.

Ketchikan International Airport is located on Gravina Island, requiring a five-minute ferry ride from the airport to "town."

Dozens of residents live on islands or in remote areas with no roads, and they use boats to commute to and from their homes to shop, go to work and school and take part in community events.

Floatplanes are called "air taxis" because they provide transportation to and from Ketchikan to outlying communities.

There are several "marine parks" in the immediate area, accessible only by boat.

Ketchikan recognizes two sister cities, Prince Rupert, B.C. and Gero Kanayama, Japan.

Ketchikan previously held the Guinness Record for the world's largest "rubber boot race" (or as the Brits at Guinness say, "Wellington boots.") The record was set on May 18, 2013, by 1,976 participants wearing rain boots, with the vast majority wearing Xtra Tufs, fondly known as "Ketchikan sneakers" due to their suitability in and around water. The record was broken a year later, May 11, 2014, in Killarney, Ireland. Stay tuned to see if Ketchikan decides to try and regain our title.

Forty facts about Ketchikan, Alaska

1. Ketchikan, Alaska, is located on Revillagigedo Island in the Alexander Archipelago, part of the southern portion of Alaska's Inside Passage (Southeast) region. The only way to travel to and from Ketchikan is by boat or plane. Commercial/public options include daily jet service, cruise ship and Alaska Marine Highway and inter-island ferry systems.
2. The greater Ketchikan Gateway Borough area has 13,700 residents. It is the sixth largest community in Alaska behind Anchorage, Fairbanks, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Kenai Peninsula and Juneau.
3. Ketchikan has three local municipal governments: the City of Ketchikan (incorporated in 1900), the City of Saxman (incorporated in 1939) and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough (established in 1963). Each has its own mayor, council/assembly and municipal staff.
4. Major industries include commercial fishing and tourism.
5. The Tongass National Forest covers approximately 17 million acres, surrounding Ketchikan and reaching as far north as Yakutat Bay.
6. Misty Fjords National Monument is a 2.3 million-acre preserve of glaciers, fjords and forested land known for whale watching and wildlife viewing.
7. Misty Fjords National Monument was established by presidential proclamation on Dec. 1, 1978, by President Jimmy Carter.
8. Sitka spruce, northern hemlock, red cedar and yellow cedar are the most frequently seen trees in the Tongass National Forest.
9. In the Ketchikan area, there is one RV park with hookups and three campgrounds that can accommodate RVs. There is also one RV dumping station available.
10. Two popular in-town hiking trails are Deer Mountain Trail and Rainbird Trail. Deer Mountain Trail is 2.5 miles to the summit, while Rainbird Trail is only 1.3 miles each way. Both offer great town, mountain and ocean views. Ward Lake Trail and the popular Perseverance Trail are in the Ward Lake Recreational Area, approximately seven miles north of Ketchikan on Revillagigedo Road. A favorite among more advanced adventurers, Lunch Creek Trail at Settlers Cove State Park is 18 miles north of town and quite literally at the end of the road.

- 11.** All five species of salmon can be found in Ketchikan area waters. King (Chinook), silver (coho), pink (humpy), red (sockeye) & chum (dog or keta).
- 12.** Salmon runs vary by species and from year to year, but fishing is typically best June through September.
- 13.** Also available locally are halibut, rockfish (including red snapper), lingcod and steelhead as well as Dolly Varden, rainbow and brown trout.
- 14.** What is the difference between “mooching” and “trolling?” Mooching is a slower, more vertical method of fishing, while trolling is the more traditional, horizontal method that attracts fish by towing a flasher trailed by bait.
- 15.** The largest salmon ever caught in Alaska? 97 pounds by sportfishing gear, 126 pounds by commercial gear.
- 16.** The largest halibut ever caught in Alaska? 322.6 pounds by sportfishing gear, 533 pounds by commercial fishing gear.
- 17.** A “white king salmon” is a king salmon with a genetic inability to process the pigments in the small crustaceans that salmon eat.
- 18.** A “chicken halibut” is a halibut that is between 10 and 30 pounds in weight. Keeping with farm lingo, a “barn door” is the opposite and is the term for massive halibut that often weigh as much as the angler who reeled them in.
- 19.** Alaska salmon spawn between mid-June and October each year.
- 20.** The most common types of commercial fishing in the Ketchikan area are purse seining, trolling, gillnetting and long-lining.
- 21.** Ketchikan has three public and two commercial museums.
- 22.** In Ketchikan there are more than 30 restaurants, featuring everything from our prized Alaska seafood to American fare to ethnic cuisine. Favorite local items include fresh king salmon, Dungeness crab, halibut, seafood chowder as well as locally roasted and brewed coffee from one of the area’s three coffee roasters.

