

Visitor Guide

HVAC Cold Climate Conference

Anchorage, Alaska



Here you will find a list of restaurants and activities to enjoy during your stay in Anchorage. You will also find tips and recommendations you may find helpful.

All distances and travel times listed are calculated relative to the **Marriott Anchorage Downtown** located at **820 W 7th Avenue** where the conference is hosted.

Dining



There are many delicious dining options in the heart of Anchorage which are near the venue. Below is a summary of food and beverage choices available to you.

Groceries

Note that although restaurants are plentiful, there are very few locations to buy food or personal items you may need in downtown Anchorage. Two are listed below. Alternately, you can visit Fred Meyer (Kroger), Carrs (Safeway), Target, or Walmart store locations outside of the downtown area.

New Sagaya City Market
Lucky Grocery & Deli

900 W 13th Ave / 0.5 miles (9 min. walk)
326 W 4th Ave / 0.5 miles (11 min. walk)

[website](#)
[website](#)

*Hint from
the Locals!*

New Sagaya ships!

Purchase **local seafood** and send it home. For international travelers, see information about products you are permitted to ship or carry into your home nation beforehand.



Restaurants

Below is a list of restaurants, which includes many local favorites. Menus are linked, where available.

Glacier Brewhouse	737 W 5th Ave / 0.2 miles (4 min. walk)	menu
Orso	737 W 5th Ave / 0.2 miles (4 min. walk)	menu
Humpy's Alehouse	610 W 6th Ave / 0.2 miles (4 min. walk)	menu
Kaladi Brothers Coffee	621 W 6th Ave / 0.2 miles (4 min. walk)	
Crow's Nest	939 W 5th Ave / 0.2 miles (5 min. walk)	menu
Simon and Seafort's	420 L Street / 0.3 miles (7 min. walk)	menu
Crush Wine Bistro	328 G Street / 0.3 miles (7 min. walk)	menu
Snow City Cafe	1034 W 4th Ave / 0.4 miles (7 min. walk)	menu
Ginger	425 W 5th Ave / 0.4 miles (8 min. walk)	menu
49th State Brewing	717 W 3rd Ave / 0.4 miles (8 min. walk)	menu
Haute Quarter Grill	525 W 4th Ave / 0.4 miles (9 min. walk)	menu
Fire Island Rustic Bakeshop	2530 E 16th Ave / 3 miles (8 min. drive)	menu
Moose's Tooth	3300 Old Seward Hwy / 3 miles (9 min. drive)	menu
Rustic Goat	2800 Turnagain Street / 2.5 miles (6 min. drive)	menu
Spenard Roadhouse	1049 W Northern Lights Blvd / 2.3 miles (7 min. drive)	menu
South Restaurant	11124 Old Seward Hwy / 8.3 miles (15 min. drive)	menu

Hints from
the Locals!

If you are here during the Fur Rondy festivities, you may want to take the opportunity to try a **reindeer sausage** available from one of the local vendors on the street!



In 2015, Moose's Tooth Pub & Pizzeria was rated the **#3 Pizzeria** in the United States and it is still very popular with visitors. Locals can hardly get a table in the summer months!

Breweries

Breweries are also extremely popular in Anchorage. Below are some of our most established breweries. Follow this [link](#) and refresh the search for a complete list and locations. Please drink responsibly.

Glacier Brewhouse	737 W 5th Ave / 0.2 miles (4 min. walk)
49th State Brewing Co.	717 W 3rd Ave / 0.4 miles (8 min. walk)
Broken Tooth Brewing Co.	3300 Old Seward Hwy / 3 miles (9 min. drive)
Double Shovel Cider Co.	502 W 58th Ave / 3.8 miles (11 min. drive)
Midnight Sun Brewing Co.	8111 Dimond Hook Drive / 6.7 miles (14 min. drive)
King Street Brewing Co.	9050 King Street / 7.1 miles (14 min. drive)
Anchorage Brewing Co.	148 W 91st Ave / 7.2 miles (15 min. drive)

Recreation

There are many fun activities to do in Anchorage, even in the winter. You do not need to enjoy the cold weather to find something to fill your agenda, although if you are an avid outdoor adventurer, this is certainly the place for you!

Below you will find some useful tips and information that will help you prepare for your March trip to Alaska.



Apparel & Gear

Be sure you come prepared for the types of activities in which you would like to participate.

The outdoor temperature is likely to be between 19°F (-7°C) and 33°F (1°C), but both lower and higher temperatures are possible. Layers are key to winter comfort in Alaska, and a warm jacket and boots are highly recommended, if not vital. You will also want mittens or gloves and a warm hat.

Below is a list of stores if you need to buy or rent clothing or outdoor equipment.

The North Face

305 W 5th Ave / 0.5 miles (10 min. walk)
purchase seasonal outdoor clothing

Downtown Bicycle Rental

333 W 4th Ave / 0.5 miles (11 min. walk)
(907) 279-3334, ask about [fat bike rentals](#)

Alaska Mountaineering & Hiking

2633 Spenard Road / 1.9 miles (6 min. drive)
(907) 272-1811, ask about Nordic skate or XC ski rentals

Hoarding Marmot

1231 W Northern Lights Blvd / 2.0 miles (6 min. drive)
purchase used seasonal outdoor clothing or gear

REI

500 E Northern Lights Blvd / 2.8 miles (8 min. drive)
(907) 272-4565, ask about gear rentals

*Hint from
the Locals!*

Layering is key!

Regulating your body temperature is easier when you dress in layers. Pack wool or synthetic underlayers over which you can wear fleece, wool, and/or down to stay warm.

If you become too warm, you can always remove layers.



*Hint from
the Locals!*

Safety first!

Wear **ice cleats** you can slip on over your shoes for even short walks beyond the hotel.

Please be considerate and remove ice cleats while indoors.



Fur Rendezvous

If you plan to arrive in advance of the conference, Fur Rendezvous (also called 'Fur Rondy' or simply 'Rondy') festivities will be taking place through March 5.

Some of the most popular events include the Rondy World Championship Sled Dog Races, Alaska Snow Sculpture Competition, Running of the Reindeer, Outhouse Races, and more.

*Hint from
the Locals!*

The **snow sculptures** carved for the Alaska Snow Sculpture Competition may be viewed after the event (if temperatures remain cold enough and little new snow falls) on Ship Creek Avenue in downtown Anchorage.



Anchorage Museum

The Anchorage Museum sits on the traditional homeland of the Eklutna Dena'ina. The museum is committed to recognizing and honoring the land, culture, and language of the Dena'ina people. The museum hosts permanent exhibitions on Alaska, its people, its history, and its art, as well as traveling exhibitions on alternating topics.

The Anchorage Museum is located at 625 C Street / 0.4 miles (*9 min. walk*).

Open hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 6:00 p.m. on Sundays.

Visit their website [here](#).

Alaska Aviation Museum

The Aviation Museum is located on the largest float plane base in the world. It sits on the south shore of Lake Hood, which sees more than 87,000 seaplane takeoffs and landings per year. A half-mile away is Ted Stevens International Airport, a major terminal for air freight. You can watch takeoffs and landings right from the museum.

The Alaska Aviation Museum is located at 4721 Aircraft Drive / 5.7 miles (*13 min. drive*).

Open hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. every day.

Visit their website [here](#).

The Alaska Zoo

The local zoo was founded in 1966 when a baby circus elephant a Fairbanks grocer won in a contest needed a home that met her needs. The Alaska Zoo now provides care and homes for orphaned and injured wildlife. The zoo is a great way to see regional animals and experience the outdoors.

The Alaska Zoo is located at 4731 O'Malley Road / 10.6 miles (*18 min. drive*).

Open hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the month of March.

Visit their website [here](#).

*Hint from
the Locals!*

See unique **regional wildlife** like mountain goats (left) and harbor seals (right) at the Alaska Zoo.

The resident polar bear, Cranberry, is a local favorite. You may be able to see her [here](#) on the live polar bear cam!



Ice Fishing

Fishing is very popular in Alaska, and the winter is no exception. If the winter is cold enough, Anchorage lakes may still be frozen enough in early March for an opportunity to try ice fishing. Campbell, DeLong, Mirror, Sand, Goose, and Jewel lakes are easily accessible with a short drive.

The ice thickness on Goose, Jewel, and DeLong lakes is regularly monitored and reported by Parks and Recreation. Foot traffic is considered safe once there is more than 5 inches of ice on a lake, **but always check conditions before venturing out.**

If you need equipment, gear rentals for a day or more are available through companies like [Alaska Outdoor Gear Rental](#).

Fishing licenses are **REQUIRED**. You can easily purchase one online [here](#).

Guided ice fishing trips are also available. More information is available in this [article](#).

Outdoor Activities

Anchorage offers opportunities for cross-country skiing (both skate and classic/Nordic), downhill skiing, ice skating, Nordic skating, fat biking, sledding, snowshoeing, walking, hiking, and more.

Here are a few locations you can get outside if you are feeling adventurous.

Tony Knowles Coastal Trail	2393 W 5th Ave / 0.4 miles (8 min. walk)
Westchester Lagoon	1824 W 15th Ave / 1.2 miles (4 min drive)
Kincaid Park	9401 Raspberry Road / 9.2 miles (18 min. drive)
Hillside Park	7011 Abbott Road / 12.8 miles (22 min. walk)
Hilltop Ski Area	7015 Abbott Road / 13.1 miles (23 min. drive)

*Hint from
the Locals!*

Outdoor activities are what you make them!
Go as extreme or be as conservative as you want based on your comfort level. Understand your risk tolerance before taking on any activity.

