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Aug 15, Tuesday

Anchorage/Seward, Alaska, USA



Kenai Fjords National Park, Resurrection Bay, the SeaLife Center research aquarium, not to mention the charm of the town itself, all conspire to make Seward one of the most appealing destinations in Alaska. Seward began inconspicuously enough as a fishing village and point of arrival for those visiting Alaska. Now locals and visitors alike have discovered that there is enough to see and do here to merit a multi-day, if not indefinite, stay. You might paddle a kayak on the lookout for sea otters, hike one of the many beautiful hiking trails near town, embark on a fishing expedition or ride a wheeled sled pulled by a team of 12 spry and intelligent dogs. In town, visit the aforementioned SeaLife Center, where you can hold starfish and view puffins, seabirds, harbor seals and sea lions. Also investigate the Iditarod Trailhead and explore the quaint Seward Museum where you will learn the history of Seward as told by bits of memorabilia.

Aug 16, Wednesday

Kodiak, Alaska, USA



Often called "Alaska's Emerald Isle," Kodiak Island is indeed magnificently green, thanks to its plentiful summer rains. In fact, many things are plentiful here, including fish and other wildlife. The island, situated off the coast of Alaska, boasts one of North America's largest commercial fishing ports. Both avid and casual anglers will delight in chances to test their skills in catching halibut, trout, steelhead and all five species of salmon. Hikers and mountain bikers will find the area a paradise as well, with a choice of splendid trails that wind through Kodiak's National Wildlife Refuge. For those wanting to delve into local history, there are several museums in and near the main town of Kodiak: The Baranov Museum dedicated to the island's history; the Alutiiq Museum, which illuminates the cultural traditions of the indigenous Alutiiq people; the Kodiak Maritime Museum, showcasing Alaska's maritime heritage; and the Kodiak Military History Museum, aptly located in a restored bunker.

Aug 18, Friday

Dutch Harbor, Alaska, USA



The port of Dutch Harbor, on tiny Amaknak Island, is connected by a bridge to the city of Unalaska, a onetime ancient Aleut Village. It lies 800 miles southwest of Anchorage in the heart of the Aleutian Islands along the "Ring of Fire," so named for the frequent volcanic activity of this portion of the Pacific Rim. These islands were the stepping-stones that lured Russian explorers to Alaska during the 1700s. Development quickened when ships heading for the Nome gold fields stopped here for provisions. Steller's sea lions are among this region's unique and abundant wildlife. You may also spot whales, seals, sea otters, porpoises and rare seabirds. Don't miss seeing the Holy Ascension Church, the island's World War II landmarks and other fascinating relics of the past.

Aug 20, Sunday

Nome, Alaska



Nome, a frontier-like town located on the Seward Peninsula closer to Siberia than to Anchorage, has hosted two famed races. One was a sprint for riches—the Gold Rush that began in 1898 when the "Three Lucky Swedes"—discovered the glittering dust on Anvil Creek. The other is the Iditarod, the annual, 1,049-mile sled dog race through often white-out and sub-zero conditions that begins in Anchorage and ends in Nome. We invite you to take your time experiencing Nome and its environs, not merely contemplating but fully appreciating its remote location as you unearth your own treasures at shops selling Inupiaq Eskimo crafts or spy wildlife out in the tundra.



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