

# Alaska



# Travel Tips

- Alaska is huge. It can't all be done in one trip
  - Decide on where you want to go
  - That will determine the best time to go



# Travel Tips

- Possible destinations
  - Fairbanks and more north for Northern Lights
  - Far north for polar bears
  - Denali park
  - South – Homer, Katmai, Seward
  - Inside passage – glaciers and small towns





# Time of year to go

- Depends on your destination
  - Fairbanks and more north for Northern Lights
    - March
  - Far north for polar bears
    - Sept, Oct, Nov
  - Denali park – May through August
  - Inside passage cruise - May through Sept
  - South – Homer, Katmai, Seward – June thru Sept

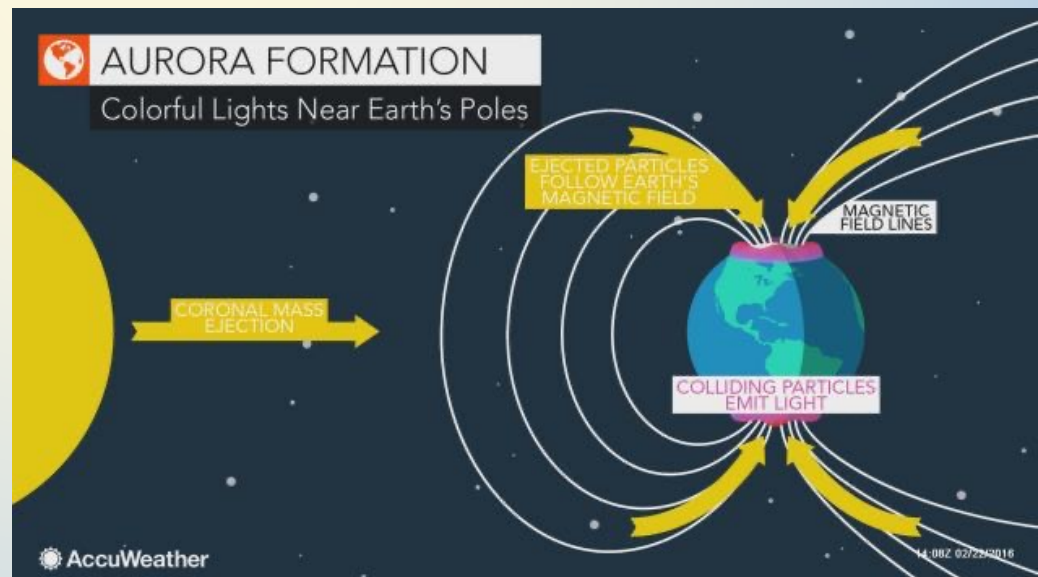
# Equipment

- Northern Lights
  - Tripod
  - Wide angle prime or wide angle zoom
  - Cable release
- Bears
  - Medium zoom – 24-105 or 16-70mm ranges
  - Telephoto zoom – 70-200 and/or 100-400 or longer – Take a teleconverter if you have one
- Landscapes
  - Wide angle and medium zoom lenses

# Fairbanks/Northern Lights

- Fairbanks/Chena Springs

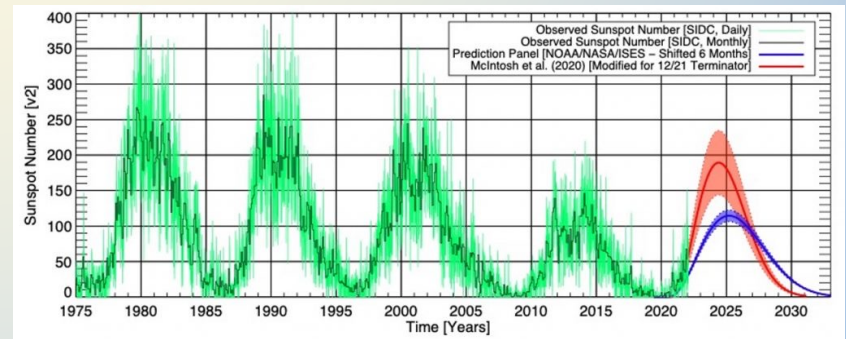
- In Aurora oval
- Clear and dark
- March has highest likelihood of clear nights
- Consider moon cycle





# Fairbanks/Northern Lights

- Apps and webcams are helpful in planning and learning
  - Aurora Now
  - My Aurora Forecast
- Aurora strength
  - Will peak in 2025
  - Roughly 11 year cycle





# Fairbanks/Northern Lights

- Alternatives to still photos



360 degree view Aurora Borealis - All Sky Time-Lapse in Alaska 2022  
[youtu.be](#)

