



KETCHIKAN DESTINATION GUIDE

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.

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.

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 Kawanti Adventures.

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 is 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.

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.

Location

Ketchikan is a popular first or last stop on many Alaskan cruises, and as many as six cruise ships can dock there. Ships have assigned dock space or they anchor in Tongass Narrows, and passengers are tendered into town by smaller craft. Most visitor attractions are within walking distance of the docks.

Ketchikan's visitors center is on the docks at 131 Front St. on Berth Two and has free walking-tour and kayaking maps, brochures and tour-reservation booths. Public phones and restrooms are also available there. The center is open daily 8 am-5 pm in summer and whenever ships are in port. Winter hours (October-April) are Monday-Friday 8 am-5 pm. Phone 907-225-6166. Toll-free 800-770-3300. <http://www.visit-ketchikan.com>.

A second, seasonal visitors center is located near Berth Three and also has pay phones and restrooms. Public restrooms are located near Berth Four in the Newtown area.

Shore excursions—and their prices—vary from cruise line to cruise line. Check with your travel agent or your ship's shore-excursion staff for additional information.

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. May-September. 13194 S. Tongass Highway (12 mi/19 km south of downtown), Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-3740.

13194 S. Tongass Highway

Ketchikan, Alaska

Phone: 907-225-3740

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. Monday-Friday. Free admission. Tours, demonstrations and performances have fees. 2706 S. Tongass Highway, Saxman (2.3 mi/3.7 km south of town), Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-4421.

2706 S. Tongass Highway

Ketchikan, Alaska

Phone: 907-225-4421

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. 601 Deermount, Ketchikan. <https://www.facebook.com/totemheritagecenter>.

601 Deermount

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

<https://www.facebook.com/totemheritagecenter>

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. Phone 907-225-6329. <http://www.dollyshouse.com>.

24 Creek St.

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-225-6329

<http://www.dollyshouse.com>

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. May-September daily 8 am-4 pm, October-April Friday 10 pm-7 pm. US\$5 adults. 50 Main St., Ketchikan. Phone 907-228-6220. <http://www.alaskacenters.gov/ketchikan.cfm>.

50 Main St.

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-228-6220

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

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,

629 Dock St.

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-225-5600

Saturday 10 am-4 pm. Admission US\$3. 629 Dock St. (In the Library Building, near the intersection of Dock and Bawden streets), Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-5600 for general information, 907-225-5900 for group tours. <https://www.ktn-ak.us/tongass-historical-museum>.

<https://www.ktn-ak.us/tongass-historical-museum>

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. 601 Deermount St., Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-5900. <https://www.ktn-ak.us/totem-heritage-center>.

601 Deermount St.
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Phone: 907-225-5900
<https://www.ktn-ak.us/totem-heritage-center>

Pods of orca whales go into Tongass Narrows for salmon—tour boats often encounter them along with seal colonies on rocks. Floatplane tours flying to and from Misty Fjords often spot whales moving along Behm Canal. Bears usually visit streams where salmon go to spawn during early-morning hours or late afternoon. Occasionally, they are seen on the Creek Street boardwalk.

Misty Fjords National Monument

The sheer rock walls that tower above the coves are overwhelming. Visitors can opt for a flightseeing day trip over Misty Fjords or boat tours. During these tours, you may see bald eagles in the air, brown and black bears on the ground, and whales and sea lions in the ocean. Ketchikan-Misty Fjords Ranger District, 3031 Tongass Ave., Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-2148. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/visit/destination/misty-fjords-national-monument>.

Ketchikan-Misty Fjords Ranger District,
3031 Tongass Ave.
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Phone: 907-225-2148
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/visit/destination/misty-fjords-national-monument>

Downtown

Home to some of the town's most interesting shops, museums, restaurants and historic homes, including Dolly's House (former residence of the town's madame), this historic district offers an intriguing glimpse into Ketchikan's colorful past.

Ketchikan, Alaska

Newtown

This was the first part of Ketchikan to develop after downtown in the early 1900s. It features many historic buildings and older stores, as well as a working harbor and colorful live-aboard boats.

Ketchikan, Alaska

Nobb Hill

The area features many of Ketchikan's stateliest homes from the early 1900s. The roads are steep, but the views are worth it.

Ketchikan, Alaska

Stedman-Thomas

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it was once the home to Alaska Natives and foreign-born laborers who worked in the canneries. It features many historic buildings and is located between downtown and Thomas Basin. <http://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/asia/2003/stedman.htm>.

Ketchikan, Alaska
<http://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/asia/2003/stec>

Thomas Basin

This marina was a baseball field until the 1920s. The city installed pilings and expanded it over the mudflats. There are viewing areas, decks and picnic tables around the marina—worth the walk past the red-and-white Potlatch building and along the breakwater. Often, eagles flock there. Thomas Basin is Ketchikan's second-largest boat harbor, home to a portion of the local fishing fleet at the end of Ketchikan Creek.

Ketchikan, Alaska

City Park

This park was once home to holding ponds for salmon in the early 1950s. It is now a tranquil spot with a fountain, brooks, benches and picnic tables. At the northern end of Ketchikan Creek, Ketchikan.

At the northern end of Ketchikan Creek
Ketchikan, Alaska

Eagle Park

This park features *Thundering Wings*, a huge carving of an eagle by renowned Tlingit artist Nathan Jackson. Front Street (near the docks),

Front Street
Ketchikan, Alaska

Ketchikan.

