

Living in Alaska

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To:

Subject:

Dear Anne,

Thank you very much for your reply to my Pen Pal request. I have lots of pen pals already, but you are my first one from the Netherlands. You asked: 'What makes Alaska such a great place?' Well, to begin with: life is certainly not boring here and it's not cold and dark all year through, as some people seem to think. Alaska is a great place to live!



Alaska is the biggest state in the USA, but relatively few people live here, about 800,000. Almost half of Alaska's citizens live in Anchorage, our biggest city. I myself live there too and I really like it because of the great food and the shops. Near the city centre there are some lovely parks. I often go biking in Kincaid Park, which is my favourite.

Alaska's 'great outdoors' is rich in wildlife and some areas are great to visit for their spectacular views! Another very interesting thing you can see here occasionally are avalanches. I love it when I see one; they are very loud and dramatic, but I hope I will never be involved in one myself.

Two weeks ago we took a bear-watching trip. After a short flight from Anchorage, we watched these enormous brown bears that live in the wild here. It was fantastic! I love being outside and doing activities like backpacking, kayaking, and snowboarding. Do you do any sports like these in the Netherlands?

Oh, and I've taken up a new hobby recently: photography! I got my dad's old camera and I've already taken some wonderful pictures. You have probably heard about the aurora borealis, also called the northern lights. These colourful bands of light in the sky are really cool to see. When the nights are clear and dark enough, the aurora is visible in the sky eight out of ten nights here. I have enclosed some pictures for you. I hope you'll like them!

Bye!
Alison

Adapted from: susanstevenson.com and leighannehart.com