

# Juneau

*Alaska, USA*

## About the Port

The port of Juneau has two cruise ship terminals owned by the city and another two private ones. Some small cruise ships share the Seadrome Dock with floatplanes.

The city docks can host only two large cruise ships at a time. Both terminals are close to the city center, so walking is an efficient option.

Port facilities include a grocery store, a coffee shop and gift shops. Some of them have WiFi. Travelers who are to take shore excursions can find the corresponding buses near the docks.

## About the City

Juneau is the capital city of Alaska, USA. The population of the city is 31,000, the majority of which works in government.

June 21 is the longest day of the year and gets 18 hours of daylight. Due to this, it never really gets dark; the sun sets on the horizon and waits for the next day to rise again.

## Climate

The city receives a lot of rain year round. It gets more than 200 rainy days a year. While the tourist season starts in April and extends to September, there are only 86 sunny days in a year. The average temperature is -5 °C in winter and 15 °C in summer.

## Internet Connection

Juneau has more than a dozen cafes, where customers can get free WIFI access. The list includes Island Pub, the Rookery Café, Red Dog Saloon, and many others.

## Language

While everyone speaks English here, you can sometimes come across the Native American language of Tlingit as well.

## Shopping

Juneau has a variety of local and international stores, where you can buy typical Alaskan souvenirs like furry hats, raw gold, ivory art and so on. The gold you buy in Alaska is very pure and clean, which is why it has a strong yellow color.

## Port Facts:

### Port: Juneau

Country: USA

State: Alaska

Language: English

Currency: US Dollars

Voltage: 110V



## Things to Do

**Tongass National Forest** contains the Mendenhall ice glacier, which is the most popular natural attraction in Juneau. You can walk around and view the glacier and climb up the Nugget Falls. Fans of extreme can also try rafting on Mendenhall River.

**Glacier Gardens Rainforest Adventures** is a botanical garden famed for trees turned upside down. The roots are covered with colorful flowers and turn the tree trunks into palms. The park has a gift shop, where you can buy unique flower seeds to plant them at home. There is also a café that serves beverages and refreshments.

**Helicopter Tour** is a must, if you want to see the landscape as a whole. Generally, the glaciers, the forests and the rivers are huge, which is why viewing them from the sky is much more rewarding.

**Mount Roberts Tramway** is a great alternative to a helicopter tour. The tram takes you to the Mount Robert (1164m) and opens views to the sea, the mountains and the forests surrounding the city. The tram station is near the cruise ship docks.

**Whale Watching** is very easy in Juneau. Whales cruise the shores during the tourist season, making whale watching an activity peculiar to the city.

**Fishing** – You can rent a boat and sail for fishing. Salmon is the main target by locals and visitors.

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## Eating and Drinking

As a true harbor, Juneau offers an excellent menu of seafood, where salmon wears the crown. Halibut and cod are two of the other options.

There are no specialties in Alaska regarding drinks and beverages. Locals consume a lot of beer. An interesting fact is that it is illegal to be drunk in Alaskan bars, and if the barman suspects a drunken behavior, he can simply refuse serving you more alcohol.

## Transportation

If you're planning to drive out of the city, you will be surprised to find out that there are no incoming or outgoing roads.

You can visit the Mendenhall glacier by a shuttle train, the ticket of which can be purchased from tourist kiosks located in the port.

The best way of traveling to farther attractions is by renting a car. Taxis end up being more expensive than a car rental. Also, roads with no or very little traffic lead to all popular sites.

## The Weather

### Climate

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### What to Pack

Although it's always chilly in Juneau, the temperature is never consistent, so it's wise to wear layers of clothing. A shirt under a sweatshirt, and a good waterproof coat over it. Umbrellas can be a savior, too. Make sure your shoes are also waterproof. Sunglasses are a good idea, as it can get very bright here.

## History

The area was initially populated by the Tlingit Indians, when the gold found in mountains changed the fate of the settlement. George Pilz, an engineer residing in Sitka at the time, announced a reward for anyone, who would bring gold or silver samples from the local mountains. The Indians provided rich ore in return for blankets and jobs. The working group comprised of Joe Juneau and Richard Harris departed for the gold mines in 1880.

The mining district was named Harrisburgh, while the new town received the name Rockwell (in honor of US Navy Commander). Due to the complaints from Joe Juneau, the town was renamed after him years later. So, gold was the main trigger for development of Juneau.

Juneau became the state capital in 1905 and today half of the population works for the government, while the other half is focused on tourism.

## Culture

Alaska is one of the youngest US states and has an interesting population makeup. Some of the locals descend from the first settlers, others have moved to the state recently, while another group is comprised of the Native Alaskan Indians. The Indian groups still living in Alaska are Tlingit, Haida, Yuit, Inupiat, and Athabascans.

There are two things peculiar to Alaska; gold and fur. The first is an aftereffect of the gold hunt that caused the development of the state. The other is a side effect of the chilly but refreshing local climate.

Despite this, it is quite hard for cruise travelers to meet locals here, as the majority of workers in tourism-oriented areas are seasonal workers, who travel to Alaska every summer for a short-term job.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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