

Ketchikan Visitors Bureau resources for journalists

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/itinerary planning

media@visit-ketchikan.com

Patti Mackey, President/CEO

Liz Harpold, Communications Coordinator

Fact checking for stories, media inquiries and itinerary planning assistance

eharpold@visit-ketchikan.com

Liz Harpold, Communications Coordinator

Fact checking for travel guidebooks

info@visit-ketchikan.com

Kerri Hassett, Visitor Services Manager

Quick links to:

visit-ketchikan.com general consumer and traveler information

ketchikanstories.com a companion to our Emmy Award winning film series, The Ketchikan Story Project, reflecting the lifestyle and culture of our community.

Twitter: @travelketchikan

Facebook: travelketchikan

Instagram: Travelketchikan

Pinterest: TravelKetchikan

www.Ketchikanartliveshere.org showcasing the work of Ketchikan's arts community

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. If you need assistance with a specific image or are interested in reviewing our b-roll, please use the contact information above to make your request.

Photos can be accessed via [Dropbox](https://www.dropbox.com) at: <http://bit.ly/1GBi46z>

Media Pass

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 within Alaska

Southeast Alaska Tourism Council- promoting independent travel opportunities along Alaska's Inside Passage.

[Consumer web site](http://www.alaskasinsidepassage.com)

www.alaskasinsidepassage.com

[Media information](http://www.alaskasinsidepassage.com/press-kit/)

www.alaskasinsidepassage.com/press-kit/

State of Alaska Department of Community, Commerce and Economic Development

[Consumer web site](http://www.travelalaska.com)

www.travelalaska.com

[Media center](http://www.travelalaska.com/mediacenter)

www.travelalaska.com/mediacenter

[Tourism Development](http://commerce.state.ak.us/dnn/ded/dev/tourismdevelopment.aspx) commerce.state.ak.us/dnn/ded/dev/tourismdevelopment.aspx

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 an easily accessible 90 minutes by air and 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 Alaskan 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 Park
Potlatch Park	

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Hiking trails	Zip-Line tours
Kayaking	Biking
Mountain cart and jeep tours	Inflatable boat tours
Skiff and boat rentals	Snorkeling

DINING TOURS

Multi course seafood tasting	Fishing/beach cookout
Crab feed	Seafood boil

SIGHTSEEING TOURS

Group tours by bus	Van and vehicle small group
Float plane and helicopter	Day cruise boats
Humvee	Amphibious craft
Commercial crab boat	Sea cycling

For more information see our [Ketchikan Trip Planner](http://bit.ly/1PDKSdb) online: <http://bit.ly/1PDKSdb>

Calendar of Events

Ongoing/Monthly

Monthly Grind- Jan thru May; Sept thru Dec

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- series of arts events including 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

Ketchikan King Salmon Derby continues

R2AK- Race to Alaska

Only Fools Run at Midnight

July

Fourth of July parade, booths, duck race, fireworks

Fish Pirate's Daughter- Ketchikan's original melodrama 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)

The list above highlights our most popular, ongoing annual events. For a complete listing please check out our [monthly calendar](#) or contact us for more information.

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 stores.

Ketchikan has the largest collection of totem poles still in existence than anywhere else 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.

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

Ketchikan has a thriving arts culture and industry; and 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 use boats to commute to and from their homes to shop, go to work and school and take part in community events.

Float planes 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 in Japan.

Ketchikan previously held the Guinness Record for the world's largest "rubber boot race" (okay 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 we decide to try and regain our title.

