The Best of Alaska

As a child, when my family traveled outside Alaska for vacations, I often met other children who asked, "Wow, you live in Alaska? What's it like?" I never did well with that question. To me, the place I was visiting was far simpler and easier to describe than the one I was from. The Lower 48 seemed a fairly homogeneous land of freeways and fast food, a well-mapped network of established places. Alaska, on the other hand, wasn't even completely explored. Natural forces of vast scale and subtlety were still shaping the land in their own way, inscribing a different story on each of an infinite number of unexpected places. Each region, whether populated or not, was unique far beyond my ability to explain. Alaska was so large and new, so unconquered and exquisitely real, as to defy summation.

In contrast to many places you might choose to visit, it's Alaska's unformed newness that makes it so interesting and fun. Despite the best efforts of tour planners, the most memorable parts of a visit are unpredictable and often unexpected: a humpback whale leaping clear of the water, the face of a glacier releasing huge ice chunks, a bear feasting on salmon in a river, a huge salmon chomping onto your line. You can look at totem poles and see Alaska Native cultural demonstrations, and you can also get to know indigenous people who still live by traditional ways. And sometimes grand, quiet moments come, and those are the ones that endure most deeply.

As the writer of this guidebook, I aim to help you get to places where you may encounter what's new, real, and unexpected. Opening yourself to those experiences is your job, but it's an effort that's likely to pay off. Although I have lived here all my life, I often envy the stories visitors tell me about the Alaskan places they have gone to and what happened there. No one owns Alaska, and most of us are newcomers here. In all this immensity, a visitor fresh off the boat is just as likely as a lifelong resident to see or do something amazing.

1 The Best Views

- A First Sight of Alaska: Flying north from Seattle, you're in clouds, so you concentrate on a book. When you look up, the light from the window has changed. Down below, the clouds are gone, and under the wing, where you're used to seeing roads, cities, and farms on most flights, you see instead only high, snowy mountain peaks, without the slightest mark of human presence,
- stretching as far as the horizon. Welcome to Alaska.
- Punchbowl Cove (Misty Fjords National Monument): A sheer granite cliff rises smooth and implacable 3,150 feet straight up from the water. A pair of bald eagles wheels and soars across its face, providing the only sense of scale. They look the size of gnats. See p. 104.

- From the Chugach Mountains Over Anchorage, at Sunset: The city sparkles below, on the edge of an orange-reflecting Cook Inlet, far below the mountainside where you stand. Beyond the pink and purple silhouettes of mountains on the other side of the inlet, the sun is spraying warm, dying light into puffs of clouds. And yet it's midnight. See "Getting Outside" in chapter 6.
- Mount McKinley from the Air (Denali National Park): Your bush pilot guides his plane up from the flatlands of Talkeetna into a realm of eternal white, where a profusion of insanely rugged peaks rises in higher relief than any other spot on earth. After circling a 3-mile-high wall and slipping
- through a mile-deep canyon, you land on a glacier, get out of the plane, and for the first time realize the overwhelming scale of it all. See "Attractions & Activities Outside the Park" and "Talkeetna: Back Door to Denali" in chapter 8.
- The Northern Lights (Alaska's Interior): Blue, purple, green, and red lines spin from the center of the sky, draping long tendrils of slow-moving light. Bright, flashing, sky-covering waves wash across the dome of stars like ripples driven by a gust of wind on a pond. Looking around, you see that your companions' faces are rosy in a silver, snowy night, all gazing straight up with their mouths open. See p. 364.

2 The Best Alaska Cruises

Cruises provide comfortable, leisurely access to the Inside Passage and the Gulf of Alaska. Here are some of the best bets. See chapter 4 for details.