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. Ketchikan Ranger Station, 9883 N. Tongass Highway, Ketchikan. Phone 907-247-8574. <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/aspunits/southeast/totembigshp.htm>.

Whale Park

Designed in the shape of a whale, this park is full of flowers and contains the Chief Kyan Totem Pole (a replica of a pole first erected in Ketchikan in the 1880s). It is also home to the antique Billingsley Clock—said to be the oldest timepiece in the city, it still keeps accurate time. The clock once stood by the Knox Brothers Curios Store on Mission and Tongass streets. Mill Street, downtown, Ketchikan.

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. 420 Spruce Mill Way (behind the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center), Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-9050. Toll-free 888-320-9049. <https://alaskanlumberjackshow.com>.

Recreation

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.

Bicycling

Maps and trail information are provided at the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center at 50 Main St. Phone 907-228-6220.

Because most of the trails in town are geared toward walkers, those inclined to explore with two wheels take to the logging trails around Wipple Creek or the dirt roads near Ward Lake.

You can also find information and maps at the visitors centers at 131 Front St. and Berth Three. Toll-Free 800-770-3300.

During salmon season, white-tailed, white (bald)-headed eagles are everywhere. With their distinctive call, they'll gather in trees, fly around fishing boats and processing plants, and perch on jetties. Bird-watchers won't want to miss seeing them dive and seize prey out of the water.

Other birds such as ravens, hummingbirds, Steller's jays and Canada geese are abundant in the area. The Southeast Alaska Discovery Center offers comprehensive brochures, guides and maps for viewing birds.

Southeast Sea Kayaks

This company rents kayaks for US\$45-\$59 per day. Guided trips in Ketchikan harbor (about three hours) start at US\$89 adults. For a wilderness experience, kayak in Orcas Cove, a 20-minute boat ride from Ketchikan, and fly through Misty Fjords in a seaplane (a five-hour trip for

Ketchikan Ranger Station, 9883 N.

Tongass Highway

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-247-8574

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/aspunits/southea>

Mill Street

Ketchikan, Alaska

420 Spruce Mill Way

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-225-9050

<https://alaskanlumberjackshow.com>

540 Water Street, Suite 303

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-225-1258

<http://www.kayakketchikan.com>

US\$409). A half-day wilderness boat cruise, which includes about two hours of kayaking at Orcas Cove and a full salmon lunch, costs US\$169 per person. 540 Water Street, Suite 303, Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-1258. Toll-free 800-287-1607. <http://www.kayakketchikan.com>.

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.

Knudson Cove Marina

This marina manages 19 fishing charter boats. Daily 6 am-8 pm. 407 Knudson Cove Road, Ketchikan. Phone 907-247-8500. Toll-free 800-528-2486. <http://www.knudsoncove.com>.

407 Knudson Cove Road
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Phone: 907-247-8500
<http://www.knudsoncove.com>

Stedman Street Bridge

This spot over Ketchikan Creek is a great fishing spot for adults and children. During the season, visitors can rent poles and get a fishing license from a little blue shop next to the bridge. Fish can be processed and vacuum-packed for shipment home.

Ketchikan, Alaska

There are plenty of opportunities for hiking in the surrounding Tongass National Forest, although most trails are not accessible from downtown. There is a public trail and bike path along Ketchikan's waterfront from downtown to the village of Saxman, a distance of approximately 2 mi/4 km, and the path has been extended out to Mountain Point, an additional 3 mi/5 km.

Most other trails require transportation or a guide, so check the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center at 50 Main St. for a map and the names of tour guides. Phone 907-228-6220. <http://www.fs.usda.gov/tongass>.

There are a variety of guides to Ketchikan trails available online, with access points, elevation gain, distance, difficulty and maps. <https://www.alaska.org/destination/ketchikan/trails>.

Deer Mountain Trail

The 3-mi/5-km Deer Mountain Trail begins at the base of Deer Mountain (behind City Park). It's about a four-hour hike. The trail is very steep, so wear your hiking boots. Also take insect repellent and water with you. The first overlook is about 1 mi/1.5 km up—you can always turn around there after you've finished gazing at the incredible views.

Ketchikan, Alaska

Rainbird Trail

This trail is located less than a mile/kilometer from downtown. It begins and ends on the Third Avenue bypass road. It is not as strenuous as the Deer Mountain Trail and much shorter, but offers spectacular views of both downtown and Ketchikan's West End. The beginning and the end of the trail are fairly steep, but the majority of the trail is flat and easy to walk. A map of the trail is available at the visitors center.

Ketchikan, Alaska

Ward Creek Trail and Perseverance Lake Trail

One of Ketchikan's most scenic trails is the 1.3-mi-/2.1-km-long trail at Ward Lake, which goes through old-growth forest. It is approximately 8 mi/13 km from downtown on the North Tongass Highway. Across the road is the 2.3-mi/3.7-km Perseverance Lake trail, great for berry-picking in late July and August. Make noise to alert bears that you are in the area.

Ketchikan, Alaska

Kawanti Adventures

Zip through the rain forest from 10 treetop platforms on eight dual ziplines and cross three suspension bridges (sky bridges) for a unique perspective on nature on the Rainforest Canopy and Zipline Expedition. Another adventure, the Bear Creek Zipline, welcomes families. US\$189 per person for each tour. 4085 Tongass Ave., Suite 201, Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-5503. <https://www.kawanti.com/activities/ziplines>.