- 23.** Orcas (otherwise known as killer whales), gray whales, humpback whales, sea lions, harbor seals, Dall's porpoises and octopus are often seen on the water.
- 24.** Wildlife including black bear, Sitka black tail deer, martin, mink, river otters, mountain goats and wolves are common to the area. Close to 100 species of migratory birds travel through Ketchikan each year.
- 25.** Public bus service is available throughout most of the downtown and highway road system. Three local cab companies and two car rental agencies operate within the community. Motorcycle and bicycle rentals are available seasonally. Ketchikan is also very walkable.
- 26.** The average annual temperature in Ketchikan is 42.5 degrees F/5.83 degrees C
- 27.** The average summer temperature in Ketchikan is 55 degrees F/12.79 degrees C
- 28.** The average winter temperature in Ketchikan is 31 degrees F/ -0.56 degrees C
- 29.** Ketchikan is situated in the heart of the Tongass National Forest, the largest temperate rainforest in the world. We are among the most rain blessed communities in the U.S. Our average rainfall per year is 152 inches/386 cm or 13 feet/46 m. No, this is not a typo.
- 30.** On average, Ketchikan sees 228 days of rain per year.
- 31.** In 1949, Ketchikan saw a record rainfall of 202 inches/513 cm.
- 32.** October is the rainiest month in Ketchikan.
- 33.** June is the driest month in Ketchikan.
- 34.** Ketchikan sees an average annual snowfall of 36.9 inches/94 cm.
- 35.** What is the elevation of Ketchikan? 0 – Ketchikan is at sea level.
- 36.** Ketchikan's latitude and longitude are 55 degrees North and 131 degrees West.
- 37.** Alaska has its own time zone. Created in 1983, it is four hours behind Eastern Time, one hour behind Pacific Time and one hour ahead of Hawaii time.

38. Average daylight on summer solstice in Ketchikan is 17 hours and 29 minutes on June 21.

39. Average daylight on winter solstice is 7 hours and 6 minutes on Dec. 21.

40. How far north to other Alaska cities:

Wrangell? 83 miles/134 km by air, 6 hours via Alaska Marine Ferry System

Petersburg? 112 miles/180 km by air, 9 hours by ferry

Juneau? 235 miles/378 km by air, 21 hours by ferry

Anchorage? 776 miles/1249 km by air

Fairbanks? 854 miles/1374 km by air

Nome? 1345 miles/2179 km by air

How far south to:

Metlakatla, Alaska? 15 miles/24 km by air; 45 minutes by ferry plus a 20-minute drive

Prince Rupert, B.C.? 91 miles/146 km by air; 6 hours by ferry

Seattle, Washington? 679 miles/ 1093 km by air; 36 hours by ferry (to Bellingham, Washington)

How far west to:

Prince of Wales Island (Hollis), Alaska? 3 hours by ferry (via Inter-Island Ferry Authority)

Prince of Wales Island (Craig/Klawock), Alaska? 50 miles/ 80 km by air; 3 hours plus 47 miles/76 km drive

DISTANCE INFORMATION – downtown to points north

Miles		Kilometers
0	Ketchikan Visitors Information Center at Berth 2	0.00
0.1	Tunnel	0.16
0.75	Schoenbar Road (to public library)	1.2
1	West End (gas, groceries, shopping, services)	1.60
1.5	Bar Harbor/Ports & Harbors office	2.41
1.8	PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center	2.89
2.1	Alaska Marine Highway & Inter-Island Ferry Terminals	3.37
2.2	Main post office	3.54
2.5	Airport shuttle ferry	4.02
6.9	Revilla Road turnoff to Ward Lake Recreation Area (0.6 mi)	11.10
7.1	Ward Cove (post office, gas, groceries, retail)	11.42
7.6	Alaska State Troopers	12.23
8.5	Refuge Cove Recreation Site (14 picnic sites)	13.68
9.7	Totem Bight State Park	15.61
12	Scenic viewpoint	19.31
14.6	Knudson Cove boat launch, marina	23.49
18	Settlers Cove State Park	28.96
18.2	Road ends	29.29

