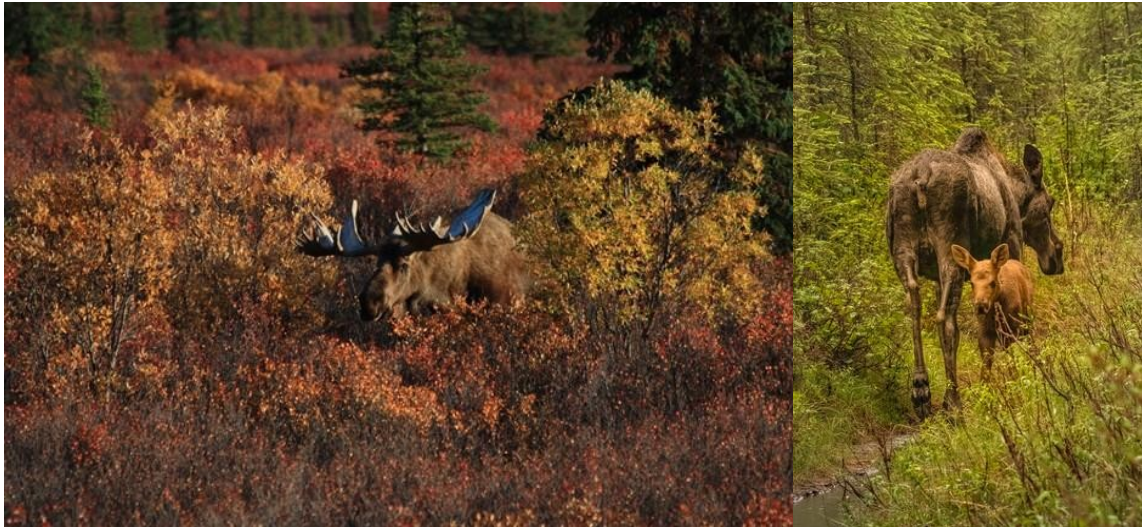




Alaska Moose Guide

Your Complete Guide to Seeing Alaska's Largest Land Mammal



When visitors picture Alaska wildlife, bears and whales often come to mind first—but many are surprised to learn that **moose are actually the largest land mammals in Alaska**. Towering over six feet at the shoulder and weighing as much as a small car, these gentle giants are among the state's most impressive and frequently spotted animals.

Unlike bears, moose are commonly seen near roads, rivers, lakes, neighborhoods, and even city parks. It's not unusual for visitors to see one while traveling between Anchorage, Denali, Seward, or Talkeetna—or even from the window of the Alaska Railroad.

Although they appear calm and slow-moving, moose are powerful wild animals that deserve plenty of space and respect.



Quick Facts



Scientific Name: *Alces alces gigas*

Species: Alaska-Yukon Moose

Height:

- Up to **7 feet (2.1 meters)** at the shoulder

Weight:

- Bulls: **1,200–1,600 pounds**
- Cows: **800–1,300 pounds**

Lifespan:

- 15–20 years in the wild

Diet:

- Willow
- Birch
- Aspen
- Aquatic plants
- Shrubs
- Twigs

The Alaska-Yukon moose is the **largest subspecies of moose in the world.**



Where Can You See Moose?



Moose can be found throughout much of Alaska.

Some of the best places to see them include:

- Anchorage
- Denali National Park
- Talkeetna
- Seward
- Homer
- Fairbanks
- Kenai Peninsula
- Along the Alaska Railroad
- Roadways throughout Southcentral Alaska

Unlike many wildlife species, you don't always need a guided excursion to spot a moose.

★ Best Time to See Moose



Moose are active throughout the year, but summer visitors have excellent opportunities.

May

Excellent.

Fresh vegetation attracts moose to open areas.

June

Excellent.

Cows are often seen with newborn calves.

July

Very good.

Moose are commonly found feeding near ponds and marshes.

August

Excellent.

Large bulls become more active as the breeding season approaches.

September

Outstanding.

The fall rut begins, and bulls are more visible.