4085 Tongass Ave., Suite 201
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Phone: 907-225-5503
<https://www.kawanti.com/activities/ziplines>

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, but if you bring a dessert to share, the tickets are free. <https://www.experienceketchikan.com/native-american-totem-poles-5.html>.

Bars, Taverns & Pubs

Arctic Bar

For decades, the Arctic has been one of Ketchikan's watering holes. It has a covered deck, the Burger Queen grill next door and Paula—bartender, owner and raconteur. 509 Water St., Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-4709. <https://www.facebook.com/theartcticbar>.

509 Water St.

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-225-4709

<https://www.facebook.com/theartcticbar>

Dwyers Crab and Fish Restaurant

Decorated with fish and cannery memorabilia, this bar serves seafood, including good fish-and-chips, chowders and salads. It also has live entertainment. Daily 10 am-9 pm. 76 Front St., Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-1600.

76 Front St.

Ketchikan, Alaska

Phone: 907-225-1600

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. Phone 907-225-1494. <https://www.facebook.com/1stcitysaloon>.

830 Water St.

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-225-1494

<https://www.facebook.com/1stcitysaloon>

Heen Kahidi Lounge

A panoramic view and mud pie for dessert are two of the benefits at this upscale bar located in the Cape Fox Lodge. Sunday-Thursday 8 am-8:30 pm, Friday and Saturday 8 am-9 pm. 800 Venetia Way, Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-8001. Toll-free 866-225-8001. <http://www.capefoxlodge.com>.

800 Venetia Way

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-225-8001

<http://www.capefoxlodge.com>

My Office Sports Bar and Godfather's Pizza

This former bowling alley houses a bar decorated with bowling memorabilia, seven TVs and pool tables. Godfather's Pizza, which is alcohol-free, is next door in Suite 102. 2050 Sea Level Drive, Suite 103, Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-0690.

2050 Sea Level Drive, Suite 103

Ketchikan, Alaska

Phone: 907-225-0690

Sourdough Bar and Liquor Store

This smoke-free sports bar on the dock has a great marine photo gallery. It's known for its friendly staff and large pours. Daily 8 am-2 am. 301 Front St., Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-2217.

301 Front St.

Ketchikan, Alaska

Phone: 907-225-2217

Performing Arts

Programs include performances by traveling orchestras, opera, folk music, ballet and dance companies.

Dance

Ketchikan Theatre Ballet

400 Mission St.

Puts on three programs annually. Performances take place at Kayhi Auditorium at the Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council. It also offers dance classes. 400 Mission St., Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-9311. <https://www.ketchikan.dance>.

Ketchikan Community Concert Band and Concert Choir

Performances take place in the fall and spring. Phone 907-225-3650. <http://ketchikanconcertband.org>.

The First City Players

This group offers Broadway-style productions at the Kayhi High School Auditorium and other venues. 335 Main St., Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-4792. <http://www.firstcityplayers.org>.

Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council and Main Street Gallery

Shows take place throughout the year. 330 Main St., Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-2211. <http://www.ketchikanarts.org>.

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-225-9311

<https://www.ketchikan.dance>

Ketchikan, Alaska

Phone: 907-225-3650

<http://ketchikanconcertband.org>

335 Main St.

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-225-4792

<http://www.firstcityplayers.org>

330 Main St.

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-225-2211

<http://www.ketchikanarts.org>

Spectator Sports

Locals gather on Wednesday afternoons during summer to watch the sailboat races of the Ketchikan Yacht Club located in Thomas Basin Marina on Tongass Narrows. Phone 907-225-3262. <http://ketchikanyachtclub.com>.

In the winter, local high school sports dominate. In the summer, Ketchikan has five athletic fields that are booked by local baseball, softball and soccer groups. Contact the Gateway Recreation Center at 601 Schoenbar Road for schedules. Phone 907-225-9579. <http://ak-ketchikangatewayborough.civicplus.com/207/Gateway-Recreation-Center>.

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.

Bookstores

Parnassus Books

This cozy bookstore has been in the same location for decades. It carries an excellent selection of books on Alaskan history, culture and cooking, as well as cards, music, gifts and children's books. Tuesday-Saturday 9 am-6 pm, Sunday noon-5 pm. 105 Steadman St. (Star Building, upstairs), Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-7690. <https://www.facebook.com/parnassus-books-in-ketchikan-177164382679>.

105 Steadman St.

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-225-7690

<https://www.facebook.com/parnassus-books-in-ketchikan-177164382679>

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).

Arctic Spirit Gallery

Located under the welcome arch, this gallery sells totem poles, masks,

318 Mission St.

scrimshaw art, carvings, bentwood boxes, and Northwest Coast and Alaska Native baskets. 318 Mission St., Ketchikan. Phone 907-228-2277. <http://arcticspiritgallery.com>.

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. Phone 907-225-9653. <http://www.crazywolfstudio.com>.

Scanlon Gallery

This frame shop is one of the finest art galleries in the city, carrying the works of artists such as Rie Munoz and Barbara Lavellee with their colorful depictions of Alaskan life, as well as glass, books, clothing and jewelry. Monday-Thursday 10 am-5 pm, Friday 10 am-6 pm, Saturday 10 am-5 pm, Sunday noon-4 pm. 318 Mission St., Ketchikan. Phone 907-247-4730. <http://www.scanlongallery.com>.

