



Alaska Exploration Day - Sunday June 24th

On Sunday June 24th we will meet at 8am for breakfast in the Commons Building Cafeteria. After breakfast you will sign up for your choice of Alaska explorations. Below are your options for Sunday June 24th. There's no need to sign up now, you'll do that immediately after breakfast.

Your options include:

Option #1 - Hike Portage Pass with a Ranger –

Take a ranger led hike through Portage Pass (no cost). Leave after breakfast and drive to Whittier (approx. a 1 hr. drive). You can stop briefly at the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center (see directions at the bottom of this page) but you must leave in time to drive through the Whittier train tunnel at the scheduled **12:30** car passage time.

After passing through the tunnel, take the first right (after the railroad tracks) onto a gravel road that says "Forest Access".

Drive down the gravel road to the trailhead. That's where you'll meet the Ranger at 1pm.

Be sure to bring water, wear hiking boots, and dress for changing weather!

The hike is approximately 1 mile up and 1 mile down. You can read about it at: http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/chugach_pages/bbvc/portage.html



NOTE: Tunnel Information:

After the hike you must drive back in time to catch the **scheduled 4pm car passage time through the tunnel.**

Both automobiles and trains travel through the Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel to Whittier.

Thanks to a unique design, the tunnel allows a single lane of automobile traffic to drive directly over the railroad track area.

Automobiles and trains take turns using the tunnel. The schedule is at:
http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/chugach_pages/home/tunnel.htm

Option #2 - Take a Cruise to Portage Glacier (cost = \$29)

Cruise the placid Portage Lake, about an hour south of Anchorage, to Portage Glacier. The cruise takes only one hour.

Watch for huge chunks of ice to break away and crash in to the lake as the Ptarmign boat weaves through iceberg-dotted waters.

You can purchase your ticket at the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center on the day of your cruise.

Directions to the center are at the bottom of this sheet. **The boat leaves at 10:30am, 12:00pm, 1:30pm.**



Option #3 - Hike and Cruise – If you leave immediately after breakfast you can do BOTH!

Take the 10:30am cruise, and then drive through the tunnel at 12:30, then meet at the trailhead at 1pm for the hike, then drive back through the tunnel at 4pm.

It is a tight schedule, but you can do it if you hustle.

Option #4 - Visit the Alaska Native Heritage Center (cost \$23.50).

Spend the day at this wonderful native center only 20 minutes from UAA.

The center opens at 9am and you'll need at least 3 hours to see it.

You can read about what's there at: <http://www.alaskanative.net/352.asp>

Directions are online at: <http://www.alaskanative.net/364.asp>

Option #5 - Sleep in and recover from the time change!

Those people arriving after midnight may want to choose this option ;-)

NOTE:

Directions for Getting to the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center



The turn off for Portage Valley Road and the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center is located approximately 50 miles south of Anchorage or 77 miles north of Seward on the New Seward Highway #1. Turn onto Portage Valley Road and go approximately 5 miles to the end. Follow the road to the right and there will be a turn-off to the Portage Glacier Lodge on the left. Keep following the road as it loops around. The first road off to the right after you pass the lodge is the road to the Ptarmigan boat dock. Lake front parking is just up ahead and if you continue towards the visitor center, there is available parking with special areas for busses and larger vehicles.

http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/chugach_pages/bbvc/portage.html



Are you excited yet?

Don't forget that on Thursday June 28th we will take the train and boat to Kenai Fjords National Park!

Meet in the Commons at 5:30 am. We will carpool to the train depot in downtown Anchorage. Once we reach Seward we will travel by boat.

Bring your cameras. We will collect images of clouds and ecosystems for use in your classroom and Geo-ref the images for use in Google Earth or NASA World Wind

