

*We shall not cease from exploration, And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started, And know the place for the first time.*
J. S. Elliot

Life in the Last Frontier Today

- Alaska is a strange mixture between the modern man and the pioneer. The rich and the poor live side by side in a wilderness wonderland.
- Most Alaskans have experienced a lack of modern conveniences at one point or another in their Alaska experience and will not be surprised to experience it again.
- Anchorage is Alaska's largest city. It is a modern city in every sense of the word, complete with a symphony, theaters, paved streets, traffic lights, McDonalds, Burger King and Wal-Mart.
- There are three kinds of Alaskans. Urban Alaskans live in the cities. Rural Alaskans live in the country, but are connected to everywhere by the road system. Bush Alaskans live in the wilderness and live a very remote, subsistence lifestyle.
- Settlement in Alaska is relatively recent. Many of the state's original homesteaders are still alive and many others can still recall territorial days.
- There are more airplanes than cars in Alaska.
- Alaska has only one United States Congressman.
- Alaska's schools are very modern, with many new schools being built during the height of the oil pipeline days. Many schools have swimming pools along with gyms and auditoriums.
- Snow machines (mobiles) and airplanes have taken the place of dog teams in Alaska.
- Alaska still has very few roads and most places are accessed by plane, or boat.
- People in the coldest parts of Alaska have block heater, oil pan heaters, battery heaters and engine blankets that all require a plug-in in order to work. Many folks will leave their cars running all day long in the winter just so they won't have trouble getting them started.
- The biggest driving hazard is not snow, or ice. It is moose.
- Moose have a habit of walking down the middle of the street, through yards, parking lots and have even been known to enter a grocery store if the door is open. They are a pest, but Alaskans know to always keep a healthy distance from their powerful legs.
- Bears and most other wildlife are more elusive than the moose, but are always a part of all outdoor considerations and activities.
- Alaska does not have counties, or parishes, but, rather, has boroughs.
- Most villages and towns do not have house numbers, yet.
- The towns lie along the road system and are surrounded by thousands of miles of wilderness.
- Only 3% of Alaska Land is privately owned.
- Most students have never experienced a 'snow day'. Snow is too common to call off school for it.
- Alaska's State Capital, Juneau, is not accessible by car. You must fly in or get there by boat.
- Fall starts the 1st of Sept. & winter begins the last part of October, although, snow is seen in Sept/Oct.
- Spring begins in April & Alaskans feel that summer lasts approximately one weekend before fall arrives.

Come and visit Alaska and write your own story about life in the Last Frontier.

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