- Best Up-Close Alaska Experience: Glacier Bay Cruiseline's Wilderness Adventurer and Wilderness Explorer sail itineraries that shun overcrowded port towns in favor of wilderness areas and small fishing villages. Both carry sea kavaks for off-ship exploration, and both feature naturalist-led hikes as central features of the experience. The line is owned by an Alaska Native corporation and the ships are small (carrying 74 and 36 passengers, respectively) and very casual. They're not fancy, but that's the point-it's where they take you that counts.
- Most Comfortable Small Ships: Cruise West's Spirit of Endeavor and Spirit of '98 (a 19th-c. coastal steamer re-creation) and Clipper's Yorktown Clipper offer a higher level of comfort than the other

- small ships in Alaska while still giving you an intimate, casual, upclose small-ship experience.
- Most Luxurious Big Ships: Crystal Harmony is the top-of-the-line ship in the Alaska market, with superb cuisine, elegant service, lovely surroundings, great cabins, and sparkling entertainment. If you want a more casual kind of luxury, Radisson Seven Seas' Seven Seas Mariner (which is slightly smaller than the *Harmony*) offers just that. Among the mainstream cruise ships, Celebrity's Mercury, Infinity, and Summit are the big winners, offering cutting-edge modern ships with great service, dining, and design.
- Best Cruisetours: Holland America Line and Princess are the leaders in linking cruises with land tours into the Interior, either before or after your cruise. They own their own hotels, deluxe motor coaches, and railcars, and after many years in the business,

Alaska

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MILEAGE CHART Approximate driving distances in miles between cities.	Anchorage	Circle	Dawson City	Eagle	Fairbanks	Haines	Homer	Prudhoe Bay	Seattle	Seward	Skagway	Tok	Valdez	
Anchorage		520	494	501	358	775	226	847	2234	126	832	328	304]
Circle	520		530	541	162	815	746	1972	2271	646	872	368	526]
Dawson City	494	530		131	379	548	713	868	1843	619	430	189	428	1
Eagle	501	541	131		379	620	727	868	1974	627	579	173	427	C).
Fairbanks	358	162	379	379		653	584	489	2121	484	710	206	364	7
Haines	775	815	548	620	653		1001	1142	1774	901	359	447	701	1
Homer	226	746	713	727	584	1001		1073	2455	173	1058	554	530	3
Prudhoe Bay	847	1972	868	868	489	1142	1073		2610	973	1199	695	853	1
Seattle	2243	2271	1843	1974	2121	1774	2455	2610		2493	1577	1931	2169] "
Seward	126	646	619	627	484	901	173	973	2493		958	454	430] "
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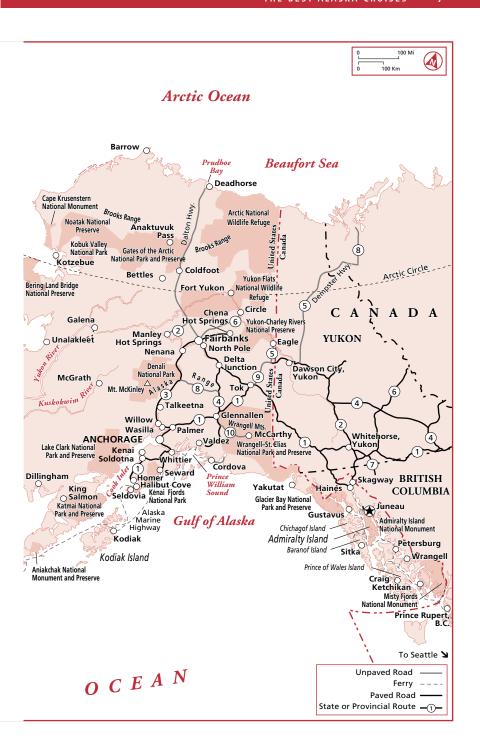
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Atka Island ≪ Atka

Aleutian Islands

PACIFIC



they both really know what they're doing. Princess concentrates more on the Anchorage/Denali/ Fairbanks routes, while Holland America has many itineraries that get you to the Yukon Territory's Dawson City and Whitehorse.

