



With 590,000 square miles of land, 44,000 miles of coastline, more than 3 million lakes and five regions of differing climate, topography and plant life, it's no wonder that so many animals call Alaska home. From the tiniest ice worms to the largest brown bears, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has narrowed down viewing locations and tips on its website along with a listing of events and festivals, links to trail cams for virtual viewing and more. A series of wildlife viewing guides published by the ADF&G allows travelers to take viewing and safety tips on the road.

Where to go

Wildlife is found in all areas of the state, it's just a matter of when and where to look. [Southwest Alaska](#) is best known for bear and bird viewing, home to Katmai National Park and Preserve as well as over 240 species of birds. It also comprises some of the richest fishing and marine habitat in the world.

Alaska [Inside Passage](#) delivers extraordinary wildlife viewing, from the bears of Admiralty Island to the bald eagles of Haines. The Alaska Coastal Wildlife Viewing Trail was established by ADF&G to highlight wildlife viewing opportunities along the Alaska Marine Highway routes and coastal communities. The viewing trail project includes a series of brochures for each of the major communities recommending viewing tours, events, wildlife refuges and sanctuaries, migratory bird patterns and more.

There may not be time to see all the wildlife Alaska has to offer in one trip, but Anchorage is a great place to start when arriving in [Southcentral Alaska](#). The resident moose population offers the chance to see wildlife right from your hotel window or while strolling the city's Tony Knowles Coastal Trail. Many migratory bird species visit the Anchorage area during spring and fall migrations and nearby Turnagain Arm boasts whale sightings right from the roadway. The rugged, 200-mile-long Kenai Peninsula contains almost every type of Alaska wildlife habitat, from rivers and lakes, wetlands, active volcanoes and access to the Gulf of Alaska, a wilderness coast of glaciers, islets, cliffs and fjords.

[Interior Alaska](#) is prime habitat for wildlife in its mountain ranges, rolling rivers and vast woodlands. The boreal forests, underlain by frozen grounds are adapted to cold winters and long, summer days with little precipitation and provide homes to moose, bears, wolves and Dall sheep.

In Alaska's [Far North](#) region, the landscape and climate are dramatic, resulting in jagged mountain ranges, endless tundra and tumbling rivers. Spring brings migrating caribou,

brown bears and herds of musk oxen. Polar bears roam the landscape hunting for seal on the ice.

Virtual viewing

Not everyone will have the experience of seeing all the wildlife they had hoped on their Alaska vacation. But due to trail and web cameras set up in Alaska's wilderness areas, the public can view a multitude of wildlife photos and can even submit photos of their own. Webcams give viewers a window into the world of wildlife, such as seabirds on Gull Island, Steller sea lions near Seward, brown bears at Brooks Falls, bald eagle grounds in Haines and the inside of a beaver lodge near the Mendenhall Glacier.

Visit the virtual viewing pages here:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=viewing.trailcams>

Wildlife Viewing Events and Festivals

Interior

April - Spring Migration Celebration, Fairbanks

www.creamersfield.org

May - Upper Tanana Migratory Bird Festival, Tok

tetlin.fws.gov

August - Tanana Valley Sandhill Crane Festival, Fairbanks

www.creamersfield.org

Southwest

April - Whale Fest, Kodiak

www.whalefestkodiak.com

Inside Passage

April - The Stikine River Birding Festival, Wrangell

stikinebirding.org

April - Alaska Hummingbird Festival, Ketchikan

www.alaskacenters.gov

May - Yakutat Tern Festival, Yakutat

www.yakutatternfestival.org

July – BearFest, Wrangell

www.alaskabearfest.org

November - Sitka Whale Fest, Sitka

www.sitkawhalefest.org

November - Alaska Bald Eagle Festival, Haines

baldeaglefestival.org

Southcentral

May - Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival, Cordova

cordovachamber.com

May - Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival, Homer

www.homeralaska.org

May - Kenai Peninsula Birding Festival, Kenai

www.kenaibirdfest.com

June - Potter Marsh Discovery Day, Anchorage

www.adfg.alaska.gov

August - Wings Over the Wrangells, Copper Center

www.nps.gov/wrst

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