

## Ketchikan Visitors Bureau Media Resources

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

#### Fact checking, media inquiries and itinerary planning assistance

[media@visit-ketchikan.com](mailto:media@visit-ketchikan.com)

Patti Mackey, President/CEO Ketchikan Visitors Bureau

[liz@thompsonpr.com](mailto:liz@thompsonpr.com)

Liz Baker, VP, Thompson & Co. Public Relations

#### Fact checking for travel guidebooks

[info@visit-ketchikan.com](mailto:info@visit-ketchikan.com)

Kerri Hassett, Visitor Services Manager

### Quick links

[visit-ketchikan.com](http://visit-ketchikan.com)

General consumer and traveler information

[ketchikanarts.org](http://ketchikanarts.org)

Showcasing the work of Ketchikan's arts community

[meetinalaska.com](http://meetinalaska.com)

Group travel, event spaces and meeting planning

Instagram

[@VisitKetchikan](https://www.instagram.com/VisitKetchikan)

Facebook

[@VisitKetchikan](https://www.facebook.com/VisitKetchikan)

Twitter

[@VisitKetchikan](https://twitter.com/VisitKetchikan)

Pinterest

[@VisitKetchikan](https://www.pinterest.com/VisitKetchikan)

LinkedIn

[Ketchikan Visitors Bureau](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ketchikan-visitors-bureau)

YouTube

[Visit Ketchikan](https://www.youtube.com/VisitKetchikan)

Ketchikan Story Project

Full-Length versions of Ketchikan Story Project films are available on [Visit-Ketchikan.com](http://Visit-Ketchikan.com) and on [Amazon Prime](https://www.amazon.com/Visit-Ketchikan.com). Downloadable versions available at our Barberstock site.

### Image library and B-roll

Access photos via [Barberstock](https://www.barberstock.com/) at: <https://visit-ketchikan.barberstock.com/>.

Ketchikan Visitors Bureau has an extensive collection of HD-quality photos and b-roll, as well as a series of short films and features that can be used by journalists to augment work. For assistance with a specific image or to review b-roll, please register on Barberstock using the link in the upper right corner.

## Media passes

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 in Alaska

### Southeast Alaska Tourism Council

Promotes independent travel opportunities along Alaska's Inside Passage

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

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

SATC executive director [info@alaskainsidepassage.com](mailto:info@alaskainsidepassage.com)

### Alaska Travel Industry Association

Manages the State of Alaska's travel marketing program

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

Media center <https://www.travelalaska.com/Media-Center>

Media email (U.S. & Canada) [alaskatravelmedia@thompsonpr.com](mailto:alaskatravelmedia@thompsonpr.com)

Media email (international markets) [media@alaskatia.org](mailto:media@alaskatia.org)

## About Ketchikan, Alaska

Scenic, diverse Ketchikan is a coastal island community located within Alaska's Inside Passage and surrounded by the magnificent Tongass National Forest. Ketchikan is easily accessible, just 90 minutes by air from Seattle or 36 hours by sea from Bellingham, Washington. 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 nearly 14,000 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

Misty Fjords National Monument

Shopping

Wildlife viewing

Dining on wild Alaska seafood

Adventure Tours

Live Music

Totem poles and Native cultural tours/activities

Outdoor activities

Walking tours

Flightseeing

Museums and attractions

Sightseeing Tours

## **ATTRACTIONS**

Historic Creek Street  
Tongass Historical Museum  
Dolly's House Museum  
Saxman Totem Park  
Potlatch Park  
Downtown Ketchikan Historic District

Great Alaskan Lumberjack Show  
Totem Heritage Center  
Southeast Alaska Discovery Center  
Totem Bight State Historical Park  
Stedman-Thomas Historic District

## **OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES**

Hiking trails  
Kayaking  
Mountain cart and jeep tours  
Skiff and boat rentals  
Camping  
Scuba diving  
Beachcombing

Zip line tours  
Biking  
Inflatable boat tours  
Snorkeling  
Fishing

## **DINING TOURS**

Multi-course seafood tasting  
Crab feed  
Pub crawl

Fishing/beach cookout  
Seafood boil  
Culinary tour

## **SIGHTSEEING TOURS**

Group tours by bus  
Floatplane and helicopter  
Humvee, Jeep  
Commercial crab boat

Van and vehicle small group  
Day cruise boats  
Amphibious craft  
Sea cycling

For more information, see our Ketchikan Trip Planner online: <http://www.visit-ketchikan.com/en/About-Ketchikan/Free-Guide>.