3 The Best Glaciers

More of Alaska—more than 100 times more—is covered by glacier ice than is settled by human beings.

- Grand Pacific Glacier (Glacier Bay National Park): Two vast glaciers of deep blue meet at the top of an utterly barren fjord. They rubbed and creased the gray rock below for thousands of years before just recently releasing it to the air again. Three intimidating walls of ice surround boats that pull close to the glaciers. See "Glacier Bay National Park" in chapter 5.
- Childs Glacier (Cordova): Out the Copper River Highway from Cordova, this is a participatory glacier-viewing experience. The glacier is cut by the Copper River, which is ¼ mile broad; standing on the opposite shore (unless you're up in the viewing tower), you have to be ready to run like hell when the creaking, popping ice gives

- way and a huge berg falls into the river, potentially swamping the picnic area. Even when the glacier isn't calving, you can feel the ice groaning in your gut. See "Cordova: Hidden Treasure" in chapter 7.
- Exit Glacier (Seward): You can drive near the glacier and walk the rest of the way on a gravel path. It towers above like a huge blue sculpture, the spires of broken ice close enough to breathe a freezer-door chill down on watchers. See "Exit Glacier" in section 6 of chapter 7.
- Western Prince William Sound: On a boat from Whittier, you can see a couple dozen glaciers in a day. Some of these are the amazing tidewater glaciers that dump huge, office-building-size spires of ice into the ocean, each setting off a terrific splash and outwardradiating sea wave. See "Whittier: Dock on the Sound" in chapter 7.

4 The Most Beautiful Drives & Train Rides

You'll find a description of each road in "Alaska's Highways a la Carte" on p. 358. Here are some highlights:

- White Pass and Yukon Route Railway (Skagway to Summit): The narrow-gauge excursion train, sometimes pulled by vintage steam engines, climbs the steep grade that was chiseled into the granite mountains by stampeders to the Klondike gold rush. The train is a sort of mechanical mountain goat, balancing on trestles and steep rock walls far above deep gorges. See p. 187.
- Seward Highway/Alaska Railroad (Anchorage to Seward): Just
 south of Anchorage, the highway
 and rail line have been chipped
 into the side of the Chugach
 Mountains over the surging gray
 water of Turnagain Arm. Above,
 Dall sheep and mountain goats
 pick their way along the cliffs,
 within easy sight. Below, white
 beluga whales chase salmon
 through the turbid water. Farther
 south, the route splits and climbs
 through the mountain passes of
 the Kenai Peninsula. See "The

Seward Highway: A Road Guide" in Chapter 7 for information on the highway, and p. 258 for information on this Alaska Railroad route.

- Denali Highway: Leading eastwest through the Alaska Range, the highway crosses terrain that could be another Denali National Park, full of wildlife and with views so huge and grand they seem impossible. See p. 322.
- Richardson Highway: Just out of Valdez heading north, the Richardson Highway rises quickly from sea level to more than 2,600 feet, switching back and forth on the side of a mountain. With each turn, the drop down the impassable slope becomes more amazing. North of Glennallen, the highway rises again, bursting through the tree line between a series of
- mountains and tracing the edges of long alpine lakes, before descending, parallel with the silver skein of the Alaska pipeline, to Delta Junction. See "The Richardson Highway & Copper Center," in chapter 9.
- The Roads Around Nome: You can't drive to Nome, but 250 miles of gravel roads radiate from the Arctic community into tundra that's populated only by musk oxen, bear, reindeer, birds, and other wildlife. See p. 428.
- The Dalton Highway: When you're ready for an expedition—a real wilderness trip by road—the Dalton Highway leads from Fairbanks across northern Alaska to the Arctic Ocean, a mind-blowing drive through 500 miles of spectacular virgin country. See "The Dalton Highway" in chapter 9.

