

Historic Ketchikan Inc.

DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR

6 Downtown Walking Tour points of interest. The entire Downtown tour, following points in order, can be walked in 1.5 to 2.5 hours.

Downtown Walking Tour route Public streets

Pedestrian ways: boardwalks, stairs, sidewalks, footpaths

Waterfront Promenade

Map is not to scale. Projection was altered to improve ease of use.

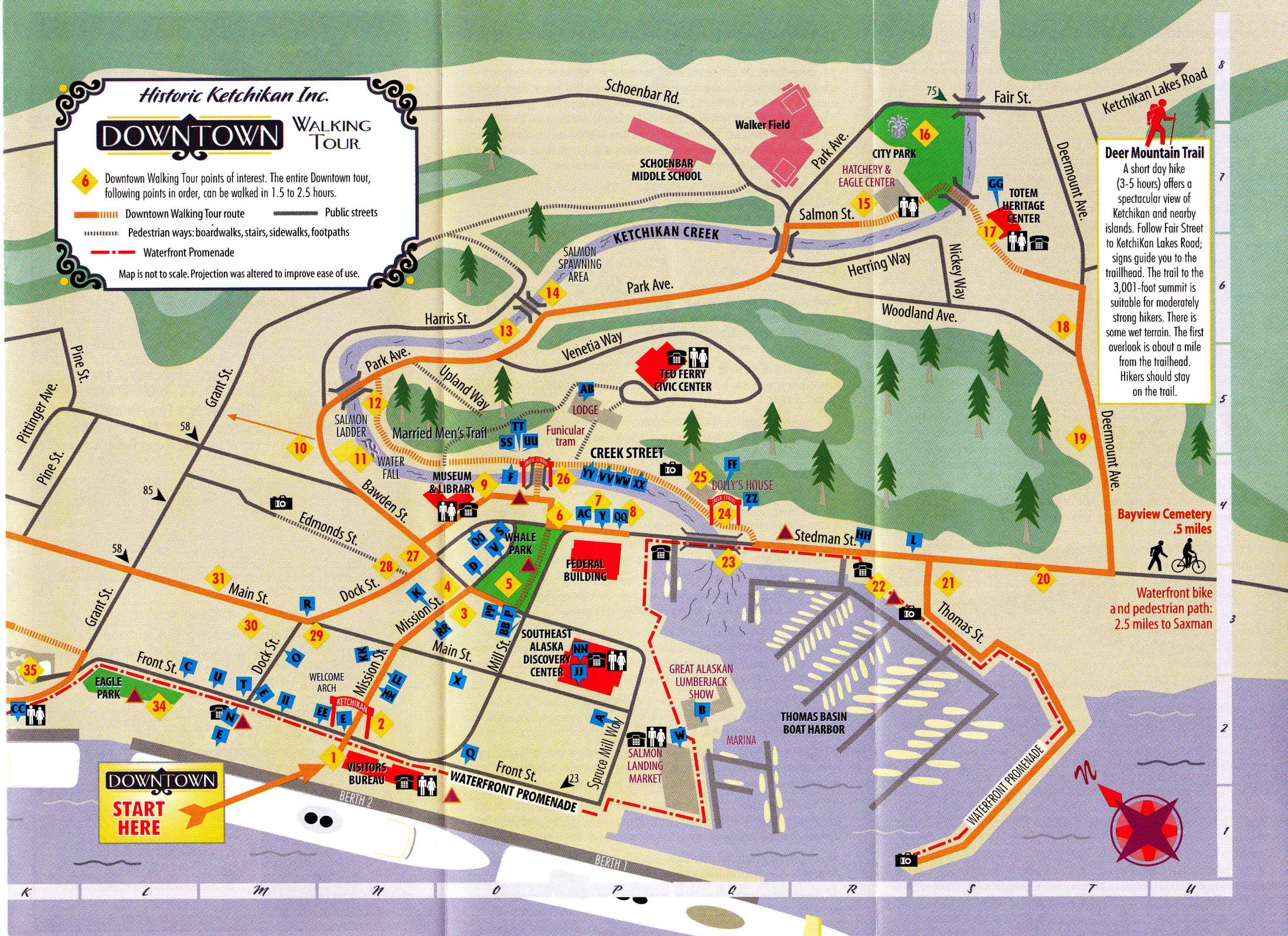
Deer Mountain Trail

A short day hike (3-5 hours) offers a spectacular view of Ketchikan and nearby islands. Follow Fair Street to Ketchikan Lakes Road; signs guide you to the trailhead. The trail to the 3,001-foot summit is suitable for moderately strong hikers. There is some wet terrain. The first overlook is about a mile from the trailhead. Hikers should stay on the trail.

Bayview Cemetery
.5 miles

Waterfront bike and pedestrian path:
2.5 miles to Saxman

DOWNTOWN
START
HERE



DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR

1 Ketchikan Visitors Bureau. Visit the visitor information center on the dock for information on visitor-related activities and facilities around Ketchikan. Beside the building are a Historic Ketchikan Inc. history kiosk and the "rain gauge." *1 minute to next site.*

2 Welcome Arch. The first arch was erected in the early 1920s to welcome steamship visitors. An arch using neon lighting was put up by the Chamber of Commerce in the 1950s. This arch was erected by Historic Ketchikan Inc. in 1996. *3 minutes to next site.*

3 Post Office substation. Postal Service facility is beside a gift store on Mission Street. *3 minutes to next site.*

4 St. John's Episcopal Church and Yates Building. Built in 1902, St. John's is the oldest church building standing in Ketchikan. The sanctuary, finished with cedar from a Saxman mill, stood on pilings along the water; fill moved the shore hundreds of feet back. St. John's has a gift shop. The Yates Building was built as a hospital in 1904 and later housed Alaska Sportsman magazine. *2 minutes to next site.*



STEEPLE AT THE SHORE
St. John's Episcopal Church, new in 1902, rested on pilings at the water's edge.