DISTANCE INFORMATION – downtown to points south

Miles		Kilometers
0	Ketchikan Visitor Information Center at Berth 2	0
0.1	Southeast Alaska Discovery Center	0.16
0.2	Federal Building	0.32
0.3	Creek Street / Stedman-Thomas Historic District	0.48
0.4	Thomas Basin	0.64
0.8	Deermount Street to Totem Heritage Center	1.3
1.1	U.S. Coast Guard Base	1.77
2.7	Saxman Totem Park	4.35
3.7	Rotary Beach (Bugge Beach)	5.95
5.8	Mountain Point boat launch	9.33
8.4	Herring Cove	13.52
10.5	Scenic waterfall (on left)	16.89
11.2	Scenic turnout	18.02
13.1	Road ends	21.08

What's new in Ketchikan?

A Taste of Ketchikan: Alaska's First City launches new culinary tour

Local guides lead visitors on escorted epicurean adventures. You'll enjoy a walk along the waterfront of an artist's enclave, passing sculptures and mosaics as you learn the history of the town. Your final destination, nestled near a small boat harbor, is one of the town's most famous eateries and you'll be welcomed in like family to a private dining room complete with Alaska decor.

The diverse offerings include locally sourced ocean delights, procured by Alaska fishers. The menu varies based on the catch of the day and may include homemade chowders, smoked salmon cornbread, cod, halibut, salmon, blackened salmon tacos with homemade slaw, or Dungeness crab with hot melted butter. There will be Alaska beer pairings, followed by locally roasted coffee and homemade dessert. You'll not only savor the food, you'll savor the company as you get to know fellow food travelers, your local guide and the talented chefs.

Upon completion of your experience, a map and shopping bag will be provided for foodies who wish to walk off their repast while enjoying other available samplings throughout town.

Sip and stroll through Ketchikan on the Pub Hop Walking Tour

If you want to learn about a place, drink with locals! This informative and entertaining 90-minute walking tour is sure to please anyone who wishes to get off the beaten path and immerse themselves in the local scene. Alaska is famous for "doing business at the bar" and you'll learn why as you hear infamous stories of days gone by.

Watch the prohibition era when the red-light district was in full swing and its colorful history come to life at many of Ketchikan's most popular hot spots. You'll enjoy a sampler beverage at several of Alaska's most historic pubs, a stroll down historic Creek Street and a cabaret featuring live music. Join the locals and belly up to the bar in Ketchikan!

Tour and taste at Hump Island, Alaska's only working oyster and kelp farm

Cruise through the waters of beautiful Clover Pass in route to Hump Island Oyster Farm, Alaska's only working oyster and kelp farm tour. The adventure begins with buzzing activity and tantalizing local samples as a van ride weaves along the shores of Tongass Narrows to Bonfire Bay. Once on the water, listen to the tales of culture, lifestyle and Ketchikan's past as the colorful captain navigates through the waters. Watch for wildlife like whales, seals, sea lions and eagles!

Upon arrival, the oyster farm team welcomes guests to the floating facility and explains the oyster growing process and market preparations. A touch tank allows visitors to interact with the animals regularly seen in local waters. An underwater drone shows off the ecosystem that surrounds the oyster rafts and the array of kelp that sways with the moving tides.

This first site in Alaska to commercially harvest kelp, the Hump Island tour provides a behind the scenes look into oyster food sources and the dangers of changing ocean conditions. The tour concludes with a visit to the Oyster Bar where visitors engage with local guides while sampling freshly harvested oyster and kelp products.

Cape Fox Cultural Foundation partners with Southeast Alaska Discovery Center

Rooted in history, culture and natural beauty, the Tongass National Forest is abundant with recreational resources and programs that help visitors experience Southeast Alaska. In April, the Cape Fox Cultural Foundation and USDA Forest Service signed an agreement with the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center to provide visitors interpretive, educational and informative materials that will make North America's largest rainforest more accessible and easier to enjoy.

The Five-year Participating Agreement for Interpretive Services will enable the Cape Fox Cultural Foundation to further its mission of providing cultural services and preserving Alaska Native heritage. The foundation will in turn support the visitor center by providing interpretive programs to support the center's exhibits focused on Native traditions. Programs will include joint tour ventures, bead work and wood carving demonstrations and dance performances by the Cape Fox Tour Dancers.