5 The Best Fishing

The quality of salmon fishing in Alaska isn't so much a function of place as of time. See p. 39 for information on how to find the fish when you arrive.

- **Bristol Bay:** This is the world's richest salmon fishery; lodges on the remote rivers of the region are an angler's paradise. See p. 40.
- Copper River Delta, Cordova: The Copper itself is silty with glacial runoff, but feeder streams and rivers are rich with trout, Dolly Varden, and salmon, with few other anglers in evidence. See p. 314.
- The Kenai River: The biggest king salmon—up to 98 pounds—come from the swift Kenai River. Big fish are so common in the

- second run of kings that there's a special, higher standard for what makes a trophy. Silvers and reds add to a mad, summer-long fishing frenzy. See p. 275.
- Homer: Alaska's largest charterfishing fleet goes for halibut ranging into the hundreds of pounds. See p. 291.
- Unalaska: Beyond the road system, Unalaska has the biggest halibut. See p. 421.
- Kodiak Island: The bears are so big here because they live on an island that's crammed with spawning salmon in the summer. Kodiak has the best roadside salmon fishing in Alaska, and the remote fishing, at lodges or fly-in stream banks, is legendary. See p. 413.

6 The Best Tips for Cooking Salmon

Now that you've caught a Pacific salmon, you need to know how to cook it—or order it in a restaurant—to

avoid spoiling the rich flavor. Tips for getting your fish home are on p. 292.

- Freeze As Little As Possible: It's a sad fact that salmon loses some of its richness and gets more "fishy" as soon as it's frozen. Eat as much as you can fresh, because it'll never be better. Ask if the salmon is fresh when you order it in a restaurant. Don't overlook smoking, the traditional Native way of preserving fish for the winter. See p. 292 for information on where to get your salmon frozen and smoked.
- Choose the Best Fish: The best restaurants advertise where their salmon comes from on the menu. In early summer, Copper River kings and reds are the richest in flavor; later in the summer, Yukon River salmon are best. The oil in the salmon gives it the rich, meaty flavor; the fish from the Copper and Yukon are high in oil content. King, red, and silver salmon are the only species you should find in a restaurant. Avoid farm-reared salmon, which is mushy and flavorless compared with wild Alaska salmon.
- Keep It Simple: When ordering salmon or halibut in a restaurant, avoid anything with cheese or heavy sauces. When salmon is fresh, it's best with light seasoning,

- perhaps just a little lemon, dill weed, and pepper and salt, or basted with soy sauce; or without anything on it at all, grilled over alder coals.
- Don't Overcook It: Salmon should be cooked just until the moment the meat changes color and becomes flaky through to the bone, or slightly before. A minute more, and some of the texture and flavor are lost. That's why those huge barbecue salmon bakes often are not as good as they should be—it's too hard to cook hundreds of pieces of fish just right and serve them all hot.
- Fillets, Not Steaks: Salmon is cut two ways in Alaska: lengthwise fillets or crosswise steaks. The fillet is cut with the grain of the flesh, keeping the oil and moisture in the fish. Do not remove the skin before cooking-it holds in the oils, and will fall off easily when the fish is done. If you have a large group, consider cooking the salmon bone-in (sometimes called a roast), stuffing seasonings in the body cavity. When it's done, the skin easily peels off and, after eating the first side, you can effortlessly lift out the skeleton.

7 The Best Bear Viewing

There are many places to see bears in Alaska, but if your goal is to make *sure* you see a bear—and potentially lots of bears—these are the best places:

- Anan Wildlife Observatory: When the fish are running, you can see many dozens of black bear feeding in a salmon stream from close at hand. Access is easiest from Wrangell. See p. 112.
- Pack Creek (Admiralty Island):
 The brown bears of the island, which is more thickly populated with them than anywhere else on

