

# DISCOVER KETCHIKAN!

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## OUR TOWN

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 Parnassus Bookstore [Creek Street]  
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*Historic Ketchikan Inc.*  
**WEST END WALKING TOUR**

6 West End Walking Tour points of interest. The two-mile tour, following points in order, can be walked in about 2.5 hours. Upper Water Street has a moderately steep grade.

— West End 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.

**Key to symbols**

- Historical information kiosk
- Business location
- Public restrooms
- Public telephone
- Photo viewpoint
- Public facility
- Visitor-oriented business
- Auto or pedestrian bridge
- Elevation above sea level



*Ketchikan Walking Tours* are programs of *Historic Ketchikan Inc.*, a nonprofit organization that promotes economic development through historic preservation and heritage tourism.  
[www.historic-ketchikan.org](http://www.historic-ketchikan.org) 907-225-5515

# WEST END WALKING TOUR

**1 Zimmerman House.** Built in 1906 by pioneer merchant Nick Zimmerman, this house was one of the finest in Newtown. *2 minutes to next site.*

**2 Bayview Avenue.** Up the stairway is one of Ketchikan's last remaining wood plank streets. Houses here date from 1910. *1 minute to next site.*

**3 Hopkins Alley.** Narrow, wood-planked Hopkins Alley was started in 1907. It's the only area of Ketchikan that approximates the appearance of the town in its early days. During Prohibition, it was nicknamed Home Brew Alley and featured several speakeasies. The triangular flatiron building at the entrance to the alley was built in 1912. It housed a hand laundry and later the Horse Shoe Saloon. *5 minutes to next site.*

**4 Warren Street, G Street, Harding Street.** Many homes in this area date to the 1910s and 1920s. Street names commemorate the visit to Ketchikan in 1923 of President Warren G. Harding. The president was on his way to the Interior to drive a spike completing the Alaska Railroad. Harding died in San Francisco on his way back to D.C. Legends variously ascribe his demise to inclement Alaska weather or to food poisoning. *5 minutes to next site.*



**PREZ VISITS SALMON CAPITAL**  
President Harding stopped in Ketchikan just days before his death.

**5 Young Store.** (First City Saloon) Believed to be the first commercial building in Newtown, this structure was originally J.W. Young's store and has housed many businesses since before 1905. *5 minutes to next site.*

**6 Field's Store.** (49er Bar) Buildings in this area date from the late 1910s to the early 1920s, when Newtown expanded rapidly to serve the burgeoning fishing industry centered around City Float and nearby canneries. *3 minutes to next site.*

**7 Dunton Street Trestle.** The wood trestle on the hillside plainly shows how Ketchikan's civic engineering skirted difficult terrain to make more land accessible to a fast-growing population. The original street atop the trestle was wood planking; it's now concrete. *10 minutes uphill to next site.*

**8 Captains Hill neighborhood.** Most houses here were built between 1904 and 1925 as the fishing fleet grew in size and prosperity. From stately homes along the hillside, fishermen looked out on their boats tied at City Float. *10 minutes to next site.*

**9 Upper Water Street overlook.** See how Ketchikan snaked its way northward over the decades to the West End area, now a major commercial district. Expansion was rapid in the 1930s as canneries moved northward. A second growth spurt came in the early 1950s with the building of a world-class pulp mill at Ward Cove north of the city; many construction and operation workers settled here. *15 minutes to next site.*

**10 Hillside landscaping and salmonberry bushes.** Here you see how Ketchikan warrants its description as being 10 miles long and three blocks wide. Up close to the rain forest, you see verdant undergrowth. Black bears and other forest critters sneak down to scavenge around homes on this hill. *15 minutes to next site.*

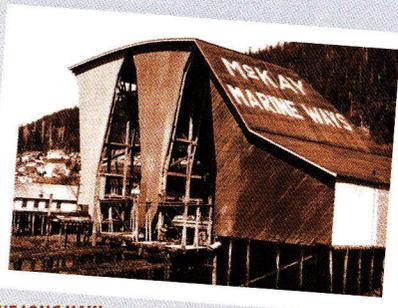
**11 White Cliff Elementary School.** Built in 1927, White Cliff was the oldest operating school in Alaska at its closing in 2002. A new school several miles south of the city replaced it in 2005. A developer bought and renovated the building and leases offices; borough government in 2009 was the first tenant. *15 minutes to next site.*

**12 Tongass Towers and Marine View.** Two 10-story concrete buildings—the first human-made features seen by those arriving from the south by sea or air—were built in the early 1950s to house hundreds of workers who built and operated the pulp mill north of town. The residences are now condominiums. *15 minutes to next site.*

# WEST END WALKING TOUR

**13 West End commercial district.** Where the sea once splashed close to today's Tongass Avenue, innumerable cubic yards of rock fill trucked from local quarries in the 1960s and 1970s provided a foundation for today's business area: The Plaza mall and a supermarket; condominiums; a motel; retail, office and residential buildings; and beyond them, acres and acres of commercial land. *1 minute to next site.*

**14 Marine Ways.** (Red Anchor) McKay Marine Ways was a 100-foot-tall repair facility that could handle ships as long as 115 feet—which included most of the early-days fishing fleet. The massive wooden structure was the biggest thing along Ketchikan's skyline for decades after it opened in 1929. The business operated until the 1980s. Most of the imposing old building was taken down in the 1990s and its water frontage was filled in with rock. *2 minutes to next site.*



**THE LONG HAUL**  
The waterfront's biggest feature for decades, McKay Marine Ways hauled and repaired hundreds of commercial and recreational boats.

