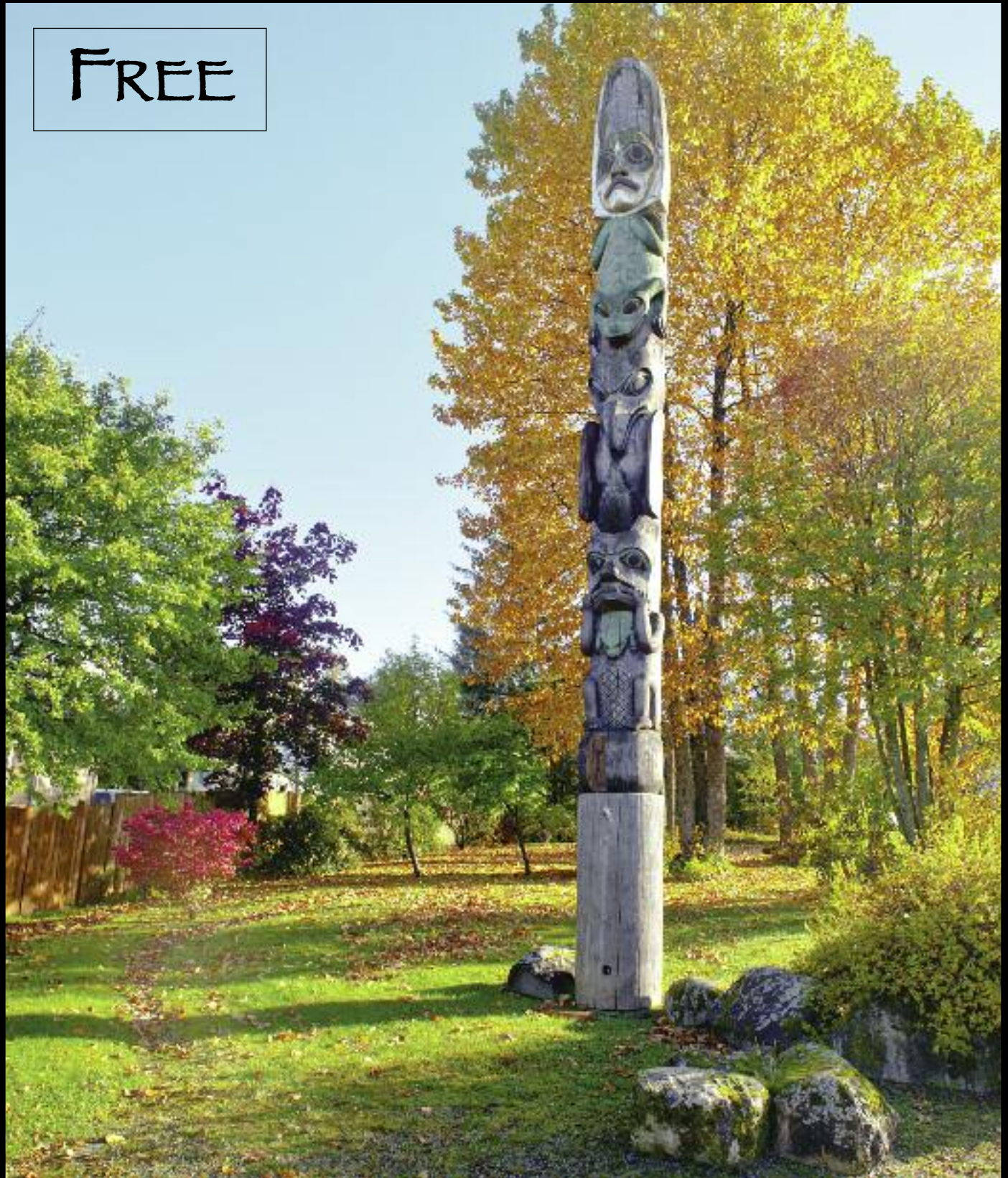


# WRANGELL GUIDE 2011

FREE



# Welcome to friendly Wrangell, Alaska

Wrangell, one of the most historic communities in Alaska, is the only town in the state to have been ruled by four nations: Tlingit, Russia, Britain, and the United States.

Wrangell also has the reputation for being the “friendliest little town in Southeast Alaska.”

Located on the northern tip of 30-mile-long Wrangell Island, Wrangell is a community of about 2,300 people, set amid the forests and moun-

tains of Alaska’s Panhandle along the scenic Inside Passage.

Situated in the middle of the Tongass National Forest, the island has a mild climate with temperatures seldom dipping below freezing in the winter. Rain is more common than snow and summer temperatures range anywhere from the mid-50s to the mid-70s.

Wrangell is 750 miles north of Seattle, 85 miles north of



**Wrangell’s waterfront is home to boats large and small. Kayakers and canoers join larger fishing boats and tenders in the harbor.**

Ketchikan, and 150 miles south of Juneau, the state capitol. It sits near the delta of the mighty Stikine River, an important resource in the lives of those who live here. Through it, Wrangellites enjoy recreation, commerce, and subsistence. At Wrangell’s back door is neighboring British Columbia, the westernmost province of Canada. On a clear day you can see the majestic snowcapped mountains to the north and east of Wrangell Island, which spill to the coast. The border is only hours away via airplane or boat up the Stikine River. Between here and there lie many lakes and rivers available for camping, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

Developed as a trading post for the native Tlingit and early white settlers, Wrangell was incorporated in 1903. However, not much remains of the original town – downtown has twice been decimated by



- Guided Tours to Anan Wildlife Observatory
- Charter Fishing Trips
- Fly Fishing
- Stikine River Tours Including Telegraph Creek B.C.
- Glacier Tours
- Wildlife Viewing - Special Feature
- Whale Watching - Special Feature
- Transporter (Water Taxi) Service
- Customized Packages Available

Half, full or multi-day adventures. We will customize any combination of activities to meet your interest. We offer guide and transporter service to the Anan Wildlife Observatory and many other points of interest. We make it our business to know the current activity level & best viewing times possible, based on today or yesterday, not last week. Alaska Peak & Seas does not run on set schedules, our bears & clients do this for us. Watch and listen to the whales, a service unique to Alaska Peak & Seas. View porpoise, seals, sea lions, eagles, seabirds, and much more. Visit natural hot springs. Ask about viewing brown and black bear in one of our remote locations away from the crowds in a pure, Alaskan setting, a service exclusive to Alaska Peak & Seas. Give us a call - our goal is to let you feel Alaska as well as view it.

Mark A. Galla  
Over 35 Years Local Experience  
Registered Guide/Outfitter  
USCG Licensed Captain, First Aid & CPR Certified  
P.O. Box 362, Wrangell, AK 99929  
Cell Phone (907) 470-3200, (907) 874-2454 (phone & fax)  
Website: [wedoalaska.com](http://wedoalaska.com)  
E-Mail: [mark@wedoalaska.com](mailto:mark@wedoalaska.com)

## Bear Necessity

53’ Yacht  
6 person max



## Stikine Spirit

28’ Heated Jet Boat  
16 person max



Photo by Ivan Simonek



# Welcome, continued

Continued from page 2

fire; first in 1906 and again in 1952.

Wrangell has periodically seen declines in its economy due to constraints on the timber and fishing industries. The region continues to clamor for stability for its human inhabitants through the ever-changing sport and commercial fishing industries, small-scale timber operations, and the development of the tourism industry.

Wrangell has a fleet of hand and power trollers, seiners, and gillnet vessels. Salmon is the major product, along with halibut, shrimp, crab and herring. Several seafood processors are scattered throughout town.

Individual fishermen have been known to sell their catch to residents or visitors on the docks in the downtown harbor area. You can watch the catches being hauled onto the docks and sample some of the freshest seafood you'll ever taste.

Wrangell shrimp are famous for their delectable flavor. From large, luscious prawns to the small salad variety, the shrimp truly melt in your mouth. Local restaurants feature shrimp in dinners and salads. Shrimp are also sold by local fishermen and processors, and packaged for ship-

ping.

The downtown harbor can accommodate small pleasure craft and larger fishing vessels. Slips for visitors are available either in the downtown harbor or at Shoemaker Bay, about five miles south of town on the island's west side or at Wrangell's newest harbor, Heritage Harbor, located approximately a mile from downtown.

To obtain a slip assignment, vessel captains should contact the harbormaster on VHF Ch.16. The harbormaster is on duty from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven days a week.

The harbormaster office is located at the head of Wrangell Harbor (Reliance Dock) and is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and can be reached at 874-3736. Harbor personnel are on duty 7 days a week.

If the harbormaster can't be reached, a transient float is located at Reliance dock, the first float on the port side past the seaplane float. Boats may tie up here until the harbormaster is contacted by phone or radio.

Wrangell offers a true taste of small town Alaskan life with friendly residents who welcome visitors. Everyone in town is an unofficial greeter. Don't hesitate to ask if you need help.



**Mail is not delivered to street addresses in Wrangell so residents must pick up their mail at the Post Office. It is also a great place to run into friends and swap news.**

## The Wrangell Guide

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**Cover photograph: A crisp fall day at Totem Park pops with color. See pages 26 - 31 for more photos and information about Wrangell's totems.**

**STIKINE RIVER** *Throw in a Wrangell Wriggle or two and you have the BEST tour available in Southeast Alaska!*

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# ~ Guide to Local Services ~

## PUBLIC SAFETY

**Police (874-3304 or 911):** Public Safety Building, Zimovia Highway.

**Fire (911):** To report a fire, call for an ambulance, or call for search and rescue. The fire hall is in the Public Safety Building, Zimovia Highway, Administrative number is 874-3223.

**State Court:** On second floor of the Public Safety Building, Zimovia Highway. Phone 874-2311. The local magistrate is Chris Ellis.

## CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

**City Hall:** Lynch and Brueger streets. Phone 874-2381.

**Wrangell Public School District Office:** On Bennett Street in the Elementary School. Phone 874-2347.

**Wrangell High and Middle Schools:** Located on Church Street. Phone 874-3395/3393.

**Harbormaster:** The harbor office is located beside the Reliance Dock near the entrance to the Harbor. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon. - Fri., and Harbor dept. personnel can be reached 7 days a week from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Phone 874-3736. VHF 16.

**Public Library:** The Irene Ingle Public Library is on Second Avenue across from the Post Office. Hours are: Monday and Friday 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 1 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed Sunday. Phone 874-3535.

**Wrangell Museum:** Located in the James and Elsie Nolan Center at 296 Campbell Drive. Phone 874-3770. Open Mondays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. from May 1 - September 30. Admission charge; children under 6, free.

## TRAVELING TO AND FROM THE ISLAND

**Alaska Airline Terminal:** Located north of downtown, along Evergreen Avenue or via Bennett Street, approximately 1.5 miles. Two flights per day, north bound in the morning and south bound in the afternoon. Call 874-3308 for recorded flight information or 874-3309 for freight info.

