

About and Around Anchorage

I was born and raised 220 miles south of here in a quaint fishing town by the sea called Homer, Alaska. So while I'm partial to Homer and I hope you will go see the art, the big fish, and eccentric folks there; let me tell you about my favorite spots in and around Anchorage in case you have a chance to do some touring.

Lodging – I recommend bed and breakfasts, not only because you can get personalized info from the locals, but also because they're much more affordable than hotels!

Hiking and Sight-seeing – I recommend exploring the Chugach State Parks trails, riding the train to Denali via the Alaska Railroad, and going Flightseeing. I also recommend glacier and wildlife cruises out of Whittier and Seward, but that will require renting a car to get there.

Fishing – Silvers are running and the halibut are biting. Go to Ninilchik or Seward for either. Also, just a few blocks away from the Sheraton is Ship Creek in Anchorage, where you can catch your limit of silvers!

Wildlife – See above about hiking and sight-seeing – you'll see plenty of wildlife on those adventures. And if you can't participate on the Friday tour of the conference, make your way south of Anchorage about 40 miles to the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center where you'll see everything you need to see, and it's a beautiful drive. I've got several NRCS cost-share contracts happening there now!

In general, take a look at the links at www.aianea.com/alaska.htm – they explain a lot more and have many more internet links with oodles of valuable information from the Alaska Fish & Game web site to Glacier cruise web sites. Please consider patronizing some of the Alaska Native-owned businesses as well!

-Crystal Leonetti