Indoor Activities

If the weather outdoors is unwelcoming or you do not care for being outside in the cold and elements, there are plenty of indoor activities to pursue as well. Below are a few examples of what Anchorage offers.

Frosted Axe Throwing	409 W Fireweed Lane / 1.8 miles (5 min. drive)	website
Center Bowl	3717 Minnesota Drive / 2.3 miles (6 min. drive)	website
Century 16 Theater	301 E 36th Ave / 2.7 miles (8 min. drive)	website
Avalanche Escape Rooms	4111 Minnesota Drive / 2.9 miles (8 min drive)	website
Divots Golf	4230 Old Seward Hwy / 3.6 miles (10 min. drive)	website
Putters Wild	1230 E 68th Ave #109 / 5.3 miles (14 min. drive)	website
Dave & Buster's	800 E Dimond Blvd #240 / 6.5 miles (15 min. drive)	website

Alyeska Resort

If you fancy a drive to beautiful Girdwood, Alaska, Alyeska Resort offers downhill skiing, tram rides, and fine dining. An outdoor spa experience is a new addition.

Alyeska Resort

1000 Arlberg Ave / 41.9 miles (55 min. drive)

[website](#)

Alyeska Nordic Spa

1000 Arlberg Ave / 41.9 miles (55 min. drive)

[website](#)

Shopping & Souvenirs



Downtown Anchorage hosts numerous locations for you to shop for souvenirs to remember your trip to Alaska and gifts to bring home to your family and friends.

Gift Shops

Below is a list of some quality shops and galleries.

Oomingmak	604 H Street / 0.1 miles (2 min. walk)
Zoez Window Gallery	737 W 5th Ave / 0.2 miles (4 min. walk)
Once in a Blue Moose	939 W 5th Ave / 0.2 miles (5 min. walk)
The Kobuk	504 W 5th Ave / 0.3 miles (7 min. walk)
Seigny Studio	314 G Street / 0.3 miles (7 min. walk)
Alaska Wild Berry Products	320 W 5th Ave (in mall) / 0.4 miles (8 min. walk)
Alaska Mint	429 W 4th Ave / 0.5 miles (10 min. walk)
Fur Rondy Headquarters	400 D Street / 0.5 miles (10 min. walk)
Ulu Factory	211 W Ship Creek Ave / 0.9 miles (4 min. drive)

Commemorative Pins

Every year, a pin is released to commemorate Fur Rendezvous. The first Rondy pins were created in 1939. Artists now compete to design the official pin, and these pins become collector's items.

Purchase yours in the Rondy [Online Shop](#) or in person at the historic Fur Rondy Headquarters located at 400 D Street (corner of 4th and D).

Traditionally, if you do not purchase and visibly wear a Fur Rondy pin while attending Fur Rondy festivities, you can be "arrested" by the Keystone Kops and thrown in "jail" (often set up right in the street) until you purchase a pin.

Public figures such as the Mayor of Anchorage are under particular scrutiny and expected to "know better" than to attend Rondy events without a pin, so they are most likely to be "arrested" for infractions until they display their pins properly.

Note that this is all meant in good fun and the "Kops" are volunteers.

*Hint from
the Locals!*

If you are looking for something truly unique by which to remember your trip, consider buying a **Fur Rondy pin**. Some of these original collector's items are now worth thousands of dollars.

Marine Mammal Parts & Products

Many marine mammals are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA). As such, there are certain animal parts that are illegal to sell or purchase. Other parts or products must be properly registered and/or may not leave the United States.

If you are interested in purchasing certain souvenirs which may contain marine mammal parts, please refer to this [article](#) from the NOAA Fisheries website. Please read the next section of this guide if you are only interested in purchasing ivory artwork.

Sea otter pelts are classified as marine mammal parts, and it is important to understand that although an often-prized souvenir, these are not permitted to leave the United States even when hand-crafted into wearables such as hats and gloves or other Alaska Native art.

Note that many countries restrict what may pass their borders, so it is also important you understand the regulations of your home nation and whether animal products are permitted to enter your country of residence.

Ivory

Walrus or mammoth ivory that has been worked into authentic Alaska Native artwork may be purchased and taken from Alaska.

Ensure you are contributing to sustainable harvesting by reviewing these [tips](#) for making responsible ivory purchases. You may also wish to take a look at [current walrus ivory laws](#).

Furs, Horns & Antlers

Furs or pelts and products made from furred animals are commonly on sale during Fur Rondy festivities. Typically, these furs are from animals which are harvested by trapping since Fur Rendezvous celebrates the traditions of trapping and trading.

