

CORDOVA, ALASKA

SEE LIFE

THE WORLD'S RICHEST WATERS.



Cordova
THE WORLD'S RICHEST WATERS

WELCOME TO CORDOVA

The world's richest waters converge at Cordova and produce an abundance of natural life unlike anywhere else on Earth, nourishing fish and fisherfolk. You'll notice something special about the people here. There's a glow on their faces.

It's the light of an Alaska summer morning, where the sun is up before the earliest of birds. It's a fishing line pulsing with activity. It's curiosity and comradery. It's 10,000 years on their ancestral homeland. It's not knowing when work ends and play begins. It's all the best things in life nestled into a community that never takes it for granted.

It's something you can take with you, a harmony that settles in your bones and soothes your soul, a zest for life on nature's terms. On the shores of the world's richest waters lives the world's richest life.

And you're invited.



EXPLORE REMARKABLE WORLDS



PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

The fjords, intricate bays and islands of Prince William Sound make up one of the globe's most spectacular marine environments. Above the coastline rises an equally amazing alpine world of forested hillsides, glaciers and rocky spires. The Sound is an accessible wilderness, a place you can comfortably explore by kayak, cruise ship, charter boat or plane.



GULF COAST OF ALASKA

Stretched between the Copper River Delta and Glacier Bay National Park is one of the world's most remote, dynamic and spectacular stretches of coastline—a place where surfers add their tracks to the footsteps left in the sand by wolves and bear. A land of untouched wilderness and raw power, Alaska's "Lost Coast" beckons to the serious adventurer.



COPPER RIVER DELTA

The crown jewel of North America's wetlands, this 700,000 acre delta, is the largest wetland on the Pacific Coast. Watch eagles fly. See Trumpeter swans and Dusky Canada geese raise their young. Hear the stillness broken by the slap of a beaver's tail. Hike, boat, float, drive or fly this incomparable meeting place of land and water.



CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST

Beauty and adventure surrounds this magnificent place from mountains to rainforests to glaciers. Hike one of fifteen uncrowded and well-maintained trails or paddle from ancient ice to the ocean. Start from one of eight cabins, five campgrounds and picnic areas, or find a trailhead and start walking.

CURRENTS OF HISTORY

For 10,000 years, the Eyak, Chugach Region people, Tlingit, and Athabaskan people have depended upon the rich ecosystems of Prince William Sound and the Copper River Delta. These lands and waters are the source of their traditions. A place with mild climate, rich waters and abundant food sources made their traditional homeland a natural meeting place of diverse Alaska Native peoples. Their customs have survived thousands of years on this cultural landscape where they hunt, fish and gather to feed their families. An ancient village site for the Native Village of Eyak hugs the shore of Lake Eyak, at the edge of current-day Cordova.

LEARN MORE >

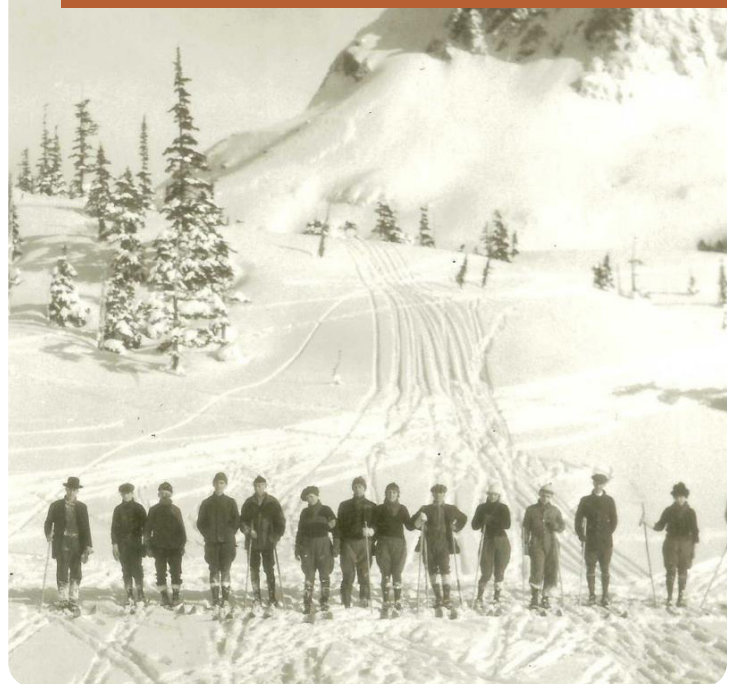
Today's maps still echo the voyages of Captains Bering, Cook, Humbolt and Fidalgo, with names like Zaikof Bay, Hinchinbrook Island, Valdez and Cordova. Modern Cordova burst to life at the turn of the century, following discovery of an immense copper deposit in the Wrangell Mountains. For 27 years, Cordova boomed as the terminus of the Copper River and Northwestern Railway. The train ran 196 miles from the Kennecott mine to tidewater, crossing the Copper River at the Million Dollar Bridge. When the mine closed in 1938, Cordova turned back to more enduring resources—salmon, shrimp, clams, crab, and herring.