5 Whale Park and Chief Kyan Totem Pole. Between Mission and Mill streets is a site with greenery, history and a bench for rest and people-watching. The Chief Kyan totem pole carved by Tlingit artist Israel Shotridge in 1993, replicates a pole raised in the 1890s for its namesake Tlingit chief, whose family had a fish camp nearby. Billingsley Clock is our oldest remaining public timepiece. *1 minute to next site.*

6 Chief Johnson totem pole. A replica of a pole raised here in 1901 by Tlingit Chief Johnson in honor of the Kadjuk House of the Raven Clan; that pole is now at Totem Heritage Center. Carver Israel Shotridge raised the replica in 1989. *1 minute to next site.*

7 Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council. The arts council maintains a gallery and aids Ketchikan's artists and art-related organizations. Mainstay Gallery's monthly exhibits feature visual artists, most of them local. *1 minute to next site.*

8 KRBD-FM. Founded in 1976 as a part-time, 10-watt community station, KRBD is now a 24-hour, Alaska-style mix of volunteers' music shows and programs from NPR and PRI. Repeaters out of town and on Prince of Wales Island reach most of southern Southeast. The building was a Presbyterian Church, then a contractor's shop. *1 minute to next site.*

9 Tongass Historical Museum and Ketchikan Public Library. In the museum are artifacts, text and photos telling of Alaska's spirited First City as a Native fish camp, mining hub, salmon-canning capital, fishing port and timber town. (Fee.) The Centennial Building commemorates the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867. In front is the Raven Stealing the Sun pole, carved by Dempsey Bob and raised in 1983. *4 minutes to next site.*

10 Grant Street trestle. This landmark shows how Ketchikan conquers terrain with ingenuity and lumber. Near the trestle are houses on the National Register: Ziegler house (ca. 1900), 623 Grant St.; Walker-Broderick house (1916); and 541 Pine St. American Legion Post Home 3 on Park Avenue was built in 1932, mostly with cedar; the post dates to 1919. The post welcomes Legionnaires. SAL and auxiliary mid-days except Sunday, May to September. *3 minutes to next site.*

