



FAQ'S

Penguins live in the South Pole, not Alaska.

Alaska became the 49th state in 1959.

The strongest earthquake in North America occurred

here on Good Friday, 1964. It registered 9.2 on the Richter scale.

Alaska is 2 1/2 times larger than Texas. If Alaska was split in half Texas would be the third largest state.

There are 139 communities in Alaska who collect their own water to use on a daily basis.

Individuals in 163 communities in Alaska manage their own sewage.

There are at least 65 communities without access to running water.

Alaska could hold the 21 smallest states.

Seventeen of the 20 highest mountains in North America are in Alaska.

There are:

- 3,000 rivers
- three million lakes
- 5,000 glaciers
- 70 active volcanoes

The distance from Point Barrow to Ketchikan is further than Seattle to Mexico.

Alaska is the:

- northern most state
- the westernmost state (Amatignak Island)
- the easternmost state (Semisopchnoi Island).

There are three major native cultures:

- Eskimo
- Indian
- Aleut

each having numerous sub-cultures.

The majority of communities have no road access. They are accessed by airplane, boat, train, snow machine or ATV. Many communities do not have electricity, indoor plumbing or running water.

Alaska has one million acres of land for every day of the year.

Alaska has a unique climate. Some communities can accumulate 300 inches of rain and 30 feet of snow a year. In Barrow, there are three months of 24-hours-a-day sunlight and three months of 24-hours-a-day darkness. Temperatures can range from -100 °F to 100 °F.

There are 97 different languages spoken in the Anchorage school district.

Towns and villages in an area constituting 51% of the land mass of Alaska is without a local Southern Baptist church.

Alaska has one of the highest rates of alcoholism, teen pregnancy, incest, sexual assault, and suicide of anywhere in the US.

2014 Census figures

State Population	739,989
Anchorage	300,950
Fairbanks	100,343
Juneau (state capital)	31,275

- Foreign- born population 49,319
- As of 2010 about 35.1 percent of Alaska's foreign-born population had arrived in the state since 2009.
 - 2011 data indicates that 51.5 percent of the foreign-born population in Alaska were naturalized citizens.



Alaska Baptist Convention 2014 Fact Sheet

• Churches	86
• Missions	26
• Preaching Points	4
• City/town congregations	86
• Bush community congregations	36

Congregations with average attendance of

• more than 501	1
• 301-500	3
• 201-300	10
• 101-200	14
• 51-100	31
• 1-50	58

Ethnic/Cultural Congregations Represented

• Alaska Native	17
• African American	6
• Korean	6
• Filipino	2
• Chinese	1
• Hispanic	1
• Hmong	1
• Mienh	1
• Samoan	2
• Cowboy	1
• Slavic	2
• Sudanese	1

Ethnic/Cultural Groups in Alaska: 120

Communities Without an Evangelical Congregation: 100

Other Ministries

- Baptist Student Union
- University of Alaska, Fairbanks
- University of Alaska, Southeast
- Laverne Griffin Youth Recreation Camp, Wasilla
- Camp Baldwin, Fairbanks
- Orton Ranch, Ketchikan
- Alaska Baptist Family Services, Anchorage
- Alaska Baptist Foundation

Photo Credits

Black Wolf	Sharon Larson
Three Otters	Julie Slaton
Trumpeter Swans	Sharon Larson
Common Loon	Sharon Larson
Wilderness Mountain Range	Sylvia Rylander
Anchorage	Sylvia Rylander
Bear	Sharon Larson
Eagles	Julie Slaton
Fireweed	Sylvia Rylander
Dall Sheep	Sylvia Rylander
Mount Susitna	Sylvia Rylander
Three Bears	Alan Dial
Bull Moose	Julie Slaton

Alaska Baptist Convention

1750 O'Malley Rd. Anchorage, AK 99507
907-344-9627 1-800-883-9627

fax: 907-344-7044

e-mail: abc@alaskabaptistconvention.com

www.alaskabaptistconvention.com



A
L
A
S
K
A



The
Great
Land



WELCOME TO ALASKA

We aren't really that different...however... here are a few words, slang, or facts it may be helpful to know. That way, you'll understand what folks up here are saying and learn a few factoids about the "Last Frontier."

Local Vocabulary

Break Up is the END OF WINTER!!! It refers to the time of year when the ice and snow begin to melt and we find out if we have a paved street or not.

Cheechako is a newcomer to Alaska. It is actually a mispronunciation of early missionaries, miners and trappers from Chicago who were called Cheechakos.

Dipnetting is fishing using a big net attached to a long handled pole. It is best done on the Chitina River or the Kenai in June and July.

Eagles are still considered endangered. It is illegal to possess any part of an eagle unless you are an Alaskan Native.



Fireweed is the unofficial state flower. It is a weed that grows wild and is also known as "flaming arrow" in Arizona. Legend has it the snow will be as deep as the fireweed is tall and after the fireweed tops out, there are six weeks until snow flies.

Interior is the central part of the state and is a place of extremes: sunlight, darkness, cold, snow, bugs, etc.

King is the biggest of all freshwater game fish to be had in Alaska, the King Salmon. It is pronounced "sam-on", no "L" sound.



Lower 48 are the 48 contiguous states (not including Hawaii.)

Outside is anywhere other than Alaska and refers to leaving the state to go somewhere else: "I'm going Outside for a couple of weeks to visit family or to get away from cabin fever."



Willow Ptarmigan, an arctic grouse, is the official state bird

Reds are the best tasting of all the salmon and are best caught on a fly rod with hand-tied flies.



Sleeping Lady is the name of a mountain near Cook Inlet. (Legend says an Alaska Native woman died and became a mountain waiting for her love to come back.) It is also known as Mount Susitna.

Sourdough is someone who has lived in Alaska a long time and is now sour on snow and cold but doesn't have enough dough to leave. Also, a main cooking ingredient early miners and trappers used to make sourdough bread and pancakes.

Southeast is the part of Alaska that is home to our state capital, Juneau, which you can only reach by plane or boat.



Termination Dust is the first snow in the fall that remains on the mountains. It's a sure sign of rapidly approaching winter at ground level. The phrase was coined by early miners and construction workers when it was time to terminate work or be snowed-in.

The Slope is the uppermost part of Alaska, above the Arctic Circle where oil was discovered, as in Prudhoe Bay, Barrow, Deadhorse, and "my husband works on the Slope."

Two On/Two Off or two on two, or three and two, refers to a work schedule for the Slope where people work two weeks and are off for two weeks at a time.

