



31 Ways to Celebrate Preservation Month in Alaska

We spend all year advocating for places that matter. During [Preservation Month](#), we flex our preservationist muscles and set aside time to celebrate and explore historic places in innovative ways. This May, *Preservation Alaska* needs your help. Complete the items on the action list below and let us know when you do by tagging [#SavingPlaces](#). We can't wait to see what you accomplish!

One

Tell a friend [#SavingPlaces](#) [#TellTheFullStory](#)

Share this list on social media and compete with your preservation pals to see who can check the most off this list. (And follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#), if you aren't already!) Don't forget to follow AAHP on Facebook at [AAHP](#) and [SavingPlacesAlaska](#).

Two

Be the first to know.

Be among the first to know which places are on 2023's [America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places List](#)—the list drops in May!

Three

Shop local.

Shop your local [Main Street](#) or Downtown. From quaint downtowns to bustling city streets, Main Streets and Downtowns offer plenty of character and charm for all who visit. Take a selfie and post it on your Facebook page with [#SavingPlaces](#) [#TellTheFullStory](#) *Don't forget to post it at [SavingPlacesAlaska!](#)*

Four

Eat somewhere new in someplace old.

There are thousands of historic buildings that find new life as restaurants. Today's challenge: Find a new restaurant in an old building, then take yourself out to lunch. Take a selfie and post it on your Facebook page with [#SavingPlaces](#) [#TellTheFullStory](#) *Don't forget to post it at [SavingPlacesAlaska!](#)*

Five

Help us [#TellTheFullHistory](#).

[Get inspired](#) by Tia Mowry-Hardrict, Aldis Hodge, Marcus Scribner, and Phylicia Rashad—African American artists and activists— as they tell us about the historic places that matter to them. Then, [#TellTheFullHistory](#) and share stories of historic buildings that contribute to the diversity of our nation.

Six

Discover preservation in cities.

Get the latest news on preservation in cities. Check with your local museum, historical society, chamber of commerce, or visitors center.

Seven

Tell the world.

[Share your photos](#) of historic places. We love to see passionate preservationists and place-lovers Instagramming gorgeous old buildings in our neighborhood, so don't forget to use [#SavingPlaces](#) Be sure to share them on YOUR Instagram, too! *Don't forget to post it at [SavingPlacesAlaska!](#)*

Eight

Hit the streets.

And while you are representing the **#SavingPlaces** movement, take your **#SavingPlaces** sign with you and start a conversation about historic preservation. [Download sign](#)

Nine

Take action for historic places.

[Speak up](#) for places under threat, from the [National Mall Tidal Basin](#) to [Route 66](#), plus all of the invaluable preservation tools that work to protect them. Don't forget to speak up for Alaska's historic sites and places by contacting our Congressional Delegation and your Alaska State Legislators.

Ten

Subscribe to the Spotify channel.

Did you know we have preservation playlists? Make your ears happy with music connected to San Francisco, road trips to historic places, and the preservation movement by [subscribing to the channel on Spotify](#).

Eleven

Get connected.

Join the conversation with other preservationists by joining the local museum or historical society. Become a member of Preservation Alaska! Get started with [a guide to becoming a professional historic preservationist](#). What is happening in your community? Research how you can help.

Twelve

Get inspired.

We love showing off the rock stars who work to put preservation first in their businesses, organizations, and communities. Preservation Alaska awards their [Historic Preservation Award](#) to individuals, agencies, and organization each fall during our Annual Meeting.

Thirteen

Stay in historic accommodations.

When travelling, [book a historic hotel](#) to find beautiful accommodations surrounded by the past. Or, have a meal or a cocktail at a hotel closer to home to get the change of scenery you want without breaking the bank. Can't find one? Check with the chamber of commerce or visitors center in the community you are traveling to for assistance.

Fourteen

Plan a road trip.

Last year, we took the road trip of a lifetime. [Read about our efforts to preserve Route 66 and about the places we visited](#). Then, start planning your own! While it may be a bit difficult planning a road trip in SE Alaska, you can still plan a fun trip right in your own community.

Fifteen

Explore new opportunities.

Get involved! Volunteer for a local preservation organization or, if you're thinking of starting a career in preservation, check out these [job openings in the field](#). Check Preservation Alaska's website for a list of [Historic Preservation Commissions](#) around the state.

Sixteen

Explore a historic place.

Visit a [National Trust Historic Site](#), [Historic Artist's Home](#), or [Distinctive Destination](#) near you. Did you know that members of the National Trust get deep discounts at our collection of Historic Sites and 200 Distinctive Destinations around the country? Oscar Anderson House Museum in Anchorage is a Distinctive Destination! [There are over 400 historic properties in Alaska](#).