Soho Coho

This contemporary arts-and-crafts gallery is the headquarters of artist Ray Troll, famous for his fantastical fish art. The shop also carries the works of other local artists in jewelry, photography and handmade crafts. 5 Creek St. (Star Building), Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-5954. <http://trollart.com>.

The Point

Alaska artist Terry Pyles shows local and regional art as well as his own paintings. The gallery also sells beads, yarn, coffee and specialty soups year-round in the coffee shop. 25 Jefferson Way, No. 102, Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-2858. <http://www.alaskanart.net>.

Ketchikan Plaza

The mall has a Safeway Foods, Sears, McDonald's, Alaska Indoor Sports, a beauty salon, Wells Fargo bank and a variety of gift shops. 2417 Tongass Ave., Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-7000. <https://www.facebook.com/theplazallc>.

Salmon Landing Market

The market features shops that sell quilts, clothing, tea, Alaska souvenirs and T-shirts. There are also restaurants and a coffee shop. 200 Main St., downtown, Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-3299. <https://www.facebook.com/salmonmarketak>.

Tongass Trading Co.

This is one of Ketchikan's oldest businesses. Two downtown stores are located on opposite street corners at Dock and Front streets. They carry a variety of clothing, from T-shirts, seasonal fashions and formal wear to all-weather sports gear and equipment, luggage, salmon products, collectibles and souvenirs. Additional locations include Tongass Trading Furniture Store at 2324 Tongass Ave. and the Marine Outdoor store at 2521 Marine Works Way. 201 Dock St. (and 312 Dock St.), Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-5102. <http://www.tongasstrading.com>.

Poker Creek Gold

This shop sells mining artifacts, Alaskan gold nuggets, minerals and gold-nugget jewelry. You can even buy a chunk of gold. 18 Creek St., Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-3252.

Ketchikan, Alaska

Phone: 907-228-2277

<http://arcticspiritgallery.com>

607 Mission St.

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-225-9653

<http://www.crazywolfstudio.com>

318 Mission St.

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-247-4730

<http://www.scanlongallery.com>

5 Creek St.

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-225-5954

<http://trollart.com>

25 Jefferson Way, No. 102

Ketchikan, Alaska

Phone: 907-225-2858

<http://www.alaskanart.net>

2417 Tongass Ave.

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-225-7000

<https://www.facebook.com/theplazallc>

200 Main St.

Ketchikan, Alaska

Phone: 907-225-3299

<https://www.facebook.com/salmonmarketak>

201 Dock St.

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-225-5102

<http://www.tongasstrading.com>

18 Creek St.

Ketchikan, Alaska

Phone: 907-225-3252

Itinerary

Day Trips

To **Prince of Wales Island**. This is the third-largest island in the U.S. It has small fishing villages, logging camps and Alaska Native communities. Evidence suggests that the island has been inhabited for a very long time: Human bones dating back more than 9,000 years have been found. Today, it offers access to world-class fishing and hunting areas and has several totem parks.

El Capitan caves is another highlight, part of the island's massive karst (eroded limestone) cave system. Prince of Wales Island is part of a volcanic chain, and there are hot springs near the caves (too hot for swimming). Logging on the island has been restricted, and visitors will see clearings where forests are slowly returning. Marble quarries exist from the island's mining days. A number of lodges offer sportfishing packages. For more information, contact the Prince of Wales Chamber of Commerce. Phone 907-755-2626. <http://www.princeofwalescoc.org>.

You can get there via a 25- to 45-minute flight, or a three-hour Inter-Island Ferry Authority ride. US\$37 one way, US\$18 children, US\$5-\$8 per foot/0.3 m for vehicles. The ferry leaves Ketchikan at 3:30 pm, arriving at Hollis on Prince of Wales Island at 6:30 pm. Fares are subject to an additional 25% fuel surcharge. It returns to Ketchikan the next day at 8 am. Phone 866-308-4848. <http://www.interislandferry.com>.

Flightseeing tours of Misty Fjords National Monument, LeConte Glacier (near Petersburg), the Stikine River (near Wrangell), Hyder (on the border with British Columbia), and Prince of Wales Island are popular.

In addition to flightseeing tours, bush runs are also available. Tours include just you and the pilot taking supplies and mail to outlying towns on the border with Canada or Prince of Wales Island. Available through Taquan Air (phone 907-225-8800) or Pacific Airways (phone 877-360-3500).

A variety of reputable tour operators offer excursions in Ketchikan. Be aware that because Ketchikan is so small, the cruise lines may monopolize some operators. Most tour operators have sales booths and courtesy phones in the visitors center, which also has lists of operators who offer guided fishing, wildlife and other tours.

Alaska Amphibious Tours

This company offers sightseeing tours of the city and harbor in "duck" vehicles that can drive on land and float in the water. Tours last 90 minutes. US\$42 adults. 5191 Borch St., Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-9899. Toll-free 866-341-3825. <http://www.akduck.com>.

5191 Borch St.
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Phone: 907-225-9899
<http://www.akduck.com>

Alaska Hummer Adventures

This company offers tours of Ketchikan's scenery via unusual modes of transportation. US\$159 per hour, with a two-hour minimum. 5191 Borch St., Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-9899. Toll-free 866-253-8257. <http://www.akhummer.com>.

