

Making the Most of Our Town for Your Out-of-town Guests

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Do you have family visiting this summer? Or maybe a reunion or wedding coming up? Take advantage of all the fun things to see and do in Ketchikan!

Those of us who live and work here know that Ketchikan is a multi-faceted, and diverse community with much to offer the out-of-town visitor. Take your guests fishing, hiking, biking, zipping, snorkeling, scuba diving, sightseeing, flight-seeing, kayaking, shopping, camping, cruising, walking, touring, dining, adventuring, go-karting, scooter riding, picnicking, exploring, boating, rope climbing, caving, museum hopping, wildlife viewing, hunting, art-walking, berrypicking, crabbing, discovering, beach-combing, rock-climbing, playing, paddle-wheeling, and most importantly ...**RELAXING**. Try any of these activities, or come up with one of your own!

Just like you, we want our guests to enjoy the authentic, rewarding lifestyle Ketchikan has to offer. Ketchikan affords opportunities for visitors to fully experience our region's rich culture, climate and community spirit. We also know that planning for visitors isn't always easy.

Here are some pointers to assist you with your visitors:

- 1. **Itineraries**. While some people may scoff at the idea of an itinerary for family visits, they can be a helpful guide, or "jumping-off" point when planning for guests. You'll want to be flexible, of course, and add time in for side trips to see what makes our area such a great place. Several sample itineraries are available in the "Experience Ketchikan Alaska" area guide published by the Ketchikan Visitors Bureau or on our website www.visit-ketchikan.com.
- 2. **Plan for the weather.** The order of the day in Ketchikan is casual, comfortable clothing. Choose lightweight shirts that can be layered with sweaters and under water proof outerwear and a hat or hood that can be secured under your chin, so you can dress up or down as need for the weather. Of course, sun glasses and sunscreen are recommended for our wonderful Southeast sunny days!

- 3. **Book ahead.** While most of our local tour companies have seats available on their tours, advance booking is always appreciated, and usually necessary to ensure your choice of dates and times. Many companies offer local discounts, so be sure to ask!
- 4. **Know how you're going to get around in Ketchikan.** We have a municipal bus system, taxi companies, car rental companies, a water taxi, and air taxis, in addition to good old foot traffic and private vehicles. Be sure to check time restrictions on public parking lots, and obey all traffic rules.
- 5. **Maps.** There are two maps of Ketchikan in the "Experience Ketchikan Alaska" area guide, as well as Walking Tour maps of our city available at the Ketchikan Visitors Bureau Visitor Information Center located at 131 Front Street, Ketchikan.

In addition to the simple tips above, Ketchikan's meeting facilities can accommodate groups as large as 500, or as small 5. The Ketchikan Visitors Bureau can help you plan any event from weddings to family reunions and more, and offers complimentary event planning from start to finish.

As you can see, a few tips and a little visitor information can help make your visits with family, friends, or groups go a lot more smoothly. We're here to help. More information is available at (907) 225-6166 or www.visit-ketchikan.com.