

# Guide to sport fishing opportunities in the Ketchikan, Alaska area

In Southeast Alaska, our most popular recreation is sport fishing. Opportunities abound in the Ketchikan area for even the most discriminating anglers.

The Ketchikan management area includes the islands of Revillagigedo, Gravina, Annette, and Duke—as well as the U.S. mainland to the east, from the middle of Cleveland Peninsula south to Portland Canal. Prince of Wales Island lies to the west, separated from the Ketchikan area by lower Clarence Strait.

Forested mountains as high as 4,000 feet and vast areas of open muskeg are the prevailing landscape. Evergreens dominate the forest—Sitka spruce, western hemlock, western redcedar and Alaska-cedar. Coastal areas are rocky and rugged, and small islands dot the waterways. The outer islands form a protective barrier for inside waters against the open ocean.

Scattered throughout the area are dozens of small streams and lakes. Larger river systems, from 30 to 50 miles long, extend from British Columbia into Alaska: the Unuk and Chickamin rivers flow into East Behm Canal, and the Salmon River empties into Portland Canal near Hyder, Alaska.



**Map 1.**  
*Southeast Alaska  
and the ADF&G  
Ketchikan  
management  
area (shaded  
area).*

## *Land Ownership. . .*

Most of the area lies within the Tongass National Forest boundary and is managed by the U.S. Forest Service—Ketchikan and Misty Fiords ranger districts. Remaining lands are owned by state and local governments and the private sector. The Annette Island Reserve and the Cape Fox Corporation are the largest private landowners in the area.

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***Sport fishing on Annette Island is restricted to Island residents only. No saltwater fishing is allowed within 3,000 feet of the island. Visitors to the area should check locally about current status of rules governing this area.***

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Public access along some waterways is limited because of privately owned lands. Be sure to get permission from landowners before crossing private property.

## *Population and Economy . . .*

Ketchikan has a population of about 13,000. Metlakatla has 1,370 residents and Hyder has 83 (as of 2004). Area

population trends and economic patterns have historically been influenced by logging and commercial fishing. Recent trends point to growth in the mining and tourism industries.

## *Climate . . .*

The area climate is moist and mild: temperatures average 29–39°F in winter and 51–65°F in summer. Rainfall averages 162 inches a year, including 32 inches of snow.

Our weather is unpredictable—rain gear and rubber boots are needed year-round. You will need cold-weather gear from November through March.

## *Roads . . .*

Local road systems are limited and of varying width, surface condition and maintenance. In Ketchikan, paved road extends 16 miles north to Settlers Cove and 16 miles south along the South Tongass Highway to Beaver Falls Creek, covering about 32 miles of coastline on Revillagigedo Island. A paved road turns to gravel and then runs about 10 miles up the Ward Cove drainage to Harriet Hunt Lake. There are private gravel roads in the White River and Whipple Creek drainages.

There are also 90 miles or so of logging spurs outside of Ketchikan, but they vary in width and surface condition and are not maintained in winter. Anyone who plans to use these roads should check

locally for permission and current road conditions.

About 15 miles south of Ketchikan lies the community of Metlakatla, on the Annette Island Reserve. The Metlakatla road system consists of gravel roads extending 10 miles south and 2 miles north of town.

The community of Hyder, on the mainland about 80 air miles east from Ketchikan, connects to the Alaska Highway via the Cassiar Highway

through British Columbia (287 miles from Prince Rupert). Hyder can be reached from Ketchikan by small aircraft (Stewart airport only) or floatplane.


Two miles of paved road to the east connect Hyder to Stewart, B.C., and 2 miles of gravel road to the north connect to a 25-mile-long gravel mining access road up the Salmon River. These roads are of varying condition; travelers should check locally for current road conditions.


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## *Alaska State Park facilities*

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks, operates three public facilities in the Ketchikan area:

 Settlers Cove State Park, located at the end of the Ketchikan road system (Mile 18 N. Tongass Highway), with 12 campsites and water and toilet facilities.