A UNIQUE SET OF ATTRACTIONS



EXPERIENCE

Visit the [Cordova Historical Museum](#); view the orca skeleton at the [Ilanka Cultural Center](#); purchase Native crafts; stroll through the historic town; take a self-guided history tour.





A PLACE TO LEARN

Cordova offers you an unusual opportunity to get “behind the postcards”, to understand the place you are visiting. Take a workshop about traditional craftsmanship and how foliage and foraging are infused into abundant handmade works of art from dying yarn, painting, jewelry or stitchery. Learn first hand about the epic migration of shorebirds, or how scientists use genetic codes to track wild salmon. The region’s rich ecological resources have made it a living laboratory, a center for scientific research helping to unravel the mysteries behind the scenery.



EXPERIENCE

Connect with local organizations that provide learning opportunities for young and old alike. Visit the **Prince William Sound Science Center**, **Copper River Watershed Project** or the **US Forest Service** interpretive center; attend [Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival](#); join in on a forest foray during [Cordova Fungus Festival](#).

EXPERIENCE

Browse the Copper River Gallery or cuddle up at the Library fireplace in the new Cordova Center; pick up a Cordova Center facility guide to plan your next meeting or special event.



THE CORDOVA CENTER: THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

Anchored in the business district, the Cordova Center connects Main Street to the harbor and provides a home for the library, museum and city offices. The North Star Theatre brings theatrical, musical and dance performances alive and offers films to Cordovans in a comfy, state of the art 200 seat space. A multitude of rooms provide venues for meetings, conferences, events, educational programs and much more.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

A UNIQUE SET OF ATTRACTIONS

A REAL, LIVELY COMMUNITY

Cordovans say that it takes all morning to walk through town—you keep meeting people that you just have to talk to! It's the people that make Cordova so special. Characterized by independence, curiosity, and enthusiasm for spirited debate, Cordovans are an interesting and lively bunch. From fiddle playing to quilting and fine art, Cordova's population is diverse and talented. This tradition includes famed Alaskan artists Sydney Lawrence and Eustace Ziegler, who lived here during Cordova's booming copper days, and well-known modern-day artist David Rosenthal. Another defining feature is our link to the land - we fish, pick berries, smoke salmon, and gather wild, edible mushrooms. For many, it's hard to tell where work ends and play begins, as long days on the land and a slow pace of life create space and offer endless inspiration for drawing, writing, photography, painting, sewing, and making of all sorts.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

A unique way to discover Cordova is to plan your trip around one of our signature events.

LEARN MORE

- [Cordova Iceworm Festival - early February](#)
- [Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival—early May](#)
- [Salmon Jam & Alaska Salmon Runs—July](#)
- [Cordova Fungus Festival—early September](#)
- [Native Village of Eyak Sobriety Celebration—November](#)
- [Hometown Holiday Kickoff & Bazaar—early December](#)



EXPERIENCE

Pack your art materials in your backpack and hike, walk, paddle, or bike to a spot that inspires you in Cordova's vast outdoor playground. Art materials are available in town if you forgot yours or would like to try something new!



A REAL LIVELY COMMUNITY

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TRIP

GETTING HERE & AROUND

- Daily jet service by [Alaska Airlines](#) from Anchorage, Juneau, and Seattle.
- Regular ferry service on the [Alaska Marine Highway System](#) from Valdez or Whittier.
- [Local transportation services](#) include rental cars, taxis, and air charters.



MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TRIP



WHAT ABOUT FOOD, LODGING, & OTHER SERVICES?