## Calendar of Events

### Ongoing/Monthly

Monthly Grind featuring local performance artists – January through May; September through December

### First Friday of each month

New exhibits open at Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council and at select galleries (February – May; October – December)

### January

First City Players Jazz & Cabaret Evening Gala

### February

Festival of the North – a performing arts celebration that includes the Wearable Art Show

### April

Hummingbird Festival – a celebration of the Rufous hummingbird and other migratory birds returning to Ketchikan

### 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

King Salmon Derby continues  
R2AK – Race to Alaska

### July

Fourth of July parade, booths featuring local crafts and cuisine, duck race, fireworks  
Fish Pirate's Daughter – Ketchikan's original melodrama performed live every Friday and Saturday evening in July

### August

Blueberry Arts Festival and Giggglefeet Dance Festival

### November

Winter Arts Faire  
Downtown tree lighting

## December

Clarke Cochran Christmas Classic (invitational high school basketball tournament)

For a complete list of events, visit our online calendar: <https://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 storage.

Ketchikan has the largest collection of totem poles still in existence anywhere in the world with more than 80 poles throughout the area. 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. The town is known as the Salmon Capital of the World.

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

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

Floatplanes 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., Canada, and Gero Kanayama, Japan.

Ketchikan previously held the Guinness Record for the world's largest "rubber boot race" (or as 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 Ketchikan decides to try and regain our title.

## Forty facts about Ketchikan, Alaska

1. Ketchikan, Alaska, is located on Revillagigedo Island in the Alexander Archipelago, part of the southern portion of Alaska's Inside Passage (Southeast) region. The only way to travel to and from Ketchikan is by boat or plane. Commercial/public options include daily jet service, cruise ship, Alaska Marine Highway and inter-island ferry systems.
2. The greater Ketchikan Gateway Borough area has 13,900 residents. It is the sixth largest community in Alaska behind Anchorage, Fairbanks, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 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 is a 2.3 million-acre preserve of glaciers, fjords and forested land known for whale watching and wildlife viewing.
7. Misty Fjords National Monument was established by presidential proclamation on Dec. 1, 1978, by President Jimmy Carter.
8. Sitka spruce, northern hemlock, red cedar, and yellow cedar are the most frequently seen trees in the Tongass National Forest.

9. In the Ketchikan area, there are three campgrounds that can accommodate RVs. There is also one RV dumping station available.
10. Two popular in-town hiking trails are Deer Mountain Trail and Rainbird Trail. Deer Mountain Trail is 2.5 miles to the summit, while Rainbird Trail is only 1.3 miles each way. Both offer great town, mountain, and ocean views. Ward Lake Trail and the popular Perseverance Trail are in the Ward Lake Recreational Area, approximately seven miles north of Ketchikan on Revillagigedo Road. A favorite among more advanced adventurers, Lunch Creek Trail at Settlers Cove State Park is 18 miles north of town and quite literally at the end of the road.
11. All five species of salmon can be found in Ketchikan area waters. King (Chinook), silver (coho), pink (humpy), red (sockeye) & chum (dog or keta).
12. Salmon runs vary by species and from year to year, but fishing is typically best June through September.
13. Also available locally are halibut, rockfish (including red snapper), lingcod and steelhead as well as Dolly Varden, rainbow and brown trout.
14. 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 that attracts fish by towing a flasher trailed by bait.
15. The largest salmon ever caught in Alaska? 97 pounds by sportfishing gear, 126 pounds by commercial gear.
16. The largest halibut ever caught in Alaska? 322.6 pounds by sportfishing gear, 533 pounds by commercial fishing gear.
17. A “white king salmon” is a king salmon with a genetic inability to process the pigments in the small crustaceans that salmon eat.
18. A “chicken halibut” is a halibut that is between 10 and 30 pounds in weight. Keeping with farm lingo, a “barn door” is the opposite and is the term for massive halibut that often weigh as much as the angler who reeled them in.
19. Alaska salmon spawn between mid-June and October each year.