- earth, have learned to ignore the daily visitors who stand on the platforms at Pack Creek. Access is by air from Juneau. See p. 156.
- Katmai National Park: During the July and September salmon runs, dozens of giant brown bears congregate around Brooks Camp, where, from wooden platforms a few yards away, you can watch the full range of their behaviors. Flight services from Kodiak also bring guests at any time of the summer to see bears dig clams on the park's

- eastern seashore. See "Katmai National Park" and "Kodiak: Wild Island" in chapter 10.
- Kodiak Island: The island's incredible salmon runs nourish the world's largest bears, Kodiak brown bears; pilots know where to find them week to week, landing floatplanes as near as possible. See p. 412.
- Denali National Park: The park offers the best and least expensive wildlife-viewing safari in the state. Passengers on the buses that drive

- the park road as far as the Eielson Visitor Center usually see at least some grizzlies. See chapter 8.
- Alaska Rainforest Sanctuary (Ketchikan): A creek south of town where black bear come to feed on salmon coming back to a hatchery has been developed with boardwalks and facilities for tour buses. It remains to be seen if the bears will stay with all those people around, but if they do, this may become Alaska's most popular bear viewing site. See p. 98.

8 The Best Marine Mammal Viewing

You've got a good chance of seeing marine mammals almost anywhere you go boating in Alaska, but in some places it's almost guaranteed.

- Frederick Sound (Petersburg): A humpback jumped right into the boat with whale-watchers here in 1995. Petersburg boats also see otters and baby seals sitting on icebergs floating in front of LeConte Glacier. See p. 121.
- Icy Strait (Gustavus) and Bartlett Cove (Glacier Bay National Park): Humpback whales show up off Point Adolphus, in Icy Strait, just a few miles from little Gustavus, a town of luxurious country inns, and in Bartlett Cove within Glacier Bay National Park. See "Glacier Bay National Park" and "Gustavus: Country Inns & Quiet" in chapter 5.
- **Sitka Sound:** Lots of otters and humpback whales show up in the

- waters near Sitka. In fall, when the town holds its Whale Fest, you can spot them from a city park built for the purpose. See "Sitka: Rich Prize of Russian Conquest" in chapter 5.
- Kenai Fjords National Park (near Seward): You don't have to go all the way into the park—you're pretty well assured of sea otters and sea lions in Resurrection Bay, near Seward, and humpbacks and killer whales often show up, too. See "Kenai Fjords National Park" in chapter 7.
- Prince William Sound: Otters, seals, and sea lions are easy—you'll see them on most trips out of Valdez, Whittier, or Cordova—but you also have a chance of spotting both humpback and killer whales in the Sound. See chapter 7.

9 The Best Encounters with Native Culture

- Ketchikan Totem Poles: This Tlingit homeland has three unique places to see totem poles: historic poles indoors at the Totem Heritage Center, faithful reproductions outdoors in a natural setting at Totem Bight State
- Park, and brand new poles as they are created in a workshop at the Saxman Native Village Totem Pole Park. See p. 96.
- Alaska Native Heritage Center (Anchorage): All of Alaska's Native groups joined together to

build this grand living museum and gathering place, where dance and music performances, story-telling, art and craft demonstrations, and simple meetings of people happen every day. See p. 219.

 Alutiiq Museum (Kodiak): The Koniag people are recovering their culture from the ground and from artifacts repatriated from the world's museums. Visitors can even join in archaeological fieldwork. See p. 411.

• Iñupiat Ĥeritage Center (Barrow): A living museum, this is a place to meet and enjoy performances by the Native people who built it, and to see extraordinary artifacts they have made and recovered from digs in frozen ground. See p. 436.

