



Alaska - Cruising Guide

About

A place to see wild, dramatic beauty and really be at the mercy of the elements – a charter in Alaska is all this and more. The American state of Alaska has a number of excellent marinas, all large enough to allow for superyachts. These range from large mainland ports to marinas dotted around the surrounding islands.

With the traditional cruising grounds of the Mediterranean and Caribbean becoming increasingly crowded, many charter yachts are venturing further afield in search of tranquility and/or new experiences.

Wildlife that can be seen both on land and at sea is extraordinary, and depending on the time of year you can see brown bears fishing for salmon, killer whales hunting in Prince William Sound, vast chunks of ice breaking away from glaciers into the sea, astonishing mountains and scenery.







SEWARD, ALASKA

The small city of Seward is nestled at the foot of Mount Marathon along the scenic shoreline of Resurrection Bay, a restless, fickle body of water teeming with abundant species of fish and frolicking marine mammals. In 1792 the bay was sighted and named on Resurrection Day, Easter Sunday, by Alexander Baranof, the most famous of Alaska's early Russian explorer-governors. Against a backdrop of peaks and passes sculpted by Ice Age glaciers, Seward's ice-free harbor has long served as a natural gateway to the vast scenic and resource riches of Alaska's huge interior.

Situated at the head of Resurrection Bay on the Kenai Peninsula, Seward is one of Alaska's oldest and most scenic communities. Experience trophy sport fishing, glacier and wildlife cruises, sailing, hiking, kayaking, flight seeing, summer dog sled rides, and more.





CHENEGA GLACIER

Chenega Glacier was named in 1905 for Chenega Island and the nearby community of Chenega Bay. The glacier is a tourist attraction, drawing many kayakers and small cruise lines to Nassau Fjord where the glacier meets the ocean. Most individual expeditions to the glacier originate in the Prince William Sound community of Whittier. The Chenega Glacier finds its source in the Sargent Icefield.





YAKUTAT BAY

Yakutat Bay is a 29-km-wide (18 miles) bay in the U.S. state of Alaska, extending southwest from Disenchantment Bay to the Gulf of Alaska. "Yakutat" is a Tlingit name reported as "Jacootat" and "Yacootat" by Yuri Lisianski in 1805.

Yakutat Bay was the epicenter of two major earthquakes on September 10, 1899, a magnitude 7.4 foreshock and a magnitude 8.0 main shock, 37 minutes apart.

The Shelikhov-Golikov company, precursor of the Russian-American Company, built a fort on Yakutat Bay in 1795. It was known as New Russia, Yakutat Colony, or Slavorossiya





ANCHORAGE

Anchorage (officially called the Municipality of Anchorage) is a unified home rule municipality in the southcentral part of the U.S. state of Alaska. It is the northernmost city in the United States with more than 100,000 residents and the largest community in North America north of the 60th parallel.

With 291,826 residents in 2010 (and 380,821 residents within its Metropolitan Statistical Area, which combines Anchorage with the neighboring Matanuska-Susitna Borough), it is Alaska's most populous city and constitutes more than 40 percent of the state's total population; among the 50 states, only New York has a higher percentage of residents who live in the state's most populous city.

Russian presence in south central Alaska was well established in the 19th century. In 1867, U. S. Secretary of State William H. Seward brokered a deal to purchase Alaska from an Imperial Russia for \$7.2 million (about two cents an acre). The deal was lampooned by political rivals as "Seward's folly", "Seward's icebox" and "Walrussia". By 1888, gold was discovered along Turnagain Arm.





SKAGWAY

It was formerly a city first incorporated in 1900 that was re-incorporated as a borough on June 25, 2007. As of the 2010 census, the population of the city was 920. However, the population doubles in the summer tourist season in order to deal with more than 900,000 visitors.

The port of Skagway is a popular stop for cruise ships, and the tourist trade is a big part of the business of Skagway. The White Pass and Yukon Route narrow gauge railroad, part of the area's mining past, is now in operation purely for the tourist trade and runs throughout the summer months.

The area around present-day Skagway was inhabited by Tlingit people from prehistoric times. They fished and hunted in the waters and forests of the area and had become prosperous by trading with other groups of people on the coast and in the interior.