Cordova is a bustling small town of 2500 people. There are [hotels, lodges, and B&B's](#); [restaurants and cafes](#); [supermarkets](#) and other stores for supplies; and a commercial district for [gifts](#) and sundries. An array of [outfitters](#) are available to guide your dream excursion.

[LEARN MORE >](#)



GEAR TO BRING AND WEATHER TO EXPECT

You'll want to bring the right gear for our maritime, rainforest climate. Like other Alaska coastal communities, summer weather can range from warm and sunny to cool and damp. Layered clothing works well. Be sure to bring boots and rain gear for outdoor adventures. Don't forget your camera!

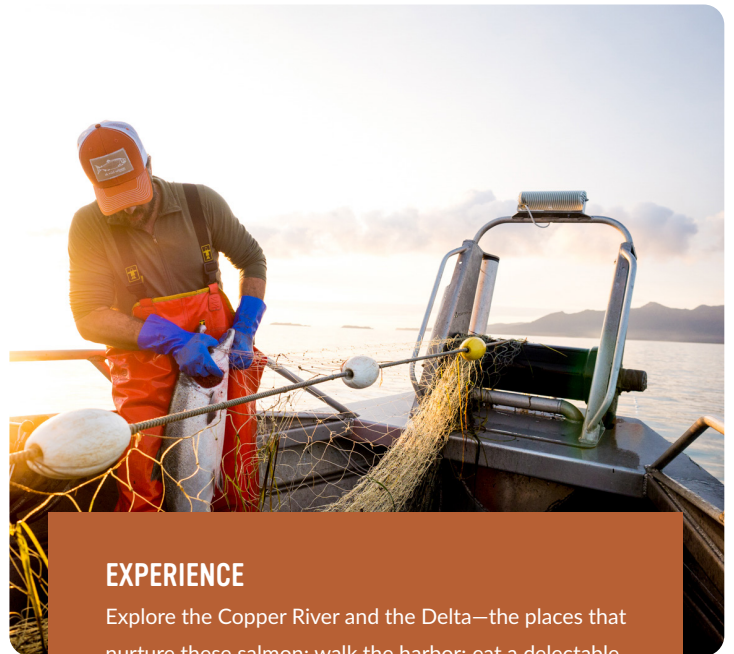


MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TRIP

COMMERCIAL FISHING: THE LIFEBLOOD OF CORDOVA

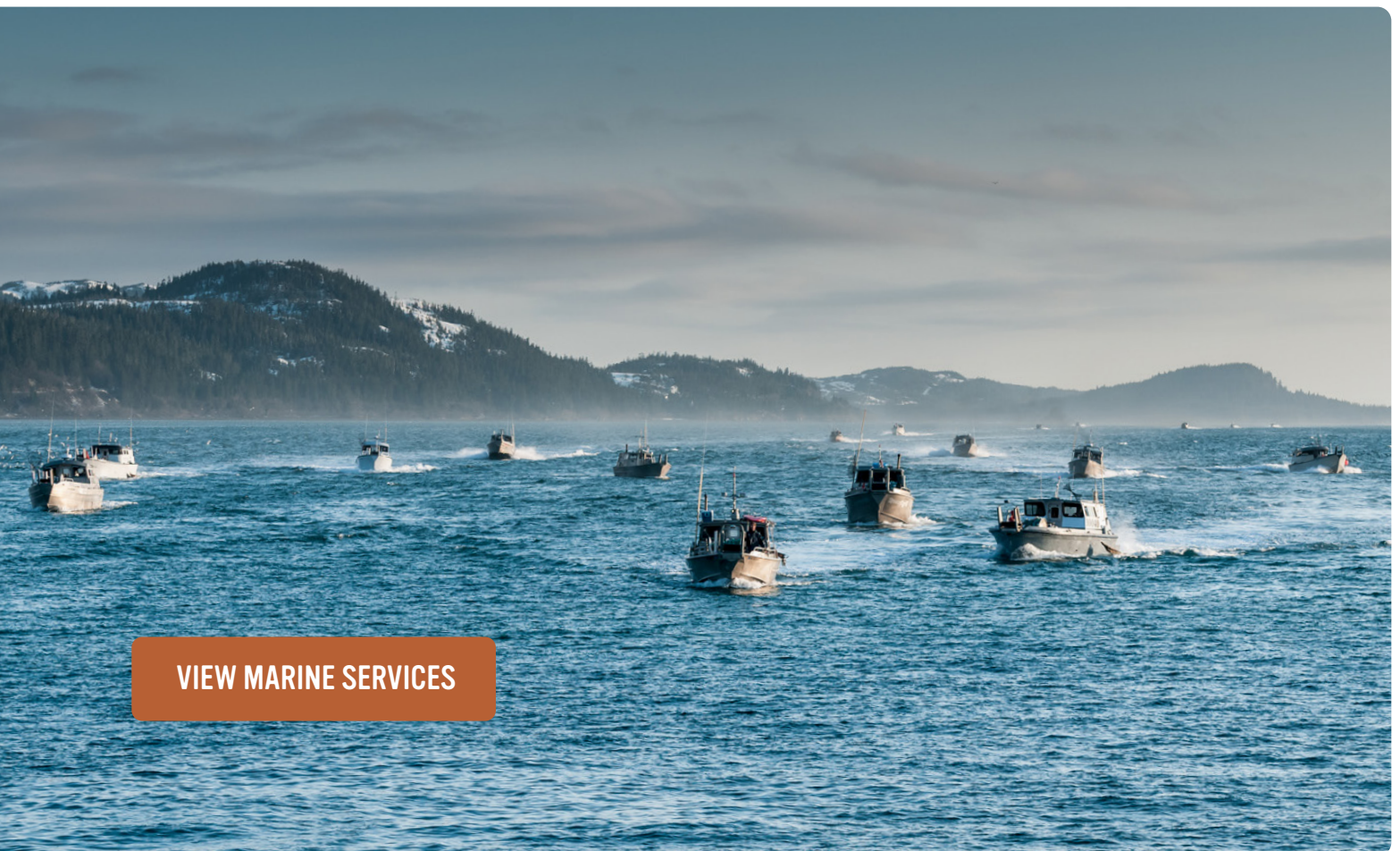
Among the Sound's rich wildlife, none is more famous or more essential than its wild salmon. In early spring to fall all five species of Pacific salmon inhabit the world's richest waters of the Copper River and Prince William Sound, driving traditional local culture as well as the economies of the region. Renowned for their unparalleled flavor, color and quality and known as the World's Finest Salmon, Copper River sockeye and chinook are treasured by connoisseurs throughout the world.

[LEARN MORE >](#)



EXPERIENCE

Explore the Copper River and the Delta—the places that nurture these salmon; walk the harbor; eat a delectable salmon meal; arrange to send fresh or smoked salmon back to those less fortunate souls who stayed home.



[VIEW MARINE SERVICES](#)

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TRIP