5191 Borch St.
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Phone: 907-225-9899
<http://www.akhummer.com>

Alaska Travel Adventures

Take a mountainous back-roads tour, canoe on a lake in the rain forest or take a nature hike. Snacks included. Tours operate May-September. Ward Cove, Ketchikan. Phone 907-789-0052. Toll-free 800-323-5757. <https://www.alaskatraveladventures.com>.

Ward Cove
Ketchikan, Alaska 99801
Phone: 907-789-0052
<https://www.alaskatraveladventures.com>

Bering Sea Crab Fishermen's Tour

Board the M/V *Aleutian Ballad*, featured in season two of TV's *The Deadliest Catch*, and watch as the crew demonstrates the use of commercial fishing gear to catch crabs, octopus, sharks and prawns. The three-and-a-half-hour tour is Ketchikan's No. 1 attraction. Wheelchair accessible. \$159 adults. Berth Three at the main cruise ship dock, Ketchikan. Phone 360-642-4935. Toll-free 888-239-3816. <http://alaskacrabtour.com>.

Berth Three at the main cruise ship dock
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Phone: 360-642-4935
<http://alaskacrabtour.com>

Experience Alaska Tours

Take the Wilderness Exploration & Crab Feed tour and travel by boat to the crabbing grounds. Learn about Alaska's crabbing industry and help haul pots filled with Dungeness crabs. Enjoy a crab feast back on land at George Inlet Lodge. A Mountain Top Flightseeing and Crab Feast tour is also available. US\$159-\$237. Tours leave from Tongass Narrows, 11728 S. Tongass Highway, Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-6077. <http://www.catchcrabs.com>.

Tours leave from Tongass Narrows,
11728 S. Tongass Highway
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Phone: 907-225-6077
<http://www.catchcrabs.com>

Island Wings Air Service

1243 Tongass Ave.

Offers floatplane tours of the Misty Fjords National Monument, guided fishing or hiking tours, and transportation to Forest Service cabins. 1243 Tongass Ave., Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-2444. Toll-free 888-854-2444. <http://www.islandwings.com>.

Ketchikan Outdoors

For the adventurer, there's a two-and-a-half-hour, self-piloted Zodiac tour of Ketchikan's waterfront and Tongass Narrows. Gear and a guide provided. Other options include a four-hour excursion and overnight camping. US\$169 per person. 2868 S. Tongass Highway, Ketchikan. Phone 907-617-2716 or 907-617-1820. <http://www.ketchikanoutdoors.com>.

Lighthouse Totems and Eagles Excursion

This water-related tour features sightseeing in Tongass Narrows, Loggerville (a floating logging camp), Ward Cove and the historic Guard Island Lighthouse at the north end of Tongass Narrows. The three-hour tour also features water views of some of the mansions on the Ketchikan rural waterfront. 11380 Alderwood St. N., Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-6919. <http://www.lighthouseexcursion.com>.

Misty Fjords Air & Outfitting

Narrated floatplane tours of Misty Fjords National Monument. During the 90-minute tour, you'll see spectacular scenery with snow-capped mountains, sheer cliffs, waterfalls and lakes, mountain goats, orcas and other wildlife. US\$239 per person for three to 10 passengers. 1716 S. Tongass Highway, Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-5155. Toll-free 877-228-4656. <http://www.mistyfjordsair.com>.

Rainforest Wildlife Sanctuary

This tour and sightseeing location features a narrated city tour and a nature walk at Herring Cove (8 mi/13 km south of downtown) along a salmon-filled estuary where bears and eagles feed on returning salmon in August and September. It also features a tour of a historic lumber mill and Alaska Native carving demonstrations. Prices start at US\$89 adults, US\$50 children. Alaska Rainforest Sanctuary, 116 Wood Road (8 mi/13 km south of downtown), Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-5503. <https://www.kawanti.com/activities/nature-walks>.

SeaWind Aviation

Specializes in Misty Fjords Flightseeing and bear viewing tours. The plane boasts seven window seats and passengers are given special headsets to reduce noise. 1809 Tongass Ave., Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-1206. Toll-free 877-225-1203. <http://www.seawindaviation.com>.

Southeast Aviation

Flights range US\$99-\$475. 1249 Tongass Ave., Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-2900. Toll-free 888-359-6478. <http://www.southeastaviation.com>.

Taquan Air

Flightseeing, bear viewing and salmon fishing by float plane. Bush runs also available. Prices range US\$89-\$499 per person. 4085 Tongass Ave., Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-8800. Toll-free 800-770-8800. <http://www.taquanair.com>.

