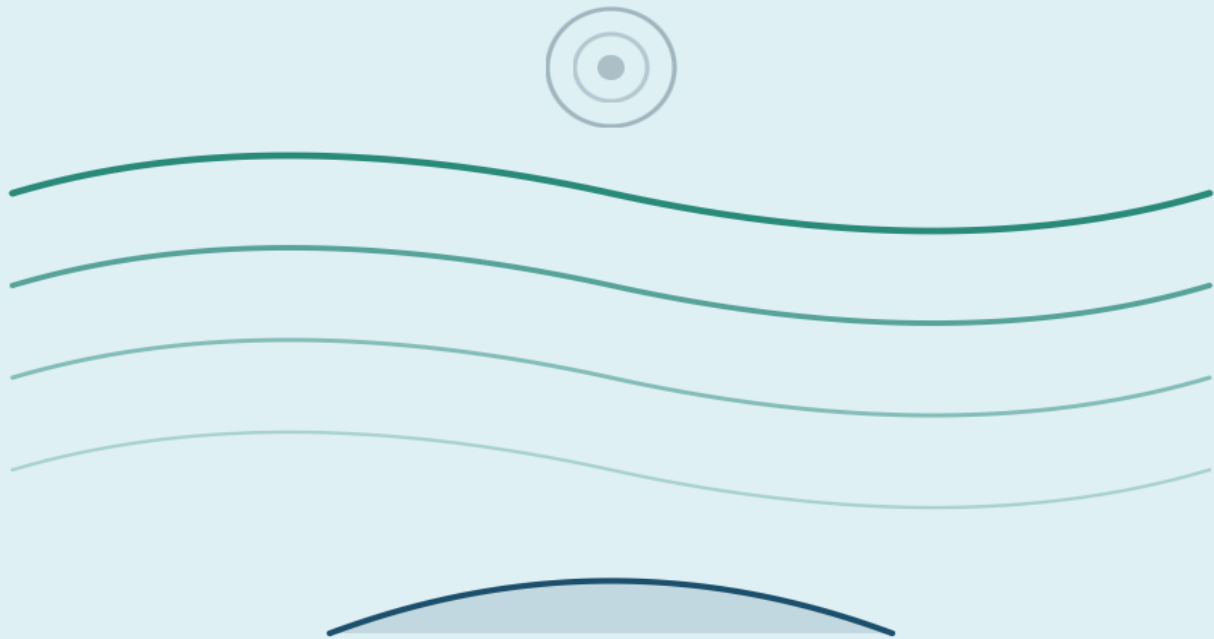




48 HOURS IN

Anchorage

COASTAL · MISTY · FREE

WELCOME

Welcome to Anchorage.

Anchorage is the only major American city where a moose on the morning commute is unremarkable. Nearly 300,000 people live here in a bowl between Cook Inlet and the Chugach Mountains, and the wilderness doesn't start at the city limits — it threads straight through town on greenbelts, creeks, and a coastal trail that begins two blocks from the office towers.

What most first-time visitors miss: Anchorage isn't just a staging ground for cruises and Denali trips. It has Alaska's largest museum, a genuinely good brewery and restaurant scene built on local salmon and halibut, the world's busiest seaplane base, and a 3,500-foot mountain summit reachable within thirty minutes of downtown.

Anchorage is well suited to solo travel — the culture is built around people who head out on trails alone, brewpub and bar-counter dining makes eating solo entirely unremarkable, and the compact downtown grid is easy to navigate on foot in any season.

Day One · Downtown · Coastal Trail · Ship Creek

8:00 AM Breakfast: Snow City Cafe

1034 W 4th Avenue: the downtown breakfast institution, serving sourdough pancakes, crab cake benedicts, and strong coffee to a mix of locals, legislators, and travelers since 1998. \$12–18, counter seating available.

Insider Tip: The line builds fast on weekends — join the online waitlist before you walk over, or grab a counter seat, which turns over much faster than tables.

9:30 AM Tony Knowles Coastal Trail

Elderberry Park trailhead, 5th Avenue at M Street: an 11-mile paved trail hugging Cook Inlet from downtown to Kincaid Park, with mountain and inlet views nearly the whole way. Walk a stretch out-and-back, or rent a bike downtown and ride further. Free.

