For information on tours and lodging, consult the Haines Convention and Visitors Bureau. Visit www.haines.ak.us or call 907-766-2234. In Haines, stop by the visitor center downtown at Second Avenue and Willard Street.

Watch bears fishing in the rivers near town. Take a boat or raft tour in search of moose, eagles and trumpeter swans. Peer into binoculars to spot mountain goats, or climb the Chilkat River near town.

**Haines: The Northwest Passage to Southeast Alaska**

**Wildlife Viewing Tips**

- **Stay Safe**: Sports and outdoor activities can be enjoyed by all ages, but safety should always be the top priority. Follow all necessary precautions and guidelines to avoid accidents and ensure a safe experience.

- **Watch Wildlife**: Bears are a common sight in Haines, and they are often attracted to areas where food is available. Be aware of your surroundings and keep a safe distance from bears. Remember that bear country is everywhere in Haines.

- **Stay Calm**: If you encounter a bear, it is important to remain calm and avoid making sudden movements. Speak in a calm voice and slowly back away. If the bear does not notice or approach you, quietly leave, keeping your eyes on the bear.

- **Plan Ahead**: Always plan your activities in advance. Check the weather forecast, research local wildlife, and plan your route to avoid unexpected encounters.

- **Respect Wildlife**: Wildlife viewing is a privilege, and it is important to respect the animals and their habitats. Do not feed or disturb wildlife, and do not approach them unnecessarily.

**Alaska Coastal Wildlife Viewing Trail**

From the bears of Hyder to the bald eagles of Haines, the whales of Frederick Sound to the birds of the Sitka River, the Inside Passage Segment of the Alaska Coastal Wildlife Viewing Trail highlights over 70 wildlife viewing sites in and near the communities of Gustavus, Haines, Juneau, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Prince of Wales Island, Skagway, and Wrangell.

**Wildlife Viewing Guide**

- **Keep a Low Profile**
- **Time it Right**
- **Watchable Wildlife “Fun Facts”**
- **Natural Behaviors**
- **Stay Safe**

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Watch Our Wildlife

www.wildlifeviewing.alaska.gov
Wildlife Viewing Tips

- **Keep a Low Profile.** Enjoy watching animals' natural behaviors. Resist the temptation to try to attract their attention with sounds. If your presence is causing an animal to stop feeding or act restless, give it more space. Be especially respectful of nesting and denning areas, rookeries and calving grounds, and critical feeding areas.

- **Time it Right.** Dawn and dusk are when many wildlife species are most active. Midday warmth energizes dragonflies and butterflies and creates thermals for eagles and hawks. Low tides expose tidepools and a wealth of food for birds and mammals.

- **Look for Clues.** Tracks, droppings, trails and twigs tell stories of wildlife in the area—what they are eating, where they live and when they passed through. Noticing and reading these clues adds richness to wildlife viewing. Tracking books and workshops will help you.

- **Help Keep Wildlife Wild.** Never feed wild animals. Doing so can cause them to associate people with food, which can cause trouble. Human food can also make them sick.

- **Be Considerate of Others.** People use and enjoy Alaska's wildlife in a variety of ways. Respect private property and give hunters, anglers and others plenty of space.

### Watchable Wildlife “Fun Facts”

**Eagles, Eagles Everywhere:** In October and November, bald eagles begin to arrive in Southeast Alaska. As the harsh realities of winter begin to set in, bald eagles migrate to find reliable food sources. One of the richest sources during this time is the late chum and coho salmon runs in the Chilkat River near Haines. Parts of the Chilkat do not freeze over due to an “allothermal” effect, creating a huge reservoir of water in the cracks and spaces. At temperatures drop, the water stored in the allothermal runs above freezing, and seeps into the Chilkat River throughout the winter. This upwelling warmer water keeps parts of the river ice-free, and salmon runs in these ice-free areas attract more than 3,000 eagles between mid-October and January.

**Chilkat or Chilkoot?** Haines is bordered by Chilkat Inlet to the south and Chilkoot Inlet to the north. These and other natural features are named after the Chilkat and Chilkoot Tlingits who have lived in the area since time immemorial. The Tlingits who have lived in the area since time immemorial.

**STAY SAFE!**

The mountains, trails, islands and waterways of the Alaska Coastal Wildlife Viewing Trail are wild lands. For safety, take a guided tour or take a companion, let someone know your plans and be prepared for emergencies with spare clothes, a first aid kit and means of communication. Visit the Alaska State Parks’ Staying Safe web page for details: www.alaska.gov/parks/safety.
Lutak Road

Parallels the protected waters of Lutak Inlet. Pullouts along the road offer views of Haines and overlooks for wildlife viewing. Lutak Inlet is narrower and more sheltered than Lynn Canal, making it easier to spot river otters, Steller sea lions, harbor porpoises, and harbor seals. A few humpback and killer whales swim into the inlets, especially in May and June. Look and listen for belled kingfishers, common loons, harlequin ducks, surf sparrows, pigeon guillemots, boreal owls and bald eagles here as well.