To help you make the most of your time in Ketchikan, we've designed the following itineraries.
PLAN A

Go Fish

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Phone: 907-225-2444
<http://www.islandwings.com>

2868 S. Tongass Highway
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Phone: 907-617-2716
<http://www.ketchikanoutdoors.com>

11380 Alderwood St. N.
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Phone: 907-225-6919
<http://www.lighthouseexcursion.com>

1716 S. Tongass Highway
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Phone: 907-225-5155
<http://www.mistyfjordsair.com>

Alaska Rainforest Sanctuary, 116 Wood Road
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Phone: 907-225-5503
<https://www.kawanti.com/activities/nature-walks>

1809 Tongass Ave.
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Phone: 907-225-1206
<http://www.seawindaviation.com>

1249 Tongass Ave.
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Phone: 907-225-2900
<http://www.southeastaviation.com>

4085 Tongass Ave.
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Phone: 907-225-8800
<http://www.taquanair.com>

Start with the amphibious-vehicle ride for a land-and-sea tour of Ketchikan. Grab lunch and walk down to the docks where the charter boats come in and unload the catch. Spend the afternoon fishing off Stedman Street Bridge. (Don't forget to purchase a license.) Then take the tram to Cape Fox Lodge for a spectacular view of Ketchikan and Tongass Narrows with dinner at Heen Kahidi.

PLAN B

Misty Fjords Majesty

Take a leisurely boat ride to Misty Fjords National Monument (about five hours). The captain will show you sea lions, harbor seals, orca whales and eagle nests. The tour includes a gourmet lunch and a lecture by a naturalist. Spend your afternoon exploring the park. On your return, catch a sunset at The Narrows Inn and Marina with an amber brew and fresh crab legs.

PLAN C

Native History and Natural Scenery

Spend the morning at the Totem Heritage Center, which houses 19th-century totem poles from remote Alaska Native villages. Afterward, hit the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center with its award-winning film and exhibits on native culture and natural resources. Grab lunch at Annabelle's Restaurant. Rent a car for the drive to Totem Bight Park and Settler's Cove on the northern end of Ketchikan. Spend the afternoon hiking up Perseverance Trail at Ward Cove. Finish your day with an outstanding meal at the Salmon Falls Resort.

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.

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. Daily 10 am-10 pm. Reservations recommended for lunch in the summer. \$\$-\$\$\$.

Most major credit cards. 326 Front St. (in the Gilmore Hotel), Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-6009. <http://www.annabellesketchikan.com>.

326 Front St.

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-225-6009

<http://www.annabellesketchikan.com>

Bar Harbor Restaurant

This small, converted house is known for its grilled-steak salad, steaks and fresh seafood. The halibut tacos are consistently top-notch. Dine on the deck if you can. Monday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. \$\$-\$\$\$.

Most major credit cards. 55 Schoenbar Court (on the west end of town next to the Bar Harbor Marina), Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-2813. <https://www.facebook.com/BarHarborAleHouse>.

55 Schoenbar Court

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-225-2813

<https://www.facebook.com/BarHarborAleHouse>

Jeremiah's Pub & The Landing Restaurant

The Best Western Landing Hotel houses two restaurants that are both popular with locals. Jeremiah's Pub serves everything from pastas to pub sandwiches. It features a pleasant fireplace, circular bar and a deck overlooking Tongass Narrows. Try the halibut BLT and beer-batter or sweet-potato fries. Downstairs is the Landing Restaurant, a family spot famous for its halibut-and-chips. Jeremiah's Pub daily for lunch and dinner; The Landing for breakfast, lunch and dinner. \$\$-\$\$\$.

Most major credit cards. 3434 Tongass Ave. (across the Alaska Marine Highway

3434 Tongass Ave.

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-225-5166

<http://www.landinghotel.com/restaurant.aspx>

Ferry Terminal), Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-5166. Toll-free 800-428-8304. <http://www.landinghotel.com/restaurant.aspx>.

Pioneer Cafe

This cafe offers down-home cooking and is a local hangout. Daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. \$-\$\$\$. 619 Mission St., Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-3337. <https://www.facebook.com/pioneercafeketchikan>.

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. Monday-Saturday 11 am-10 pm, Sunday 10 am-10 pm.

Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. 16707 N. Tongass Highway (18 mi/29 km north of downtown), Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-2752. Toll-free 800-247-9059.

<https://www.salmonfallsresort.com>.

American

Polar Treats

This place serves grilled *panini* and stuffed wraps that will feed two people. It also makes its own ice cream. Daily for breakfast, lunch and early dinner; closed Sunday in winter. \$. Most major credit cards. 500 Mission St. (south end of the docks), Ketchikan. Phone 907-247-6527. <https://www.facebook.com/polar-treats-51422184454>.

The Burger Queen

This small building right through the tunnel by the docks has cozy outdoor tables and seating for eight inside. The halibut is fresh, and the cheeseburgers are the best in town. It also serves chicken, chili and salads. Year-round Tuesday-Saturday for lunch and dinner; Sunday and Monday for lunch only in summer. \$-\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. 518 Water St., Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-6060.

<https://www.facebook.com/burger-queen-30424848851>.

Diaz Cafe

Ketchikan's oldest restaurant has a nondescript-looking exterior but serves excellent Filipino and Western food. Try the hearty servings of spicy chicken adobo, a local favorite. Tuesday-Saturday 11:30 am-7 pm, Sunday noon-7 pm. \$. 335 Stedman St., Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-2257. <https://diazcafe.business.site>.

New York Cafe

A charming little cafe in the historic New York Hotel. It serves the basic Alaska selection of seafood, but also has Mediterranean options such as mezze, tabouleh and a hummus platter. Tuesday-Saturday 7 am- 8:30 pm, Friday 7 am-9:30 pm, Sunday 7 am-2 pm. \$-\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. 211 Stedman St., Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-0246.

<http://newyorkcafe.net>.