Insider Tip: Westchester Lagoon at roughly mile two makes a natural turnaround on foot. Moose sightings on this trail are genuinely common — give them 50 feet, always.

12:30 PM Lunch: 49th State Brewing

717 W 3rd Avenue: a big, easygoing brewpub with a rooftop deck looking across Cook Inlet toward Mount Susitna — the 'Sleeping Lady.' Alaska-brewed beers, halibut tacos, and a smoked salmon spread worth ordering. \$16–30, bar seating available.

Insider Tip: On a clear day, ask to sit on the rooftop deck — it has one of the best free views in downtown, and solo diners are seated fastest at the bar.

2:00 PM

Anchorage Museum

625 C Street: Alaska's largest museum, pairing northern art and history with the Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center — one of the best introductions to Alaska Native cultures anywhere in the state. Admission \$20.

Insider Tip: Start in the Art of the North galleries, then give the Smithsonian gallery unhurried time — the object collection rewards a slow solo pace. If you're visiting in summer, the Alaska Native Heritage Center across town is a worthwhile add-on.

4:30 PM

Ship Creek

Whitney Road, below the downtown bluff: the creek where Anchorage was founded in 1915, now famous for urban salmon fishing — during summer runs, anglers pull king and silver salmon minutes from office towers. Viewing platforms and a bridge overlook are open year-round. Free.

Insider Tip: Even outside the salmon runs, the overlook bridge is a quick, worthwhile detour — and the Alaska Railroad depot next door is a handsome piece of 1940s railroad architecture.

7:00 PM

Dinner: Club Paris

417 W 5th Avenue: Anchorage's oldest steakhouse, open since 1957 and proudly unchanged — dark wood, deep booths, stiff martinis, and some of the best beef in Alaska. \$35–65, full bar seating.

Insider Tip: Eat at the bar — it's the classic solo seat in the house, and the filet mignon with a martini is the canonical order.

Day Two · Flattop Mountain · Lake Hood · Spenard

8:30 AM

Flattop Mountain — Glen Alps Trailhead

Glen Alps Trailhead, Toilsome Hill Drive, about 30 minutes from downtown in Chugach State Park: the most-climbed mountain in Alaska. The full summit is a 3.3-mile round trip with 1,350 feet of gain and a rocky scramble at the top; the overlook a quarter-mile from the lot delivers a huge view of the city, inlet, and Alaska Range for almost no effort. Parking \$5.

Insider Tip: The summit scramble is steeper than it looks — the Blueberry Loop is a gentler alternative with much of the same view. If you rideshare up, arrange your return pickup in advance; cell signal at the trailhead is unreliable.

12:00 PM

Lunch: Moose's Tooth Pub & Pizzeria

3300 Old Seward Highway: Alaska's most famous restaurant, routinely named among the best pizzerias in the country, with house-brewed beer and a permanent crowd. \$14–24.

Insider Tip: The wait is real, but solo diners can often skip much of it — ask for bar or counter seating when you check in.

2:00 PM

Lake Hood Seaplane Base

Around 4700 Aircraft Drive, beside the international airport: the busiest seaplane base in the world, with floatplanes (ski-planes in winter) taking off against a mountain backdrop every few minutes in high season. Free, self-guided from the shoreline pullouts.

Insider Tip: Pair it with the aviation museum next door — the two together make a genuinely good hour, and plane-watching from the gravel pullouts costs nothing.

3:00 PM Alaska Aviation Museum

4721 Aircraft Drive, on Lake Hood's south shore: the story of the bush pilots who stitched Alaska together, told through restored aircraft, artifacts, and a working restoration hangar. Admission \$20.

Insider Tip: Climb the control-tower observation deck — you can listen to live radio traffic while floatplanes taxi below you.

5:30 PM Point Woronzof

Point Woronzof Park, at the west end of Northern Lights Boulevard: a bluff over Cook Inlet where jets from the airport pass low overhead and, on a clear day, Denali is visible 130 miles to the north. Free.

Insider Tip: This is the classic Anchorage sunset spot — in midsummer that means very late, so treat it as a golden-hour stop rather than a literal sunset in June and July.