11 Water warehouse and creek overlook. Built in 1912, the warehouse is one of Ketchikan's oldest remaining commercial structures. The view platform has a great vantage on the creek and salmon schooling for a run up the falls. *1 minute to next site.*

12 Fish ladder. In spawning season, see salmon struggle back to their native streambed, fighting lower falls before using human aid in the next stretch: a concrete fish ladder eases the passage and increases the number of fish that make it home to reproduce. *1 minute to next site.*

13 Ketchikan Creek. Rainfall, springs and mountain snowpack keep the creek flowing clear and cold year-round. In summer, see salmon by the thousands spawning in the gravel beds where they were born years before. *10 minutes to next site.*

14 Harris Street Bridge. An excellent overlook for salmon in season. *5 minutes to next site.*

15 Deer Mountain Tribal Hatchery and Eagle Center. The hatchery raises and releases more than 300,000 salmon, steelhead and rainbow trout each year. The Eagle Center cares for injured bald eagles and other birds. (Fee.) Sample salmon products and view the video *Raised to Run* in Chinook Theater. *1 minute to next site.*

16 City Park. Small ponds in the park go back to the early 1900s, when they were holding ponds for salmon in the city's first hatchery. The lighted fountain, originally built in the 1930s, was restored to former glory by volunteers in 1989. *2 minutes to next site.*

17 Totem Heritage Center. A world-renowned collection of original, unrestored totem poles from Tlingit and Haida villages testifies to the artistry of 19th-century Native carvers. The center, part of the municipal museum department, exhibits Native arts. Guided and self-guided tours. (Fee.) *9 minutes to next site.*

18 St. Elizabeth's Church. This Episcopal church was built by Ketchikan Native Episcopal Community around 1927, when churches in Ketchikan were segregated. It remained a church until 1962 and now serves as the Ketchikan Mortuary. *2 minutes to next site.*

19 Ketchikan Indian Community. K.I.C. is a federally recognized tribal government, organized in 1939 under terms of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. K.I.C. is involved in health, education and culture issues for Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian people, along with other Alaska Natives. Northwest Coast-style eagle and raven panels outside the building were produced by Tlingit artist Ernie Smeltzer in 1983 with high school students. *5 minutes to next site.*

20 Sun Raven totem pole. Tlingit artist Israel Shotridge in 2003 raised this replica of a pole that had stood in the early 1900s on Tongass Island, ancestral home of the Tongass Tribe of Tlingit Indians. Another Sun Raven replica, carved in 1939, still stands in Saxman. The carver gave this new pole to the Tongass Tribe and the community. It stands at the technical center for University of Alaska Southeast Ketchikan campus. *2 minutes to next site.*

21 Thomas Street. This wood-plank street fronts the site of an early Ketchikan dock; in the 1890s it was a makeshift log raft. Thomas Street has been home to boat yards, carpenters, machine shops, bars and bordellos. The Stedman-Thomas area was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1996. *2 minutes to next site.*

22 Thomas Basin and viewing platform. The Ketchikan Creek mouth was a broad tidal flat that served until the 1920s as a baseball field; local teams and those from Southeast Alaska and Canada lined out a diamond at low tide. In 1922, a small seaplane taxied onto the silt with pioneer pilot Roy Jones, first to fly from Seattle to Ketchikan non-stop. The Corps of Engineers dredged the creek mouth in the 1930s to create a harbor. Historic businesses and residences still face the basin. Stedman-Thomas Association used state funding for the harborside platform. A Historic Ketchikan Inc. kiosk has information on Ketchikan's fishing industry. The waterfront promenade extends out the breakwater for a spectacular look at Deer Mountain, the harbor and downtown. On Stedman Street nearby is a privately commissioned totem pole carved by Haida artist Warren Peele; it depicts three watchmen, an eagle, a raven and a man with a talking stick. *2 minutes to next site.*



BOATER UP!
Boats yielded to bats on the baseball diamond. The creek mouth was later dredged for Thomas Basin.