Seventeen

Contribute to the National Register.

Help protect your community by [identifying a nominee to the National Register of Historic Places](#). It's a great way to let your neighborhood know that this place matters!

Eighteen

Discover your house's history.

Do you live in a historic building? Find out how you can [learn more about the history of your house!](#)

Nineteen

Get hands-on preservation experience.

Get involved with hands-on preservation in your community. You can start by reading about our ongoing work at [HOPE Crew \(Hands-On Preservation Experience\)](#). Then, find your own opportunities to get out in the field! There may be projects right in your own community.

Twenty

Find your park.

Did you know there are 419 National Park Service units in the United States? We're sure there's at least [one near you](#), so get out there and visit it! If nothing else, check with your local Parks and Recreation department for parks with a history.

Twenty-One

Meet your dream home.

By this point, we're pretty sure you love old homes ... maybe enough to buy one someday? Meet your next home—or at least dream about it for now—in NTHP's weekly [Preservation Personals](#) series or contact your local Realtor.

Twenty-Two

Plan preservation events.

Preservation doesn't have to be boring (as we hope you've learned from this list so far). Plan a captivating event with other people who care about old places. Your options are limitless, from [historic bike rides](#) and [city tours](#) to [building funerals](#) and more. Historic preservation is FUN!

Twenty-Three

Find a National Treasure.

From a decisive win for [Virginia's James River](#) to the recent success at the [Delta Queen steamboat](#), the diverse portfolio of National Treasures (nationally significant places where the National Trust is taking direct action) has never been stronger. Learn more about old places that define us as a nation by [checking out the complete collection](#).

Twenty-Four

Read the latest issue.

The current issue of *Preservation magazine* can be accessed online. To receive *Preservation* in your own home, [join the National Trust](#) and a fresh new copy will arrive each quarter. As a member of Preservation Alaska, you will receive our quarterly newsletter [Preservation Notes](#).

Twenty-Five

Tell legislators #SavingPlaces is important to you.

Contact your elected officials to make sure they're prioritizing the preservation issues you care about. You can [get started with our fill-in-the-blank form letter](#). Contact Preservation Alaska for assistance on current historic preservation concerns.

Twenty-Six

Celebrate the Bauhaus movement.

Celebrate the 100th anniversary of Bauhaus—a school started in Weimar, Germany, that moved to the U.S. in the 20th century and influenced so much of the Modern architecture we see today—by [reading this brief history of the movement](#).

Twenty-Seven

Encourage the next generation.

It's never too early to start learning why old places matter! Teach the [next generation](#) about [preservation](#) with fun ways to spark their passion for history.

Twenty-Eight

Add to your reading list.

Enough talking about old places! Start reading about them with a preservationist book club. We recommend [Why Old Places Matter](#) by National Trust staffer Tom Mayes. Want more? These [historical fiction books](#) that focus on old places can also kick off your club.

Twenty-Nine

Support us.

[Make a monthly gift](#) to *Preservation Alaska* and help us save places all year long.

Thirty

Take a quiz.

Now take a break from the heavy lifting—take a [quiz](#) to test your preservation smarts (or find your preservation personality). You can learn [which architect you most relate to](#); find the [perfect Historic Hotel for your next vacation](#); and discover [how much you really know about architecture](#) (and many more!)

Thirty-One

Say "cheers" to Preservation Month!

Phew! You did it. [Raise a glass to preservation at your local historic bar](#). In Alaska, that might be [The Salty Dawg Saloon](#) in Homer! However, no matter where you live, we thank you for celebrating Historic Preservation Month with us and toast you with a favorite beverage.

The Salty Dawg originally was one of the first cabins built in Homer in 1897, soon after the establishment of the town site.

It was acquired in the late 1940s by Chuck Abbott. In 1949 Chuck and his friend Gerald Gifford put the cabin on skids and moved it to the Homer Spit. In April 1957, he officially opened it as the Salty Dawg Saloon. By 1960 the Salty Dawg Saloon had a building adjacent to it, coinciding with The Alaska Territory becoming the 49th state of the union in January 1959.

[Earl D. Hillstrand](#) (1913-1974), an attorney, small businessman and member of the Alaska House of Representatives, purchased it in 1960. Although an Anchorage resident, Hillstrand had a homestead near Homer and was in the process of developing the nearby Land's End Resort at the time.

The Salty Dawg Saloon is currently owned and operated by John Warren.

The saloon has been featured on [Deadliest Catch](#) on the Discovery Channel. The bar is known for the thousands of dollar bills signed by visitors and tacked to the walls. This practice started many years ago, when a visitor tacked a dollar on the wall, explaining that his friend would be by later. The dollar was intended for buying the friend a drink.^[1]

Preservation Alaska

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