**Alaska Department of Transportation:** Airport and highway maintenance building on the airport road (Bennett Street). 874-3107.

**Alaska Marine Highway:** For 24-hour recorded message of ferry arrivals and departures, phone 874-3711. The ferry terminal is one block north of Stikine Inn. Office opens two hours before arrivals, and is open 30 minutes after departures. Call 874-2021 or 1-800-642-0066 for reservations.

**Rainforest Islands Ferry:** The Rainforest Islands Ferry will begin service from Prince of Wales Island to Wrangell and Petersburg in 2012.

## HUNTING, FISHING AND RECREATION

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game:** For sport and commercial fishing information, and hunting information. On second floor of the

Kadin Building on Front Street. Phone 874-3822. Hunting and fishing licenses are available at sporting goods stores.

**Fish and Wildlife Protection Trooper:** On second floor of Kadin Bldg. on Front Street. Phone 874-3215.

**U.S. Forest Service:** Located at 525 Bennett Street. Phone 874-2323. Hours 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Mon. - Fri. For reservations or information on rentals of public recreation cabins, call toll free 1-877-444-6777 or log on to [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

## U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

Office in a trailer at the Airport. Call 874-3415 before stopping in.

## HEALTH

**Wrangell Medical Center:** On Bennett Street, next to the elementary school. Phone 874-7000.

**Office of Childrens Services:** In the Kadin Building, second floor. Phone 874-3789.

**Alaska Public Health Nurse:** Wrangell Health Center, Kadin Building, first floor. Phone 874-3615. The local nurse is Janet Strom.

**Alaska Island Community Services:** *Medical Clinic*, 320 Bennett St., 874-4700; *Dental Clinic*, Kadin Building on Front Street, 874-3731; *Day Care Assistance*, 333 Church Street 874-2373; *Senior & Disability Services*, 110 Lynch Street, 874-3375; *Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services*,

333 Church Street, 874-2373; *Alaska Crossings Program*, 110 Lynch Street, 874-2371.

## SENIORS

**Wrangell Senior Citizens Center:** Open noon Mon., Wed., Thurs. and Fri. in the white frame building at corner of Church and McKinnon Streets. Phone 874-2066.

## MEDIA

**Wrangell Radio KSTK-FM:** At Church and St. Michaels streets. Transmits at 101.7 FM, and at 91.9 at Shoemaker Bay. Phone 874-2345. A public radio station offering news and music 24 hours a day.

**Wrangell Sentinel:**

Located at 205 Front Street, the oldest continuously published newspaper in Alaska. A weekly newspaper, published on Thursdays, covering local news and state news as it applies to Wrangell. Phone 874-2301.

## PHONE

Calling prefix for Wrangell land line phones is 874, and the area code is 907, the same as the rest of Alaska. To make long-distance calls from Wrangell, it is necessary to dial "1" before the area code and phone number.

## MAIL AND

### ZIP CODE: 99929

Mail pick-up and delivery is at the Post Office only; there are no drop boxes around town. The Post Office lobby is locked from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. Mail may be dropped off in a box in the back of the building.

# ~ Guide to Local Services ~

## WORSHIP SERVICES

### **Harbor Light Assembly of God**

Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.,  
Church Service 10:30 a.m.,  
Youth 6 p.m.; Tues., Men's  
Prayer and Devotion 6:00 a.m.  
Wed., Worship & Bible Study  
6:30 p.m.; Fri., Youth Group 7  
p.m.; Sat., 874-2244, Kem  
Haggard, Pastor.

### **St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church**

Saturday Mass 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday Mass 10:00 a.m. fol-  
lowed by fellowship. 874-  
3771 Father Thomas Weise.

### **St. Philip's Episcopal Church**

Sunday School & Holy  
Eucharist 11 a.m.; Wed., Holy  
Eucharist 6:30 p.m.; Summer  
Schedule, June - Aug.: Sunday  
Service 9:30 a.m., 874-3047,  
874-3665.

### **First Presbyterian Church**

Sunday Class 9:45 a.m.,  
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.  
June - Aug.; Sunday Worship  
10:00 a.m. 874-3534 Nettie  
Covalt, CLP. 874-2779

### **The Salvation Army**

Sunday School 10 a.m.,  
Worship 11 a.m., Fellowship  
Meal, 12:30 p.m., Mon., Bible  
Study 5 p.m., Wed., Family  
Dinner Night 5 p.m., 874-  
3753

### **Island of Faith**

#### **Lutheran Church**

Sunday Worship Service 9:30  
a.m. followed by fellowship,  
874-2743 Rev. Marjorie  
Lorant

### **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**

Sunday School 11 a.m.,  
Sunday Sacrament meeting 10  
a.m., Priesthood/Relief  
Society & Primary at noon,  
874-3976 Branch President  
David Wilson.

### **Wrangell Community**

### **Church of God**

Sunday School 10 a.m.,  
Services 11 a.m. 874-3964  
Bill Knight, Pastor

### **Wrangell Seventh-Day Adventist Church**

Saturday worship 11 a.m.,  
Young people & adult study  
9:30 a.m., 874-3039

### **Bible Baptist Church**

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.,  
Sunday Worship, 11 a.m. & 6  
p.m., Wed., family  
dinner/Bible study, 6 p.m.,  
874-2069 Rev. Doug Shoultz

### **Baha'i Faith**

Children's Classes, Jr. Youth  
Group, Devotional Meetings,  
call 874-2988 for information.

## ORGANIZATIONS

*Wrangell's fraternal and  
community groups welcome  
visiting members. While a few  
of the organizations listed  
below meet year-round, some  
do not meet during June, July  
and August.*

### **Elks Lodge 1595**

7:30 p.m. first and third Wed.  
of the month at the Elks Hall  
on Front Street. 874-3716.

### **Emblem Club No. 87**

6:30 p.m. second and fourth  
Mon. of the month at the Elks  
Hall. June - Aug: Meeting first  
Mon. in June only.

### **Lions Club**

First Mon. of the month at the  
Fireview Room Call Carol at  
874-2842 for info.

### **Chamber of Commerce**

Board of Directors: First Tues.  
of the month at noon. General  
membership: Third Thurs. at  
noon at the Fireview Room of  
the Stikine Inn. Call 874-3901

### **American Legion Merlin Elmer Palmer Post 6**

2:00 p.m. second and fourth  
Thurs. of the month at the

Legion Hall. No meetings  
May - Sept. 874-3871

### **American Legion Auxiliary Unit 6**

1:30 p.m. third Thur. of the  
month at the Legion Hall on  
Zimovia Highway

### **Alaska Pioneers Igloo 21**

7:00 p.m. the third Thurs. of  
the month at the Senior  
Center, Sept. - May.

### **Alaska Pioneers Igloo 15**

7:00 p.m. the second Wed. of  
the month at the Senior  
Center, Sept. - May.

### **Alaska Native Sisterhood Camp No. 1**

7 p.m. on the second Mon. of  
the month at the SNO  
Building. 874-3208. No meet-  
ings May - Aug.

### **Alaska Native Brotherhood Camp No. 4**

Meetings held at the SNO  
Building on Front St. at vary-  
ing times.

### **Wrangell Cooperative Association**

6:30 p.m. First Mon. of the  
month at the SNO Building.

### **Hospital Auxiliary**

1 p.m. on the third Fri. of the  
month, downstairs in the hos-  
pital conference room. No  
meetings Jun. - Aug.

## WRANGELL ON THE WEB

To access information about  
the town and its environs,  
check out the Website at  
www.wrangell.com. Making  
travel plans? Many charter  
services, lodgings and mer-  
chants in town have their own  
home pages (accessible from  
Wrangell's) on which you can  
read about their services, and  
even leave e-mail to ask ques-  
tions or make reservations.  
The Chamber of Commerce's  
website is:

www.Wrangell.com/Chamber  
Commerce.htm.

## ALASKA TIME

Clocks in Wrangell are set to  
Alaska Time. Alaska Time is  
one hour earlier than Pacific  
Time, which is the setting used  
on the United States West  
Coast and in British Columbia.  
In June, the sun sets in  
Wrangell at about 10 p.m.

## WRANGELL WEATHER

Rainy weather with mild tem-  
peratures characterize  
Wrangell's climate. Summer,  
which generally begins in May  
and runs through August, usual-  
ly is the dry season (by  
Wrangell standards) with pleas-  
ant daytime temperatures aver-  
aging in the 60s Fahrenheit.  
Temperatures exceeding 80  
degrees are uncommon. Fall in  
Wrangell usually is rainy and  
often windy. Winter often  
brings some snow, with temper-  
atures generally in the 20s and  
30s, although the wind can be  
biting. Zero degree readings are  
rare. Average yearly rainfall is  
about 80 inches.

National Weather Service:  
Local and area forecasts 24  
hours a day at 162.40 MHz on  
VHF-FM, or by phoning 874-  
3232. Observation station at  
airport.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE

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or email: [wrgsent@gmail.com](mailto:wrgsent@gmail.com)

# By air or sea, getting here is part of the fun

Even though there are no roads to Wrangell, it's easy to get here.

The town is served by daily jet service, charter planes, and state ferries sev-

eral times a week.

The Alaska Airlines jet flies north from Seattle and Ketchikan each day, arriving in Wrangell in the summer, from mid-May to mid-

September, about 10 a.m. and leaving northbound about 10:30 a.m. The southbound flight from Anchorage via Juneau arrives at about 6:20 p.m. and leaves for Ketchikan about 6:50 pm.. Call 1-800-426-0333 for information, or the local station at (907) 874-3308.

Sunrise Aviation, also located at the airport, offers charter flight and sightseeing services. For more information, call (907) 874-2319.

Wrangell Airport has a paved runway and taxi area, and navigational aids for use when cloud cover gets heavy. It's located 1.5 miles north of town, and there are taxis and rental cars available.

State ferries on the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) service Wrangell northbound from Bellingham, Wash., Prince Rupert, B.C., and Ketchikan, Alaska. AMHS vessels also serve Petersburg, Sitka,

Juneau, Haines and Skagway, with routes to Hoonah, Tenakee, Kake, Angoon, Metlakatla and Stewart/Hyder.

The local state ferry terminal and dock is on Stikine Avenue, one block north of the Stikine Inn and downtown. Recorded information on arrivals and departures is available 24-hours a day at (907) 874-3711. For information on office hours, call (907) 874-2021. For reservations from anywhere in the U.S., call toll free 1-800-642-0066.

The state ferry system was recognized recently as an official "Scenic Byway," the only one in the United States where the automobiles get to ride as well.

In spring of 2012 another option, the Rainforest Islands Ferry, will also provide transportation from Wrangell to Prince of Wales Island and Petersburg.

