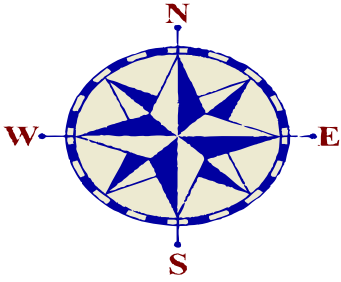


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*Bi-weekly publication of the  
Mat-Su Convention & Visitors Bureau*

**FOR VISITORS TO MAT-SU VALLEY**



# Mat-Su Compass

**www.alaskavisit.com 907-746-5000**

*Pointing you in the right direction when visiting the Mat-Su Valley!*

*Including:*

Big Lake • Denali State Park •  
Hatcher Pass • Lake Louise •  
Palmer • Skwentna •  
Talkeetna • Wasilla • Willow



**This Week's  
Featured Tour:**

**Visit Palmer  
Musk Ox Farms!**

Visitors now have two opportunities to see these unique, pre-historic animals known as musk ox. Both farms are located near Palmer and allow for observing and photographing these animals at close range. Learn about the highly valued **qiviut** (the soft, warm Musk Ox wool) used to make beautiful knitted garments.

**Musk Ox Farm**  
745-4151, Left on Archie Rd.  
(Mile 50 Glenn Hwy.)  
[www.muskoxfarm.org](http://www.muskoxfarm.org)

**Windy Valley Musk Ox**  
745-1005, N. Wolverine Road  
[www.windyvalleymuskox.com](http://www.windyvalleymuskox.com)



## RENTALS MAKE IT EASY FOR VISITORS TO ENJOY WATER ACTIVITIES

Sunny skies and warm temperatures are perfect for a day on the lake. This summer, canoes are available for rent at various Mat-Su area lakes like Finger Lake (Bogard Road in Wasilla) and Kepler-Bradley Lakes (Glenn Highway). Canoes can be rented by the hour for as little as \$10 for the first two hours and \$5 per additional hour—minimum of two people. **Lifetime Adventures, (907) 746-4644**, a private concessionaire, provides rental services for these sites.



These lakes are stocked with rainbow trout and grayling so don't forget to bring your fishing pole and try your luck!

Both lakes have camping sites so you can spend a full day enjoying the outdoors.

Adjacent to Kepler-Bradley Lakes is privately owned **Kepler Park, (907) 486-3777** (also off the Glenn Highway). The park offers overnight camping, RV parking and paddle boat, row boat and canoe rentals starting at \$8-10 per hour or flat rate for the day.

Just north on the Parks Highway in Willow is Nancy Lake State Recreation Area—a great destination for canoe enthusiasts—as they paddle through the canoe lakes trail system. Half, full and multi-day canoe rentals are provided by **Tippecanoe, (907) 495-6688**. While you're there, take advantage of the public use cabins managed by State Parks. Reservations are recommended.

At Mile 147 of the Parks Hwy in Denali State Park is Byers Lake Campground and Day Use Area as well as the Alaskans Veterans Memorial. The lake and its trails provide astounding views of the Alaska Range and unique wildlife viewing opportunities. The lake is host to trumpeter swans, loons, beaver, river otter, eagles, bears, moose and more. Sit-on-Top kayaks and canoe rentals are available in the Day Use Area. A safety talk and brief instruction are also provided.

You can also book other activities at Byers Lake Day Use Area like kayak tours, nature walks, hikes, rafting and catch and release fly fishing through **Denali Southside River Guides, (907) 733-RAFT**, **Alaska Nature Guides, (907) 733-1237**.

For those who prefer motorized activities on the water, **Alaska Toy Rental, (907) 775-1880** provides watercrafts that can be rented for multiply days, just for the day or by the hour (3 hour minimum). Trailers are included and can be delivered.

Whatever you decide, get out and enjoy Alaska's precious summer time activities!