The Chilkoot River

Flows into Lutak Inlet, and is one of the more easily reached bear viewing spots in Southeast Alaska. Salmon spawn in the Chilkoot each year, attracting brown bears between mid-June and October, with July and August the peak months for bear viewing. River otters and harbor seals chase salmon upstream at high tide. Common mergansers, Barrow's goldeneyes, harlequin ducks and other waterfowl feed at the estuary where the Chilkoot River flows into Lutak Inlet. In the spring and fall, large numbers of shorebirds flock to the estuary mudflats to refuel before continuing their annual migrations. American dippers feed on aquatic invertebrates and small fish throughout the year. Naturalist-guided tours to the Chilkoot River are available during the summer, some of which combine the river and Lutak Road into one wildlife viewing excursion.

Battery Point

Overlooks the narrowest and shallowest part of Chilkoot Inlet. Schools of fish often congregate in these relatively still waters, attracting a variety of marine mammals. Stand on the beach and look for the telltale blow or flukes of humpback whales. Scan the waters for the reflection off the head of a harbor seal or Steller sea lion. Closer to shore, look for loons, surf sparrows, pelagic cormorants, and marbled murrelets as they dive in search of a meal. The Battery Point trailhead is located about a mile and a half south of town at the end of Beach Road. A flat, primitive trail winds through the rain forest along the beaches. Moose, especially cow and calf pairs, wander near developed areas, in part to seek protection from bears. Porcupines are abundant. A visitor center cabin with a viewing platform and spotting scope overlooks Chilkat Inlet. This is an excellent perch from which to scan Chilkat Inlet for harbor seals, Steller sea lions, harbor porpoises, and humpback and killer whales. Surf sparrows and pigeon guillemots may also be seen throughout the summer. Peer into the spotting scope for better marine viewing, and to search the ridges across the inlet for mountain goats. A volunteer staffs the cabin during the summer to answer questions and help spot wildlife.

Chilkat State Park

Adjoins the waters of Chilkat Inlet, where the Chilkat River meets Lynn Canal. This is a great place to spot wildlife, both on land and in the water. Brown bears visible through the forests and along the beaches. Moose, especially cow and calf pairs, wander near developed areas, in part to seek protection from bears. Porcupines are abundant. A visitor center cabin with a viewing platform and spotting scope overlooks Chilkat Inlet. This is an excellent perch from which to scan Chilkat Inlet for harbor seals, Steller sea lions, harbor porpoises, and humpback and killer whales. Surf sparrows and pigeon guillemots may also be seen throughout the summer. Peer into the spotting scope for better marine viewing, and to search the ridges across the inlet for mountain goats. A volunteer staffs the cabin during the summer to answer questions and help spot wildlife.

Eulachon, a small oily fish, run into Lutak Inlet in late April or May. Eulachon are a rich food source that draws large numbers of Steller sea lions, harbor seals, bald eagles and other species. Looking for a good hike? The park’s Seduction Point Trail follows the shore for seven miles, with many viewing spots along the Chilkat. The birds that make the river famous, however, are bald eagles (see next site).

The Bald Eagle Preserve

Established along the Chilkat River as an Alaska State Park in 1992 to protect critical habitat for eagles. There are over 80 bald eagle nests and a year-round eagle population in the low hundreds in the preserve. Between late October and February, the largest congregation of bald eagles in the world gathers to feed on a late season salmon run (see the “Fun Facts” section for details). Guided boat and raft tours travel the Chilkat throughout the summer, and land-based tours visit the preserve during the winter. Check with the Visitor’s Bureau for more information. Pullouts on the Haines Highway have restrooms, a viewing platform, interpretive signs and spotting scopes with good views of the winter eagle congregations.

Mt. Ripinsky

Stands 3,600 feet above downtown Haines. The forest gives way to alpine, the primary habitat for mountain goats, at around 3,000 feet. Long hair and nimble footwork allow goats to thrive in the chilly alpine, where the steep, rugged terrain offers protection against predators. In the late spring and early summer, bears head for higher elevations to feed on emerging plants. Blue grouse, gray-crowned rory finches and mountain chickadees are some of the birds found on Mt. Ripinsky. The trailhead for the rugged and difficult 3.5-mile Mt. Ripinsky Trail starts at the end of Young Road on the northeast edge of town. This trail is for fit and experienced hikers only. Read the “Haines is for Hikers” guide (available at the Visitor’s Bureau) for more information and hiking safety tips before setting out, and let someone know when you plan to return.

DRIVE SAFELY! When you see wildlife while driving, don't stop suddenly in the middle of the road. Instead, find a safe place to pull over and enjoy the experience without endangering yourself or others.