## Everything under the sun for your outdoor activities and all under two roofs!



104 Front Street

- ☑ Clothing, outdoor gear and raingear
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- ☑ Marine supplies & paint
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13<sup>th</sup> Front Street

## Stikine Drug

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AND OPERATED  
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[WWW.STIKINEDRUG.COM](http://WWW.STIKINEDRUG.COM)

## So many choices, so little time: how to pick a charter operator

- Plan early - most charter operators are booked many months in advance for key vacation dates.
- Send for a brochure - most operators have them and many include photos of the boat and descriptions of available trips.
- Keep in mind: the size of your party - some operators can accommodate larger parties while some prefer to concentrate on small groups.
  - Ages of persons in your party - find out if trips can be paced for elderly or handicapped persons, and what ages of children are welcome.
  - What to bring - some operators furnish gear that others don't, and they can tell you what type of clothes to wear for your greatest comfort.

PAID ADVERTISING

# Directory of Coast Guard - Licensed Charter Boat Services

Wrangell's Coast Guard-licensed charter boat operators observe safe boating practices and know the local area best - what to see and what to do. From fishing excursions to sightseeing trips to freight hauling, they can meet all your boat charter needs.

<b>OPERATOR</b> P. O. box number (zip is 99929) Phone No. (area code is 907)	Stikine River sightseeing day trips	Stikine River overnight (camping)	Fishing day trips	Fishing overnight (on board)	Sightseeing, photography glaciers, pleasure	Freight hauling	Harbor tours, historic sites, old town, etc.	Anan Bear Observatory	Water Taxi
<b>Alaska A-1 Adventures</b> Box 2107, 874-3499 1-888-385-2488 (toll free)	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
<b>Alaska Charters &amp; Adventures</b> Box 1996 874-4157, cell 470-4000	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Alaska Peak &amp; Seas</b> Licensed Hunting Guide Box 362, 874-2454, cell 470-3200	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Alaska Vistas</b> Box 2245 1-866-874-3006 (toll free)	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
<b>Alaska Waters</b> Box 1978 874-2378, 1-800-347-4462	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
<b>Aqua Sports</b> Box 681 874-3811 or 874-3061	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
<b>Breakaway Adventures</b> Box 2107, 874-2488 1-888-385-2488 (toll free)	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
<b>Stickeen Wilderness Adventures Inc.</b> Box 934, 1-800-874-2085 (toll free)	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
<b>Summit Charters</b> Box 2076, 305-0416 www.summitcharters.com	X		X		X	X	X	X	X



# Stikine River: highway, larder, playground, wilderness

The fastest-flowing navigable river in North America, and one of the few remaining free-flowing rivers, the Stikine (pronounced "Stick EEN," meaning "great river") runs 330 miles through British Columbia and the Alaska mainland to its delta, just a few miles NW of Wrangell.

A favorite camping, fishing, hunting and boating area for residents and visitors alike, the Stikine offers magnificent scenery, with unparalleled views of glaciers, ice fields and mountains.

In 1980, when Congress passed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. (ANILCA), the 449,951-acre Stikine-LeConte Wilderness was created, surrounding the Alaskan portion of the river.

Roaring rapids and unique landscapes are among the many attractions found by following the Stikine River into interior British Columbia. Relatively few people have seen the spectacular mountains, canyons, glacier, forests and wildlife of this area.



**A harbor seal takes refuge in an iceberg; the icebergs break off LeConte glacier and can sometimes be found floating at the mouth of the Stikine.**

Those who wish to experience this beauty should come prepared for a real wilderness adventure.

The Stikine empties into the Pacific Ocean just five miles north of Wrangell, but the river begins its 330-mile long journey deep inside British Columbia at peaceful headwaters in Spatsizi Wilderness Park.

Grizzly bear, caribou, moose, and mountain goat roam the tranquil rolling tableland in this area, which is surrounded by vast mountains.

The alpine tundra along the upper reaches of the Stikine gradually gives way to a thick spruce forest farther down

stream.

One of the most spectacular features of the river is the 55-mile long Grand Canyon of the Stikine, about 200 miles upstream from Wrangell. Canyon walls are as high as 1,000 feet.

Just south of the Grand Canyon is Mount Edziza Provincial Park and Recreation Area – one of the most significant volcanic areas of Canada. No eruptions have been officially recorded, but legends of Native people living in the area indicate that volcanic activity took place within the last century.

At the west end of the Grand



**Sealions gather on Lesnoi Island in the spring waiting for the Hooligan run.**

Canyon is Telegraph Creek, population approx. 300, the only town along the Stikine, established by the Tahltan people. Rafters, kayakers and canoeists use the town as a starting point for exciting, scenic trips downriver to Wrangell.

The high peaks of the Coast Mountains up to 10,000 feet, tower over the river. Glaciers hang from high mountain valleys. The river winds between forested shores and wide expanses of sand and log deposits past connecting river outlets and cascading waterfalls, through incredibly untamed country where visitors enjoy camping, fishing, hunting, and exploring.

The Stikine crosses the border into Alaska for the last 30 miles of its run.

Many Wrangell residents pilot their boats across the Stikine delta - not an easy feat, since the delta is laced with tricky sandbars – to explore the side sloughs of the river, picnic on sandy beaches or visit other favorite spots.

Several Wrangell charter boat operators offer trips on the Stikine, including roundtrips to Telegraph Creek, B. C. Inquire with individual advertisers or with the Chamber of Commerce or museum staff. See our Charter Boat listing on page 7.

*Wrangell's Only Waterfront Hotel.*



**STIKINE INN**

www.stikineinn.com

*Located 1 Mile From the Airport & 1 Block From the Ferry Terminal*

*Wide Selection of Rooms Available: Single Rooms to Spacious Suites*

*Courtesy Van*

*Full Service Restaurant Located in the Hotel*



■■■ **www.stikineinn.com** ■■■

**RESERVATIONS:**  
 Local Phone: 907-874-3388  
 Toll Free: 1-888-874-3388



# Stikine River highlights, places to play and relax



One way to see the Stikine River is by small plane. This view of the braided channels at the lower end of the river was taken in the spring, before the flats turn green and the channels have lost all their ice. Small plane is also one of two ways to reach Telegraph Creek, British Columbia, the other being via jet boat. Other favorite Stikine destinations - Garnet Ledge, Chief Shakes Hot Springs and Twin Lakes - are also all accessible via jet boat..

## GARNET LEDGE

At the edge of the river delta, near a U. S. Forest Service public recreation cabin, a trail leads to a 38-acre garnet mine where local children mine the garnets, which they then sell to visitors. The mine was deeded to the Boy Scouts of America in 1962 and Southeast children are the only ones allowed to remove garnets, using only hand tools. However, the Garnet Ledge is currently closed until further notice. The title was later passed to the Presbyterian Church. Please contact the Presbyterian Church for more information.

## CHIEF SHAKES HOT SPRINGS

Located 28 miles NW of Wrangell, up the Stikine River by boat, this is one of the more popular recreational destinations for local residents. One covered and one open-air tub provide comfortable places for a hot soak.

There are dressing rooms, benches and outhouses, but no overnight accommodations. Expect large crowds on weekends, holidays and sunny days throughout the summer.

High river level at Ketili Slough is required for easiest access, but a .3-mile trail (easy to moderate) off Hot Springs Slough provides access at lower water levels.

## TWIN LAKES

When the river is high enough to allow access to these lakes, they are a favorite summer recreation spot for water skiing, jet skiing, picnicking and swimming. At the entrance to Twin Lakes Slough, the Forest Service has a public recreation cabin available for rent. There is also a trail leading from the cabin to the lakes.

## TELEGRAPH CREEK, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Much farther afield, and a trip back in time, is an excursion up the Stikine River to Telegraph Creek, 160 miles from

Wrangell into the Canadian interior. Planes also fly this route.

Visitors get a first-hand look at a historic Gold Rush town with many buildings remaining from that era, including the former Hudson's Bay Company store, which is on the Canadian Heritage Building listing. There are opportunities for walking, hiking, fishing, and camping. Telegraph Creek also offers a land link into Canada. Just 70 miles to the NE is Dease Lake and the Cassiar Highway, which crosses the "Grand Canyon," one of British Columbia's most infamous river canyons, by bridge.

# ATM

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# Muskeg Meadows, Southeast's only regulation golf course

Wrangell is the site of Southeast Alaska's first regulation 9-hole golf course, Muskeg Meadows.

The fairways are long and wide and there is a covered driving range and an eight-station practice putting green available for free use.

Wrangell Golf Club has hosted many "Best Ball Scrambles" and other tournaments, drawing contestants from around Southeast Alaska and the Lower 48 states.

Hard-core players may want to come out whatever the weather. The covered driving

range will keep you out of the rain while working on your slice or hook.

And on sunny days, there's no nicer place for a walk – and few prettier courses. Visible over and between the trees are spectacular ocean views, with forested and snow-capped islands beyond. Keep an eye out for bald eagles overhead, too, and be aware that a few local black bear also like to wander the course.

Located on Ishiyama Drive near the airport, the course is entirely the work of volunteers, with much of the equipment and



**Muskeg Meadows is Southeast Alaska's first regulation 9-hole golf course.**

materials donated by Alaska Pulp Corporation, which until 1994 operated Wrangell's sawmill, Ketchikan Pulp Corporation, and Silver Bay Logging.

Membership currently stands at over 450, with 65% of the members from Southeast Alaska. The Club does however boast members from all across the states and several foreign countries including Canada and

Japan. The club has established a "Raven Rule" that provides if a raven steals your ball you may replace it with no penalty provided you have a witness.

There are golf clubs and pull carts available for rental at the course. If interested in playing a round while you're visiting Wrangell, call Muskeg Meadows at 874-4653 or contact the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce at 1-800-367-9745.

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Web site: [www.fishwrangell.com](http://www.fishwrangell.com)**

# Nolan Center, a community gathering place

Since its opening in 2004, the James and Elsie Nolan Center has become a well-established part of the community and town skyline. Housed within the Nolan Center are the Wrangell Museum, the Wrangell Convention Center, the Wrangell Visitor Center, and Castle Mountain Theater.

The museum features a chronological history of Wrangell and the Stikine River. Exhibits feature the natural environment, Native culture, the fur trade, military presence, the gold rushes and mining, churches and schools, fishing, logging and 20th Century history. In addition, there is a central area that allows for a three to five minute video highlighting these topics. There are also audio, video and hands-on components at various stations in the exhibit area. Over 250 photos from the museum collection, which number in the tens of thousands, have been selected for display. Many of the museum's three-dimensional artifacts are also used, as well as several borrowed artifacts that help with the interpretations of different aspects of Wrangell's rich history.

In addition to the current exhibits in the main gallery, the museum's storage is also available for viewing through a window in the back of the main gallery. This is to allow visitors to view the artifacts



**The Nolan Center and Museum is truly a multi-use facility, housing the museum, civic center, convention and visitors bureau, and theater.**

not currently on display. Also, the museum's extensive art collection will be featured in the lobby area.

