



JUNEAU

Juneau is named after a gold prospector from Quebec, Joe Juneau, though the place was for a time called Rockwell and then Harrisburg (*after Juneau's co-pro prospector, Richard Harris*). Alaska's remote capital, sits in the state's panhandle, at the base of 3,819-ft. Mount Roberts. It's a popular cruise-ship stop, reachable only by boat or seaplane. A tram carries visitors 1,800 feet up Mount Roberts to an alpine area with hiking trails, wildflowers and views of Gastineau Channel. This is also the site of the Juneau Raptor Center, dedicated to local birds.

1. Whale watching in Juneau—Humpback whales are usually seen during the months of May right through to the back end of September.
2. The Auke and Taku tribes of native Tlingit Indians fished along the Gastineau Channel near Juneau for thousands of years before Europeans explored.
3. In 1880, local Tlingit Chief Kowee led prospectors Joe Juneau and Richard Harris to Silver Bow Basin, where they discovered gold nuggets "as large as beans" at the mouth on a stream they called Gold Creek. This find was the first major Alaskan gold discovery.
4. Juneau was named after Joe Juneau—Joe Juneau reportedly bought drinks for fellow miners to persuade them to name the city in his honor.
5. Nearly a million visitors experience Juneau each summer via a cruise ship.
6. Tourists have been visiting Juneau by boat as early as 1881. Wealthy tourists would sail from San Francisco to see the stunning views of Juneau.
7. The Mount Roberts Tramway whisks visitors up nearly 2,000 feet from Juneau's waterfront to the mountaintop in just six minutes, providing both a stunning view and access to hiking trails.
8. Juneau is only 45 miles from end to end but has more than 130 miles of beautiful hiking trails.
9. There are between 15,000 and 30,000 bald eagles in Juneau. There are only 32,000 human residents.
10. You can't drive to Juneau. To get here you'll have to fly or boat in.
11. Rather than do their own fishing, Bald Eagles often go after other creatures' catches.
12. Juneau is truly a city of both mountains and ocean. It's sandwiched right in between 3,800-foot peaks and the sea.
13. Mendenhall Lake, 3 miles north of Juneau, was formed by the retreat of the melting Mendenhall Glacier.
14. Mendenhall glacier is a 13-mile long river of ice covering almost 37 square miles. This is relatively small compared to the Juneau ice field that covers 1500 miles.
15. Bald eagles tend to pair up for life, and they share parenting duties: the male and the female take turns incubating the eggs, and they both feed their young.
16. The Alaskan, built in 1913, is Alaska's oldest operating hotel.
17. Both of Mount Roberts Tramway's two cabins carry 60-passengers, making it possible to carry 1,050 people to the mountain top per hour.
18. Eric's favorite mnemonic device to remember the capital of Alaska. Juneau became the capital of Alaska in 1906, before that it was Sitka.
19. Bald eagles can live for decades. The longest living record for a bald eagle is 38 years.
20. Alaska became the 49th state on January 3rd, 1959, the same year that the Barbie Doll is launched.
21. Bald eagles hold the record for the largest bird's nests. On average, their nests are 2-4 feet deep and 4-5 feet wide.
22. Nugget Falls
23. Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center—an excellent spot to "experience the splendor of Mendenhall Glacier."
24. Which is the male and which is the female? Male and female bald eagles look identical except that the female is larger.
25. The Mount Roberts Tramway is one of the worlds most vertical tramways.
26. Bald eagles sound so silly that hollywood dubs over their voices.
27. Helicopter tour of Mendenhall Glacier
28. Black bears and Brown bears can be seen around Juneau.
29. Red Dog Saloon
30. Alaska Flag
31. St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church
32. There are no roads in or out of Juneau even though it is on the Alaskan mainland. How many more dead end signs can you spot?
33. Breaching humpback whales. They are capable of breaching their 40 tons completely out of the water.
34. Piper Cub, the "backwoods taxis of Alaska". Popular for their low speed take offs and landings.
35. Salmon are anadromous, which means they are born in fresh water, they migrate to salt water, and then they return to freshwater to spawn.
36. The distinctive art of the Tlingit is reflective of their culture, ancestry, and collective histories.
37. McGinnis Mountain, part of Tongass National Forest—The largest national forest in the U.S. at 17 million acres.
38. Mendenhall Lake Canoe Adventure
39. Sealaska Heritage Museum—featuring the history and art of the Tlingit Haida people
40. Father Brown's Cross