

# Alaska



## Where?

North-West corner of the continent

## Facts and figures

- largest of all US states
- highest mountain in the USA: Mount McKinley, 6,194 m
- capital: Juneau (no roads to Juneau – can only be reached by boat or plane, like many other places and cities in Alaska!)
- Native American tribes lived there (today still 15 % of population)
- Alaska = Native American expression for “great land”
- until 1867: part of Russia
- Russians thought Alaska was worthless
- sold to USA for 7,2 million dollars
- gold rush in 1896 on the Yukon River thousands of people came to dig for gold
- today: fishing, logging and oil industry
- daylight in the far north: June 24 h, December: 0 h
- planes used to bring food, medication and other goods

## Things to do

Alaska: country of outdoor adventures, the last true wilderness

- hiking, trekking or canoeing trips into the backcountry
- flights in bush or seaplanes across mountains, glaciers
- more than 70 national parks, e.g. Denali, Yukon or Klondike
- marine wildlife (sea lions, whale and orca-watching tours)
- wildlife excursions (grizzly and polar bears, eagles, moose, wolves ...)
- climbing on rocks or glacier cliffs
- saltwater or freshwater fishing (3 million lakes, 3000 rivers)
- river rafting, mountain biking

Winter activities

- skiing
- dog mushing: Alaska’s national sport, e.g. Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race, 1000 miles (= 1,600 km), 50 dog teams, 14 dogs per team
- watching the northern lights
- dog sled4 tours
- World Ice Arts Championships = artists cut sculptures from ice

## For more information see:

<http://www.travelalaska.com/Destinations/Regions.aspx#>  
<http://www.yukonquest.com>

1 logging – Holzfällerei, 2 glacier – Gletscher, 3 dog mushing – Hunderennen, 4 dog sled – Hunderschlitten