10 The Best Museums & Historic Sites

- Sitka National Historic Park: The site of the 1804 battle between the Tlingits and Russians, in a totem pole park and seaside stand of old-growth forest, allows you to really appreciate what the Native people were fighting for. Inside the visitor center, some of the best historic totem poles are on display while Native craftspeople create new ones and demonstrate other traditional arts and talk with visitors. See p. 129.
- Alaska State Museum (Juneau): This richly endowed museum doesn't just show off its wealth of objects—it also uses them to teach about the state. A visit will put Alaska's Native cultures and pioneer history entirely in context. See p. 143.
- Anchorage Museum of History and Art: Alaska's largest museum

- has the room and expertise to tell the story of Native and white history in Alaska, and to showcase contemporary Alaskan art and culture. See p. 217.
- Pratt Museum (Homer): The Pratt explains natural history (especially the life of the ocean) in an intimate and clear way you'll find nowhere else in Alaska. See p. 287.
- UAF Museum of the North (Fairbanks): This university museum is undergoing a spectacular renovation, with a swooping new gallery to present Alaska's art due for completion in 2005. Its existing galley contained an extraordinary natural history collection, presented with the help of some of the world's top scientists on Alaskan subjects. See p. 366.

11 The Best Winter Destinations

- Anchorage: Anyone can enjoy the Fur Rendezvous and Iditarod sled dog races, which keep a winter-carnival atmosphere going through much of February and March, but winter sports enthusiasts get the most out of winter here. The city has some of the best Nordic and telemark skiing anywhere, close access to three downhill skiing areas, dog mushing, and lake skating. See chapter 6.
- Alyeska Resort (Girdwood): Alaska's premier downhill skiing area has lots of snow over a long season, fantastic views, few lift lines, and a luxurious hotel. See "The Best Hotels," below, and p. 237.
- Chena Hot Springs Resort: A 90-minute ride from Fairbanks and you're out in the country, where the northern lights are clear on a starry winter afternoon and

- night. The resort has lots of activities to get you out into the snowy countryside, or you can just relax in the hot mineral springs. See p. 384.
- Sitka: Much of historic Sitka is as available in winter as at any other time of year, but with fewer crowds and lower prices. The humpback whale-watching is exceptional in the late fall and early winter, as the whales stop off here on their migration. See
- "Sitka: Rich Prize of Russian Conquest" in chapter 5.
- Barrow: Go to the shore of the frozen Arctic Ocean and you have a chance to experience the most extreme winter conditions in the world. It's dark for 65 days, when the aurora blasts across the sky. There's not much to do, but you could run into a polar bear in the street. See "Barrow: Way North" in chapter 10.

12 The Strangest Community Events

- Cordova Ice Worm Festival (Cordova): The truth is, ice worms do exist. Really. This winter carnival celebrates them in February. The highlight is the traditional annual march of the ice worm (a costume with dozens of feet sticking out) down the main street. See p. 310.
- Midnight Sun Baseball Game (Fairbanks): The semipro baseball game, played without lights, doesn't begin until 10:30pm on the longest day of the year. See p. 363.
- Bering Sea Ice Golf Classic (Nome): The greens are Astroturf, as the sea ice won't support a decent lawn in mid-March. Hook a drive and you could end up spending hours wandering among the pressure ridges, but you must play the ball as it lies. See p. 427.
- Polar Bear Swim (Nome): This swim in the frigid Bering Sea takes place in late June, but only if the sea ice has opened up sufficiently to provide enough liquid water. See p. 427.

- Pillar Mountain Golf Classic (Kodiak): The course is one hole, par is 70, and elevation gain is 1,400 feet. Having a spotter in the deep snow of late March is helpful, but use of two-way radios, dogs, and chain saws is prohibited. Also, there's no cutting down of power poles, and cursing tournament officials carries a \$25 fine. See p. 411.
- Tea-Making Contest (Barrow): Part of the April Piuraagiaqt festival, the contest sets couples against each other in a race to set up a camp stove, gather a piece of ice, and brew a good cup of tea. Or the community may have come up with some other silly contest this year. See p. 435.
- Mountain Mother Contest (Talkeetna): In this event in the July Moose Dropping Festival, mothers compete in a test of Bush skills, including splitting wood, balancing on rocks to cross a stream, carrying water, and diapering a baby. See p. 350.

