



GLACIERS CALVING IN PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

**Glaciers Galore** The Alaska Railroad Glacier Discovery Train took us on a two-and-a-half-hour scenic ride to Whittier, an ex-military base turned fishing village, where glacier cruises depart. Along the way, we were treated to contrasts of greenery, glimmering water and mountains dotted with Dall sheep. The train journey ended after chugging through Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel. At two-and-a-half miles, it's North America's longest tunnel shared by trains and cars.

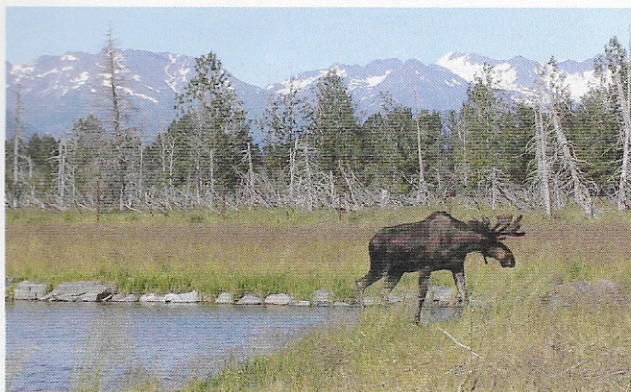
Phillips Cruises promised and delivered a seasick-free ride on its heated-catamaran 26 Glacier Cruise. Damp, gray skies prevailed, but complimentary salmon chowder warmed us up. Views of sea otters floating on their backs and harbor seals snoozing on glacial ice elicited squeals of delight. A Chugach National Forest Service ranger narrated the 140-mile cruise through Esther Passage and College Fjord and alongside Surprise Glacier, making it even more interesting and informative.

Lush, green mountains and turquoise waterfalls alone would make Prince William Sound a fabulous destination, but

the multitude and magnificence of glaciers catapulted it to spectacular. The hollow, haunted boom of glaciers calving echoed like footsteps down an empty corridor.

On the return trip, a rookery swarming with black-legged kittiwakes circling and squawking filled the air with life. "In early to mid-summer, it's common to see thousands of these members of the gull family flying in and out, bringing food to their chicks nesting in the nearly vertical rock face," said Lezlie Murray, Chugach National Forest's visitor services director.

**Urban Memory Makers** Back in the city, an Anchorage Trolley Tour proved to be a great way to get acclimated. Jody Best was a jovial, informative, third-generation Alaskan guide full of quips and sporting a sensational singing voice. She steered through Earthquake Park, talking about the petrified trees that stand solid but barren after the 1964 devastation, and past Lake Hood, where seaplanes rest at the ready.



Alaska Native Heritage Center showcases 11 major cultural groups of indigenous Alaskan people. Six authentic native dwellings to explore wait outside, along with artifacts of daily life, including warm, waterproof seal-gut parkas. Young performers share their heritage through song-and-dance presentations while dressed in *kuspuks*, contemporary versions of traditional skin parkas worn for festivals. "Female dancers wave hands gracefully as an extension of their beauty," said Mattox Metcalf, cultural programs coordinator. "Male dancers are more humble and aggressive."

Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center south of town provides care for injured or orphaned wildlife and a safe place for visitors to watch black bears, moose, musk ox, wood bison and other animals. The Anchorage Museum, Alaska's largest,

boasts exhibits on Alaskan science, culture, art and history. And the popular Snow City Cafe's Deadliest Catch breakfast of crab-cake and salmon-cake benedicts provides great fuel for the day.

Summer solstice celebration takes place June 23 this year. Festivals, marathons and doubleheader baseball games carry on until midnight with no artificial light. "There's a lot going on that weekend and the week leading up to solstice," said Bonney. "Try a solstice cemetery tour, celebrate above the city at the Flattop summit or go urban salmon fishing."

No matter how summer visitors fill their seemingly endless sunlit days, the warm glow of incredible outdoor experiences, untamed wild beauty and native cultural experiences will warm their hearts like a fire that never goes out. **H&A**

Cortney Fries is a freelance writer based in Chicago.

## Planning Your Trip

For more information, visit [anchorage.net](http://anchorage.net). For help planning your own Anchorage adventure, visit your AAA Travel agent or [AAA.com/travel](http://AAA.com/travel).

# All New DR® CHIPPERS

## Larger Capacity, Lower Prices!

**CHIP BIG BRANCHES**  
up to 5.75" thick!

**SELF-FEEDING MODELS**  
available. No more force-feeding!

**POWERFUL ENGINES**  
spin big flywheels (up to 62 lbs.), generating massive chipping force!

**MODELS THAT SHRED**  
yard and garden waste as well as CHIP branches.

**LOWEST PRICES EVER!**

Starting at just **\$699<sup>99</sup>**

PTO MODELS TOO!



18C10X © 2018

**FREE SHIPPING** | **6 MONTH TRIAL** | **EASY FINANCING**

SOME LIMITATIONS APPLY. CALL OR GO ONLINE FOR DETAILS.

Call for **FREE DVD and Catalog!**

TOLL FREE **888-357-2343**

**DRchipper.com**