There are many types of animals in Alaska which may be legally trapped and sold: beaver, coyote, arctic fox, red fox, fisher, lynx, marmot, marten, mink, muskrat, river otter, squirrel, weasel, wolf, and wolverine.

Purchasing raw materials from big game such moose, caribou, Dall sheep, mountain goats, or bear (black or brown) such as hides, skulls, antlers, or mounts of any kind qualify as hunting trophies and are subject to legalities that make such a purchase inadvisable without due research.

Animal parts such as bones, teeth, claws, antlers, fur, etc. which are fashioned into artwork or clothing by local artists are generally acceptable for purchase. To ensure you are buying legal goods, please select items from established sellers such as galleries and gift shops.

Note that many countries restrict what may pass their borders, so it is also important you understand the regulations of your home nation and whether animal products are permitted to enter your country of residence.

Eagle Feathers & Parts

It is illegal to possess bald or golden eagle feathers or parts as non-Native Alaskans or non-Native Americans per the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, passed in 1940. This means you cannot even keep feathers you find on the ground.

Travel With Souvenirs

There are a few things you need to remember when heading home with your Alaskan souvenirs.

Hint from the Locals!

Remember, you cannot travel with **ulu knives** in your carryon luggage. Please pack ulus and/or any other sharp souvenirs in your checked baggage.



Alaska Native artwork is a beautiful keepsake or a unique gift for friends and family, but many materials used in this cultural art are restricted by Customs agencies.

A comprehensive guide to help you navigate Customs and Alaska Native artwork can be found [here](#).

Below is a short guide to help you with your purchases.

Note, this is not a complete list! Please read the entire guide above if you are unsure of the regulations. When in doubt, check with your country's Customs agency as well as the agencies of any other countries through which you will travel.

- Determine if the item is made from or contains Walrus (ivory, tusk), Polar Bear, Sea Otter, or Whale (bone, baleen).
- Verify the material has been "significantly modified" from its original form.
- Authenticate the artwork. Alaska Native artwork will almost always be signed by the artist. The exception to this is fur products.
- Ask the vendor. Most art galleries are familiar with international Customs requirements and many have the appropriate forms that are needed to legally travel with your purchase.

Transportation & Parking



You have multiple options for transportation during your stay should you wish to venture beyond the hotel or downtown Anchorage area.

Ride Share Apps

Uber and Lyft are both great options for getting around town if you do not wish to rent a vehicle. Using these apps often results in the fastest and best quality service.

Taxis

Taxis are also available. The most established taxi company in Anchorage is Alaska Yellow Dispatch, which can be reached at (907) 222-2222. It is easiest to call to arrange service, especially at this busy time of year.

Bus System

Anchorage offers public transportation via [People Mover](#).

The Downtown Transit Center is located at 618 H Street, which is only a short walk around the corner from the Marriott Hotel. Tickets may be purchased at the Transit Center, on the bus, or by downloading the mobile ticketing app. Busses run from 6:00 a.m. until midnight on weekdays and from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on weekends. The entire fleet is fully accessible.

Rental Cars

If you plan to rent a vehicle, note that depending on when you arrive there may be posted road closures downtown due to Fur Rondy festivities. Parking will also be more limited at this time due to both the road closures and the number of people visiting downtown Anchorage. Once festivities come to an end, traffic should swiftly return to normal conditions. Anchorage usually experiences light traffic at common intersections if the weather is decent.

*Hint from
the Locals!*

Braking is difficult on icy roads. Remember to **drive slowly** and leave lots of space between your vehicle and the one in front of you. Use your headlights.



Parking Your Rental Car

The Marriott Anchorage Downtown offers valet parking for a daily rate. If you do not wish to use this service, the closest parking garage is right across the street.

7th and G Street Garage 650 G Street / 0.1 miles (2 min. walk)
6th and H Street Garage 700 W 6th Ave / 0.1 miles (3 min. walk)
Linny Pacillo Parking Garage 517 W 7th Ave / 0.2 miles (4 min. walk)

There are multiple parking lots available as well. Time limits vary, and some lots now require the PayByPhone app for payment rather than just offering it as an option (there may not be a kiosk available for credit card payments).

Parking meters managed by EasyPark are also available on most downtown streets. Note that street parking may also be limited due to road closures and the number of people gathering for Fur Rondy activities. Metered parking is enforced Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. and on Saturdays there is a two-hour time limit. Parking is free after 6:00 p.m. and on weekends.

Helpful Links

[Visit Anchorage](#) is the official source for travel information on everything from outdoor adventures to metropolitan amenities.

You will find recommendations for your winter visit [here](#).

[Alaska.org](#) also offers a comprehensive list of [winter activities](#).



*Enjoy
your stay!*