FUN FACTS: A GUIDE TO SPEAKING CORDOVAN

“CORKED” used when another boat drops a net in front of your net.

“OPENER” short periods (often just 24 hours) when commercial fishing is allowed in a particular area.

“THE FLATS” primary commercial fishing area, at the mouth of the Copper River.

“IN ‘EM” reference to being in an area with lots of salmon, “we were really ‘in ‘em’, but we got corked” (useful in daily life as well as fishing).

“OUT THE ROAD” reference to locations east of Cordova along the Copper River Highway; for example, Sheridan Glacier is “out the road”.

“HUMPIE” a pink salmon. Impress the locals; know both names of all 5 salmon species: King (Chinook), Sockeye (Red), Coho (Silver), Chum (Dog), and Humpie (Pink).

“BOWPICKER” a small, single-operator boat used to harvest the world’s finest fish, Copper River salmon.

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TRIP

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

YEAR ROUND ADVENTURES

Step back in time into the solitude of tranquil bays surrounded by deep forest, sweeping glaciers and majestic mountain peaks. Outdoor adventures are available all year around the world's richest waters. The only thing that changes is the gear. Switch out waterproof hiking boots, mountain bikes, and paddles in the summer and fall to snowshoes, fat tire bikes and ski poles in the winter and spring. Exploring around Cordova is for the adventure lover, the one who has multiple ways to spend the day and is always ready for the perfect window of conditions to ski, ice skate or catch the northern lights but isn't waiting for it. For the lucky and prepared, these experiences will never leave you.