- 20.** The most common types of commercial fishing in the Ketchikan area are purse seining, trolling, gillnetting and long-lining.
- 21.** Ketchikan has three public and two commercial museums.
- 22.** In Ketchikan there are more than 30 restaurants, featuring everything from our prized Alaska seafood to American fare to ethnic cuisine. Favorite local items include fresh king salmon, Dungeness crab, halibut, seafood chowder as well as locally roasted and brewed coffee from one of the area's three coffee roasters.
- 23.** Orcas (otherwise known as killer whales), gray whales, humpback whales, sea lions, harbor seals, Dall's porpoises and octopus are often seen in the water.
- 24.** Wildlife including black bears, 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.
- 25.** Public bus service is available throughout most of the downtown and highway road system. Local cab companies and car rental agencies operate within the community. Bicycle rentals are available seasonally. Ketchikan is also very walkable.
- 26.** The average annual temperature in Ketchikan is 45.1 degrees F/7 degrees C.
- 27.** The average summer temperature in Ketchikan is 55.6 degrees F/13 degrees C.
- 28.** The average winter temperature in Ketchikan is 35.3 degrees F/1.8 degrees C.
- 29.** 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. Our average rainfall per year is 141.25 inches/358 cm or 12 feet/3.5 m. No, this is not a typo.
- 30.** On average, Ketchikan sees 228 days of rain per year.
- 31.** In 1949, Ketchikan saw a record rainfall of 202 inches/513 cm.
- 32.** October is the rainiest month in Ketchikan.



- 33.** June is the driest month in Ketchikan.
- 34.** Ketchikan sees an average annual snowfall of 36.9 inches/94 cm.
- 35.** What is the elevation of Ketchikan? 0 – Ketchikan is at sea level.
- 36.** Ketchikan’s latitude and longitude are 55 degrees North and 131 degrees West.
- 37.** Alaska has its own time zone. Created in 1983, it is four hours behind Eastern Time, one hour behind Pacific Time and one hour ahead of Hawaii time.
- 38.** Average daylight on summer solstice in Ketchikan is 17 hours and 29 minutes on June 21.
- 39.** Average daylight on winter solstice is 7 hours and 6 minutes on Dec. 21.
- 40.** How far north to other Alaska cities:
- Wrangell? 83 miles/134 km by air, 6 hours via Alaska Marine Ferry System
  - Petersburg? 112 miles/180 km by air, 9 hours by ferry
  - Juneau? 235 miles/378 km by air, 21 hours by ferry
  - Anchorage? 776 miles/1249 km by air
  - Fairbanks? 854 miles/1374 km by air
  - Nome? 1,345 miles/2179 km by air

How far south to:

- Metlakatla, Alaska? 15 miles/24 km by air; 1 hour by ferry
- Prince Rupert, B.C.? 91 miles/146 km by air; 6 hours by ferry
- Seattle, Washington? 679 miles/ 1093 km by air; 36 hours by ferry (to Bellingham, Washington)

How far west to:

- Prince of Wales Island (Hollis), Alaska? 3 hours by ferry (via Inter-Island Ferry Authority)
- Prince of Wales Island (Craig/Klawock), Alaska? 50 miles/80 km by air; 3 hours by ferry plus 47 mile/76 km drive

### DISTANCE INFORMATION – downtown to points north

Miles		Kilometers
0	Ketchikan Visitors Information Center at Berth 2	0.00
0.1	Tunnel	0.16
0.75	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	Ketchikan International Airport Ferry	4.02
3.8	Shoreline Drive/Don King Road	6.12
6.6	Revilla Road turnoff to Ward Lake Recreation Area (0.6 mi)	10.62
7.1	Ward Cove Dock	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	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
0.2	Southeast Alaska Discovery Center	0.32
0.2	Federal Building	0.32
0.3	Creek Street / Stedman-Thomas Historic District	0.48
0.4	Thomas Basin	0.64
0.8	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

## What's new in Ketchikan?

### **Ward Cove: Ketchikan's newest dock and tourist destination all in one**

Beginning in 2021, passengers aboard a Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings vessel will now arrive in Ketchikan's newest two-berth cruise ship dock. Designed to be a world-class tourist destination of its own, Ward Cove will be home to an on-site museum, restaurant, boutique shops and a transportation center to bring visitors into town or on excursions. The dock is located on the site of an old pulp mill a few miles north of downtown. The museum will showcase the history of the mill and logging industry complete with refurbished railcars to show how pulp was transported south. Ward Cove will promote the heritage and adventurous spirit of the region through history, immersive experiences and locale.