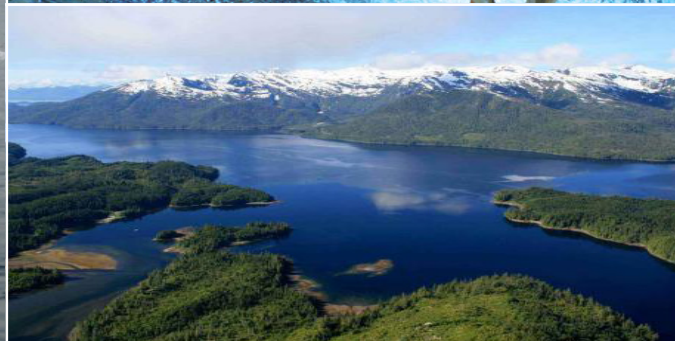


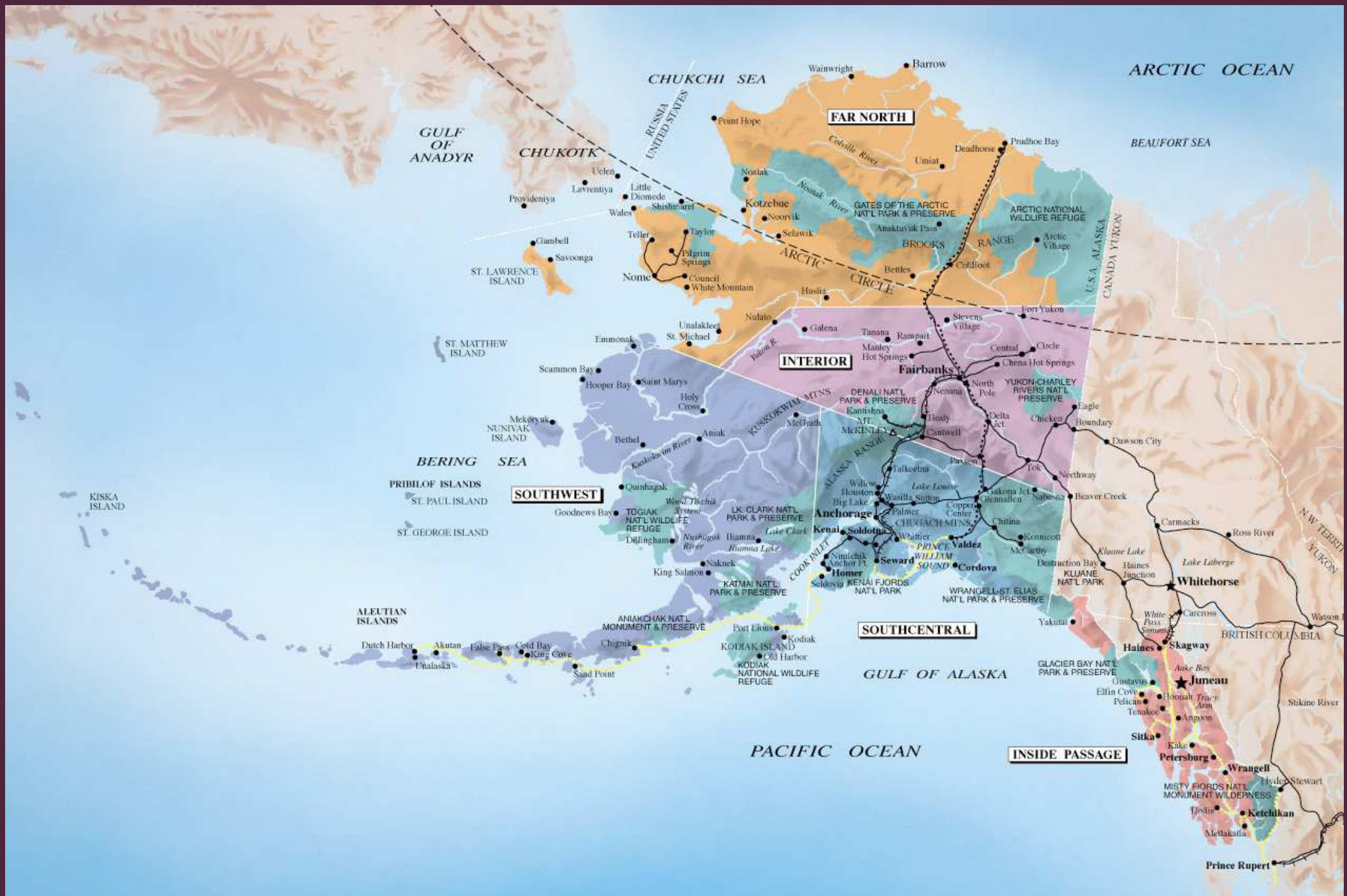


ALASKAS INSIDE PASSAGE

The Inside Passage is a coastal route for oceangoing vessels along a network of passages which weave through the islands on the Pacific coast of North America. The route extends from southeastern Alaska, in the United States, through western British Columbia, in Canada, to northwestern Washington state, in the United States. Ships using the route can avoid some of the bad weather in the open ocean and may visit some of the many isolated communities along the route. The Inside Passage is heavily travelled by cruise ships, freighters, tugs with tows, fishing craft and ships of the Alaska Marine Highway, BC Ferries, and Washington State Ferries systems.

The term "Inside Passage" is also often used to refer to the ocean and islands around the passage itself. The Inside Passage is also sometimes referred to as the "Inland Passage" which is in turn a reference to early explorers' quests to locate the Northwest Passage between the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean.







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