[LEARN MORE >](#)



OUTDOOR ADVENTURE



HIKING, CAMPING AND BACKPACKING

Chugach National Forest represents America's northernmost range of temperate rainforest and is the second-largest Forest in the National Forest System. Cordova Ranger District is nestled between the Copper River Delta and the southeastern end of Prince William Sound, covers approximately 2.3 million acres, and is truly a hiker's paradise with sixteen exceptionally well-maintained trails covering 35 miles. Hiking through these uncrowded trails is a dream, with amazing Alaskan scenery and wildlife all around. From easy-going boardwalks and flat streamside trails to towering forest and mountain peak adventures, there is a trail for all ages and ability levels. Cordova's many trails all share one important thing in common: the trailheads are each easily accessible via car from the Copper River Scenic Highway.



BIKING

A great way to view the world's richest waters is to bike from one body of water to another, taking in the abundance of all life along the way. Bike rentals are available.



GLACIERS

Saddlebag and Sheridan Glacier are great options for hiking or biking. Pick a picnic spot in the wildflowers or right up and personal with the glacier, or hire an outfitter to visit the unforgettable Childs Glacier and Million Dollar Bridge.



FORAGING

When hiking in the spring, look for seasonal edibles such as spruce tips, fireweed shoots and fiddlehead fronds. Summer brings salmonberries, blueberries and more along roadsides and hiking trails. Fall is mushroom season and the Chugach National Forest is home to many fascinating kinds of fungus, (make sure you are 100% confident in the identification).



TIDEPoolING

Tidepooling along the shorelines is one of the easiest ways to get a close look at the abundant life in Prince William Sound. You'll find sea vegetables, sea stars, shellfish, salmon, and more.



WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

Whatever time of year you find yourself in Cordova, there will be amazing opportunities for viewing wildlife. Moose and bear are common in summer, and spring and fall are great times to capture epic migrations.



SKIING & HELISKIING

Mt. Eyak Ski Area is located in Cordova, Alaska and operates 1 of 2 remaining single chairlifts in North America. With a vertical rise of 960 feet, the lift serves multiple runs with countless shots through trees and glades encompassing an area of over 600+ acres and access to the backcountry. Cordova is also home to Points North Heli Adventures, the only heli-skiing operation utilizing the southeastern side of the Chugach Mountains.



ICE SKATING

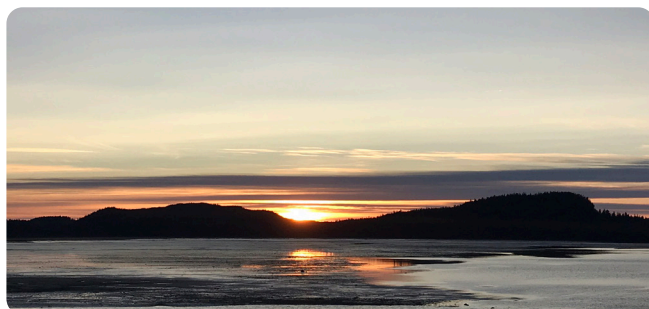
Sometimes in the calmness of winter you can catch the perfect window to go ice skating on Sheridan Glacier or Lake Eyak.

101 THINGS TO DO IN CORDOVA



ORCA ROAD

- ❑ Walk, bike or drive Orca Rd & watch for sea otters, seals, ravens and bald eagles.
- ❑ Sea-kayak Orca Channel from Orca Lodge to Shepard Point.
- ❑ Clean your catch at the Shelter Cove Cleaning Station.
- ❑ Visit the Prince William Sound Science Center.
- ❑ Watch for whales in Orca Inlet. Jig for Halibut off the Ocean Dock.
- ❑ See the fishing fleet jockey for position at the fuel dock.
- ❑ Catch the sunset from "Hippie Cove".



WHITSHED ROAD

- ❑ Walk up and relax at the reservoir and get an alternate view of Cordova.

- ❑ Play a round of disc golf at Meals Reservoir.
- ❑ Watch 1000's of shorebirds dance in flight in early May for the spring migration.
- ❑ Join us for the Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival. Learn more at coppershorebird.com.
- ❑ Watch salmon spawning in the slough near Hartney Bay trail head.
- ❑ Take in the sunset at Hartney Bay.
- ❑ Enjoy an evening bonfire on the beach.