Quick Facts about Ketchikan, Alaska

1. Ketchikan, Alaska is located on Revillagigedo Island, in the Alexander Archipelago and the southern portion of Alaska's Inside Passage (southeast) region. The only way to travel to and from is by boat or plane. Commercial/public options include daily jet service, cruise ship and Alaska Marine Highway and Inter-Island ferry systems.
2. Approximately 13,000 people reside in the greater Ketchikan Gateway Borough. It is the sixth largest community in Alaska behind Anchorage, Fairbanks, Matanuska-Susitna, 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, a 2.3 million acre preserve of glaciers, fjords and forested land known for whale watching & wildlife viewing, was established by presidential proclamation on December 1, 1978 by President Jimmy Carter.
7. Sitka Spruce, Northern Hemlock, Red & Yellow Cedar are the most frequently seen trees on the Tongass.
8. In the Ketchikan area there is 1 RV park with hookups, and 3 campgrounds that can accommodate RVs. There is also 1 RV dumping station available.
9. Two popular in-town hiking trails are the Deer Mountain Trail and the Rainbird Trail. The Deer Mountain Trail is 2.5 miles to the summit where you'll get excellent vistas of the Ketchikan area. The Ward Lake Trail and Perseverance Trail are located in the Ward Lake Recreational Area approximately 7 miles north of Ketchikan on Revillagigedo Road. Lunch Creek trail at Settlers Cove State Park is 18 miles north of town, and quite literally at the end of the road.
10. There are the five species of salmon found in Ketchikan area waters. King (Chinook), Silver (Coho), Pink (Humpy), Red (Sockeye) & Chum (Dog).
11. Salmon runs vary by species, but fishing is typically best June through September.
12. Halibut, rockfish (including Red Snapper), ling cod, steelhead, Dolly Varden, Rainbow, and Brown Trout are also available locally.
13. 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 by towing a flasher trailed by bait.
14. The largest salmon ever caught in Alaska? 97 pounds by sportfishing gear; 126 pounds by commercial gear.
15. The largest halibut ever caught in Alaska? 322.6 pounds by sportfishing gear. 533 pounds by commercial fishing gear.

16. A white King salmon is a King salmon with a genetic inability to process the pigments in the small crustaceans that salmon eat is a “white” King.
17. A chicken halibut is a halibut that is between 10 and 30 pounds in weight.
18. Alaskan salmon spawn between mid-June and October each year.
19. The most common types of commercial fishing in the area are Purse seining, trolling, gillnetting and long-lining.
20. How many museums are in Ketchikan? 3 public; 2 commercial.
21. There are more than 30 restaurants, featuring everything from our prized Alaskan seafood and American fare to ethnic cuisine. Favorite local items include fresh King salmon, Dungeness crab, halibut, seafood chowders, and locally roasted & brewed coffee from one of our three coffee roasters.
22. Orcas (otherwise known as Killer Whales), Gray Whales, Humpback Whales, sea lion, harbor seals, Dall’s porpoise and octopus are often seen on the water.
23. 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.
24. 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 a very walk-able city.
25. Average annual temperature in Ketchikan? 42.5 degrees.
26. Average summer temperature in Ketchikan? 55 degrees.
27. Average winter temperature in Ketchikan? 31 degrees.
28. Average rain fall per year? **152 inches** or **13 feet**. This is not a typo, 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.
29. How many days a year does it rain in Ketchikan? An average of 228 days.
30. What was the record rainfall for Ketchikan? In 1949 there was 202 inches.
31. Rainiest month in Ketchikan? October.
32. Driest month in Ketchikan? June.
33. Average annual snowfall Ketchikan receives is 36.9 inches
34. What is the elevation of Ketchikan? 0 – Ketchikan is at sea level.
35. Ketchikan’s latitude and longitude is 55 degrees North and 131 degrees West
36. Alaska has its own time zone; created in 1983, it is 4 hours behind Eastern Time; one hour behind Pacific.
37. Average daylight on the summer solstice in Ketchikan is 17:29 hours on June 21st
38. Average daylight on the winter solstice is 7:06 hours on December 21st.
39. How far north to:
 - Wrangell, Alaska? 83 miles by air; 6 hours via Alaska Marine Ferry System.
 - Petersburg, Alaska? 112 miles by air; 9 hours by ferry.
 - Juneau, Alaska? 235 miles by air; 21 hours by ferry.
 - Anchorage, Alaska? 776 air miles.
 - Fairbanks, Alaska? 854 air miles.

Nome, Alaska? 1345 air miles.

How far south to:

Metlakatla, Alaska? 15 miles by air; 1 hour by ferry.

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

Seattle, WA? 679 miles by air; 36 hours by ferry (to Bellingham, WA).

How far west to:

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

DISTANCE INFORMATION Downtown to points north

Miles		Kilometers
0	Ketchikan Visitors Information Center at Berth 2	0.00
.1	Tunnel	0.16
.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
.1	Southeast Alaska Discovery Center	.16
.2	Federal Building	.32
.3	Creek Street / Stedman-Thomas Historic District	.48
.4	Thomas Basin	.64
.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