Upon entering the Nolan Center, visitors will see the original Chief Shakes House houseposts. Further into the lobby are two totems overlooking a replica of the Stikine River Delta inlaid on the floor. Overhead, an advanced lighting system displays the northern lights on the ceiling.

The Visitor's Center houses an interactive map of the island and Stikine River Delta. Here visitors can also find maps, brochures, and photos.

Representatives from the United States Forest Service will also be in the Visitors Center on days when a boat is in town.

A small theater next to the Visitors Center has seating for twenty-four. The large theater seats two hundred in a stadium-style setup.



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# Hiking, camping, sightseeing and enjoying the island

Wrangell offers many scenic spots for picnicking and camping, from City Park and Shoemaker Bay near town, to Nemo Point and Salamander Creek campsites, further out.

## CITY PARK

Located about one mile south of downtown on Zimovia Highway, the waterfront park is adjacent to an historic cemetery and an old baseball field now in use as the Community Garden.

There are picnic tables, shelters and restrooms. Camping, in tents only, is restricted to 24 hours. Camping is not allowed inside the shelters, and overnight parking is prohibited. Call the Pool at 874-2444 for information.

Bicyclists will want to take advantage of the 4 miles of paved bike trail along Zimovia Strait.

## MOUNT DEWEY

Located right behind downtown, this large tree covered hill is a quick hike for a fine view of Wrangell and Zimovia

Strait. A trail leads up the hill from downtown. Go up to Third Street behind the high school, or up McKinnon Street to the set of stairs leading up to Reid Street, veer left and follow the residential street until it becomes a narrow dirt road. A sign points the way to the trail.

## VOLUNTEER TRAIL

For a short, but pleasant walk near town, head for Evergreen Elementary School and the baseball fields behind it. Taking either the route between the two fields or north past the tennis courts, a gravel trail meanders through the muskeg with interpretive signs pointing out particular flora and fauna, as well as occasional benches to rest on, compliments of the U.S. Forest Service.

## SHOEMAKER BAY

Shoemaker Bay RV Park is located about five miles south of town, along Zimovia Highway.

The park offers 25 sites open exclusively to RV and



City Park catches the last rays of a sunny summer day. It is a popular place for picnics.

trailer campers – 15 with electricity, 10 without. All sites have excellent views of Zimovia Strait and neighboring Woronkofski Island. A fresh water pump is located near the entrance to

Shoemaker Harbor parking lot.

Sites with electrical power are \$25 a night; those without are \$15. Call 874-2444 for information, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Facilities are on a first-come, first-served basis; no reservations taken.

A holding tank dumpsite for RVs has been installed in the harbor parking lot. There are also restrooms and a dumpster. A tent camping area is located in a wooded spot near a creek. South of the creek is a tennis court, restrooms and picnic shelter. Tent campers should use the designated camping area only. Inquire at City Hall at 874-2381 or Parks and Rec at 874-2444 for tent camping rules.

## RAINBOW FALLS TRAIL

*Moderate to Difficult*

Just across Zimovia Highway from the Shoemaker

See Hiking, page 13

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# Hiking, continued

Continued from page 12

Bay camping areas is Rainbow Falls Trail, which offers a self-guided hike through pristine Southeast Alaska rainforest. A little less than a mile up the trail is a beautiful view of Rainbow Falls; a tenth of a mile later, the trail ends above the waterfall and provides spectacular views of Chichagof Pass, Zimovia Strait and surrounding islands. Viewing platforms and bench seating make this a great place for a picnic. The trail intersects with Institute Creek Trail.

## INSTITUTE CREEK TRAIL

*Difficult to Most Difficult*

If you choose to continue from the Rainbow Falls Trail, this trek offers many scenic views from another 2.7 miles (and a total 1,500-foot gain in elevation) on the way to Shoemaker Bay Overlook.

## SHOEMAKER BAY OVERLOOK SHELTER

There's a three sided shelter, picnic table, fire grill and outhouse, as well as excellent view of Shoemaker Bay Harbor, Zimovia Strait, and surrounding islands.

## NORTH WRANGELL TRAIL

*Difficult to Most Difficult*

This trail begins 2.2 miles from the Rainbow Falls

Trailhead via Rainbow Falls and Institute Creek Trails. Trail leads 1.3 miles to the High Country Shelter and continues another 1.0 mile to the Pond Shelter. Shelters are three-sided with picnic table and outhouse. Optional starting point is from the trailhead at the parking area on the Spur Road Extension, approximately 3.6 miles from the intersection of Bennett Street and the beginning of Ishiyama Drive (Spur Road). This trail is surfaced with boardwalk.

## PATS LAKE


Pats Lake recreation area is located 11 miles south of downtown Wrangell, at a crossroads where dirt roads branch off Zimovia Highway. The first road to the left goes by Pats Lake, while the second turn-off leads to Pats Creek. There's pleasant hiking along an easy mile-long trail from Pats Lake, which follows Pats Creek as it empties into the sea. Several varieties of trout are found in the lake and creek. The creek also has a fall salmon run.

The turn off to the right leads down to a log dump on the water. A short walk north on the beach leads to a sandy point, which is good for picnicking or a little seaside relaxation as well as an occasional haunt of local saltwater fly fishermen.



Pats Lake is a favorite place to canoe in the summer or ice-skate in the winter.

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## Traveling to Canada, it's close but requires a stop at customs

Anyone interested in visiting Alaska's nearest neighbor, Canada, may do so if they have a few hours to spend on a spectacularly scenic and enjoyable trip. Local jet boat operators and Sunrise Aviation will transport visitors on relaxing tours of the Stikine River, Canadian mountains and scenery, and stop in Telegraph Creek, B.C. for a visit if time allows.

Anyone visiting another country (yes, Canada is near, but still a foreign country) must be cleared through customs. Twenty four hours notice is generally required by Canadian Customs, and can be done in advance by calling the company that you will be using (see Charter Boat Listing on page 20), giving each your birth date and nationality. In some

instances it is possible to take the tours on a shorter notice, depending on Canadian Customs schedule.

There are no customs requirements necessary for a flight over the Canadian border if no landing takes place there.

Call American Customs at 874-3415 when returning to Wrangell.

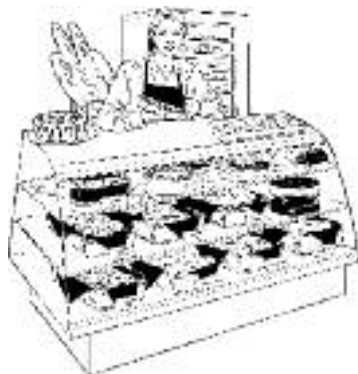


One way to get into Canada is via small airplane.

# Bobs'



*Wrangell's Quality Food Store*



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**DELI** - The place to stop for delicious snacks and meals. Fresh-made sandwiches, hot soups and chili, soft frozen yogurt and espresso.

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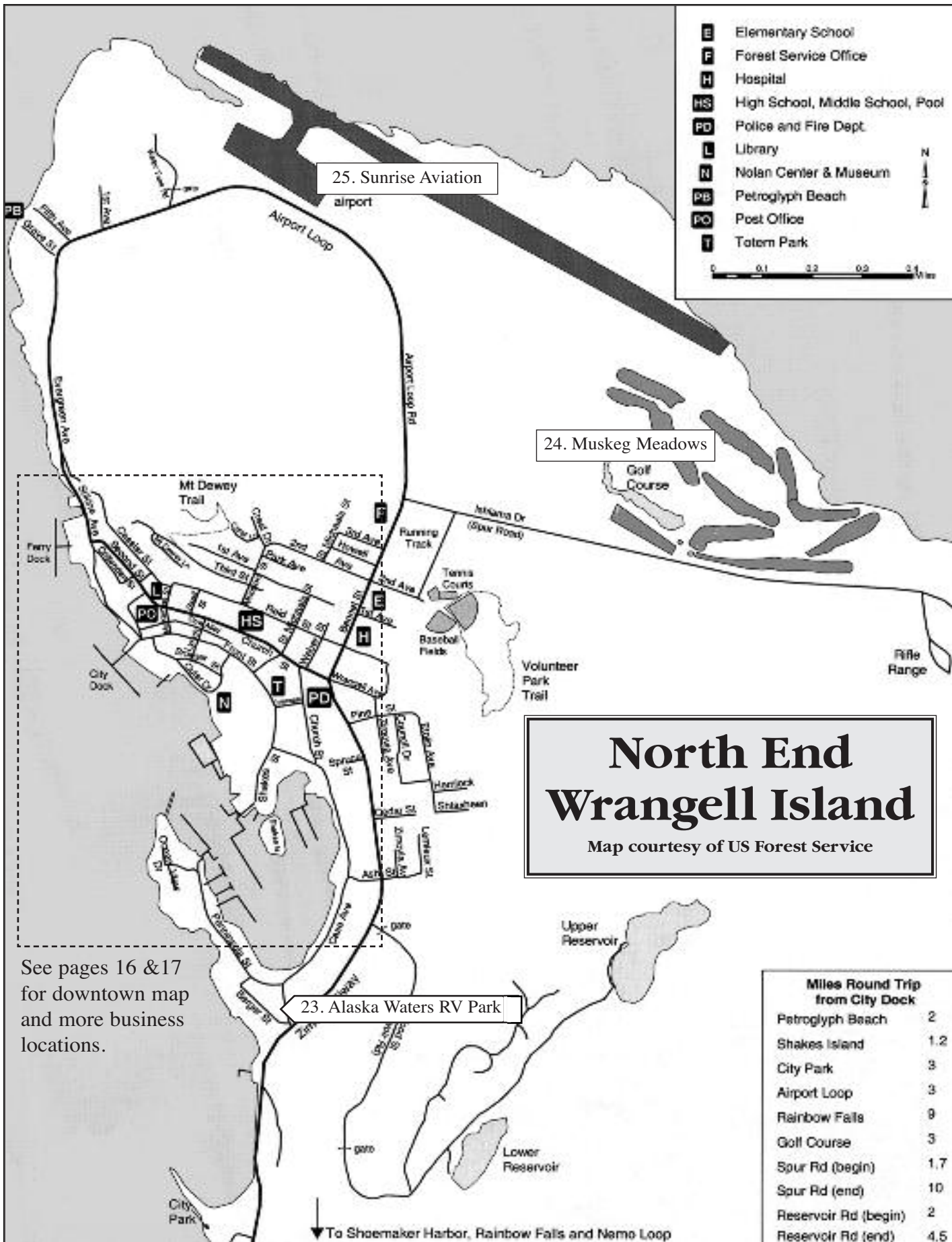
**LIQUOR** - A complete selection of liquor, wine, beer and quality cigars.