Coffeehouses

The Candy Corner

You'll find assorted coffees, espresso, breakfast sandwiches, Danish pastries, muffins and juices. It has a cozy seating area with large windows to watch ships and tour boats. Daily, but hours vary. \$. 5 Salmon Landing Market, Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-1465.

<https://www.facebook.com/the-candy-corner-164138503596206>.

619 Mission St.

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-225-3337

<https://www.facebook.com/pioneercafeketchikan>

16707 N. Tongass Highway

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-225-2752

<https://www.salmonfallsresort.com>

500 Mission St.

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-247-6527

<https://www.facebook.com/polar-treats-51422184454>

518 Water St.

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-225-6060

<https://www.facebook.com/burger-queen-30424848851>

335 Stedman St.

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-225-2257

<https://diazcafe.business.site>

211 Stedman St.

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-225-0246

<http://newyorkcafe.net>

5 Salmon Landing Market

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-225-1465

<https://www.facebook.com/the-candy-corner-164138503596206>

Alaska Fish House

Next to the Lumberjack Show is a distinctive little white house known for fresh fish. The Alaska Fish House serves alder-grilled salmon, halibut tacos, two-salmon chowder and coffee from Ketchikan's Green Coffee Bean Company (phone 907-247-5621; <http://www.tgcbc.com>). Mid-April to early October daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. 3 Salmon Landing, Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-4055. Toll-free 877-732-9453. <https://exclusivealaska.com/fish-house>.

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. Daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. 800 Venetia Way (inside the Cape Fox Lodge), Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-8001. Toll-free 866-225-8001. <https://capefoxlodge.com/heen-kahidi-dining-room.shtml>.

Ketchikan Crab & Grille

This unpretentious place features seating at the counter and is a good spot for people-watching. It offers the best market price for king crab, which is served with melted butter and a delicious salad. There's also a serve-yourself all-beef hotdog counter there. May-September Monday-Saturday for lunch. \$-\$\$\$. 5 Salmon Landing, Ketchikan. Phone 907-247-2866. <https://www.facebook.com/KetchikanCrabAndGrille>.

3 Salmon Landing

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-225-4055

<https://exclusivealaska.com/fish-house>

800 Venetia Way

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: 907-225-8001

<https://capefoxlodge.com/heen-kahidi-dining-room.shtml>

5 Salmon Landing

Ketchikan, Alaska

Phone: 907-247-2866

<https://www.facebook.com/KetchikanCrabAn>

SECURITY

Personal Safety

Crime is minimal in Alaska, and that includes Ketchikan. But use common sense—be aware of your surroundings. The police department often has foot and bicycle patrols in town.

Mosquitoes and other nibblers can be a nuisance—be sure to carry a good insect repellent on hikes (preferably one containing deet as an active ingredient). Don't drink untreated water from lakes or streams. No matter how pristine the area seems, people and animals may have fouled the water.

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 wild animals.

Ketchikan General Hospital is north of downtown at 3100 Tongass Ave. Phone 907-225-5171. <http://www.peacehealth.org/southeastalaska>. In an emergency, dial 911.

Ketchikan has specially equipped local buses to accommodate riders with disabilities. Elevators are available to the second-floor shopping at Salmon Landing. Cape Fox Lodge has a tram for the ride up to the resort. Watercraft, floatplanes and tour buses may pose a problem—check with individual companies.

Electric cars that seat four are available for rent from Rain Barrel (400 Spruce Mill Way; phone 907-225-2277). Many cruise ships offer special tours for disabled or limited-mobility travelers.

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.

FACTS

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: 13,901.

Languages: English.

Predominant Religions: Christian.

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;

Currency Exchange

There are several banks in the downtown area: First Bank (331 Dock St. and 2530 Tongass Ave.) and Wells Fargo Bank Alaska (409 Dock St. and 2415 Tongass Ave.). All have ATMs. The visitors center also has an ATM (131 Front St.). Some stores will accept Canadian currency at a fair exchange rate.

Banks are generally open Monday-Friday 10 am-5 pm.

Although there is no state tax, the local tax rate is 6%. The hotel occupancy rate is 7% for the city. The borough hotel rate is 2.5%.

Tip restaurant waitstaff and taxi drivers 15% unless good service warrants more.

Weather

Summer is the best time to visit. The days are usually less overcast and rainy than the rest of the year. June and July average 7 in/17 cm precipitation compared with 20 in/52 cm in October, but be prepared for rain any time. Temperatures range 51-65 F/11-18 C. Fall and winter are much cooler, with temperatures often dropping below freezing, and there is less daylight for sightseeing activities.

The weather in Ketchikan can be cold and rainy or hot and sunny. It is best to pack casual clothing to cover both extremes, from shorts and a T-shirt to long pants, a sweater or fleece garment and water-resistant jacket with a hood. Layering is the rule. If you're traveling on the water, you might also want to take a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen and carry a bottle of water. Make sure to pack comfortable waterproof walking shoes and extra pairs of socks.

Telephone

Most cell phones have good coverage in and around town. Check with your provider before you travel.

There are several places in Ketchikan where internet service is available, including most hotels and lodges. Wi-Fi is available at the Cape Fox Lodge and at coffee shops. The Ketchikan Public Library at 1110 Copper Ridge Lane also offers internet access. Other hot-spot locations are at the cruise-ship docks, 5 Salmon Landing, Ketchikan Crab and Grille, Thomas Basin and the Alaska Marine Highway ferry terminal.

