



Low-Cost Activities in the Golden Heart City

Visiting Fairbanks on a budget? You don't have to be rich to enjoy our town. Low-cost activities abound, if you know where to look. We've compiled a list of just a few of the many different activities available to budget-weary travelers in the Golden Heart City.

Parks to Enjoy

Pioneer Park: This 44-acre historic park has a Gold Rush Village filled with authentic buildings from downtown Fairbanks, an art gallery, seven museums, a square and round dance center, and loads of historical displays and presentations. The children's playgrounds and four covered picnic shelters are heavily used by locals as well as tourists taking a break from sight-seeing..



Birch Hill Recreation Area: This 460-acre park has hiking, cross-country running, mountain biking, Frisbee golf, and bird watching in the summer. Located a few miles north of Fairbanks; just follow the signs off the Steese Highway.

Tours and Museums

The Fairbanks Convention & Visitors Center has audio walking tours of downtown Fairbanks available to borrow. Other tours include the wildlife refuge at **Creamers Field** and the **Chena Flood Control Project**. There are many different tours offered at the **University of Alaska Campus** in Fairbanks, and at **Pioneer Park**. Most of the above tours are free, with minimal charges for some.

Downtown: Downtown Fairbanks offers many interesting things to do and see which do not cost an arm and a leg, including museums and historical buildings.

Fairbanks Community Museum: The museum, run completely by volunteers, is a warren of interconnecting rooms at 410 Cushman Street, where city government offices used to be. The walls are covered with memorabilia, showcasing photographs of Fairbanks in all stages of its development. Adjacent to the Community Museum is the **Dog Mushing Museum** where one can follow dog mushing's history reach as far back as when miners used dogs to haul supplies, all the way to the upcoming Yukon Quest and Iditarod Sled Dog Races.

Ice Art Alaska: Fairbanks is the site of the World Ice Art Championships every March. Some ice sculptures are retained in cold storage year-round for the enjoyment of visitors and locals alike. They can be seen downtown for a nominal cost at the **Fairbanks Ice Museum**. If you are visiting in March, you will get a chance to see international sculptors carving at the **World Ice Art Championships**.

University of Alaska

- **University of Alaska Museum:** The museum, open daily, features Alaska's history and cultures. Northern Inua performances run every day, as well as an aurora presentation. Call 474-7505 for information.
- **Large Animal Research Station:** There are scheduled tours of the station Memorial Day-Labor Day, 7 days a week, with tours running every hour on the hour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost: \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors, \$6 students (7 and under is free). Binoculars are recommended at the visitor display and viewing stands. Information: 474-7207, or 474-7945.
- **Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station:** Enjoy a stroll through the brilliantly colored flowers, fruits, and vegetables. Self-guided tours of the Georgeson Botanical Gardens are available during the summer. Call 474-7433 for more information.
- **Geophysical Institute:** Learn about the aurora borealis, earthquakes and volcano research during a free slide show and tour of the institute every week on UAF's West Ridge. Call 474-7798 for more information.
- **The Supercomputer Center** is the place to go to see high technology. Tours are available in the summer. For information call 450-8600.



Exploring

Visit **Creamer's Field**: This wildlife refuge boasts a two-mile trail that lets you see Alaska's plant and animal life "up close and personal." Creamer's Dairy and the refuge are located on College Road. The visitor center is open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Guided tours, lasting from 1 to 2 hours, are offered from June to September 1, Wednesday and Saturday at 10 a.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m. The **Alaska Bird Observatory**, an organization dedicated to studying birds and educating the public, has a research station and a gift shop at Creamer's Field. The Bird Observatory invites visitors to watch the bird banding process between 5 a.m. and noon. Call 451-7059 for location.



A skijourer takes advantage of the trails at Creamers Field Refuge.

Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline: The turnout on Mile 8 of the Steese Highway between Fairbanks and Fox presents the opportunity for a close-up view of the Pipeline, plus informational displays about its construction. The turnout will be on your right as you drive north. The pipeline has been hailed as one of the greatest feats of modern engineering.

Farmers Market: Open Wednesdays 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the market offers the freshest produce in the Interior. Beginning in May, the Saturday before Mother's Day, local farmers and other craft makers display their wares at the small wooden building off College Road.



Local farmers sell fresh produce and locally made goods.

Recreational Sports



SUMMER

•**Outdoor Volleyball**: There are a couple of places to play volleyball in the Interior. Chena Lakes Recreation Area is host to plenty of volleyball pits. Pioneer Park also has a volleyball pit to practice your bumps and spikes!

•**Biking and rollerblading**: There are smooth paved trails along the Chena River and along Farmers Loop. Ask the Alaska Public Lands Information Center staff for a complete map of bike paths in Fairbanks.

•**Cycling**: The Fairbanks Cycle Club holds races (road and mountain bike) weekly during the summer. Races are usually on Thursdays and Saturdays, and range from road races to time trials. Call for more information at (907) 459-8008.

•**Tennis and softball**: Fairbanks has five outdoor tennis courts located at the Mary Siah Recreation Center next to Lathrop High School on Airport Way. Another two tennis courts are at the Big Dipper Ice Arena on Cowles Street.

•**Water sports**: You can visit Chena Lakes State Recreation Area in North Pole where there are camping sites, picnic tables and a beach. It's the warmest lake in the Interior.

•**Rent a Canoe**: Rent a canoe for a day from Alaska Outdoor Rentals & Guides, or Outdoor Adventures at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Each rental includes life jackets and paddles and Alaska Outdoor Rentals offers a shuttle service to your drop-off and pick-up locations along the Chena River.

WINTER



•**Downhill Skiing and Snowboarding**: There are three ski resorts near Fairbanks: Moose Mountain Ski Resort off Murphy Dome Road, Mt. Aurora Skiland on the Steese Highway, and Birch Hill Ski Resort located on Ft. Wainwright Army Base.



•**Cross-Country Skiing**: Cross-country Ski Races are held throughout the winter at Birch Hill, the University, and local trails throughout the Interior.

•**Snowshoeing**: Snowshoes can be rented from many local recreation companies. See our complete list of available rental companies.

•**Indoor Swimming**: If you prefer to swim indoors, there are three pools open to the public in Fairbanks and North Pole. Hamme Pool is at Lathrop High School on Cowles Street, and Mary Siah Recreation Center on 14th Avenue has a smaller pool with slightly warmer water temperatures. In North Pole, Wescott Pool is also open to the public.

For More Information:

UAF Information.....	474-7UAF
Pioneer Park Information.....	459-1087
Fairbanks Convention & Visitor Bureau.....	456-5774
Fairbanks Community Museum & Dog Mushing Museum.....	457-3669
Creamer's Field Visitor Center.....	452-5162
Fairbanks Ice Museum.....	451-8222