## MAT-SU VALLEY FISHING UPDATE (SOURCE: AKF&G)

King salmon fishing on the Deshka River will close at 11:00 pm, 6/20. King salmon have been caught on the Little Susitna River; fishing is expected to be fair through this week. Catch rates are improving. King salmon fishing on Parks Highway systems are expected to be fair this weekend. King salmon fishing is still slow at the Eklutna Tailrace. Fishing should get better as the Knik River rises with the recent warmer weather. King salmon fishing at Lake Creek should be good once higher than normal water levels subside. Also, try fishing some of the smaller tributaries and sloughs off the Yentna River such as Fish Lakes Creek, Moose Creek, Indian Creek, Fish Creek, or Hewitt Creek. Fishing on the Talkeetna River should be fair by the weekend. Fishing in this area typically peaks the last week of June.



# HATCHER PASS – ALPINE BEAUTY, RECREATION ABOUNDS



If you haven't made a trip to Hatcher Pass this summer, now is a great time. Hatcher Pass has proven to be a popular recreation and sightseeing destination for all to enjoy.

Be sure to visit the historic and scenic Independence Mine State Historical Park. Embark on a self-guided tour of the mine's buildings or join in on a guided tour provided by the Alaska State Parks.

Maps of the Independence Mine camp are available at the **Independence Mine Visitor Center** and **Mat-Su Visitors Center** located across the street from the Mat-Su Regional Medical Center off Trunk Road.



Hatcher Pass Road offers wide vistas waiting to be photographed. Trek on miles and miles of trails above tree line. Spot wildlife like marmots, birds and even moose. Or get a bite to eat and unwind at **Hatcher Pass Lodge** or the **Motherlode Lodge**.

The road over the Pass connecting Willow to Palmer/Wasilla traditionally opens Fourth of July weekend. Call the Independence Mine Visitor Center at (907) 745-2827 for the latest road update and also for general information about the area. This road is not paved—four-wheel drive is recommended.

## Explore the Amazing Backcountry on a Guided ATV Tour

Access the backcountry of the Mat-Su Valley like never before on an all-terrain vehicle (ATV). Several companies provide guided ATV tours that take the novice, expert or young rider safely to see some of these stunning views.



ATV tour providers guide riders to beautiful trails like the Knik River Valley in search of wildlife such as moose, bears, dall sheep, wolves, fox, coyotes, eagles, and more. No experience is necessary. The scenery is awesome and the glacier is breathtaking.

### Companies offering ATV tours:

- Alaska All Terrain Tours, (888) 414-7669
- Alaska ATV Adventures, (907) 694-4294
- Alaska Backcountry Adventure Tours, (800) 478-2506
- Heiny's Alaska ATV Adventures, (907) 355-8268

Some of these companies offers two-seat ATVs for those who would like to experience the time of their life on an ATV tour, but do not want to drive. This is also an excellent way for people to take friends with disabilities, or small children along on tours. These machines will go anywhere standard ATVs can go.

**NEED A PLACE TO  
STAY? LOOKING FOR  
SOMETHING TO DO?**

**YAHOO!**  
**Mat-Su**

The Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureau has a convenient way for travelers to find last-minute vacancies for rooms and tours.

Visitors can access availability information through the internet site, [www.lodging-matsu.com](http://www.lodging-matsu.com). A printed report is also available at the Mat-Su Visitors Center (Mile 35.5 Parks Highway) as well as at key visitor areas within the Valley.

The system includes lodging and activity information for the Mat-Su Valley from north of Anchorage to Denali National Park and east on the Glenn Highway.

**Local Events for June 20-July 11  
Call 746-5000 for more information.**

Celebrate the longest day of the year -  
summer solstice June 21!

- June 20—Friday Flings market, downtown Palmer
- June 20, 23, 27 and July 5-7, 11—Mat-Su Miners Baseball
- June 25—Farmers' Market, Dorothy Page Museum, Wasilla
- July 4—Independence Day Celebration/Parade, Willow
- July 4—Independence Day Parade, Wasilla
- Every Sat-Mon—Open Air Market, Talkeetna
- Every Thurs—"Rock the Park" Live Music at Wonderland Park, Wasilla