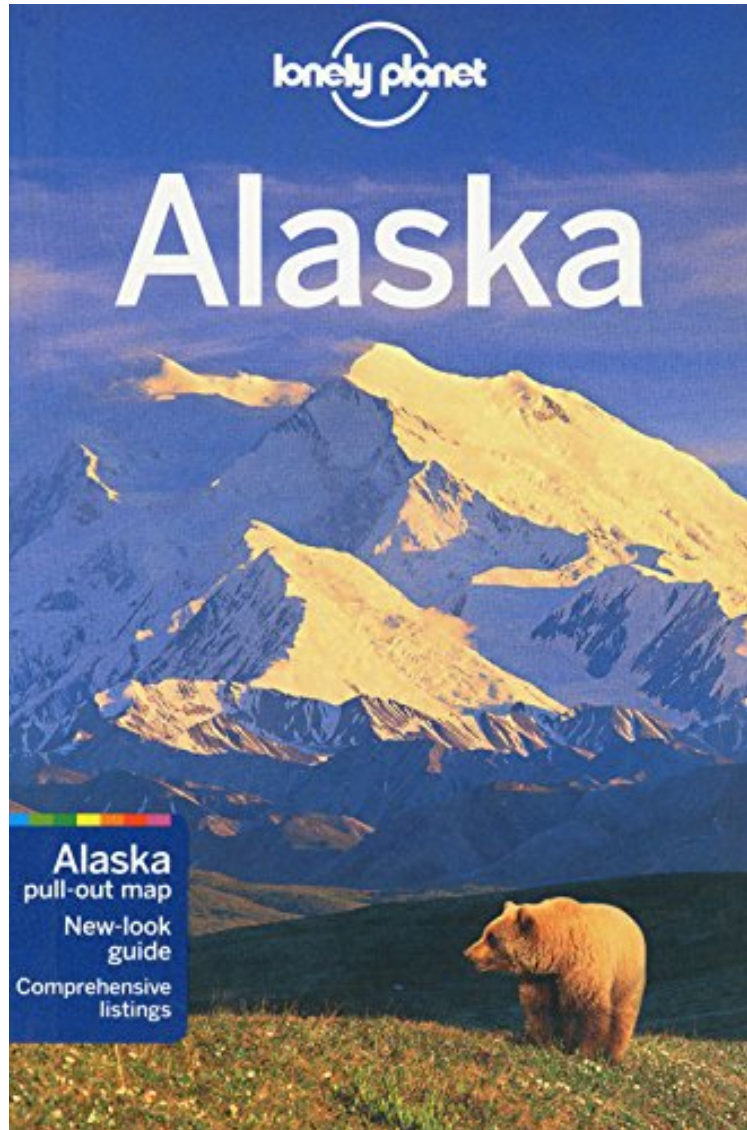


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## Lonely Planet Alaska (Travel Guide)

*Lonely Planet, Jim DuFresne, Catherine Bodry, Robert Kelly  
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**Lonely Planet, Jim DuFresne, Catherine Bodry, Robert Kelly : Lonely Planet Alaska (Travel Guide)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lonely Planet Alaska (Travel Guide):

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. it seemed more like a reasonably well-organized compilation of facts than real opinions By ahm5885 We used this book for our Alaskan vacation. Overall, I wasn't very impressed with it. My biggest complaint about the book is how little it seemed to provide insider information or tips. Compared to most other guidebook brands I've used (Fodor's, Frommer's and the Hawaii Revealed series), it seemed more like a

reasonably well-organized compilation of facts than real opinions. A typical entry says something like "There are 3 outfitters you can use for kayaking in this area. Here is the price and contact information for each." Ok, I mean, that's useful information, but it can easily be found on the internet and it would be much more insightful to have their thoughts about which outfitter might be best or worst and why. Or if it's the case that all outfitters are comparable, then say that, so people aren't left wondering. There are a few useful tidbits, but for the most part the book seems like it could have been written by a savvy internet user who has never visited Alaska, and that's definitely not something you want to be thinking when you're reading a guidebook. They do mark certain things as "top choice" but there's often little explanation given as to why. I also felt like the organization could use some work. The general breakdown by chapter ("Juneau and the Southeast", "Prince William Sound", "Denali", etc) was fine, but I felt like within those chapters the author jumped around a bit and it was hard to find all the pertinent information about a particular place. For example, there is a discussion of Mendenhall Glacier on p. 129 that references a few good hikes, but then there's a separate section on "Mendenhall Glacier Trails" on p. 119 that describes different trails. They are cross-referenced, but only in one direction, and I found it odd to jump around like that. The book's index is very weak too. There were also a couple other (more minor) things I did not like about the book. In the section on "Bear Viewing" they say "head to known bear-watching spots such as Ketchikan, Kodiak Islands, or for the elusive polar bear, the Alaska Zoo." Seriously?? You can actually see wild polar bears in Barrow, Alaska. I'm pretty sure most people don't come to Alaska hoping to see a bear in a ZOO. I also have to admit that compared to other guidebooks with glossy pages and color photographs, Lonely Planet's paper, largely black white pages felt a little low budget and their prices don't seem to reflect the cheaper production cost. Know that the book has a heavier anti-cruise slant than most guidebooks, although that is not a surprise since Lonely Planet has a reputation as being geared more towards adventurous, independent travelers (also the other guidebook I used in planning our trip - half of which was a cruise - was Fodor's Alaska Ports of Call, which is obviously aimed at cruise travelers). The prices for many things are also significantly higher than those given in the book. The book was written in 2012 and I doubt prices rose that much in 2 years, my guess is they weren't current even when the book was published. A few things I do really like about the book:--the "21 top experiences in Alaska" section at the beginning (although I may be biased, because our itinerary, which was largely sketched out before I bought the book, managed to hit about 15 of them)--the suggested itineraries in the beginning of the book seem like great starters if you haven't planned an itinerary--The interviews scattered throughout with park rangers, tour operators and other knowledgeable locals