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**Located Downtown on Campbell Drive next to the Museum  
Phone: 874-2341**





25. Sunrise Aviation

24. Muskeg Meadows

23. Alaska Waters RV Park

- E** Elementary School
- F** Forest Service Office
- H** Hospital
- HS** High School, Middle School, Pool
- PD** Police and Fire Dept.
- L** Library
- N** Nolan Center & Museum
- PB** Petroglyph Beach
- PO** Post Office
- T** Totem Park



# North End Wrangell Island

Map courtesy of US Forest Service

See pages 16 & 17 for downtown map and more business locations.

Miles Round Trip from City Dock	
Petroglyph Beach	2
Shakes Island	1.2
City Park	3
Airport Loop	3
Rainbow Falls	9
Golf Course	3
Spur Rd (begin)	1.7
Spur Rd (end)	10
Reservoir Rd (begin)	2
Reservoir Rd (end)	4.5

↓ To Shoemaker Harbor, Rainbow Falls and Nemo Loop

# Wrangell Business Directory

This map is presented as a public service by the following businesses advertised in the Wrangell Guide

1. **Fennimore's B&B**, 312 Stikine Ave., Box 957, 874-3012
2. **Stikine Inn and Restaurant**, 105 Stikine Ave., Box 662, 874-3388
3. **Alaska Waters**, 107 Stikine Ave., Box 1978, 874-2378
4. **Alaska Vistas, Java Junkie, Stickeen Wilderness Adventures**, Box 934 WVG, 874-2085
5. **Angerman's Inc.**, 2 Front St., Box 928, 874-3640
6. **Buness Bros.**, 64 Front St., Box 681, 874-3811
7. **Rooney's Roost**, 206 McKinnon St., 874-2026
8. **Ottesen's**, 104 Front St., Box 81, 874-3377
9. **Totem Bar & Liquor**, 116 Front St., Box 499, 874-3533
10. **Wells Fargo**, 115 Front St., Box 261, 874-3341
11. **Smith Chiropractic**, 109 Lynch St., Box 1651, 874-3361
12. **Stikine Drug**, 202 Front St., Box 471, 874-3422
13. **Wrangell Sentinel**, 205 Front St., Box 798, 874-2301
14. **Wrangell Chamber of Commerce**, 224 Front St., Box 49, 874-3901
15. **Diamond C Cafe**, 215 Front St., Box 274, 874-3677
16. **Bobs' IGA**, 223 Brueger St., Box 21, 874-2341
17. **Nolan Center/Museum**, 296 Campbell Drive, Box 1050, 874-3770
18. **G&G Alaska**, 118 St. Michael's St., Box 11, 874-3950
19. **Sentry Hardware & Marine**, 408 Front St., Box 1139, 874-3336
20. **City Market**, 423 Front St., Box 140, 874-3333
21. **Bay Co.**, 441 Front St., Box 797, 874-3340
22. **The Haystack**, 1002 Case, Box 431, 874-3648

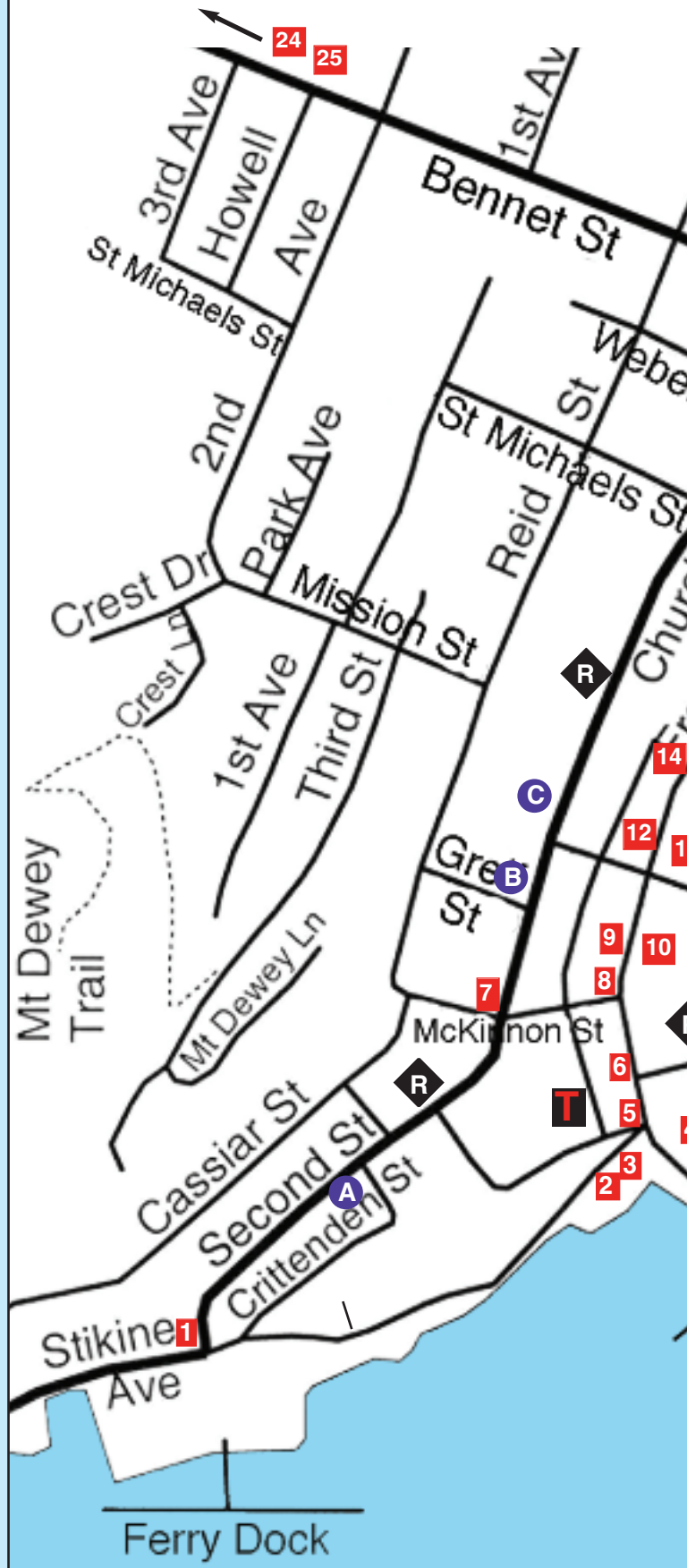
See map on page 15 for the following businesses

23. **Alaska Waters RV Park**, 241 Berger St., Box 1978, 874-2378
24. **Muskeg Meadows Golf Course**, Ishyama Drive, 874-4653
25. **Sunrise Aviation**, Wrangell Airport, Box 432, 874-2319

