

ALYESKA RESORT - HISTORY AND FACTS

- The word Alyeska (Alley-Eska) is derived from an Aleut word meaning "great land of white to the east." The state name "Alaska" is also a derivative of this native word.
- Guests visiting The Hotel Alyeska and Alyeska Resort will experience ALASKA. Located in the heart of the Glacier Valley, the Resort sits among the forest surrounded by the Chugach mountains embedded with hanging glaciers.
- The 304-room Hotel Alyeska features a variety of cuisine, a fitness center, two lounges and skier's bar, a fireside lobby, a guest services staff, retail shops, meeting facilities, and an ice skating pond.
- Located at the 2,300 ft. level of Mt. Alyeska, the Glacier Terminal houses the Glacier Express, a self-service restaurant, and the Seven Glaciers, an award-winning casual fine-dining restaurant.
- The Alyeska Tramway ascends from the base of Mt. Alyeska to the 2,300 ft. level Glacier Terminal, carrying up to 60 passengers at a time. In the winter, the tram ride is approximately 3 1/2 minutes long, and slows to a half-speed of seven minutes in the summer. The two enclosed cars offer sweeping views of Glacier Valley and Turnagain Arm. They are accessible by wheelchair.
- Alyeska Resort is the state's largest ski area and with a base elevation of 250 feet above sea level, the lowest elevation ski area in North America, allowing visitors to ski free from the effects of altitude.
- Noted in 1991 and 1998 by *Conde Nast Traveler* magazine as having the best view of any North American ski area. Recognized by *Travel + Leisure* magazine as one of the top hotels in the world in 2002. Rated a top ten ski destination resort by *Skiing* magazine in 2002.
- Established in 1959 as a day use ski area by Francois de Gunzberg.
- Constructed in 1960, the "Roundhouse", located at the 2,300 ft. level of Mt. Alyeska, housed the original bull wheel for Chair One. After construction of the Alyeska Tram complex, the "Roundhouse" became the home of the highly-awarded Alyeska Ski Patrol. The building is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Located just 40 miles south of Anchorage, the drive along the Turnagain Arm to the Resort is via a National Scenic Highway. The Seward Highway was voted America's Most Outstanding Scenic Byway by Scenic America, a national conservation organization, in 1995 and by the US Department of Transportation in 2000.
- The Turnagain Arm of Cook Inlet experiences the world's second greatest tidal variations with fluctuations of up to 44 feet.
- The Girdwood valley was established by mining entrepreneur Col. Girdwood. Its rich mining tradition is still apparent today when visitors pan for gold at historic Crow Creek Mine.
- The old townsite of Girdwood was flooded by the Turnagain Arm during the historic 1964 earthquake when the land sank eight feet. The town was relocated to its present location two miles up the valley.
- A mild coastal temperature graces Alyeska with summer days averaging 65-75 degrees Fahrenheit and mild winter temperatures of 10-30 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Moose, bear, lynx, wolverine, beaver, Dall sheep, bald eagles and other wildlife make their homes in the Girdwood valley.



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ALASKA

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- Alyeska is the gateway to Prince William Sound and the Kenai Peninsula. Both offer sightseeing cruises as well as year-round fishing.
- Winter activities include: alpine and Nordic skiing, snowboarding, dog sledding, snowmobiling, ice skating, glacier ocean cruising and flightseeing.
- Summer activities include: hiking, biking, rock climbing, flightseeing, glacier and wildlife cruises and viewing, glacier dogsledding and snowmobiling, glacier trekking and clinics, gold panning, fishing, and tandem paragliding.
- Alaskan Olympic athletes who have medaled in alpine skiing events in the '90's include silver medalist Hilary Lindh, from Juneau, and Girdwood's own gold medalist Tommy Moe. Girdwood's own Rosey Fletcher medaled in the 2006 Olympic snowboarding events.
- Site of major ski events including the 1964 Olympic Trials, 1982 US Alpine Championships, 1987 World Masters Competition, the 1993 World Junior Olympic Competition, the 2000 Red Bull Freeski World Championships, the 2001 Special Olympics World Winter Games alpine events, the 2002 NCAA National Ski Championships, the 2004 IASF World Airlines Ski Championships, and the 2004 Chevy Truck US Alpine Championships. Alyeska Resort is also scheduled to be the site of the March 2007 U.S. Alpine Championships.
- Anchorage was America's choice to host the 1994 winter Olympics, with Alyeska Resort the site of the alpine events.
- Extensive night lighting on Mt. Alyeska offers skiers one of the most comprehensive trail systems in North America for night skiing.
- Mt. Alyeska broke its annual snowfall record during the 1997/1998 ski season with 1,116 inches of snow, compared to its annual average of 742 inches.