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Great guide for a great trip

By Mainer I used this guide in planning a trip to Alaska last month and also while I was there. I appreciated it most in decided where to go and how much time to dedicate to different locations and activities, and also while I was there for restaurant recommendations. It did not steer me wrong. I found it fairly easy to navigate, although when I was actually in Alaska, the arrangement of the book, particularly the Anchorage section, was a little less than helpful - dividing Anchorage up into sections is only useful if you know which section you're in when you're trying to use it - I would have preferred one larger map to several smaller maps. But overall, I thought this book was great. It definitely alerted me to some activities and stops that I probably wouldn't have found on my own. And I think the restaurant recommendations were very good - I chose most of my dinners from the book and didn't have a single bad meal while I was in Alaska (well, at least not that I chose).

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Amazing!!

By Miguel Having this guide in your hands is like having a native guide showing you around 24/7..! I can tell that my overall Alaskan experience was increased and improved thanks to this book,. This is not the first time that I use a Lonely Planet guide. This one was definitely vivid and very informative to the point where I was able to make decisions during legs of the trip based on information and advice contained in this guide.. The historic facts and other background information bring more context and interest and I will absolutely recommend this book to anyone planning to visit the last frontier..!!

Lonely Planet: The world's leading travel guide publisher Lonely Planet Alaska is your passport to all the most relevant and up-to-date advice on what to see, what to skip, and what hidden discoveries await you. Capture the magic of the aurora borealis, attempt to conquer Mt. McKinley, or stay up late with the locals in downtown Anchorage; all with your trusted travel companion. Get to the heart of Alaska and begin your journey now!

Inside Lonely Planet Alaska Travel Guide: Full-color maps and images throughout Highlights and itineraries show you the simplest way to tailor your trip to your own personal needs and interests Insider tips save you time and money and help you get around like a local, avoiding crowds and trouble spots Essential info at your fingertips - including hours of operation, phone numbers, websites, transit tips, and prices Honest reviews for all budgets - including eating, sleeping, sight-seeing, going out, shopping, and hidden gems that most guidebooks miss Cultural insights give you a richer and more rewarding travel experience - including customs, history, art, literature, cinema, politics, landscapes, and wildlife Free, convenient pull-out Alaska map (included in print version), plus over 50 color local maps Useful features - including What's New, Month-by-Month (annual festival calendar), and Travel with Children Coverage of Anchorage, Juneau, Denali, Cordova, Prince William Sound, Kenai Peninsula, the Bush, Kodiak, Katmai, the Aleutian Islands, Fairbanks, Homer, Wrangell, Seward, Sitka, Ketchikan, and more

The Perfect Choice: Lonely Planet Alaska, our most

comprehensive guide to Alaska, is perfect for those planning to both explore the top sights and take the road less travelled. Looking for more extensive coverage? Check out Lonely Planet's Canada guide for a comprehensive look at all the region has to offer. Authors: Written and researched by Lonely Planet, Jim DuFresne, Catherine Bodry, and Robert Kelly. About Lonely Planet: Started in 1973, Lonely Planet has become the world's leading travel guide publisher with guidebooks to every destination on the planet, as well as an award-winning website, a suite of mobile and digital travel products, and a dedicated traveller community. Lonely Planet's mission is to enable curious travellers to experience the world and to truly get to the heart of the places they find themselves in. TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Awards 2012 and 2013 winner in Favorite Travel Guide category 'Lonely Planet guides are, quite simply, like no other.' - New York Times 'Lonely Planet. It's on everyone's bookshelves; it's in every traveller's hands. It's on mobile phones. It's on the Internet. It's everywhere, and it's telling entire generations of people how to travel the world.' - Fairfax Media (Australia)

About the Author I am a Lonely Planet author based out of where I am. Born in Washington DC and raised in the rural Maryland tidewater, I've been exploring the world and writing about it since I was 17. It's a blessedly interesting way to live one's life. Also, it's good fun. I just read two good quotes. So with thanks to Italy, ancient and modern: "Tutto il mondo e paese." And "Ambulare pro deus." If we ever meet on the road, let's share a drink and a story.