

Visit Anchorage ~ 2016 NAFSA Regional Conference October 11-14

Things to do

Plan your own adventure, before, during or after the conference. October is the start of winter in Anchorage with average temperatures ranging from highs between 55 and 34 and lows between 24 and 37. There is also a good chance of precipitation ranging from light to moderate rain and light snow during the month.

Special Events:

Friday, October 14 Anchorage Concert Association: Women of the World Concert

<https://www.anchorageconcerts.org/season/women-of-the-world>

Discovery Theatre - Alaska Center for the Performing Arts; 621 W. 6th Avenue (within walking distance)
Women of the World will take you on a musical journey through Africa, South America, Asia, and Europe through storytelling, dance, and improvisation. This award-winning quartet performs original and traditional folk music with a contemporary twist, in 29 languages! The four Women represent Japan, Italy, India, and the USA (by way of Haiti). Mentored by Grammy-winner Bobby McFerrin, they've collaborated with powerhouse songstress Nona Hendryx and the Boston Pops Orchestra, and performed at venues ranging from NYC's Blue Note Jazz Club to Carnegie Hall to the United Nations (of course!). Women of the World create music with a message of unity and peace. Join them for an evening that's sure to inspire. Ticket sales begin August 22.

Fridays at 6:30 and 8:00 p.m. UAA Planetarium Shows

Two different shows are offered each Friday.

<https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/college-of-arts-and-sciences/programs/planetarium/shows/index.cshtml>

UAA Planetarium and Visualization Theater, 3101 Science Circle

907-786-4940

Located a short (20 minute) cab ride away

A little about the theater: The UAA Planetarium and Visualization Theater offers an immersive full-dome experience with an all-digital definiti projector system made by [Sky-Skan, Inc.](#) Two Sony SXR projectors illuminate the dome with over 12 million pixels, creating a razor-sharp image. The dome is 10-meters (33 feet) in diameter and the theater has 62 seats and three ADA spots. The projector system can be operated in a "live" mode, enabling the operator to fly you through the Universe in real time. The planetarium also has a Dolby 5.1 surround sound system with a subwoofer, for a seat-shaking experience. Tickets are available in advance through the website or at the door.

Within walking distance of the Hilton:

Alaska Experience Theater

333 W. 4th Avenue

907-272-9076

Earthquake museum, Native art and Alaskan movies. Earth shaking exciting!! The Alaska Experience Theatre has family fun movies about Alaska and a chance to experience an earthquake! Daily 10am-7pm. Located in the historic 4th Avenue Market Place in downtown Anchorage, the Alaska Experience Theatre's Earthquake Exhibit and Safe-Quake Theatre experience take you back in time to 1964 on the fateful Good Friday when North America recorded it largest earthquake ever at a magnitude of 9.2.

<http://www.alaskaexperiencetheatre.com/>

Anchorage Museum

625 C Street

(Note: Sunday, October 16 – free admission)

907-929-9201

A world-class museum in downtown Anchorage. The state's largest museum includes the Alaska History Gallery, Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center, science exhibits, shop and full-service restaurant. One of the top 10 most visited attractions in Alaska, the Anchorage Museum is a world-class art, history and science museum. Its collections offer an overview of the Alaska's rich history and an introduction to its varied culture. Displays in the Alaska History Gallery delve into Russian era, the gold rush, the Exxon Valdez oil

spill and more. The Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center gives visitors a glimpse of the diverse culture of the Alaska Native peoples, while the Imaginarium Discovery Center will ignite the child in everyone with hands-on science exhibits. The museum also features an award-winning museum shop and full service restaurant specializing in Alaska cuisine.

<https://www.anchoragemuseum.org/>

Alaska Public Lands Information Centers

615 W 4th Avenue, Ste 105
907-644-3661

The Center is dedicated to assisting visitors with information and education about Alaska and the state's vast expanse of public land. Come in and plan your stay, watch an interesting as well as educational video, or attend one of their special programs, all of which are free to the public. There are also links to other things to do in and around Anchorage as well as the Kenai Peninsula.

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

Alaska Veterans Museum

323 W 4th Avenue, Ste 227
907-677-8802

Alaska's military history comes alive! Stories of the last shot of the Civil War, a silk nightgown made for a beloved wife, and stories of the Forgotten are watched over by our brave Eskimo Scout. The Alaska Veterans Museum commemorates the sacrifices our defenders have made and strives to educate and inspire our visitors to remember and honor those who made them. We tell stories of veterans' service using their own oral histories and artifacts. We honor all branches of the military, and have a wide variety of artifacts and exhibits covering the Civil War to our most recent conflicts. We are a non-profit, 100% volunteer run organization. We are dedicated to insuring our defenders will be remembered and honored for their service. Please come and spend some time with us, let one of our docents tell you their story, or maybe you would like to tell us yours.

<http://www.alaskaveterans.org/exhibits.html>

Ghost Tours of Anchorage

Corner of 4th and L Streets in front of Snow Goose Café
907-27G-HOST

Discover an Anchorage filled with history and mystery on this walking tour.