13 The Best Hotels

 Westcoast Cape Fox Lodge (Ketchikan; © 800/325-4000): Standing in its own little forest atop a rocky promontory that dominates downtown Ketchikan, this cleanly luxurious hotel has the feel of a mountain lodge or resort. A funicular tram carries visitors to the Creek Street boardwalks, or you can take the wooded cliff-side path. The rooms and common areas, accented with masterpieces of Tlingit art, have exceptional views of the city and Tongass Narrows through the trees. See p. 101.

- Hotel Captain Cook (Anchorage; © 800/843-1950): This is the grand old hotel of downtown Anchorage, with a heavy nautical theme, teak paneling, and every possible amenity. It remains the state's standard of service and luxury. See p. 201.
- Alyeska Prince Hotel (Girdwood; © 800/880-3880): The first sight of this ski resort hotel—designed in a château style and standing in an undeveloped mountain valley—will make you catch your breath. Wait till you get inside and see the starscape and polar bear diorama in the lobby atrium, or the swimming pool, with its high-beamed ceiling and windows, looking out on the

- mountain. A tram carries skiers and diners to the mountaintop. See p. 237.
- Land's End Resort (Homer; ® 800/478-0400): It's the location: right on the end of Homer Spit, five miles out in the middle of Kachemak Bay, where you can fish for salmon from the beach right in front of your room, or watch otters drifting by. The hotel itself is excellent, too, with a tremendous variety of rooms, some extraordinarily luxurious, and a complete spa. See p. 295.
- Westmark Fairbanks Hotel & Conference Center (Fairbanks; © 800/544-0970): A new tower rises over the flat river city of Fairbanks, a stylish and charming new wing of the city's oldest modern hotel. The owners, the Holland America cruise line, demolished much of the original building, leaping decades from the past to just a little into the future. See p. 374.

14 The Best Websites

Many useful websites are listed throughout the book; some of the best are under "Visitor Information" near the beginning of each town section.

- www.trollart.com. Ketchikan artist Ray Troll has created a website that carries you deep into his mind, which is full of odd and resonant humor about the evolution of fish, man, and our common relations. His vibrantly colored art makes it an aesthetic journey.
- www.alaska.gov/adfg. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game posts valuable information for anyone interested in fishing, hunting, wildlife-watching, or just learning about creatures. Everyone from children to wildlife biologists will find something at his or her level.
- www.alaska.com. Operated by Alaska's largest newspaper, the Anchorage Daily News, this site is so full of information for visitors that it's a bit overwhelming. Look here for a deep mine of information from an authoritative source.
- www.awrta.org. The Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association unites hundreds of small eco-tourism operators. Authentic local guides and lodges can be hard to find, but they are listed here on a comprehensive and easy to use site.
- www.gi.alaska.edu. The Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska Fairbanks maintains a fascinating and cool site filled with real-time earth science information about Alaska, such as

- aurora predictions, volcano watches, earthquake and tsunami updates, rocketry, and space science.
- www.wohlforth.net. A bit of selfpromotion here, but readers can get something out of it. I answer reader questions on a discussion board on my own website. Read answers to scores of other readers' questions and, if you like, ask your own. I supply answers on the entirely free service as soon as I have time. You will also find links to many of the establishments listed in this book, and some of my other writings on Alaska and other subjects.
- Favorite Small-Town Sites: Small-town Alaska newspapers, and people in communities too small to have a newspaper, are communicating through Internet; visitors to these sites can vicariously experience the pleasures and pitfalls of remote living, which can be touching and hilarious. The best I've found are: www.seldovia.com: Seldovia's McCarthy and Kennecott's www. mccarthy-kennicott.com/ WSEN.htm; Nome's www.nome nugget.com; Kotzebue's www. citvofkotzebue.com; and Talkeetna's www.talkeetnanews.com.