



Alaska AP Style Fact Sheet

NOTE: Travel Alaska refers to the Associated Press Stylebook for Alaska for guidance on style matters. We've listed some of the words and phrases below that we see cause issues frequently, but we highly recommend the full book as a resource.

49th State - nickname for Alaska, only use in direct quotes.

Alaskan - only use this as a noun when describing a person from Alaska. Do not use it as an adjective about places or things unless in a name. People are Alaskan, food is not.

Alaska Highway - refers to the Alaska and Canadian portions of the highway. Only use Alcan in a direct quote.

Alaska Marine Highway System - Ferry system can be used on any reference.

Alaska Native & native Alaskan - the term Alaska Native refers to the Indigenous people of Alaska. The term native Alaskan refers to someone who was born in Alaska.

Anchorage Fur Rendezvous - Fur Rondy is acceptable on second reference.

aurora borealis & the northern lights - both are lowercase. It is appropriate to use the aurora on the second reference.

Alaska Railroad - capitalize both when referencing, do not abbreviate.

chamber of commerce - only capitalize when referring to a specific chamber. I.e. Anchorage Chamber of Commerce. It is appropriate to use the chamber on second reference.

Chena Hot Springs - capitalize. There is also Chena Hot Springs Resort.

Chugach Mountains - 250-mile mountain range in Southcentral Alaska.

convention and visitors bureau - lowercase unless referencing a specific bureau. I.e. Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Dall sheep - only capitalize Dall.

Dalton Highway - it is appropriate to use the haul road on second reference. This highway runs from Livengood to Prudhoe Bay.

Denali Highway - runs from Paxson to Cantwell.

Denali National Park and Preserve versus Denali State Park - these are two different parks, make sure to differentiate between them.

dip net, dip netting - lowercase.

dog sled - used in sled dog races. Not dog sled races. The dogs race pulling the sleds. The sleds do not race.

Elliot Highway – runs from Fox to Manley Hot Springs.

Far North - nickname for Alaska, only use in direct quotes.

floatplane - one word.

flier - the pilot.

flightseeing - one word.

fly-fishing - lowercase.

glacier(s) - lowercase unless referring to a specific glacier, i.e. Ruth Glacier.

Glennallen - one word.

Glenn Highway – runs from Anchorage to Tok.

Great Land - nickname for Alaska, only use in direct quotes.

grizzly/brown bears - same species, grizzly bears are found in Interior Alaska and brown bears are found in coastal areas.

Highway - do not abbreviate if used with a number. Reference highways by name, not route number. I.e. the Dalton Highway, Glenn Highway.

Homer Spit - stretch of land into Kachemak Bay, on second reference it is appropriate to use the Spit.

Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race - official name of sled dog race held every year from Anchorage to Nome.

kayak - lowercase.

Kenai Peninsula - on second reference it is appropriate to use The Kenai or the Peninsula.

Kennecott Mines Co. - this is the proper name of a company, now closed. The name refers to the name of the town, Kennicott, but was misspelled.

Klondike gold rush - capitalize Klondike, not gold rush.

Last Frontier - this nickname was previously used for Alaska, but it is disrespectful to the state's Indigenous people who have lived there for thousands of years. Do not use.

Lower 48 - the contiguous 48 states, do not use quotation marks. Use only in direct quotes.

McCarthy Road – connects the town of McCarthy to the Richardson Highway.

Mount Denali - previously known as Mount McKinley. Also referred to as “the High One” from the Koyukon word Deenaalee.

North Slope - do not abbreviate.

Panhandle - nickname for Southeast Alaska.

Parks Highway - formerly known as the Anchorage-Fairbanks Highway, runs between the two cities.

permafrost - ground that stays frozen all year.

Railbelt - capitalize. Parts of the Interior and Southcentral Alaska lying along the Alaska Railroad route from Seward to Fairbanks.

regions - lowercase compass points such as north, south, northeast, etc. Capitalize the words when they specify regions such as Southcentral, Southeast, etc.

Regions of Alaska

- arctic, Arctic Circle, arctic fox, Arctic Slope, Arctic Ocean, the Arctic - capitalize in proper nouns and when referring to the region, lowercase when used as an adjective.
- Interior Alaska - can be referenced as The Interior.
- Southwest
- Southcentral
- Inside Passage - route that cruise ships and Alaska Marine Highway System follows through Southeast Alaska and British Columbia.

reindeer - same genus as caribou, but are domesticated.

Richardson Highway – runs from Valdez to Delta Junction.

runoff - lowercase. Melted snow that flows over the surface.

salmon - lowercase. There are five species.

- king/chinook salmon.
- silver/coho salmon.
- red/sockeye salmon.
- pink/humpback salmon.
- chum/dog salmon.

Seward Highway – runs from Anchorage to Seward.

sled dog racing - Alaska's official state sport.

Steese Highway – runs from Fairbanks to Circle.

Sterling Highway – runs from Tern Lake Junction to Homer.

subsistence - an economic lifestyle characterized by living off of the land.

termination dust - lowercase, the first snow on the mountains.

trail head - two words.

tundra - lowercase.

White Pass and Yukon Railway - from Skagway, Alaska to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory.