

# Where to eat in Alaska

## Big D's Alaska Restaurant Review:

There are several good restaurants and bars in the downtown area (walking distance to the hotels). There is no need to drive to any of these. **Anchorage is a "cab" town. Cab fare is cheap and cops are plentiful.** Exercise good judgment.

1. **Club Paris:** Small restaurant known for steaks and seafood. Reservations needed unless eating at the bar. This is not a place for a function. Get the Halibut Fingers or the Beef Teriyaki tips on the appetizer menu. Close to the Hilton. Located on 5<sup>th</sup> Street near the downtown shopping mall.
2. **Williwaw:** More of a bar than a restaurant, but you can get food. Rooftop bar area. Typically has live music on Friday and Saturday night. Head-bangers to folk music. No telling what might happen here. Younger crowd is typically found here. Very versatile venue. Can easily accommodate a private function. Close to all 3 hotels on 6<sup>th</sup> street. (Marriott is closest). I like this place a lot. You'll understand when you see it.
3. **Humpy's Great Alaskan Ale House:** Located on 6<sup>th</sup> Street near Williwaw. Good bar food.....burgers fish etc. Live music on Friday and Saturday night after 9:00 pm. Small dance floor. More of a sports bar theme. Younger to mixed clientele. Fun place to go. I can envision some stories coming out of this place. Halibut fingers are a must. If you miss this one, there's one in the airport near the United, American, and Delta gates.
4. **Flattop Pizza:** On 6<sup>th</sup> Street across from Williwaw: Pizza and beer. Sports bar theme. Seahawks bar in the fall. Good place to get a break from Humpy's or Williwaw. Same owner as Williwaw.
5. **Simon and Seafort's:** Located on the Cook Inlet west of the Captain Cook Hotel between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Steaks & seafood. Good bar. Restaurant has a private room for private functions. Close to the Marriott and Captain Cook.
6. **Snow City Café:** Across from Simon and Seafort's near the Captain Cook Hotel. Breakfast and lunch location. Get there by 6:45 for the 7:00 am seating. Otherwise, eat at your hotel. Very popular breakfast venue. Obama ate here.
7. **Crow's Nest:** Located on top of the Captain Cook Hotel. Fine dining. Pricey. Small bar with great views. Doesn't open until 5:30 pm. Sunlight from 10:00 -11:40 pm will be shining directly into the restaurant. If it is a clear evening with no clouds on the north horizon, you can easily see Denali.

8. **Whale's Tail:** Located adjacent to the hotel lobby of the Captain Cook. Open on Friday and Saturday night. Great wine bar. Food can be ordered but would not consider this a dinner location. This venue can probably be rented out for a private venue Sunday – Tuesday nights.
9. **Fletcher's:** Small bar in the Captain Cook Hotel. Good place to have drink while waiting for the Crow's Nest to open.
10. **Alaska Cake Studio:** Located on 4<sup>th</sup> Street neat the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Theater between F & G Street. This place is a must if you want dessert and coffee. Gourmet bakery. It's all good.
11. **49<sup>th</sup> State Brewery:** Location of Foundation's MNE. Close to all three hotels. Located on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Overlooks the Cook Inlet. 2<sup>nd</sup> floor patio and roof top. Good food and beer. Great bar. Open for lunch and dinner. Get there early for dinner. Yak burger or Yak quesadilla is their specialty.
12. **Sullivan's Steakhouse:** Located near the downtown shopping mall on the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and C Street. Steaks and seafood. Lunch and dinner. Good bar. Music. Area for a smaller private venue. Usually have ½ price appetizers on Sunday evening. Close to the Hilton. Good place to hang out.
13. **Glacier Brewhouse:** Located on 5<sup>th</sup> Street equal distance from all hotels. Great overall restaurant. Tough to get into. Go early in the evening or make reservations. Good bar. Sister restaurant is Orso's. Place for small private venue.
14. **Orso's:** ¼ block from Glacier Brewhouse. Same good food as Glacier Brewhouse. Not really a good place for a private venue. Maybe a very small group of 15 – 20. I like the bar. Safe.
15. **Aviator Hotel Bar:** On the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and C Street.....Saturday night is a blues jam session with musicians from all over the area. Considered by most as a dive bar, but it serves a great cheeseburger and sweet potato fries for a reasonable price.
16. **Haute Quarter Grill** – Located on 4<sup>th</sup> Street near the Hilton. Good steaks and seafood. Good bar. Smaller venue similar to Club Paris, but more modern.
17. **Hard Rock Café:** One block from the Hilton on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. It is what it is.....It has an upstairs area that can be rented out for a private function.
18. **F Street Station:** Located between the Hilton and the Captain Cook on F Street. This is a bar and restaurant, but mainly considered a bar. It is a favorite of pilots and flight attendants. Small venue.

- 19. Tequila 61:** Located on the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and E Street one block from the Hilton. Higher end Mexican/Spanish food. Wide range of tequila. It's not Pappasito's.....not even close. Great bar. I can see this place being popular with folks staying at the Hilton. They also cater to private functions.
- 20. Bubbly Mermaid Oyster Bar:** Good place for oysters. Small venue. I never had a problem with oysters in Alaska.
- 21. Gumbo House:** Located on 9<sup>th</sup> Street between F & G Streets 2 blocks south of the convention center. Good Gumbo, but is that why you're in Alaska? If you have a hangover and want to maybe just have some soup, then this is a good place. Primarily a lunch place.
- 22. Sack's Café:** Located on G Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Street equal distance for each hotel. Good American food. Steaks and seafood. Small venue. Quiet.
- 23. The Bridge:** Located at the bottom of the hill on the other side of the railroad tracks near the Ulu Factory under the bridges that go over Ship Creek (between A & C Streets). Close to the Hilton. If walking up and down a hill bothers you, then take a cab. Call before you go as there is often a private function at this place.
- 24. Urban Sushi:** Located across the street from the Hilton. Good food. Name says it all. It is what it is.....
- 25. Brown Bag Sandwich Company:** Located across the street from the Hilton. Simple food. Good sandwiches to go.
- 26. McGinley's Pub:** Located near the Marriott across from the convention center on 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Mainly a bar. This place will probably have a large crowd.
- 27. Bernie's Bungalow Lounge:** Located at 7<sup>th</sup> and D Street near the downtown mall and convention center. This is one of the more interesting places in the downtown area. Open courtyard. Live music on the weekends. Hookah pipes can be rented. Cigars in the courtyard are allowed, but may not be the only things being smoked. It has a dancing area. Several bars throughout. You'll see some stuff if you go to this bar. Lots of free spirited people here. People of all ages.....mainly a younger crowd. This is a good place to plan what you're going to do next. If you end your evening here, you're obligated at the next meeting to tell everyone what happened.
- 28. Fat Ptarmigan:** Located at 5<sup>th</sup> and E Street. Good pizza. Surprisingly good bar. Easy walk to the Hilton.
- 29. Muse:** Located in the Anchorage Museum on C Street and 6<sup>th</sup>. I like this place as a wine bar or dessert location. It was on my path to my apt, so I hit it a few times. Very quiet.

30. **Arctic Sushi:** Across from the Captain Cook on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Not bad, but very convenient to that hotel.
31. **The White Spot:** Located on 4<sup>th</sup> Street near A Street just east (mountain side) of David Green Fur's. Really good halibut sandwich. Guilty pleasure for sure. Small venue. Go early for lunch.
32. **Slippery Salmon:** Located east of A Street on 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bar food. Poker tournament usually on Friday or Saturday night. This one is right on the edge of safe walking distance from downtown.
33. **Hilton Bar:** Good comfortable safe place to be.
34. **Marriott Bar:** Same as Hilton, but I preferred the Hilton. Just preference.
35. **Street Vendors:** Tried nearly all of them and they're basically the same. Get yourself a reindeer dog here. It may look unsanitary, but I never got sick. Once, a guy picked up a reindeer dog with his bare hand. Gross. It was 10 degrees that day and I don't think he was aware he was touching hot food. Carol was horrified. I couldn't stop laughing. Not that it was funny, but I couldn't stop laughing. This is a quick cheap meal. Probably the least amount of money you'll spend.

### **Other Restaurants: (Did not go to these)**

1. **Marx Bros.:** Located on 3<sup>rd</sup> street near the Hilton and Captain Cook. It's in a little white house. Good reputation for food. Known to be expensive and quiet. Just never saw a need to go here.
2. **LED Ultra Lounge and Grill:** Located on 6<sup>th</sup> street near the Marriott. Looks fine. Opened in late 2015 or early 2016. Never went as it looks to be more of a bar and it was just that much further from my apartment. Looks big enough to for a gathering to end the night.
3. **Ginger:** Located next to Club Paris. Not sure if this one is still open. Looks good. I just preferred Club Paris if I could get in.

### **Restaurants near downtown requiring more walking effort:**

1. **Fire Island Bakery:** Located at 14<sup>th</sup> and G Street in a neighborhood close to where I lived. Gourmet bakery. Open Tuesday through Sunday at 7:00 am. 7 blocks south of the Marriott.
2. **La Cabana Mexican Restaurant:** Located at 4<sup>th</sup> and Cordova east of downtown. Good Patron margaritas. For the more aggressive walker. You should really take a cab.....at least coming back.

## **BARS NOT RECOMMENDED:**

1. **Avenue Bar:** Located on 4<sup>th</sup> Street near the Hilton next to Big Ray's Sporting Goods. This bar is usually reserved for locals. If you go and you're asked to leave for any reason, then just do it. You won't have this problem if you don't go.
2. **Pioneer Bar:** Located on 4<sup>th</sup> near the Captain Cook. Again, typically a bar for locals. Pool and shuffleboard here. Don't mess with the locals. Use your best judgment.
3. **Gaslight:** Located near the Pioneer bar. Probably ok. Use your best judgment.
4. **Darwin's Theory:** Local bar. Very small. Shouldn't be a problem, but you're invading the hangout for locals.

## **Restaurants in Anchorage away from downtown highly recommended: (Google these locations). Each is very family friendly.**

1. **Moose's Tooth Pub & Pizzeria:** Located on Seward Hwy near 33<sup>rd</sup> Street. If going for lunch, leave downtown between 10:30 – 10:45 am by car or cab. If for dinner, go between 4:00 – 5:00 pm. **IT'S REALLY CROWDED AFTER THESE TIMES.** Good beer and pizza. Santa's Little Helper, Carnivore, or Aloha Escape will not disappoint. There are gluten free options. Listed as one of the top pizza places in the nation. Orders to go.....sometimes this is your best option for quick service.
2. **Bear Tooth:** Sister restaurant to Moose's Tooth located in midtown off Northern Lights Blvd. Same good food, but less crowded. Orders to go as well.
3. **Spenard Roadhouse:** Located on Northern Lights Blvd near Bear Tooth. Great soups and sandwiches. Ruben or grilled cheese with tomato basil soup is just right. You'll probably take the other half of the sandwich with you.
4. **Tommy's Burger Stop:** Just off Benson near Bear Tooth. Go early for lunch (by 11:15). Giant hamburgers.
5. **The Peanut Farm:** Located on the Old Seward Highway at International Airport Blvd. Super sports bar and grill. Open very late. Might be your last stop on the way to the airport. Located along Campbell Creek. You might see salmon in the creek. Nice outdoor area for dining.
6. **Arctic Roadrunner (Local Burgerman):** Across the street from Peanut Farm. Good greasy hamburger. Also on Campbell Creek. Nice outdoor area.

7. **Lucky Wishbone:** Located on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave and too far to walk from downtown. Take a cab. If you need it fried, then this is your spot. Favorite of the military. Also has a drive thru. Sometimes you just gotta have it.
8. **Kriner's Diner:** Located on C Street near Fireweed. 5 minutes from downtown. Giant portions. Great for breakfast or lunch. No way that you leave here hungry.
9. **Gwennies Old Alaska Restaurant:** Located on Spenard Road across from the Harley Davidson dealership. First place I ate when I got to town. Now a favorite of Steve Grandon. Go here and you'll know why. Great for breakfast and lunch. Again, you can't leave hungry.
10. **Rustic Goat:** Located on Northern Lights near Earthquake Park. If you're out this way, this is a good place to eat.
11. **Millennium Hotel at Lake Hood:** Great bar and restaurant (they are separate). Lobby has lots of taxidermy. If you're out this way, then this is a great option. Overlooks Lake Hood. You can watch float planes take off and land here.
12. **Sea Galley:** Located on C Street and 40<sup>th</sup>. Good food. Really like the salad bar. Has more of a sports bar feel to it.
13. **Great Harvest Bread Company:** Located on E. Benson near Seward Hwy. Great breakfast and lunch. Sandwiches to go work good.
14. **O'Malley's on the Green:** Located at the Anchorage Golf Club on O'Malley. It is near the zoo and on the way to Flattop. Great quesadilla, burgers, and margaritas. Great views of Denali if it is clear.
15. **City Diner:** Corner of Benson and Minnesota. Great food and lots of it. Similar to Kriner's Diner. I prefer Kriner's.

## Restaurants at Girdwood (Alyeska Resort area)

1. **Seven Glaciers'**: Located at the top of the Alyeska tram. ***YOU WILL NEED RESERVATIONS!*** Tram ride is free with dinner reservation. Open in the evenings after 5:00 pm. Spectacular views of Turnagain Arm and mountain glaciers. Several other small restaurants in the Alyeska Resort are good, but Seven Glacier's is the best.
2. **Double Musky**: Located on Crow Creek Road as you're driving into the new Girdwood town site. Mardi Gras atmosphere. Get there early for dinner.....4:30 – 5:00 pm. Great bar. Order the 57 Chevy. You'll be right for the remainder of the evening. Get someone else to drive.
3. **Sitzmark**: Great bar. Live music typically on Friday and Saturday nights.
4. **Chair 5**: Located in the town of Girdwood. A little bit of everything. Good food. Less expensive option for Girdwood.
5. **Tesoro Gas Station**: Buc-ee's of Alaska. Last stop until Cooper Landing or Seward if going to the Kenai Peninsula. Good snacks.

## Restaurants at Seward:

1. **Chinook's**: Overlooks the harbor. Great food and views. High on list. Might have to wait.
2. **Ray's**: Overlooks the harbor. Great food and views. High on list. Might have to wait.
3. **Thorn's Showcase Lounge**: Downtown Seward. Great food. Interesting décor. Wisky decanters? Classic interior.
4. **Seward Brewing Company**: Downtown Seward. Good Food and good beer.
5. **Zudy's Café**: Downtown Seward on the waterfront next to the Sea Life Center. GREAT for an EARLY (7:00 am ish) breakfast ahead of one of the tours, but not before a fishing trip.
6. **Red's Burgers**: Located near the harbor, but on the highway. Looks like an old school bus because that's what it is. GREAT SANDWICHS!!! Can be a 30 to 45 minute wait if there a long line. Kids will love it.

7. **Lighthouse Café & Bakery:** Located on the harbor across from Fish House and Saltwater Safari. Opens at 5:00 am. Great place to get something to eat before fishing. Subway is close by and they'll make you a sandwich for the trip.
8. **Coho Joe's Café:** On harbor front next to Captain Jack's. Usually open at 5:30 am. Good place for coffee and light snack before fishing.

I've never been to a place in Seward that wasn't good.

## Restaurants in Cooper Landing

1. **Kingfisher Roadhouse:** Located on the Anchorage side of Cooper Landing on the left side of the road as you're driving towards Kenai. When you see it, you'll think it an abandoned building. Just park and go in. Trust me. Great views overlooking Kenai Lake. Many local Alaskans do not know about this place. Great burgers and salads. Order the Spicy One for a jalapeno style burger.
2. **Kenai Princess Lodge Patio:** Located on bluff above the Kenai River. Great place to kick back and relax after a day of fishing on the river. The guides often go here as well. Just drive up to the lodge and act like you're supposed to be there. Go onto the patio (it will be obvious) and order a drink. Sit in a rocking chair and close your eyes. There's a hiking trail below the lodge. Naw!
3. **Sackett's Kenai Grill:** Located on the Kenai side of Cooper Landing. Good food and atmosphere. Tends to be a little crowded from time to time. Service is pretty quick.

## Restaurants in Kenai

1. **Louie's Steaks and Seafood:** Located in the Uptown Motel on the Kenai Spur highway. Alaskan classic. Great seafood and steaks. Great décor. Lots of taxidermy. Near every animal in Alaska represented.
2. **Veronica's Old Town Café:** Located across from the historic Russian Orthodox Church near the bluff. Looks like a little house. Small venue. Go early for lunch. Great soups and sandwiches.
3. **Burger Bus:** Near Veronica's. It's a bus similar to Red's in Seward.

## Restaurants in Homer

1. **The Chart Room:** Located at the end of the Homer Spit in the Land's End Hotel. Great food and views of Kachemak Bay.

2. **Harbor Bar and Grill:** Good food. Fast service. Great bar. Can't go wrong.
3. **Salty Dawg:** Bar made famous on Deadliest Catch. Time Bandit docks in Homer. Not a place for kids. Place is full if interesting characters. Interior décor is dollar bills stapled to the walls and ceiling. Have a beer and call it good before a story develops.

Similar to Seward. All restaurants have been good.

## Restaurants North of Anchorage toward Denali & Glennallen

Plenty of places to eat in Palmer and Wasilla no standout restaurants.

**Towards Glennallen.....**If you go toward Glennallen which is the Matanuska River valley, it is one of the prettiest drives in Alaska and not as crowded as the Parks Highway. Most people miss this.

1. **Long Rifle Lodge:** @ MP 102. Right side of highway toward the Matanuska Glacier. This restaurant has the best view in Alaska. Great food. Blueberry cobbler is great. Scenic drive. It takes @ 1:45 min to get here from downtown Anchorage. Longer days will give you plenty of daylight to do this trip.
2. **Hatcher Pass Lodge:** Located near the top of Hatcher Pass. Only go to this restaurant if you decided to do hiking in Hatcher Pass. Great desserts. Good place to relax.

## Towards Talkeetna and Denali:

### Talkeetna:

1. **Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge Patio:** Located on the bluff before you get into Talkeetna. Great food. Fantastic views of Denali if it is clear. The views won't get any better the closer you get to the mountain. If your objective was to see the mountain, then you've accomplished your objective.
2. **Denali Brewpub:** Located in the town of Talkeetna. Good food and beer
3. **Mile High Pizza:** Located near Denali Brewpub. Good food
4. **West Rib Pub & Grill:** Good food and drink
5. **Talkeetna Spinach Bread:** Not a restaurant, but get you some.

## North of Talkeetna and Cantwell

1. **McKinley Creekside Café:** MP 224. Good food. Great outdoor area. Good bakery.
2. **The Perch Resort:** MP 224. Unique dining. Mile 224 George Parks Hwy, Carlo Creek, AK 99755. [denaliperchresort.com](http://denaliperchresort.com) (907) 683-2523
3. **229 Parks Restaurant:** MP 229 Great food.

## McKinley Village

1. **Alpenglow Restaurant:** Located in the Grande Denali Lodge. Take the winding road to the top of the bluff. Great views of Denali National Park, but not the mountain. It's not visible from this area.
2. **Lynx Creek Pizza** – Pizza is always good. Located next to the Princess Hotel
3. **49<sup>th</sup> State Brewery on the bluff** – Same as other locations. Located across from the Princess Hotel
4. **Overlook Bar and Grill** – Across from Princess Hotel
5. **Salmon Bake** - Across from Princess Hotel

All restaurants are good. Depends on what you like.

## North of McKinley & Healy

1. **49<sup>th</sup> State Brewery in Healy:** Replica of bus from Into the Wild on the property
2. **Rose's Café in Healy:** great breakfast and sandwiches to go
3. **Totem Inn:** Good buffet
4. **Clear Sky Lodge:** Great steaks and food in general. If you make it this far (30 miles north of Healy), then you have to stop in. At least stop for a beverage. Best steaks in Alaska. At least you better agree.

## Next stop Fairbanks

5. **Big Daddy's BBQ:** Downtown Fairbanks. Northernmost Southern BBQ. Located at 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Wickersham. <http://bigdaddysbarb-q.com/>
6. **Pike's Landing:** Located at 4438 Airport Way. Great burgers and comfort food. Great deck overlooking the Chena River.
7. **Lavelle's Bistro:** Located in the downtown Springhill Suites. Good bar and good food.
8. **Silver Gulch Brewery:** Located north of Fairbanks in Fox, Alaska
9. **Turtle Club:** Located north of Fairbanks in Fox, Alaska