

July, August Active Months in Alaska

July and August are exceedingly active months in Alaska, starting with Independence Day celebrations in just about every community from Ketchikan to Barrow. Pick a town, and chances are you'll find a great 4th of July holiday program ready for your pleasure.

Fishermen are most highly rewarded in Alaska during the two months, with salmon derbies scheduled for July 16-18 in Juneau, through the 18th in Ketchikan, the entire month of August in Valdez and August 14-22 in Seward.

The biggest celebration of the summer takes place in Fairbanks July 22-25 ... Golden Days. This is a community celebration commemorating Felix Pedro's discovery of gold in Fairbanks in 1902. Parades, exhibits, "melodrama," street dances, goldpanning and a carnival midway are some of the ingredients.

July 30 through August 1

Fairbanks again hosts visitors for the Annual World Eskimo Olympic Games. Unlike those other Olympics, the Eskimo games' decathlon might well consist of events such as ear pulling, knuckle hop, high kick, ear weight and seal-skinning.

Outdoor theater at its best is available to the Kodiak visitors during the weekends of August 6 and 13 with the annual presentation of "Cry Of The Wild Ram," the historical production of Alexander Baranoff's Russian-American adventure.

Finally, if fairs are your interest, you can choose from four offerings; August 11-15 near Fairbanks for the 40th Tanana Valley Fair; the Southeast Alaska State Fair at Haines August 27-28; the Matanuska Valley Fair at Palmer starting August 27; or Ninilchik's "Biggest Little Fair" in Alaska, August 28 and 29.