The main post office is at 3609 Tongass Ave. There is a post office substation in the Barnaby's Building on Mission Street, along with a location at Ward Cove.

Ketchikan has two main papers. *The Ketchikan Daily News* is published Monday-Saturday (<http://www.ketchikandailynews.com>). *The Local Paper* is published every Wednesday and is distributed at points throughout town (<http://www.thelocalpaper.com>). Both papers list local events and are available online.

The best places to get up-to-date local information are at the visitors centers (131 Front St. and Berth Three on the dock).

Transportation

The downtown area is so small you can see almost everything on foot. But a good way to get an overview of Ketchikan is to catch one of the public buses that circle through town daily.

Car

Because Ketchikan is on an island, you can't get very far in a car. But if you want to sightsee on your own, rental cars are available for US\$57-\$96 per day. Reserve cars in advance during the summer. Contact Budget Rent-A-Car at 907-225-6003, First City Car Rental at 907-225-7368 or Alaska Car Rental at 800-662-0007 (toll-free). Per government regulations, the minimum age to rent a car in Alaska is 25 years of age. Courtesy shuttles to the rental offices are offered from the cruise dock.

It is illegal to text and drive in Alaska.

Alaska Marine Highway

Ferries plying the Inside Passage stop at Ketchikan's ferry terminal, which is 2 mi/3 km northwest of downtown. Rates vary depending on the size of your vehicle or if you're on foot. 7559 N. Tongass Highway, Ketchikan. Toll-free 800-642-0066. <https://dot.alaska.gov/amhs>.

7559 N. Tongass Highway
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
<https://dot.alaska.gov/amhs>

Inter-Island Ferry Authority

This company provides year-round passenger and vehicle service between Ketchikan and Hollis on Prince of Wales Island. US\$49 adults, US\$50 for a standard-sized vehicle. Toll-free 866-308-4848. <http://www.interislandferry.com>.

Ketchikan, Alaska 99925
<http://www.interislandferry.com>

Ketchikan Gateway Borough operates The Bus, which consists of two bus lines that travel throughout Ketchikan. The Silver Line runs from Saxman Native Village past Totem Bight State Park, a 45-minute trip either way. The fare is US\$1 one way, cash only. The Green Line follows the same general route but doesn't reach as far on either end. Free transfers are available for the next bus; 25-ride punch passes and monthly passes are also available. The buses make frequent stops along their routes. Bus schedules are available at the visitors centers and other locations around town.

The transit association has also instituted a shuttle service that connects Berth Four with Creek Street, the Totem Heritage Center, Deer Mountain Tribal Hatchery and the Tongass Historical Museum every 20 minutes May-September. The shuttle is free. For information, phone 907-225-8726 or 907-247-5541. <http://www.borough.ketchikan.ak.us/145/Transit>.

Several taxi companies offer transportation around town, as well as individualized tours. Taxis also meet airport ferries and state ferries. Expect to spend around US\$35 for a half-hour tour of the area, US\$70 for up to six people in the cab. Rates are US\$3.70 base fare, US\$3.50 per mile. Call Yellow Taxi at 907-225-5555 or Sourdough Cab at 907-225-5544.

For More Information

Tourist Offices

Ketchikan Visitors Bureau

The office offers walking-tour maps, brochures and tour-reservation booths. Listings of cultural events and festivals are also available there or on the Web site. Public phones and restrooms are available. Daily in summer 8 am-5 pm and whenever ships are in port. Winter hours are Monday-Friday 8 am-5 pm. 50 Front St. (on the docks, with a second location at Berth Three), Ketchikan. Phone 907-225-6166. Toll-free 800-770-3300. <http://www.visit-ketchikan.com>.

50 Front St.
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Phone: 907-225-6166
<http://www.visit-ketchikan.com>

EVENTS

Calendar

Ketchikan's annual event calendar begins with the Wearable Art Show each February. The Rainy Day Quilters Guild celebrates Ketchikan's wetness with a Quilting in the Rain show, also in February.

In April is the Alaska Hummingbird Festival, a monthlong celebration of the annual return of the Rufous hummingbird. Southeast Alaska Discovery Center sponsors an art show and bird walks, along with educational and recreational activities. Phone 907-228-6220.

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

Not surprisingly, several of Ketchikan's annual events relate to fish and water. The Celebration of the Sea (May) honors the city's maritime heritage, and the Ketchikan King Salmon Derby (June) is one of the region's largest fishing events.

Fourth of July is a fun time throughout southeast Alaska. Ketchikan sponsors an annual timber carnival and rubber duck race along with the usual parades and firework displays.

Other events, such as the Blueberry Arts Festival in August and the Winter Arts Faire in November, attract local artisans to the area.

The Monthly Grind is a local talent show that occurs the third Saturday of the month at the Saxman Tribal House September-May.

Admission is US\$5 but will be refunded if you take a dessert. Contact the Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council for more information at 907-225-2211. <http://ketchikanarts.org>.

For more information about upcoming events in Ketchikan, contact the Ketchikan Visitors Bureau. Phone 907-225-6166, or toll-free 800-770-3300. <http://www.visit-ketchikan.com>.

Alternatively, contact the Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council at 907-225-2211. <http://www.ketchikanarts.org>.