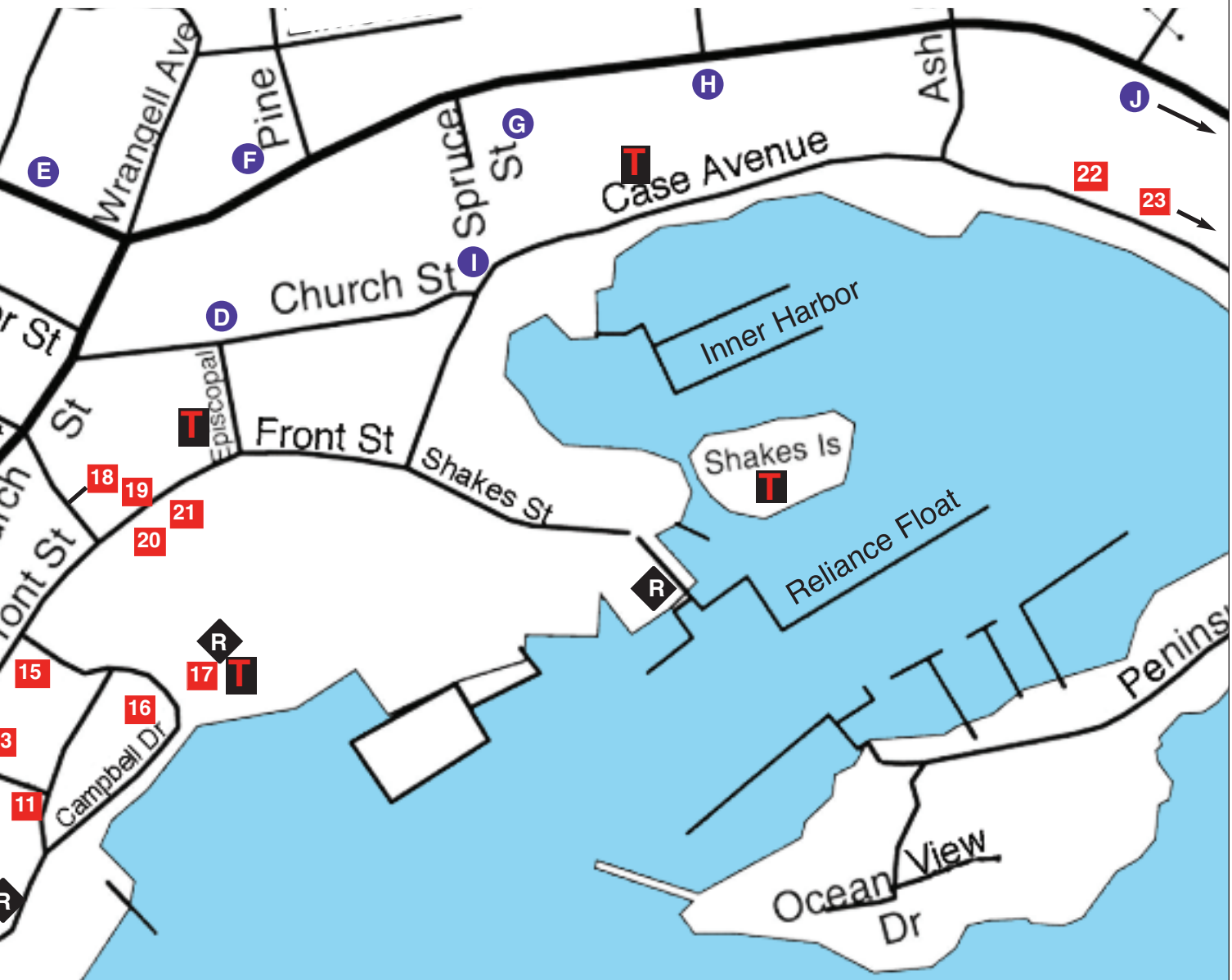
**R** = Public Restrooms

**T** = Locations of Totems

# - Downtown



# n Wrangell Business Listings -

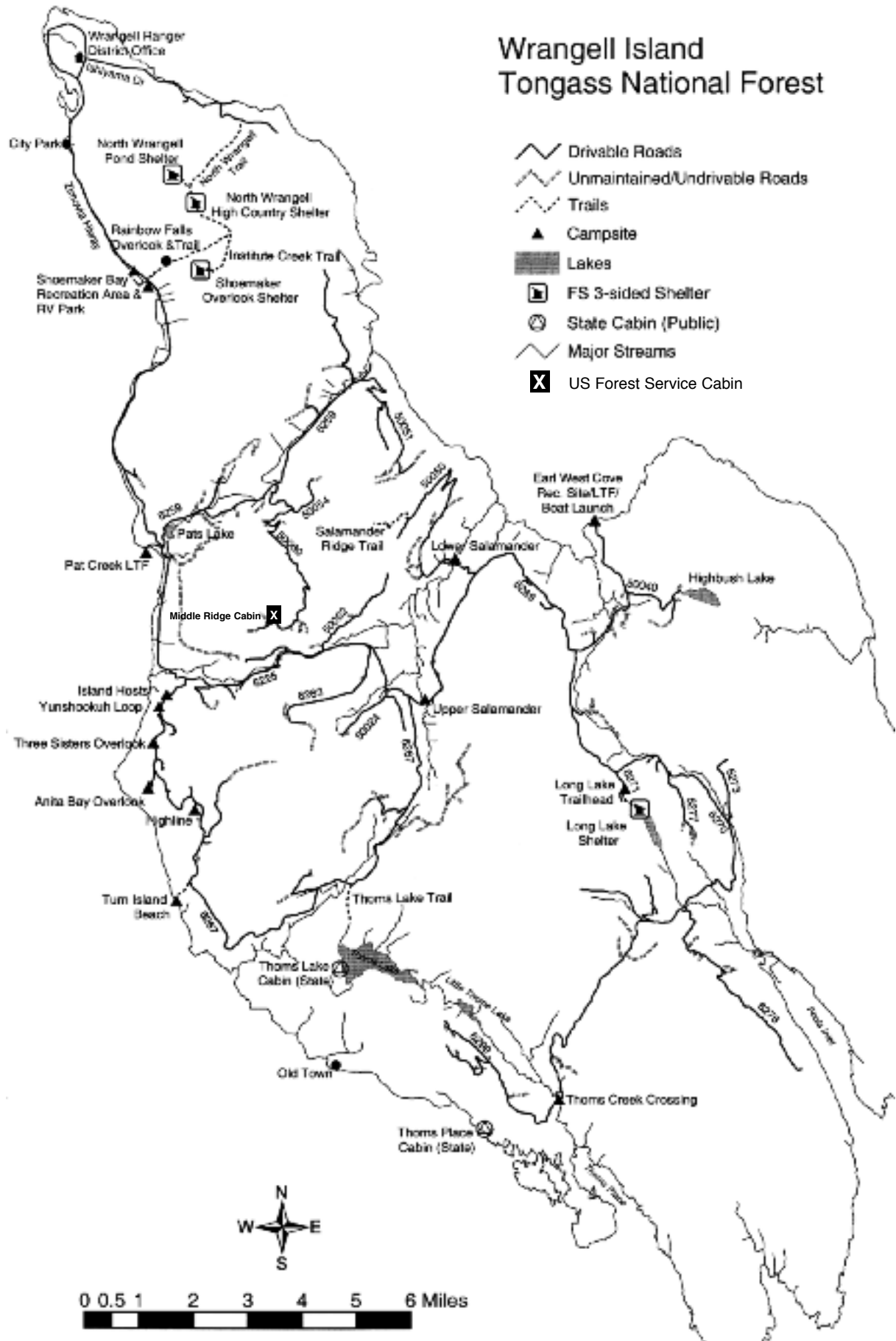


## ~ Wrangell Churches ~

- A. Island of Faith Lutheran Church-ELCA
  - B. St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church
  - C. First Presbyterian Church
  - D. St. Philip's Episcopal Church
  - E. Wrangell Community Church of God
  - F. Wrangell Seventh-day Adventist Church
  - G. The Salvation Army
  - H. Harbor Light Assembly of God
  - I. Bible Baptist Church
  - J. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- See page 5 for worship times, addresses & phone numbers*



# Wrangell Island Tongass National Forest



# U.S. Forest Service cabins, a great weekend escape

Imagine unwinding in a quaint little log cabin in the solitude of a vast forest, beside a lake, river, or seashore, experiencing nature at its best. If you're prepared to give up some of the benefits of civilization and enjoy a simpler way of life for a few days, you can do just that by reserving a Forest Service cabin.

The Forest Service has more than 125 public use cabins throughout the Tongass National Forest, with 22 in the Wrangell Ranger district.

Most of the cabins are in remote areas and are primarily used for hunting, fishing and recreation. Inland cabins are usually accessible only by airplane, while those on salt-water beaches can be reached by boat or float plane, depending on tides.

The Wrangell Ranger District has its first road-accessible cabin on Middle Ridge (see map on page 18). The cabin was dedicated in June of 2010.

A \$25-\$35 per night cabin fee is charged, regardless of the number of occupants. The fee must be paid in advance at the time the user reserves a cabin.

Use of a cabin is limited to a maximum of seven consecutive days between April 1 and October 21, and to 10 consecutive days the rest of the year.

Detailed information on all area cabins is available at the Wrangell Forest Service office, located at 525 Bennett St. The phone number is (907) 874-2323, or for reservations call 877-444-6777 or log on to the website [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).



PHOTO COURTESY OF US FOREST SERVICE

The Middle Ridge Cabin is the Wrangell Ranger District's first road accessible cabin. The cabin is about 20 miles outside of town and is accessible to high clearance vehicles in the summer and snow machine, snowshoe and ski in the winter.

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# Petroglyph Beach, a mystery and puzzle from the past

No visit to Wrangell is complete without seeing the ancient carvings on Petroglyph Beach, a State Historic Site.

To reach the picturesque beach from the state ferry terminal (it's about a 20 minute walk), turn left on Evergreen Avenue, walk north about a mile and watch for a sign and small parking area with a gravel road to the left, heading down to the beach. The Alaska State Park Service recently built a wheelchair-accessible viewing platform where petroglyph replicas can be seen

and used for rubbings. Rubbings made on the original rocks on the beach are discouraged as years of erosion and abrasion have taken their toll. Visitors are asked to help preserve the original carvings for future generations.

There are steps leading down to the beach for closer inspection of the ancient carvings and enjoying the local seashore. The best time for this is at low tide.

No one – neither Native people, nor archaeologists – knows for sure who carved the petroglyphs or why.



One of the original petroglyphs in its natural place on Petroglyph Beach.

Carbon-14 dating is ineffective, and dating by use of nearby organic substances isn't feasible because the rocks are located on an active beach.

Former U.S. Forest Service archaeologist Larry Roberts believes the petroglyphs were probably carved by early Stikine Tlingits possibly 1,000 years ago. The late Tlingit Elder, Dick Stokes, concurs. However, archaeological finds elsewhere in Southeast Alaska show that man was present here more than 8,000 years ago, so the rock carvings could be far older.

Some of the petroglyphs have been removed to the museum and the library and can be viewed there.

Please do not damage the carvings or take any of the rocks home with you. They are treasured landmarks to the people of Wrangell, and are protected from loss, desecration, and destruction under the Alaska Historic Preservation Act of 1971.

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# Walking tour of Wrangell and its historic buildings

*Wrangell has many historic and fascinating places to see during your visit. The Wrangell Walking Tour is designed for an easy 45-minute stroll. You'll probably want to allow extra time for browsing in shops, visiting the Museum, or stopping somewhere to eat.*

To get into town from the ferry terminal, locate the weathered wooden "Wrangell" sign, near the edge of the parking lot, with its history of the town, and the **Forest Service** sign with its information about cabins and bears. Follow the narrow one-lane road south (it looks like an alley between small wooden

houses) and enjoy a fine view of Zimovia Strait as you go. There's an informational sign on the walkway as you near town, naming the visible islands, and telling the story of "Elephant's Nose," a local landmark.

One block will bring you to the **Stikine Inn**, a blue two-story building, which also houses the **Stikine Inn Restaurant, The Parlor** and **Alaska Waters** gift shop. Uphill, to your left, is the **Post Office**, dating from about 1940. This was the original site of Fort Wrangell and Customs Office in the late 1800s. There is an excellent totem on the front lawn. (You'll notice there

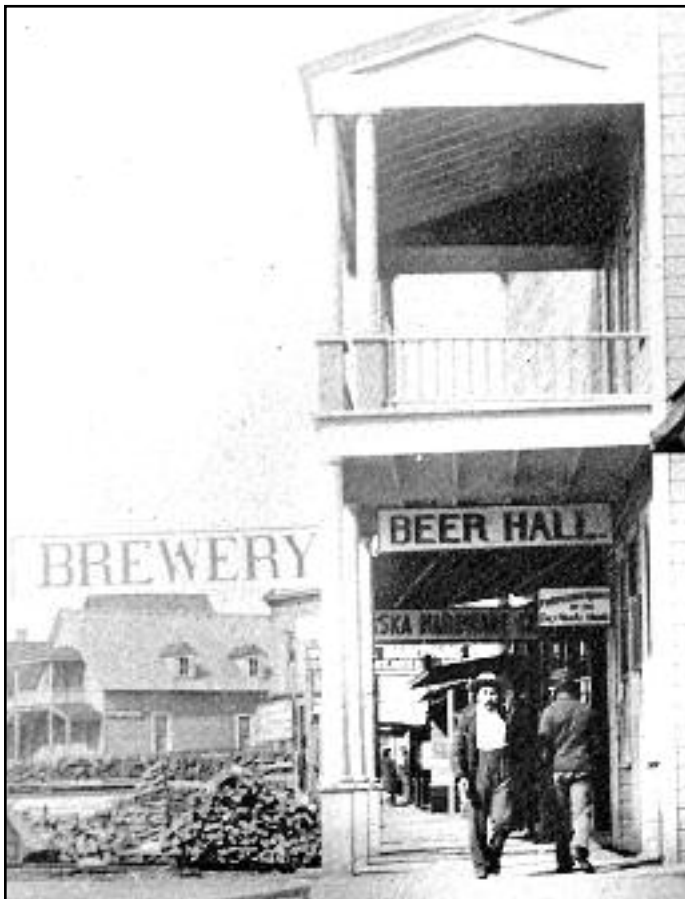
are no mailboxes on city streets, so if you want to mail a letter or postcard, this is where to do it.)

At the **Stikine Inn** (where cruise ship passengers will start their walk from City Dock) turn onto the town's main street – **Front Street**. Many famous people from history have stepped off ships and onto this dock and down Front Street, such as Wyatt Earp, John Muir, and President Harding to name a few. A good

number of buildings date from the late 1800s and early 1900s. All the historical buildings are on the left side of the street, because a fire at the beginning of the 1900s and another in 1952 burned all the structures and docks that used to exist on the waterside: that area is now occupied by buildings constructed on fill.

Note the historical plaques affixed to the buildings: the

See Walking tour, page 22



A view of Front Street from the late 1800's. The building in the foreground is now the Greif/Stough Building (1898), but was formerly the Fort Wrangell Brewery Beer Hall. This view is looking northwest along Front Street.

