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Take in breathtaking views on your ride to the top of Mt. Alyeska. Enjoy lunch at the Bore Tide Deli & Bar, with fast fresh fare and signature beverages at a memorable 2,300 feet above Turnagain Arm.



SEVEN GLACIERS

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Welcome!

Girdwood is located 40 miles south of Anchorage. Follow the Seward Highway along scenic Turnagain Arm while watching for Dall sheep, eagles and beluga whales. Upon entering Glacier Valley, enjoy spectacular mountain and glacier views and keep your eye out for moose, bear and the state bird, ptarmigan.

Girdwood offers a variety of choices every season for activities, dining, shopping and lodging. Make Girdwood your Alaska home base for excursions to Prince William Sound, Anchorage and the Kenai Peninsula.



Image from alaska.org

Turnagain Arm Bore Tide



History of Girdwood

Girdwood, originally named Glacier City, was founded as a gold mining town at the turn of the century with several gold claims being staked on Crow Creek and the Virgin and California Creek drainages. As the number of miners increased, a supply camp arose that also supplied a trail stop on the route between Seward and Ship Creek which is now Anchorage. James Girdwood was an Irish immigrant and linen merchant with four gold claims on Crow Creek. He later became the namesake for our mountain community.

Though founded as a mining town, the development of Girdwood was spurred by railroad construction begun by the Federal Government in 1915. The little town boomed with new businesses. Mining in the upper Crow Creek area continued into the late 1930's when mine closures by a World War II presidential order made Girdwood a near ghost town. In 1949, Girdwood again flourished as construction began on the Seward Highway connecting the seaport of Seward to Anchorage. In 1954, eleven local men formed the Alyeska Ski Corporation along with the beginnings of the hard-earned dream of a first-class ski resort. In 1960, the first chair lift and a day lodge was built. Francois de Gunzburg, a Frenchman and a member of the Rothschild Banking family managed to secure a used chair lift from France that was dismantled, shipped to Alaska and rebuilt at Alyeska.

Then, tragedy struck. On Good Friday in 1964, an earthquake with the magnitude of 9.2 dropped the coastal edges along the Turnagain Arm 8 to 10 feet! Consequently, the townsite of Girdwood moved two and 1/2 miles up the valley to the present location.

Present day Girdwood consists of a diverse population of outdoor enthusiasts, local businesses, services and Anchorage commuters. Girdwood has much to offer the Alaskan visitor all year-round. Complete with a mercantile, a post office, a variety of B&B's, restaurants and bars, boutiques and shops, Girdwood is a great place to visit any time of year.

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Map location South of Girdwood

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Map location South of Girdwood

Summer Adventures

- Hike a Mountain
- Play Frisbee Golf
- Hike the Iditarod Trail
- Ride a Mountain Bike
- Pan for Gold
- Ride the Skate Park
- Pick Blueberries
- Hunt for Mushrooms
- Shop locally

CHUGACH adventures

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Map location #16 D2

Annual Events

APRIL / Spring Carnival & Slush Cup

A ski-town celebration of spring! Competitors dressed in crazy costumes attempt to skim a 90-foot pool filled with icy water on skis or snowboards.

JULY / Forest Fair

Girdwood's main event. Three days of family-friendly fun featuring a parade, local musicians, arts and crafts and food booths.

SEPTEMBER / Alyeska Climbathon Fundraiser

A climb for a cause. Participants hike the steep North Face Trail at Alyeska Resort as many times as they can during a 10-hour period.

DECEMBER: / New Year's Eve Torlight Parade

Ring in the New Year with Light. Participants ski down the mountain in formation, creating a line of light from top to bottom.



Map location North of Girdwood

Girdwood is Bear Country BE BEAR AWARE

Learn to be safe outdoors. Your safety, and that of the bears and other trail users, depends on it.

Below are tips to keep you safe in bear country:

- Buddy up. You are safer in a group.
- Make noise. This will prevent you from surprising a bear.
- Don't feed bears. Keep all food, fish and attractants stored securely.
- Use your senses to stay aware. No headphones!
- Carry bear spray. Have it accessible and know how to use it.
- Slow down. High speed equals high risk in bear habitat.
- Leash your pets. Off-leash pets can bring bears back to you.
- Store garbage in secure buildings or bear-proof containers until disposal.
- NEVER RUN FROM A BEAR!

For more bear safety information go to:

AlaskaBears.Alaska.gov



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Map location South of Girdwood

Where Alaska Comes to Play

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THE GATEWAY TO PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

WHITTIER ALASKA

July 3 | Free works at midnight July 4 | Celebration FREE!
Hiking, Glaciers, Fishing, Cruises, Kayaking, Museum, Shops, Dining

Map location South of Girdwood



Map location North of Girdwood

Anytime Adventures

- View Local Art
- Go to a Festival
- Drive along Turnagain Arm
- Watch for Belugas
- See the Bore Tide
- Photograph Nature

Winter Adventures

- Ski or Snowboard Mt. Alyeska
- See the Northern Lights
- Ride a Fat Tire Bike
- Go Snowshoeing
- Go Cross-Country Skiing
- Ride a Snowmobile
- Drive along Turnagain Arm
- Photograph Nature
- Dine at our amazing restaurants
- Go to our museum

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