23 Stedman Street bridge. In season, see thousands of salmon gathering to run up the creek. Anglers fish from the wide sidewalk on the seaward side. *1 minute to next site.*

24 Creek Street. The area became a red-light district in 1903, when the City Council ordered bordellos to relocate across the creek from the townsite. More than 30 bawdy houses, most with one or two "working girls," lined the creek over the years. With Prohibition, some houses became speakeasies; rowboats slipped in on high tides and liquor was lifted through trap doors in bordellos' floors. The city outlawed prostitution in 1953 and Creek Street became a mixed residential and commercial area. Star Building at No. 5 Creek Street, once a dance hall, is on the National Register of Historic Places. *1 minute to next site.*

25 Dolly's House. Dolly Arthur was Ketchikan's most famous madam in the heyday of Creek Street. Her house, preserved much as she left it, features antiques, caches and garish decor. Tours are provided. (Fee.) *5 minutes to next site.*

26 Footbridge. A good place to observe the uniqueness of Creek Street: the constant, cool stream and flanking historic buildings on long pilings. See the historical kiosk at the head of the bridge. *5 minutes to next site.*

27 Ketchikan Daily News. The lone survivor of more than a dozen papers published here since 1900, the Daily News was founded in 1935.

28 Edmonds Street. Our steep terrain challenges engineering and nomenclature alike. This street is really a long set of stairs to a great hillside view of lower downtown, the boat harbor and Tongass Narrows. *1 minute to next site.*

29 Main and Dock streets. Ketchikan's historic business center. The Heckman Building (1912) is one of the oldest concrete structures in Alaska. *2 minutes to next site.*

30 Ketchikan Fire Department. Founded by volunteers around 1900 to protect property and lives in a wooden city built on wood pilings. About 20 career personnel and dozens of volunteers staff two stations. The Main Street facility houses a mint 1927 Seagrave pumper nicknamed "Grandma." K.F.D. sells patches and souvenir apparel. *2 minutes uphill to next site.*

31 Redman Lodge. Ketchikan's first fraternal organization dates to 1900 and featured many Ketchikan civic leaders. It was all-white until the 1960s. The original lodge building was at the corner of Mission and Main streets. *4 minutes to next site.*

32 Burkhardt House. This turreted Victorian was built in 1904 for H.Z. Burkhardt, a founder of Ketchikan Power Co., predecessor of Ketchikan Spruce Mill. It's among our last examples of the Queen Anne style popular in the early 20th century. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. *4 minutes uphill to next site.*

33 Nob Hill overlook. This walkway along the steep hill offers a sensational view of Newtown, the waterfront and First Lutheran Church. Your walk takes you past Nob Hill homes of our prosperous pioneers, dating as early as 1901. *4 minutes down the stairs to next site.*

34 Eagle Park. Thundering Wings eagle was carved by world-renowned Tlingit master carver Nathan Jackson of Ketchikan. Across Front Street is the Gilmore Hotel, built in 1927 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. *2 minutes to next site.*

35 Tunnel. Our tunnel is said to be the only one in the world that can be driven through, around and over (on upper Front Street). The tunnel, completed in 1954, eased access to Newtown; before it, a narrow plank street on pilings skirted the rock. *4 minutes to next site.*

36 Harbor View Park. This wood pocket park offers benches, tables and a close-up look at fishing boats, commercial boats, pleasure craft and sometimes fresh-seafood sales.

37 Casey Moran Harbor / City Float. Used by commercial fishers, visitors and the local recreational fleet. In the early 1900s, the home for what was believed to be the world's largest fleet of halibut boats.



WE SAW HISTORY
Ketchikan Spruce Mill operated in the heart of downtown for 80 years, closing in the mid-1980s.