### **Ketchikan International Airport ferry facility improvements underway**

[Ketchikan International Airport](#) — one of Alaska's most unique airports because it sits on an island just a five-minute ferry ride from town — is getting a revamp. In cooperation with the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, the Alaska Department of Transportation is refurbishing the existing ferry terminals and constructing two new ferry terminals at both the Revilla and Gravina Airport Shuttle Ferry Facilities. Additional upgrades to the Revilla facility include making improvements to the Tongass Highway, expanding parking, improving vehicle and pedestrian access ways, and providing a new passenger waiting building. The Gravina facility project will also involve widening the existing pedestrian walkway, the ADA ramp access and the approach road.

Ketchikan International Airport plays an important role in connecting travelers to the many adventures that await in "Alaska's First City" including premier fishing lodges, cultural museums and attractions and outdoor recreation activities. These renovations will greatly improve passenger services at Ketchikan's airport and provide travelers a great experience from arrival to departure.

### **Cultural tourism spotlight: Cape Fox Corporation**

Seeing an exponential growth in the hospitality business over the past few years, [Cape Fox Corporation](#), the Alaska Native village corporation that represents the Tlingit tribe from Saxman and before that Cape Fox, continues to expand its investment in local tourism ventures.

Saxman Totem Park and [Cape Fox Lodge](#), which recently saw a \$4 million renovation, was the corporation's original foray into the tourism business. But more recently, the corporation has added [Cape Fox Tours](#), [George Inlet Cannery](#) (in partnership with Allen Marine), [Sweet Mermaids](#), [108 Tap House and Burger Bar](#) and Bar Harbor Ale House. It also operates the Cape Fox Cultural Foundation gift shop at the [Southeast Alaska Discovery Center](#), and runs the Tlingit dance performances there.

Looking around Ketchikan, it's easy to see CFC is just as committed to the local community and its Tlingit heritage. CFC gives back and ensures its heritage continues to grow strong through

artwork, dancing and language. CFC also maintains its heritage through educational classes, community events and modern dance and art exhibits. The corporation has grown immensely over the years and provides visitors and locals alike some of the best experiences Ketchikan has to offer.

### **Local Tlingit artist awarded prestigious Fellowship Award**

Local Tlingit artist Kenneth “Kelly” White is well known around town, but his name is making statewide news recently as one of 10 Alaska artists receiving a prestigious [Fellowship Award](#) from the [Rasmuson Foundation](#). The Rasmuson Foundation Fellowship Awards are given to mid-career and mature artists and are designed to provide them the resources needed to focus and reflect on their work, immerse themselves in a creative venture, and experiment, explore and develop their skillset. As a recipient, White will be awarded \$18,000 that he plans to use for investing in equipment and making videos and 3D models for reference and educational purposes.

White currently works as Cape Fox Corporation’s in-residence artist with many of his works displayed around CFC commercial business locations. He’s also been a featured artist aboard Princess Cruises. White believes strongly in keeping the Tlingit culture alive through his art. The Rasmuson Fellowship Award will allow him to explore new and creative ways to share his experiences practicing traditional arts such as storytelling, dancing, carving and drawing.

### **Brighter days ahead as Ketchikan cruises into 2022**

In 2022 Ketchikan is thrilled to welcome cruise visitors back to the docks for what is expected to be a record year. While Ketchikan saw the return of large cruise ships like [Carnival Cruise Line](#), [Celebrity Cruises](#), [Holland America Line](#), [Norwegian Cruise Line](#) and [Princess Cruises](#) for a partial season in 2021, Ketchikan could see a record 1.4 million passengers and several cruise lines for the first time since 2019, including [Hurtigruten Expeditions](#), [Viking Cruises](#), [Cunard Line Cruises](#) and [Disney Cruise Line](#). To top off an already exciting cruise season ahead, Ketchikan will also see the arrival of 8 new ships and a new cruise line: [Victory Cruise Lines](#).