**15 E.C. Phillips and Sons.** One of Ketchikan's two remaining cold storage plants is still processing salmon and other seafood for export. Phillips flash-freezes and packages fish mostly for groceries and restaurants in the Lower 48. The company also markets smoked and canned seafood. *2 minutes to next site.*

**16 Cannery cottages.** These single-story cottages with one or two bedrooms apiece were built in the early 1920s to provide year-round housing for cannery workers who didn't bring families. *2 minutes to next site.*

**17 Silver Lining Seafoods.** In summer, look up the hill to see eagles roosting or in flight. They're taking advantage of Silver Lining's high-volume seafood processing operation (along with neighboring Phillips and Sons). Fish waste dispensed through the outfall below Silver Lining attracts eagles and seagulls by air, and seals, sea lions, otters and sharks by water. Silver Lining markets frozen, smoked and canned seafoods and several specialty products. *4 minutes to next site.*

**18 Elliot Street.** All the public streets in Ketchikan were originally wood planking or stairways. Elliot Street connects Tongass Avenue and upper Water Street. There was a small mine in this area in pioneer days. Elliot provides a good vantage to see the Water Street trestle, Ketchikan's longest. *5 minutes to next site.*

**19 Webber Air.** (ProMech) Originally an early cannery site, this area has been a hub for local air taxi operations since the 1960s. Although flightseeing keeps air carriers busy in summer, transport of local passengers, supplies and mail sustains some operators in the off-season. *3 minutes to next site.*

**20 Ellis Hangar.** (Southeast Stevedoring) Ellis Air Transport was founded in 1936 by Bob Ellis, a Vermonter whose one-plane local operation grew into a major regional carrier, renamed Ellis Air Lines. Ellis merged with Alaska Coastal Airlines in the 1960s and Alaska Airlines acquired them thereafter. Ellis was posthumously inducted into the Alaska Aviation Pioneers Hall of Fame in 2004. Southeast Stevedoring is one of Alaska's biggest providers of shoreside and loading services to the merchant marine industry and cruise industry. *2 minutes to next site.*



**MIGRATORY ALASKA BIRDS**  
Ellis Air Lines' logo dressed Grummans flying all over the region for decades.

# WEST END WALKING TOUR

**21 Alaska Outboard.** Props and politics have mixed here for decades. The business was founded by Oral Freeman, who was elected to the first Alaska State House of Representatives in 1959 and to five more terms 1972-82. He was among founders of the Alaska Permanent Fund and had a hand in creating the dividend program that spins off oil revenues to Alaskans. Aspirants for local and state offices have always been welcome to put campaign posters in the shop's windows; Freeman's sons Jim and Charlie (the latter a City Councilman) keep and display in back decades' worth of posters for unsuccessful candidates. *1 minute to next site.*

**22 Amphibian Room.** (Shogun Restaurant) The Amphibian Room was a popular restaurant for three decades. Its name referred to Grumman Goose amphibious seaplanes used by Ellis Air Lines, whose waiting room was next door. Ellis flew passengers around the Panhandle and to nearby Annette Island, where passengers caught prop and jet planes for flights out of state. (Ketchikan's airport wasn't built until 1973.) *1 minute to next site.*

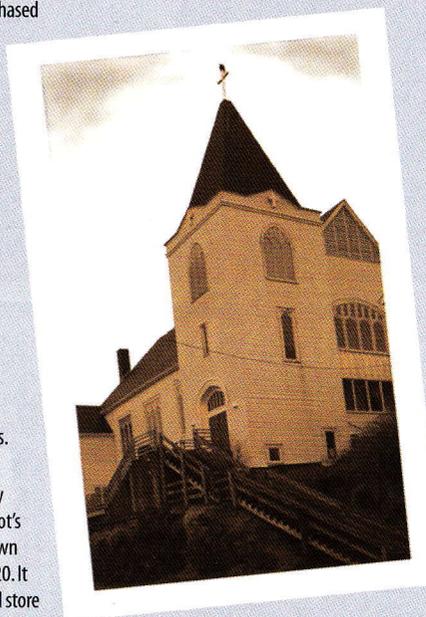
**23 Ellis Airlines Hangar.** (Carlin Air) In 1924, Tongass Trading Co. built this warehouse for its rapidly expanding business. American Can Co. later put in an office and shop associated with its sale and service of equipment for salmon canneries. In the 1950s, the building was purchased by the expanding Ellis Airlines. *1 minute to next site.*

**24 View of lower Captains Hill.** Looking up at houses perched on the cliffside, you're standing on a section of Tongass Avenue once called Cliff Avenue; it was a narrow plank street built in 1915 as Ketchikan grew northward. Along the water or on the rock high above, the town's builders stubbornly and ingeniously challenged natural obstacles. *1 minute to next site.*

**25 The Exchange.** Henry Henn was a clerk at the Talbot's store when he opened his own shop across the street in 1920. It was originally a second-hand store featuring items he found on his rubbish-hauling route. The Exchange evolved into a hardware store that operated into the late 1950s. *2 minutes to next site.*

**26 First Lutheran Church.** The fishing industry boomed across Southeast Alaska in the 1910s-1920s and Scandinavians flooded in, Norwegians most numerous of these newcomers. They were principal founders of First Lutheran Church in 1925. This grand church on a rock promontory was finished in 1930 and anchored Newtown. *1 minute to next site.*

**27 Talbot's.** This building supply store sits on dock frontage originally built early in the 1900s and used by the U.S. Lighthouse Service. Three generations of the Talbot family operated the business after World War I. The company's huge sign advertising its wares was a landmark for decades.



**FOUNDED ON A ROCK**  
First Lutheran Church's landmark sanctuary and steeple have stood prominently over Newtown for more than 75 years.