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Together we'll go far



# Walking tour, continued

Continued from page 21

**Matheson/Angerman's Building** (c. 1907); the **Grant/Buness Building** with its two parts dating from 1906 and 1927, which used to house the Pioneer Hotel; the **Patenaude/Grant Building** with its six-sided shingled turret, which served as the center for city government between 1907 and 1911; the **Campbell/Ottesen** (1934), a hardware store incorporating the old Fire Hall from 1912; **Wheeler/Angerman**, (now the **Totem Bar**), built in 1908; the **Greif/Stough Building** (1898), formerly the Fort Wrangell Brewery Beer Hall,

currently between tenants; the **Uhler/Nolan Building** (1913) which houses **Stikine Drug**; the **Engstrom/Taylor Building**; the **Waters/Phillips Building** (1922) which now features **Jerry's Arcade**; the **Jenkins/Hofstad Building** (1934) which houses **Wrangell Insurance**; the **Biehl Building** (1898); and the **Grant/Wilcox Building** (c1910) on the west side of Front Street.

Across the street from Stikine Drug, you'll see the office of the **Wrangell Sentinel**, Alaska's longest continuously published newspaper. Looking toward the waterfront on Lynch Street (across

from the Stikine Drug) you'll see the one-story brown building with a large Native design on the side, housing the **City Hall**. Nearby is a picnic area with a fine view of the harbor, and public restrooms to the right, behind the **Elks Lodge**. Take a short excursion now along Outer Drive Loop, behind **Bobs' IGA supermarket**, to the home of the **James and Elsie Nolan Center**, Wrangell's museum and convention center. Leaving the museum area, and continuing on past First Bank, you will again meet Front Street.

(Practical matters: The **Wells Fargo Bank** on Front Street houses a 24-hour ATM. Another ATM machine belonging to **First Bank** is also located on the side of the First Bank building.)

Continuing along Front Street just past **Sentry**

**Hardware and City Market grocery store**, you will see **Totem Park** to the left. The Kiks.adi (also called the Kahlteen) Totem at the front of the park, and the other three totems farther back, along the gravel paths, are painstakingly carved replicas of totems that once stood throughout the community. Note the church at the top of the hill. Your tour will take you past it later.

Front Street ends at the corner of Case Avenue and Shakes Street, near the blue building called **Rayme's Bar**. Angle off to the right at the "Y" and soon you will pass **Churchill's Laundramat**, **Kassinger's Creations** and the **Marine Bar** on the left. The Marine Bar is located on the site of **Fort St. Dionysius**, built by the Russian American

See Walking tour, page 24

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## Walking tour, continued

Continued from page 22

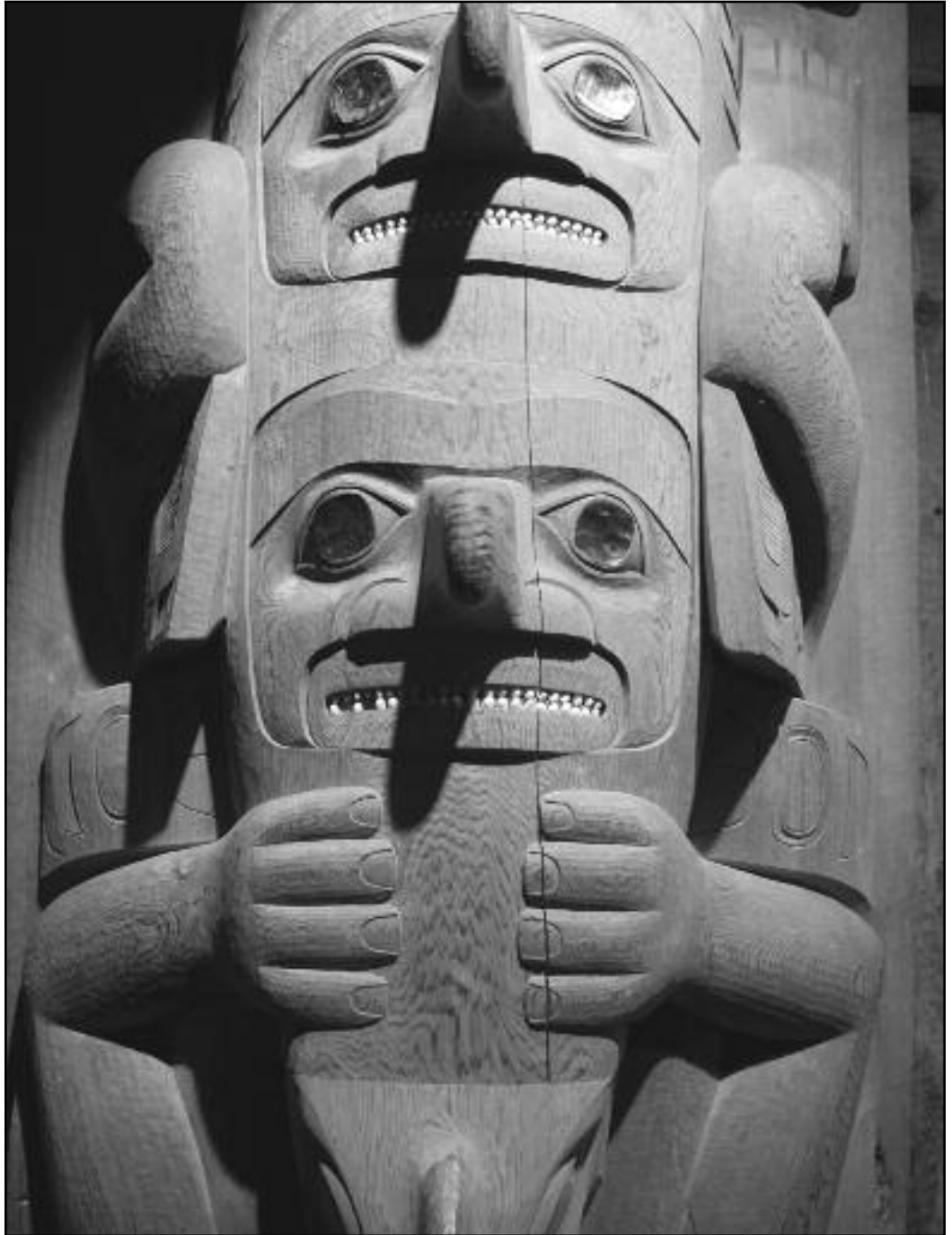
Company in 1832 to keep “King George’s men” of the Hudson’s Bay Company from going up the Stikine River. Across from the bar is a **Trident Seafoods** cannery and cold storage. On the dock area is the **Harbormaster’s Office** on the right.

A wooden walkway leads to **Shakes Island** across from the Harbormaster’s Office. Dating from 1840 to 1940, the island’s Tlingit tribal house and totems are maintained by the Wrangell Cooperative Association. The building, which is on the National Register of Historic Sites, is open at times during the summer months and for cruise ships, and offers an excellent chance to see firsthand a glimpse of the past and the items and lodgings of the early Tlingit people.

A wonderful, peaceful oasis, the island affords a picturesque (and photogenic) view of the harbor. Half-log benches offer a restful place to sit and drink it all in. Up in the trees, watch for ravens and bald eagles, who seem to have adopted this place as their own private refuge.

Returning from Shakes Island, retrace your steps to the “Y” at the Rayme’s Bar and turn right onto Case Avenue. Walking for a few minutes will take you to a sharp right bend after which you will pass a few houses on the left and a **boat shop** on the right. Across from the boat shop, up on a hill, is **Chief Shake’s Grave**. This site is nestled amongst evergreens and salmonberry bushes and is marked by two killer whale totems and a fence.

Returning back toward town on Case Avenue, take the first right heading up onto



Detail of carved house posts inside Chief Shakes House.

Church Street, where the **Wrangell Baptist Church** sits on a hill. Looking over to your right, on the next street over, Zimovia Highway, you can spot the backs of the **Salvation Army Church** and the **Harborlight Assembly of God**.

Continuing on Church Street stands **St. Philip’s Episcopal Church**. Founded by the Rev. H. P. Courser, a noted figure in Wrangell history, the church was built by local Native people in 1903. The Episcopal Church also operated the first hospital in

Wrangell until the city took it over in the 1960s. The church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Church Street parts on the left at the next intersection (turning right would take you

See Walking tour, page 25

## Walking tour, continued



Wrangell harbor's Reliance Float, as viewed from Chief Shakes Island, on a calm summer evening.

### Continued from page 24

to Zimovia Highway, towards the **hospital, police department** and south highway). Returning left, toward town, you'll see the studios of **KSTK-FM** (Radio Stikine: 101.7 on the dial) and the blue-roofed **Stikine Middle School** and **Wrangell High School**, built in 1985, complete with a **swimming pool** and **exercise rooms** that are open to the public.

Continuing north on Church Street, you pass the **First Presbyterian Church**, the "Oldest Protestant Church in Alaska" founded in 1879 by the Rev. S. Hall Young, a noted

Christian missionary and friend of the naturalist John Muir. Another Presbyterian missionary, Amanda McFarland, arrived in 1878 to start a school for Native girls; this was on the site of the present high school. The church has maintained a continuous ministry since its organization in August 1879. The lighted cross on the steeple is used as a beacon for fishermen at sea.

Two buildings down is **St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church**, also established in 1879, and the "First Catholic Church in Alaska." The church was established by Fathers C.J. Seghers and J. Althoff. Note

the stonework stairs and the lovely rose stained glass window above the doorway.

At the corner of Church Street and McKinnon is the **Wrangell Senior Center**, which offers hospitality and lunches Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Visitors are welcome. Call 874-2066 for information.

The **Irene Ingle Public Library**, located behind the **Post Office**, is named for its former longtime librarian. The library has an excellent collection of Alaskana, current newspapers, magazines, as well as computers and a friendly staff to serve you.

Continue across the street to the Post Office, (which you saw from the bottom of the hill earlier) a two story white stucco building which served as federal offices for many years. From here you can enjoy a spectacular view of Zimovia Strait.

From the Post Office, go back down the hill to Front Street and City Dock, or if you're going back to the state ferry terminal, continue walking north from the Library.

There, you've seen a good sample of Wrangell, but be sure to visit the other interesting sights around the island if time and energy permit.

# Wrangell's totems reflect a rich native heritage

*Throughout Wrangell are reminders of the rich Native culture that has contributed greatly to the community's growth. These totem poles are replications of the many totems that stood in Wrangell when the Native village thrived in the 1800s.*

## KIK.SETTI TOTEM PARK

The Kik.setti totem park on Front Street at the intersection of Episcopal Street was created in 1987 to conclude a major totem restoration project undertaken by the Wrangell Cultural Heritage Committee.

Carvers Steve Brown and Wayne Price used painstaking precision to make certain this group of totems authentically conveyed the artistic skills of the original carvers.

The site of the totem park is the former home of the Sun House and was the original home of the first Kik.setti totem. The replicated totem was carved without the aid of

power tools at the request of the descendents of the original owners.

