



Inside Passage

The Alaska Panhandle is the northern terminus of the Inside Passage, a protected waterway of convoluted passages between islands and fjords, beginning in Puget Sound in Washington state. This was an important travel corridor for native canoeists, as well as gold-rush steam ships, and in modern times is an important route for ferries and cruise ships. The Panhandle has a land area of 91,008.18 km² (35,138.46 square miles), comprised of four entire boroughs and three census areas, in addition to the part of Yakutat Borough lying east of 141° West longitude. Although it has only 6.14 percent of and almost as large as the state of Washington, it is larger than the state of Maine, Indiana. The 2000 census population of the Panhandle was 72,954 inhabitants, about 42 percent of whom were concentrated in the city of Juneau.

Alaska's Inside Passage is the area Approximately 1,000 miles North of



19th Inside wildlife, vivid Native cultures, astounding history and exceptional hospitality.



that makes up the Southeast Region of Alaska. Vancouver, it was the center of activity during Alaska's century Gold Rush. Also known as the "Panhandle," the Passage is popular for spectacular scenery, abundant

The Alaska Panhandle is ... home to tidewater glaciers and huge areas of forest land. The economy of this region is centered on these natural attributes, and tourism, fishing and outdoor adventuring are

major attractions.

The Alaska Panhandle is a land of forests. The mild climate and heavy rainfall promote dense tree growth. The huge where young trees that are include the canoe cedar, and cedar), which are carpeted with



Tongass National Forest is an area saplings compete for space with centuries old. Trees found there western hemlock, Sitka spruce, yellow cedar (... called Alaska all conifers. The forest floor is berry-producing plants and moss.

