

Anchorage

Alaska

Ship Creek Anchorage was nowhere until 1915 when President Wilson designated it headquarters for the Alaska Railroad completed in 1920 to bring coal out from the interior. Now Anchorage is the capital of boom and bust, military installations and resource extraction. With a population of 300,000 sprawled over an area the size of Delaware, Anchorage is the largest city in Alaska and is also home to the largest Alaska Native population in the state. It has the ambience of an earlier time. The gateway to Alaska, it boasts a magnificent location along Cook Inlet at the base of the Chugach Mountains. Denali soars past 20,000 feet at the northern horizon. Anchorage is as far north as Helsinki and as far west as Honolulu. Average high temperatures range from 65 to minus 7, daylight hours from 24 to 5 1/2, and you can cross-country ski along the frozen ocean from downtown. Many of those who come here find themselves with no work and nowhere to go; many Alaska Native people come in search of opportunity and find themselves marginalized. JVs have served in Anchorage since 1985.

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