<http://www.ghosttoursofanchorage.com>

Short cab ride away:

Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum
5.5 miles away

7421 Aircraft Drive
907-248-5325

Vintage planes, theater, gift store. The Alaska Aviation Museum has something for everyone! Bush pilot and aviation history films, flight simulators, view floatplanes on Lake Hood and observe takeoffs and landings.

<http://www.alaskaairmuseum.org/>

Alaska Zoo
9 miles away

4731 O'Malley Road
907-346-2133

The Alaska Zoo has provided a home for orphaned, injured and captive-born animals for over four decades. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to promoting conservation of Arctic, sub-Arctic and like climate species through education, research and community enrichment. Exhibits include over 77 animals representing 38 species of the Arctic and sub-Arctic on 25 acres of Anchorage hillside.

<http://alaskazoo.org/>

Campbell Creek Science Center

5600 Science Center Drive
907-267-1247

The BLM Campbell Creek Science Center is an outdoor science education center for people of all ages that encourages interest and participation in the balanced management of natural resources. Included are nice hiking/walking trails and information center.

<http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/sciencecenter.html>

Glen Alps Trailhead & Viewpoint 20 minute drive from downtown Anchorage
Chugach State Park's 495,000 acres of forests, lakes, mountains and valleys are at Anchorage's doorstep - and the welcome mat is out. Just a 20-minute drive from downtown places you on the edge of a trail system offering quiet solitude and wilderness beauty in every season. The trail system offers established trails as well as general travel routes of variety degrees of difficulty. There are trails for summer hiking and those for winter outdoor sports. Some of the trails intended for summer use can be poor candidates for winter use due to avalanches and other natural hazards. Upper Huffman is the only snow vehicle access point.

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/aspunits/chugach/glenalps.htm>

Potter Marsh Boardwalk 15 minutes south of downtown Anchorage (by car)
Wildlife Viewing: Potter Marsh, at the southern end of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge, is an ideal break from Anchorage for birders and other wildlife viewers. From the Seward Highway just before the left turn into the Potter Marsh parking lot, you are treated to a stunning view of Turnagain Arm. A wooden boardwalk winds 1,550 feet from the parking area through the marsh and across watery openings and sedges, perfect habitat for a rich variety of birds.

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=viewinglocations.pottermarsh>

A little farther away:

North of Anchorage:

Eagle River Nature Center – Eagle River (~30 minutes north of Anchorage) <http://www.ernc.org/>

Reindeer and muskox farm – Palmer (45-60 minutes north of Anchorage) <http://www.reindeerfarm.com/>

Matanuska Glacier – mile 101 Glenn Highway National Scenic Byway (82 miles north of Anchorage)

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/aspunits/matsu/matsuglrs.htm> and

<http://www.alaska.org/guide/matanuska-glacier-scenic-drive>

Independence Mine – Hatcher Pass (~2 hours north of Anchorage)

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

Talkeetna (~2 hours north of Anchorage) <http://www.talkeetnachamber.org/>

The [historic village](#) of Talkeetna is nestled at the base of North America's tallest peak Mt. McKinley (Denali). Talkeetna has an outstanding panoramic view of the Alaska Range that can be enjoyed and photographed from several places as you wander through our town, and discover what this unique location has to offer: [Flightseeing](#), [fishing](#), [riverboat tours](#), [float trips](#), [hiking](#), [nordic skiing](#), [mushing](#), [mountain climbing](#), [ATV tours](#), [snowmachine tours](#), and [zipline tours](#), unique [lodging](#), [art galleries](#) and [gift shops](#), places to [dine](#) and have a [locally brewed beer](#)... and of course year-round frontier hospitality!

South of Anchorage:

Eklutna Lake Scenic Drive (under an hour from Anchorage; 22-mile drive south)

<http://www.alaska.org/guide/eklutna-lake-scenic-drive>

The drive takes you away from Alaska's towns and cities, and into Chugach State Park. The road is smooth with twists and turns, and runs alongside Eklutna River, and the beautiful and glacial Eklutna Lake. You can also see Twin Peaks over the trees. The Eklutna Village, dating back to 1650 is the area's oldest continuously inhabited Athabaskan Indian settlement and home to St. Nicholas Church, the oldest standing building in greater Anchorage. Several trails are located nearby.

Alyeska Resort (40 miles south of Anchorage in the town of Girdwood)

<http://www.alyeskaresort.com/resort/index.aspx> The tram is open through October 12.

Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center – mile 79 Seward Highway (~ 1 hour south of Anchorage)

<https://www.alaskawildlife.org/>

Byron Glacier near Portage (~1 hour south of Anchorage) <http://www.alaska.org/detail/byron-glacier-trail>
The trail to the glacier starts at a well-marked pullout, about half a mile from the end of the road. Follow the winding, mostly flat trail through a rocky, verdant alluvial plain that is now interspersed with tall alders and a smattering of cottonwood and aspen trees. Much of the trail is close to Byron Creek, where kids can play among the smooth stones, but keep an eye because the water is cold and sometimes rapid. As you approach the glacier, the forest thins out to display views of the rugged cliffs and glacier and—if you turn around—Portage Lake and Valley. It's fun to have an impromptu snowball fight in snowfields left over from winter avalanches, or take one of the multiple side trails that will lead you to the edge of the valley where bouldering opportunities abound. Trail is approximately 0.8 miles long.

Seward Sealife Center – Seward (~2 ½ hours/126.8 miles south of Anchorage)
<http://www.alaskasealife.org/>

Exit Glacier – Seward (~2 ½ hours/131.8 miles south of Anchorage) This is the primary destination for visitors to witness up close the power of the glaciers. It is also the home to the Exit Glacier Nature Center and the trail head for the Harding Icefield Trail.
<https://www.nps.gov/kefj/planyourvisit/exit-glacier-area.htm>

Trails:

Earthquake Park

Earthquake Park gives visitors insight into one of the pivotal moments in Alaska history: the 1964 Earthquake. The quake on March 27 – Good Friday – measured 9.2 in magnitude and was the largest quake ever recorded in North America. A sharp drop-off north of the park and the peculiar rippling hills in the forest below are evidence of the massive earthquake that forever altered Anchorage's landscape. Informative displays tell the story of the geological forces at play that day, and Anchorage history before and since the quake. A nearby interpretive walking trail gives pedestrians a close look at telltale signs of the shifted landscape that might otherwise be overlooked. Accessible from the parking lot, the loop is also along the [Tony Knowles Coastal Trail](#).

<http://www.alaska.org/detail/earthquake-park>

<http://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/Earthquake%20Park.pdf>

Tony Knowles Coastal Trail

The Tony Knowles Coastal Trail follows the shore of Cook Inlet from downtown Anchorage on 2nd Avenue to Kincaid Park. Running along coastal marshes, over forested hills and passing one of the most dramatically altered landscapes of Anchorage, the trail is perfect for [biking](#), walking and even wildlife viewing. It's not unusual to pass eagles or [moose](#) along the way. The paved path runs 11 miles, and bike rentals are an inexpensive, easy way to explore every stretch. Leaving downtown, the trail hugs the coast, with great views of Mount Susitna, also known as Sleeping Lady. On clear days, [Denali](#) and nearby Mount Foraker loom on the horizon. The trail crosses the site of some of the worst damage from the 1964 earthquake. [Earthquake Park](#), Point Woronzof and many trailside benches and parks offer great views and convenient rest points on the trip further south.

Westchester Lagoon Overlook

1824 W. 15th Avenue or 1026 W. 16th Avenue

Westchester Lagoon, near downtown Anchorage, offers excellent bird watching as migrating shorebirds, waterfowl, and terrestrial species seek out the marshy ponds, coastal waters, and streams. Views of the Chugach Mountains can be spectacular, particularly at sunset.

<http://anchorageparkfoundation.org/directory/westchester/#>

Resolution Park - With Captain Cook monument

320 L Street
907-343-7529

The bronze Captain Cook Monument has the famed explorer standing on a large wooden deck, looking out to sea -- toward the route he used when he explored Cook Inlet in 1778 aboard HMS Resolution. Captain Cook never actually reached Anchorage, but he sent his ship's master, William Bligh (known

more famously for his inspiration of mutiny on the HMS Bounty). Cook failed to find the Northwest Passage in the inlet, so he was happy to leave the area after two weeks of exploring the channel. From this park you can take in the same gorgeous views that Cook and his crew experienced. Susitna mountain, known to locals as the Sleeping Lady, is visible straight across the water. If you look towards the north on a clear day you're likely to see Mt. McKinley towering over everything else. Other fun things to see here are the Anchorage dock and sunsets any time of year.

<http://www.alaska.org/detail/resolution-park-captain-cook-monument>

Day Trips and Tours: (Also the Alaska.org/destination below)
Salmonberry Tours

515 W 4th Avenue
Toll Free 888-878-3572 or 907-278-3572

Scheduled tours are available daily and may be booked on an individual basis. Day tours include a variety of options, with prices ranging from \$200 and up depending on the activities included.

<https://www.salmonberrytours.com/tours/category/day-tours>

Fishing: There are many places to fish within 2-3 hours of Anchorage. Types of fish include rainbow trout, Arctic char, Dolly Varden and some species of salmon. However, October is considered very late for salmon fishing of any kind. See the Alaska Department of Fish and Game website for specific information regarding fishing licenses (you can purchase online)

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=sportlicense.main> You will wish to select the Southcentral region at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.sport> This page will provide the various locations according to the applicable regulations.

Trip planning assistance:

www.anchorage.net and <http://www.alaska.org/destination/anchorage/things-to-do> include more information on day tours and excursions ranging from \$29 and up, depending on the activity. Most dates are through September with some extending through mid-October or year-round.