7:30 PM Dinner: Bear Tooth Grill

1230 W 27th Avenue, Spenard: sister restaurant to Moose's Tooth, serving tacos, burgers, and Alaska beers next to a theatrepub that pairs first-run and classic movies with table service. \$14–24, bar seating available.

Insider Tip: Check the Bear Tooth Theatrepub schedule before you go — dinner and a movie with a beer is one of the best solo evenings in Anchorage.

WHERE TO EAT

Anchorage's Table

DOWNTOWN

Snow City Cafe

DOWNTOWN · \$\$\$

The breakfast institution — sourdough pancakes and counter seats that turn fast.

Simon & Seafort's

DOWNTOWN · \$\$\$\$

White-tablecloth Alaska seafood with Cook Inlet views — the bar is the solo seat.

Club Paris

DOWNTOWN · \$\$\$\$

Anchorage's oldest steakhouse, unchanged since 1957 — eat at the bar.

Wild Scoops

DOWNTOWN · \$

Alaska-made ice cream in flavors like fireweed and birch syrup — worth a walk-up any season.

SPENARD & MIDTOWN

Moose's Tooth Pub & Pizzeria

MIDTOWN · \$\$

Alaska's most famous pizza and house-brewed beer — ask for the bar to skip the wait.

Bear Tooth Grill

SPENARD · \$\$

Tacos, burgers, and a theatrepub next door for dinner-and-a-movie solo nights.

Spenard Roadhouse

SPENARD · \$\$

Comfort food, local beers, and a bacon-of-the-month program — easy, unfussy solo dining.

BARS & NIGHTLIFE

49th State Brewing

DOWNTOWN · \$\$

Rooftop deck with Sleeping Lady views and a long list of Alaska-brewed beers.

Williwaw Social

DOWNTOWN · \$\$

Live music, rooftop bar, and coffee by day — a flexible solo-friendly venue.

F Street Station

DOWNTOWN · \$\$

A no-frills local bar and kitchen where solo regulars have held the counter for decades.

GETTING AROUND

Navigating Anchorage

MODE	COST	NOTES
Walking	Free	The downtown grid is compact and flat — most Day One stops are walkable.
People Mover bus	\$2/ride, \$5 day pass	Covers downtown, midtown, and the airport; service is limited evenings and Sundays.
Uber / Lyft	Varies	Best for Flattop, Lake Hood, and Spenard — pre-arrange pickups from trailheads.
Rental car	\$60–90/day	The most flexible option, and the practical one for Chugach trailheads and day trips down the Seward Highway.
Bike rental	\$25–40 half-day	Downtown rental shops sit steps from the Coastal Trail — the best way to cover its full length.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

TOPIC	DETAILS
Getting There	Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (ANC) is 15 minutes from downtown — Uber (\$20–30) or People Mover Route 40.
Best Time	Mid-May through mid-September brings long daylight and full trail access; February–March pairs northern lights with Fur Rendezvous and the Iditarod ceremonial start. Shoulder seasons are quiet and cheap.
Daylight	Expect 19+ hours of light at midsummer and about 5.5 in December — pack an eye mask in summer and plan tighter afternoons in winter.
Wildlife	Moose live in town year-round — give them 50 feet and never walk between a cow and her calf. On greenbelt and Chugach trails, make noise and stay aware of bears from spring through fall.
Solo Dining	Brewpub counters and bar seating are the default across the city — eating alone here is entirely ordinary.
Weather	Conditions change fast in every season. Carry layers and a rain shell year-round, and add traction cleats for winter sidewalks.
Useful Apps	Uber, AllTrails for Chugach routes, and an aurora forecast app (September–April).

BEFORE YOU LEAVE: FINAL CHECKLIST

- ☐ Reserve a rental car early — Anchorage inventory sells out in peak months
- ☐ Pack layers and a rain shell, whatever the season
- ☐ Download offline maps — cell signal drops at Chugach trailheads
- ☐ Bring \$5 for Glen Alps trailhead parking
- ☐ Give moose 50 feet — everywhere, always
- ☐ Check the aurora forecast if visiting September through April
- ☐ Book popular dinner spots ahead on summer weekends

GoingSolo.Life

Your interactive map is one scan away.

All locations from this guide, colour-coded by day, open on your phone.



goingsolo.life/maps/anchorage

TRAVEL ALONE. LIVE FULLY.

goingsolo.life