 Totem Bight (Mile 10 N. Tongass Hwy.), pictured at right, which has no campsites but does provide trails and public toilets.

 Refuge Cove (Mile 8.7 N. Tongass Hwy.), with 14 picnic sites with toilet facilities.



### **Totem Bight State Park**

Authentic Native totems stand in their natural setting. The Totem Bight tribal house is to the left, as seen from the back. The front of this beautifully crafted tribal house is shown above in the inset photo.

## Access to *Ketchikan* communities

The Ketchikan area is served by commercial jet, by smaller aircraft, and by the Alaska Marine Highway (state ferry). Daily jet service is provided by Alaska Airlines. Smaller commuter airlines provide daily floatplane or wheeled plane service to and from the neighboring Southeast Alaska communities.

### *Air charter companies*

offering wheeled or floatplane service in the Ketchikan area are numerous. Call the Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce, (907) 225-3185, for their current list of air charter operators.

## *The Alaska Marine Highway System . . .*

AMHS maintains year-round ferry service between Ketchikan, Metlakatla, Prince Rupert (British Columbia), and Bellingham, Washington. The state ferry is a dependable method of travel, regardless of weather. Autos, trucks, boats, and RVs can be transported on the ferry, but advance reservations are required. The system is very busy during summer and holidays, so make your reservations well in advance, especially for transport of

boats and vehicles. You can get ferry schedules and fares, find out about transporting your vehicle or boat, and make reservations at the Alaska Marine Highway office:

**Alaska Marine Highway**  
**Pouch R, 1591 Glacier Ave.**  
**Juneau, AK 99811**  
**(800) 642-0066 or (907) 465-3941**  
AMHS website: [www.alaska.gov/ferry](http://www.alaska.gov/ferry)

## *The Inter-Island Ferry Authority . . .*

The Inter-Island Ferry Authority system (IFA) maintains year-round ferry service between Ketchikan and Hollis (on Prince of Wales Island). You can get more information about the IFA by contacting:

**Inter-Island Ferry Authority**  
**P.O. Box 495**  
**Craig, AK 99921**

IFA website: [www.interislandferry.com](http://www.interislandferry.com)

**(866) 308-4848 toll-free**  
**(907) 826-4848 telephone**  
**(907) 277-4829 (fax)**

E-mail: [ifa@interislandferry.com](mailto:ifa@interislandferry.com)

# Lodging and facilities in the *Ketchikan* area

A number of sport fishing lodges, hotels, motels, and bed-and-breakfast establishments operate in the area. In addition to U.S. Forest Service cabins (map on page 15), some communities have public or private campgrounds and cabin rentals. Car and boat rentals are also available in Ketchikan and Hyder. For more information, contact one of these offices near your intended destination:

**Ketchikan Chamber  
of Commerce**  
P. O. Box 5957  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
(907) 225-3185

**Ketchikan Visitors  
Bureau**  
131 Front Street  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
(907) 225-6166

**Metlakatla Indian  
Community**  
P. O. Box 8  
Metlakatla, AK 99926  
(907) 886-4441

**Stewart/Hyder Chamber of Commerce**  
P. O. Box 306  
Stewart, BC V0T1W0  
(604) 636-9224

## Services available in the *Ketchikan* management area

	Gas	Groc- eries	Float plane service	State ferry service	Boat ramp	Police	Medical services	Lodging	Fishing/ hunting license
<i>Ketchikan</i>	•	•	<b>J</b>	•	•(3)	•	<b>H</b>	•	•
<i>Metlakatla</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
<i>Hyder</i>	•	•	•		•		<b>H*</b>	•	•

**J** = scheduled jet service

**\*H** = hospitals available in Ketchikan and Stewart, B.C.

Ketchikan boat ramps: Bar Harbor  
Knudson Cove  
Mountain Point