# Inside Passage

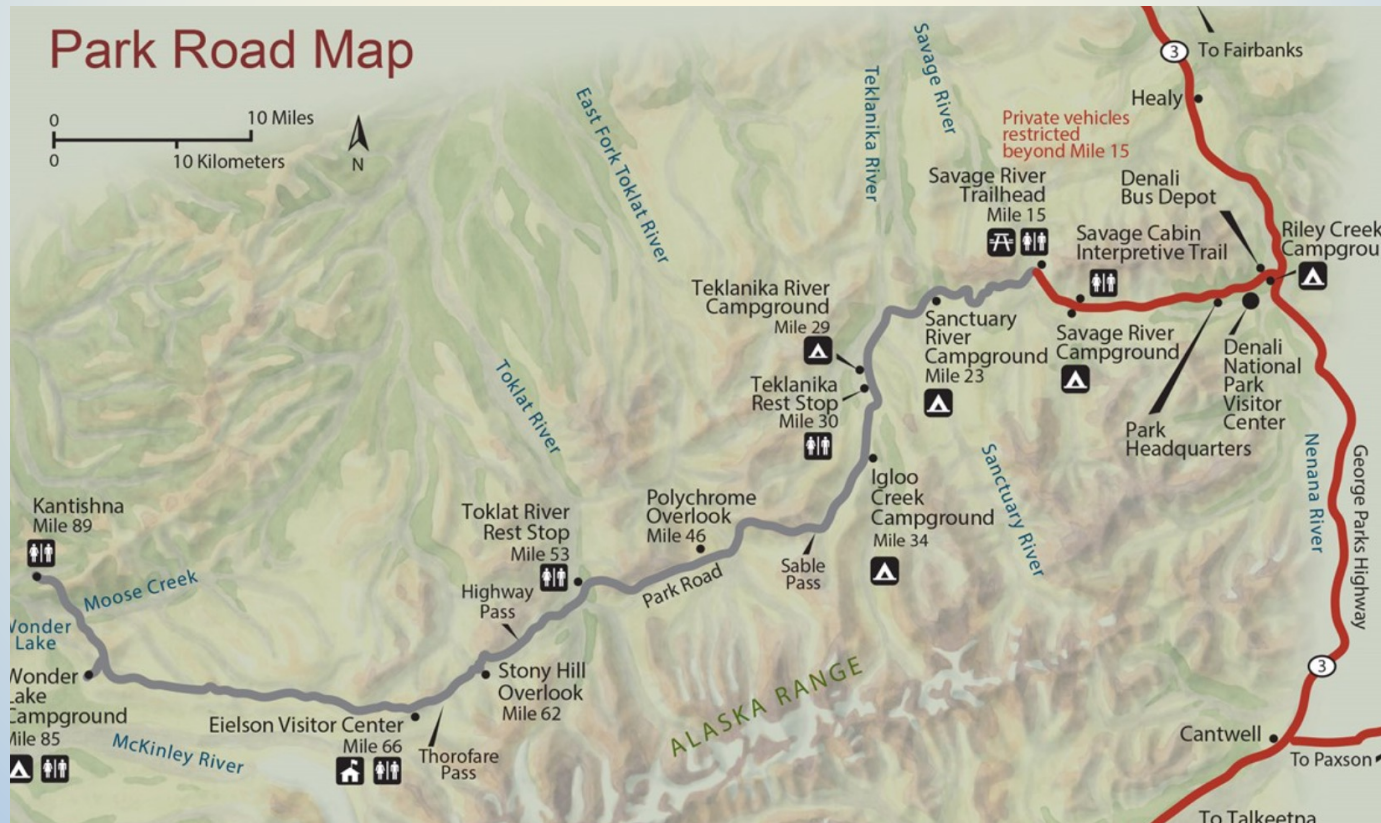
- Best way to see it is by cruise ship
  - Can photograph all along the way
  - Scenery on both sides of the ship
  - Stops at many quaint small towns
  - Best way to see glaciers. The smaller the cruise ship, the closer you can get.
  - Excursion opportunities
    - Riding a dog sled
    - Helicopter over glaciers
    - Whale watching – Try [Harv and Marv](#) out of Juneau

# Denali Park

- About 240 miles north of Anchorage
  - Can take a train or rent a car
- Several lodges in and around the park
- Only way to see the park (past the first 15 miles) is by bus
- Wildlife - grizzly bears, moose, caribou, Dall sheep

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# Southwest Alaska

- Seward
  - Train from Seward to Anchorage is beautiful
- Homer
  - Surrounded by snow covered mountains
  - Good base for bear trips to Katmai or Kodiak Is.  
Try [Emerald Air Service](#)
  - Dozens, to 100's of eagles depending on time of year
  - Kayaking – get right up to glaciers