

Facts You Might Want to Know

The Alaska Almanac

Excerpts from the editors of Alaska Magazine, The Milepost, The Alaska Journal and Alaska Geographic

The United States bought Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million on March 30, 1867 which was called Seward's Folly.

Daylight Hours:

Maximum (summer solstice, June 20 or 21)

	Sunrise	Sunset	Total
Barrow	(Sunrise continuous for 84 days from May 10–August 2)		
Fairbanks	12:59 a.m.	10:48 p.m.	(21 hrs., 49 min.)
Anchorage	2:21 a.m.	9:42 p.m.	(19 hrs., 21 min.)

Minimum (winter solstice, December 21 or 22)

	Sunrise	Sunset	Total
Barrow	(no daylight for 67 days from November 18–January 24)		
Fairbanks	9:59 a.m.	1:41 p.m.	(3 hrs., 42 min.)
Anchorage	9:14 a.m.	2:42 p.m.	(5 hrs., 28 min.)

1. First Alaska gold discovery (Russian on Kenai Peninsula) was in 1848.
2. Alaska became a state on January 3, 1959.
3. Alaska's capital is Juneau and its state motto is 'North to the Future'.
4. Sled dog racing is Alaska's official state sport.
5. The highest recorded temperature for the state is 100 degrees Fahrenheit at Fort Yukon in June 1915.
6. The second most destructive earthquake in the world hit Alaska on March 27, 1964.
7. Eskimo Ice Cream (akutak): whipped berries, seal oil, snow, raisins and sugar.
8. Alaska has over 3 million lakes (94 with surface areas of more than 10 sq. miles).
9. Alaska has more than 3,000 rivers.
10. There are 79 thermal springs in Alaska.
11. Languages include: English, Haida, Tlingit, Tsimshian, Aleut, Eskimo and Athapascan.
12. Wildlife includes: bear, bison, caribou, deer, elk, moose, wolf, goat, sheep, musk ox, wolverine, beaver, coyote, fox, lynx, muskrat, marmot, marten, raccoon, otter, squirrel, weasel, bat, hare, lemming, mice, rats, porcupine, shrews, vole, woodchuck.
13. Marine mammals include: whale, dolphin, walrus, porpoise, sea otter, seal, sea lion.
14. The largest Salmon ever caught was at the Kenai River, Alaska, weighing in at 97.5 pounds.
15. Mount McKinley (Denali) is the highest mountain on the North American continent.
16. There are more active glaciers and ice fields in Alaska than in the rest of the inhabited world.
17. Seventeen of the 20 highest mountains in the U.S.A. are in Alaska.
18. More than 500 different species of mushrooms abide in Alaska.
19. There are over 100 volcanic fields, a great amount of which has been active since 1760.
20. For all practical purposes, reptiles are not found in Alaska outside of captivity.
21. In 1943 Japan invaded the Aleutian Islands; the 1st battle fought on American soil since the Civil War.
22. Alaska's most important revenue source is the oil and natural gas industry.
23. Alaska accounts for 25% of the oil produced in the United States at this date, 2006.
24. In 1926 13-year-old Bennie Benson from Cognac, Alaska designed the state flag.
25. There are 375 million acres of land and inland waters in Alaska, about one fifth of the entire U.S.
26. The state of Rhode Island could fit into Alaska 425 times.
27. Nearly one-third of Alaska lies within the Arctic Circle.
28. The moose was made the official Alaska land mammal on May 1, 1998.
29. The pheasant-like willow ptarmigan is the state bird. This bird changes color from light brown to white.
30. Snow Machining (mobiling) in Alaska means skimming over 6-7 feet of fresh snow.

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