### Kik.setti Totem

According to Totem Lore of the Alaska Indian and the Land of the Totem by the Rev. H.P. Corser, the Kik.setti totem contains symbols of the Kik.setti people, one clan of the Tlingit people who first settled Wrangell Island.

This totem was erected in honor of Chief Kahlteen in 1895. Kahlteen was head of the Wrangell Kik.setti clan.

Corser's book says, "The pole is surmounted by a face which represents a mountain. This mountain was the camping place on the Stikine River, where the legends of the tribe were supposed to take place."

The frog carved below the face is the emblem of the tribe. Before the legendary great flood, a young man committed mischief to the frog. As a result, the man was thrown into a trance and some clans-

men were going to kill the frog. But they decided to wait until the chief returned.

When the chief returned, he told the men not to kill the frog because the frog was considered part of their family.

Below the frog is the old Raven, the Creator, according to legend. The old Raven is talking to the young Raven that made man. The lowest figure of all is the Killisnoo beaver.

### Raven Totem

The Raven totem, which originally stood at the site of the Baptist Church, depicts the Raven Creator at the top. On older poles, this Raven Creator is represented as man.

The hat is supposed to be a copy of one that the young Raven saw in the house of the old Raven, the Creator.

Beneath the Raven is a box, said to be a chief's box with spiritual power. Such boxes were used in potlatch feasts.

Below the box is the young Raven. The young Raven is represented as a raven with a man between the wings to show how Raven could change to a man at will.

Below the young Raven is the daughter of the Creator and the mother of the young Raven. The lowest figure on the totem is Ha-ya-shon-a-gu, described by Corser as "the Indian Atlas who holds up the



Detail from the 'Keet' totem at Kik.setti Totem Park

Earth."

### The Keet Totem

The Keet legend and totem were highly prized by local Tlingits. Keet, the Tlingit word for killer whale, is a strong, brave animal able to kill other whales.

The original totem in Wrangell was near the downtown harbor, about where the city's fuel docks now are located. A hole was located in the back, two board-covered cavi-

See Totems, page 27

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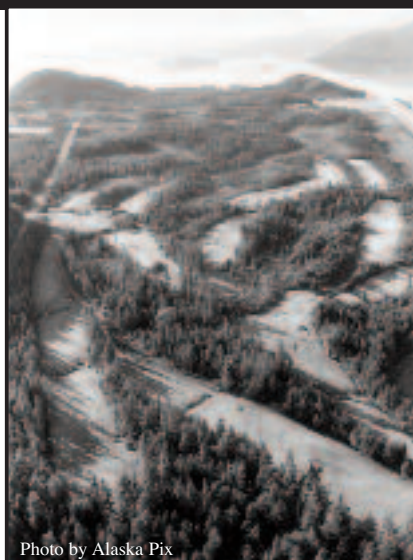


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# Totems, continued

Continued from page 26

ties, where cremated remains were kept.

The totem's legend says a man was marooned on an island by his evil brothers. While wandering over the island, he came to a door and knocked. He was bidden to enter, then found himself among the seals, whose chief was sick from an arrow

wound.

"I will heal the chief if you provide a way for me to return to my home and family," said the man when asked to heal the seal chief.

The seals agreed and the chief was healed. The chief then told the man to carve two fish out of cedar and place them in the water.

"You get on their backs and if, while there, you think only

of your family, they will take you to them; but if while there you think of your evil brothers and of revenge, they will bring you back."

The man did as he was told and the fish ultimately brought him home, where the fish killed the evil brothers.

"After this they were told not to kill anymore men – they were to only kill whales," Corser said. "Hence ever since

they have been called 'whale killers.'"

## One-Legged Fisherman

One-Legged Fisherman totem, originally located in the Indian Cemetery on Cemetery Point near the old ball field, relates the story of one of the adventures of Kayak, a mythological Tlingit hero. It was erected in 1897 in memory of

See Totems, page 28

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# Totems, continued

Continued from page 27

Kauk-ish.

The totem shows the fisherman wearing a bear coat and carrying a string of salmon.

## SHAKES ISLAND

More than 1,500 visitors streamed into Wrangell in 1940, more than doubling the town's population of 1,142 to attend the last great potlatch of the local Tlingit people.

On June 3-4, 1940, the newly constructed Chief Shakes tribal house had been completed and the totem park erected. In addition, the Native people of Southeast Alaska gathered for a ceremony to name the last Chief Shakes.

Shakes Island today is on the National Register as a historic monument site.

## Shakes Tribal House

The Shakes Tribal House is a replication of a house of high caste among the Tlingit people before Christian missionaries forced abandonment of the traditional communal residences.

The doorway of the tribal house shows a figure with many faces throughout the design. It was because of this that the building was given the name Ck! UDATC HIT, which means "house of many faces."

Carved replicas of the Shakes Clan house posts adorn the interior of the structure. The original house posts are believed to have been carved during the late 1700s.

The house posts of the Frog Clan are also on display inside the tribal house.

The tribal house was erected as part of a Forest Service-



Chief Shakes house and the 'Eagle' totem in winter.

supervised project. Construction began in June 1939.

The clan house built in 1940 replaces the Shakes Community House structure.

Chief Shakes VI died in 1916 and the title was not filled until 1940 when Kudanake attained the title.

### Eagle Totem

Joe Thomas, an elder among Wrangell Tlingits in 1940, told the paper at the time that the Eagle Totem, which stands at the entrance to Shakes Island, was called Nachee-su-na totem by the original owners.

### Bear Up The Mountain Totem

The totem before Shakes

House with a bear perched atop a tall pole and tracks making a pathway up commemorates a legendary flood.

When the flood came, the Shakes tribe was camped on the Stikine near Cone Mountain, their summer abode. As the water rose, the people fled to higher ground. Fighting their way up the mountain through the tangled underbrush, they came across two grizzly bears who were also seeking refuge. The bears showed by their actions that they wanted to help lead the Shakes people to safety.

The party reached the pinnacle of Cone Mountain,

See Totems, page 29

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## Totems, continued —

Continued from page 28

where they stayed until the water receded.

### Double Whale Crest Hat Totem

Beside the Bear Totem on Shakes Island is the Double Whale Crest Hat totem, also called Ko-na-ke-det. On this totem squats the image of a man with a whale on his head. He is Ko-na-ke-det, a name he gained upon becoming a sea monster.

The man, who later became the monster, was of high caste and married a high caste woman of another village. His mother-in-law, who lived with them, disliked her son-in-law very much. She thought he was lazy and only interested in gambling.

The mother-in-law always made slighting remarks about

See Totems, page 30



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# Totems, continued

Continued from page 29

him. When salmon season arrived, the man left the village with others, but took his catch to a lake behind Wrangell and built himself a hut. He had been told that there was a monster dwelling in the waters in the lake.

He made a trap to capture the creature. Ultimately, it died, and the man skinned it and got inside the skin. Suddenly, he found it swimming away with him down to the bottom of the lake where the monster once lived. After several such excursions, the man hid the skin and returned home.

The next year, famine gripped the village. The man donned his monster skin and made his way to the sea where he captured a salmon. He laid the fish on the beach, and his

mother-in-law found it the next morning, boasting about how she had found fish with which to feed the village.

The man told his wife his secret but told her not to tell anyone.

Night after night, he brought more food to the beach. His mother-in-law became more boastful about her ability to find food for the people. She chided her son-in-law and daughter for being lazy.

One day, the man did not return. Instead, his wife found him on the beach inside the skin, with two whales beside him. He had perished trying to bring two whales to the beach for food.

The people helped the widow take the skin back up to the lake, where she wept for the loss of her husband. Soon, however, the monster reappeared and took her beneath the water.

It is considered good luck to see Ko-na-ka-det, his wife or their children.

### Chief Kadashan Totems



Detail of the Three Frogs totem found on Shakes Island.

Proceeding around the Shakes House to the left, the first two totems are called Chief Kadashan Totems, one surmounted by the figure of a man, who is said to be the Creator.

Below the man is a carving of a Raven with a man between his wings, signifying the grandson that made man.

Below is La-kig-i-na, the father of Kayak. Kadashan described him as "all same

devil."

Below him is the spirit of La-kig-i-na.

The lowest figure of all is the thunderbird. He lives on mountains, lays a lake in his back, and when he gets uneasy he spills some of the water and this causes rain.

The left hand totem is surmounted by the eagle, the crest of the Kadashan family.

Below is the crane and the lowest figure of all is the Ko-na-ka-det put in to make the pole higher.

### Undersea Bear Totem

This totem along the back corner of the Shakes House pictures a grizzly under water. Documentation of the legend of this totem was not available from local Tlingit elders or through any source that discusses Wrangell Totems.

### Three Frogs Totem

Located on the right-hand side at the front of the Shakes Tribal House, the Three Frogs Totem was destroyed by vandals in the early 1980s. Local Native elders are divided over whether this totem should be restored because it was erected to ridicule the Frog clan. A drawing of this totem appears

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# Totems, continued

Continued from page 30

as part of a masthead on the Wrangell Sentinel.

According to Monuments in Cedar, the T-shaped roost on which three huge frogs were perched represents three Kik.setti women whose totem is the frog. The women allegedly cohabitated with three of Chief Shake's slaves. After a time, Shakes presented the Kik.setti chief with a bill for the keep of the three women who were living in his household. The Kik.setti chief would not pay, however, holding that the women had disgraced themselves by marrying beneath their station and had been ejected from the tribe. Shakes was not satisfied, so, according to custom, he had the ridicule pole carved with the idea for forcing payment.

Many maintain the debt ultimately was paid, and keeping the totem standing is a continuing affront. However, according to Dick Stokes of Wrangell, local elders (apparently including those of the Frog Clan) in 1940 agreed that the totem could be replicated as a symbol of peace among the Tlingit people of the region.

## OTHER WRANGELL TOTEMS

*Elsewhere in Wrangell are totems that also carry legends and stories about the Tlingit carvers and their ancestors.*

## SHAKES GRAVES MARKERS

Off Case Avenue are two totems marking the corners of the grave of Chief Shakes. This is the third set of killer whales erected at this site. The second copies are preserved at the Shakes House.

## POST OFFICE TOTEM

In front of the Federal Building overlooking Zimovia Straits is the Raven totem, carved by Thomas Ukas in the mid-1960s.

Ukas, whose father William Ukas was a noted and respected carver, made a number of small totems for sale and display. The Post Office pole is the only one to remain in Wrangell.

According to information compiled by Postal Service workers, this pole is a small version of one of William Ukas' carvings, the Raven Totem.

When Thomas made his version of it, the original was

in a state of advanced deterioration and, in fact, was lost a few years later in a severe windstorm, breaking into many pieces. Thomas was very particular about the


piece, mixing his own paints to ensure authenticity of the colors.

A full-sized duplicate of this Raven pole now stands in the Kik.setti totem park.


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