POWER CREEK ROAD

- ❑ Picnic at Nirvana Park
- ❑ Kayak or canoe Eyak Lake.
- ❑ Learn about Eyak Lake's shores and spawning salmon from interpretive signs at Nirvana Park, Skater's Cabin and Power Creek.
- ❑ Observe Trumpeter Swans, mergansers and other abundant water fowl.
- ❑ Watch float planes take flight from Eyak Lake.
- ❑ Reserve Skater's Cabin for a night on the shore of Eyak Lake.
- ❑ Pick a bucket of blueberries or salmonberries.
- ❑ Look for bears at the spawning beds.
- ❑ Visit the old Pioneer cemetery.
- ❑ Hire an air charter to go flightseeing over glaciers and the Copper River Delta.
- ❑ View spawning reds in the creek.



TOWN OF CORDOVA

- Enjoy a self-guided tour of Cordova.
- Visit a local church for Sunday Service.
- Shop till you drop at our local boutiques (Net Loft, Kayak Café, Sue's Knives are just a few).
- Feast on Copper River Salmon at a local eatery.
- Learn about the Copper River Delta at the Copper River Watershed Project office on 1st St.
- Meet a local and find out "everything" about Cordova.
- Follow the interpretive signs on 1st St.
- Arrange for a studio tour with a local artist.
- Join the local Zen meditation group for a sit.
- Tour Cordova by bicycle. Bike rentals available.
- Send your child to 4H Fiddle and Music Camp or enjoy an adult camp (usually mid July).
- Catch a yoga or dance class at Current Rhythms.
- Kick off your musical career at open mic during [Salmon Jam](#) (every July).
- Visit the Cordova Chamber and Visitor Center (located at 404 First St.)
- Spend an hour at the Cordova Historical Museum (located in the Cordova Center)
- Learn about the Eyak, Chugach Region People, Tlingit, and Athabaskan people at the Ilanka Cultural Center (located at 711 First St)
- Pick up a copy of The Cordova Times for the scoop on what's going on around town, available at many retail locations in town.
- Stop by the US Forest Service office and interpretive center on 2nd St.
- Visit Alaska Fish & Game office on Railroad Ave.
- Stroll "Cordova's Historic Walking Tour" at your leisure (map available at the Visitor Center and Cordova Museum).

- Open a jar of smoked Copper River Red and enjoy (available from local retailers)!
- Watch a parade with a 100 foot long blue Iceworm at [Cordova Iceworm Festival](#) (every February).
- Get in a rainy day workout at Bidarki Rec Ctr.

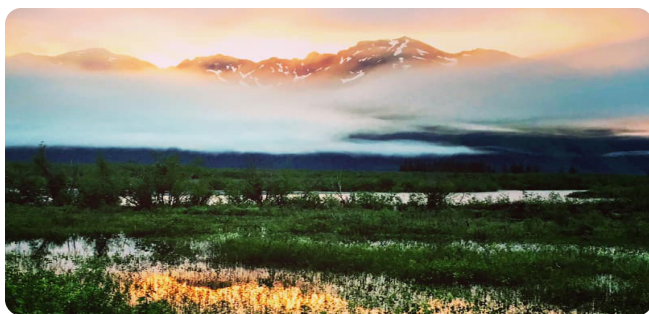


CORDOVA HARBOR

- Watch local fishermen offload their catch.
- Catch your own Salmon or Halibut.
- Grab a lunch to go and picnic at the Fisherman's Memorial.
- Stop in at the local artist's coop to see local artists at work.
- Stroll the docks of a bustling commercial fishing harbor.
- Pick a favorite boat name in the harbor.
- Visit a local seafood processor to buy Copper River Salmon and other wild Alaskan fish.
- Watch the Fleet come and go from the "Flats".
- Try your hand at mending a gill net or just watch a pro.
- Compete in the wild & wacky survival suit races in February at Iceworm Festival.
- Escape to the Sound on an overnight boat tour.
- Walk the boardwalk to the end of the Breakwater.
- Ask a fisherman for a tour of their boat.

EXPERIENCE

See how many of these you can check off during your visit to Cordova!