Why Moose Love Water



One of the most fascinating things about moose is their love of water.

They frequently:

- Feed on aquatic plants
- Swim across lakes
- Cross rivers
- Cool off during warm weather

Moose are excellent swimmers and can travel surprisingly long distances in the water.

Moose Calves



Most calves are born during late May and early June.

A cow may give birth to:

- One calf
- Twins
- Occasionally triplets

Young calves stay with their mother for nearly a year while learning how to survive.



Can You See Moose on an Alaska Cruise?



Yes!

While moose are rarely seen directly from cruise ships, they're commonly spotted during:

- Alaska Railroad journeys
- Motorcoach tours
- Denali excursions
- Kenai Peninsula tours
- Seward transfers
- Anchorage sightseeing

Keep your camera ready whenever you're traveling by land.



Photography Tips



For the best photos:

- Use a zoom lens.
- Photograph during early morning or evening when moose are most active.
- Include the surrounding scenery to show their impressive size.
- Never approach for a close-up.
- Stay inside your vehicle if a moose is nearby.

A large bull with a mountain backdrop makes for an unforgettable photograph.

Moose Safety

Many people underestimate moose because they don't appear aggressive.

In reality, moose can become dangerous if:

- They feel threatened.
- A cow is protecting her calves.
- A bull is in the fall breeding season.

Always:

- Stay at least **50 yards (150 feet)** away.
- Never block a moose's path.
- Give them plenty of room to move.

Believe it or not, moose injure more people in Alaska than bears do—usually because people get too close.

What to Bring

Bring:

- ✓ Binoculars
- ✓ Camera
- ✓ Zoom lens
- ✓ Waterproof jacket
- ✓ Patience

Moose often appear unexpectedly along roads and waterways.



Premium Travel Group Tip

One of the best ways to see a moose is simply by keeping your eyes open during transfers between destinations. Whether you're riding the Alaska Railroad, traveling by motorcoach, or driving through Southcentral Alaska, moose frequently appear where you least expect them. Don't spend the entire trip looking at your phone—you never know when a 1,500-pound surprise will step out of the trees!



Continue Exploring Alaska

Continue planning your Alaska adventure with our other guides:

- Alaska Wildlife Guide
 - Brown Bear Guide
 - Black Bear Guide
 - Kodiak Bear Guide
 - Bald Eagle Guide
 - Caribou Guide (*future guide*)
 - Dall Sheep Guide (*future guide*)
 - Denali National Park Guide
 - Alaska Railroad Experience Guide
 - Seward Guide
 - Anchorage Guide
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Fun Facts

- A bull moose's antlers can span **more than 6 feet across** and weigh up to **40 pounds**.
 - Moose can run **up to 35 mph**, even through deep snow.
 - Despite their size, they are excellent swimmers and can dive underwater to feed on aquatic plants.
 - Bulls shed their antlers every winter and grow an entirely new set each spring.
 - Newborn calves can stand and walk within just a few days of birth.
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Why Are Moose So Special?

Moose are one of Alaska's true icons. Their incredible size, majestic antlers, and calm presence make every sighting memorable. Whether you're watching a bull feed beside a quiet lake, spotting a cow and calf along a forest road, or seeing one from the Alaska Railroad, encountering a moose reminds you that Alaska is still one of the last great wilderness destinations in North America.



Joe's Logbook

People often ask me what wildlife they're most likely to see in Alaska, and my answer usually surprises them—a **moose**.

While everyone hopes to see a bear or a whale, moose are actually much more common, especially if you're spending time on land before or after your cruise. I've seen them near roads, in neighborhoods, beside rivers, and even wandering through parks.

One thing I always tell travelers is not to underestimate them. They may look calm, but they're incredibly powerful animals and deserve plenty of space. A good zoom lens will get you a much better photo than trying to get closer ever will.

There's something unforgettable about seeing a giant bull moose standing quietly against a backdrop of snow-covered mountains. It's one of those classic Alaska moments that reminds you you're visiting a place where wildlife truly still rules the landscape.