COPPER RIVER DELTA

- ❑ Sport fish little lakes and rivers for trout.
- ❑ Photograph wild flowers along the highway and on the Delta.
- ❑ Explore the old Copper River Northwest Railroad bed, the foundation of the Copper River Highway.
- ❑ Go mountain bike riding “out the road”.
- ❑ Go on a guided tour or wilderness trek.
- ❑ Spend the day at 22 mile picnicking and canoeing.
- ❑ Take a river or air shuttle to Childs Glacier and the historic Million Dollar Bridge.
- ❑ Picnic anywhere “out the road”.
- ❑ Pick wild berries everywhere “out the road”.
- ❑ Choose the perfect winter day to ice skate on a glacial lake right next to icebergs frozen in time.
- ❑ Scan for Moose meandering the marshlands.
- ❑ Watch a summer sunset at midnight.
- ❑ Watch a summer sunrise at 3:00 am.
- ❑ Listen for coyotes. Call back to them.
- ❑ Capture the Northern Lights on film or digital.
- ❑ Go on a guided foray during [Cordova Fungus Festival](#).
- ❑ Play on sand dunes at 27 mile.
- ❑ Rent a river boat and explore Eyak River.
- ❑ Tent camp at Alaganik.
- ❑ Rent a USFS cabin at McKinley Lake.
- ❑ Listen for the Sandhill Cranes announcing the coming of autumn.
- ❑ Count the beaver lodges visible from the highway.
- ❑ Enjoy a scenic bike or run on the Copper River Highway
- ❑ Read the interpretive signs at mile 10.5 CR Highway in the USFS gazebo.



READY. SET. HIKE.

- **Alaganik Slough Trail and Boardwalk** - delta habitat and wildlife viewing along the accessible platform.
- **Crater Lake Trail** - mature spruce-hemlock forest to a picturesque alpine bowl where Crater Lake sits.
- **Eyak River Trail** - meander the west bank of Eyak River in mature Sitka Spruce.
- **Haystack Trail** - brings you to the perfect vantage point for a delta view.
- **Lake Elsner Trail** - parallels the east side of the Scott Valley along muskeg and lakes.
- **McKinley Lake Trail** - beautiful, easy to walk tread to explore “Lucky Strike Mine”.
- **Muskeg Meander Trail** - cross country skiing or snow shoeing only. Gains elevation gradually and ends in a high muskeg overlooking the Copper River Delta.
- **Pipeline Lakes Trail** - most of the trail is boardwalk through muskeg meadows with impressive views of the Chugach Mountains.
- **Power Creek Trail** - at midway, Cordova Electric's Hydropower Dam can be seen.
- **Saddlebag Glacier Trail** - mountain bike or hike a glaciated valley to a glacier fed lake.
- **Sheridan Mountain Trail** - begin with waterfalls, end with an incredible glacier view.
- **Sheridan Lake Trail** - this short jaunt offers an ancient reward.
- **Ski Hill Trail** - open rocky slopes, muskeg meadows, with incredible views of Cordova, Orca Inlet and Eyak Lake.

[LEARN MORE >](#)



LOCAL ASSISTANCE DIRECTORY

Public Service

Police	907-424-6100
Fire Department	907-424-6117
City	907-424-6200
Chamber of Commerce	907-424-7260
Parks & Rec	907-424-7282
HarborMaster	907-424-6400
Alaska Marine Hwy Ferry Terminal	907-424-7333
Merle K Mudhole Smith Airport	907-424-3202
Cordova School District	907-424-3265

Medical Facilities

Cordova Community Medical Center	907-424-8000
Ilanka Community Health Center	907-424-3622
Sound Alternatives (Mental Health)	907-424-8300

Government

US Forest Service	907-424-7661
AK Fish & Game	907-424-6400
US Coast Guard	907-424-5987
Alaska Troopers/Wildlife Protection	907-424-3184
Coast Guard Search and Rescue	1-800-478-5555

Find a complete list of member businesses at
cordovachamber.com/business-directory



PHOTOGRAPHERS

Photos in this digital visitor guide were provided by Teal Barmore, Heather Brannon, Milo Burcham, Karen Deaton, Ken Graham, Chelsea Haisman, James Ianni, Danny Jones, David L Little, Wendy Ranney, Zachary Smith, and Chelsea Tracy.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

We are here to support your visit to Cordova. Fill out this [Visitor Trip Planner](#) and we will be in contact with you soon.

CORDOVA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PO Box 99
Cordova, AK 99574
907.424.7260
info@cordovachamber.com
www.cordovachamber.com



[VIEW INTERACTIVE MAP](#)