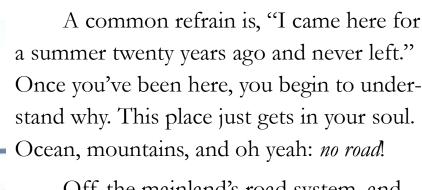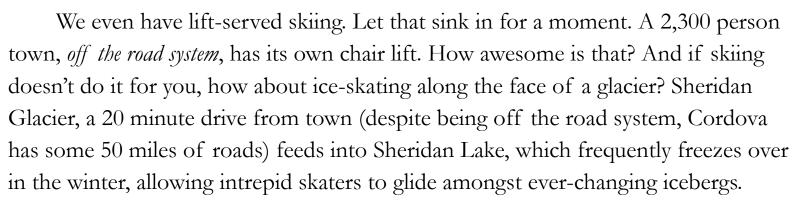CORDOVA... Alaska's Best Kept Secret

Why move to Cordova? The answer is simple: *quality of life*. Cordova is a close-knit and laid-back community of approximately 2,300 inhabitants, endowed with stunning natural beauty and a vibrant local culture. It doesn't hurt that it's consistently ranked as one of the safest and smartest communities in Alaska, either. Just ask our locals: most of them wouldn't live anywhere else, and that's because there's nowhere else quite like Cordova!

A common refrain is, "I came here for a summer twenty years ago and never left." Once you've been here, you begin to understand why. This place just gets in your soul. Ocean, mountains, and oh yeah: *no road*!

Off the mainland's road system, and publicly accessible only by ferry or plane, Cordova's about as far from a tourist trap as you can get. Rather than trinkets for sale, you'll find fresh salmon, halibut, venison and moose; world-class skiing, hiking, and kayaking; northern lights, and a town where everybody in the grocery store knows each other by name.

We even have lift-served skiing. Let that sink in for a moment. A 2,300 person town, *off the road system*, has its own chair lift. How awesome is that? And if skiing doesn't do it for you, how about ice-skating along the face of a glacier? Sheridan Glacier, a 20 minute drive from town (despite being off the road system, Cordova has some 50 miles of roads) feeds into Sheridan Lake, which frequently freezes over in the winter, allowing intrepid skaters to glide amongst ever-changing icebergs. Old, young, it doesn't matter: on a sunny day with good ice, you might find half the town out there!

While it seems fair to say that those who truly thrive in Cordova tend to love the outdoors, there's plenty to do inside, too. Curl up with a good book or lift a paintbrush as you listen to the patter of rain against your roof. Cordova is home to an incredible array of artists, including painters, writers, woodworkers, photographers, musicians, knitters, bakers, and every other variety of "I-can-do-that-myself-er".

Sixty-seven percent of respondents to town's Comprehensive Survey listed our "sense of community" as what they most valued about life here. This sense of community is never more apparent than during Cordova's seasonal festivals, each of which brings neighbors, friends, and family together through fun, usually outdoor-centered activities. During the fall there's the mushroom-themed Fungus Festival, during the winter there's the Ice Worm Festival, with spring comes the Shore Bird Festival, and lastly, summer is time for the annual Salmon Jam.

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As for amenities, Cordova is extremely well-served for a town of our size and remoteness. We receive two daily Alaskan Airlines flights, as well as intermittent ferry service with approximately four landings a week during the summer. Parks & Recreation maintains a sizable gym, an indoor heated pool, and several public-use cabins. Town has three different grocery stores, two hardware stores, two banks, a library, hospital, dentist, outdoor gear store, arts and crafts store, museum and theater, heli-skiing operation, and much, much more, all within a short walk of downtown. (And for those *really* particular items you can't find in town, there's always Amazon Prime!) High-speed fiber optic internet ensures excellent online connectivity for those working remotely.

Many are surprised by how warm Cordova is, particularly in winter. The coastal climate is temperate, and seriously wet. Winter days are usually in the thirties, and rarely below twenty, while summer days range between sixty and seventy degrees. On a clear, sunny day, though, all that rain feels worthwhile: there's not a prettier place on earth.

Are you tired of the city, have you been there too long?
Are you sick of the sirens, do you miss the birdsong?
Is that why rather than sleeping, you're on your iPhone in bed,
Dreamin' of this place called Cordova, and that job app that said:

If you like Alaskan Amber, and way too much rain,
If you're not into freeways, and know how to purse seine,
If you like ice skating glaciers, hiking out your front door,
We're the town that you've looked for, hit apply and escape.

You probably already have an inkling of whether Cordova might be for you. It's a small town smack dab in the middle of one of the largest wildernesses on earth. Fishing has made town reasonably prosperous and our public amenities—including our schools—are well-funded and well-regarded. As for the people who live here, they're independent, adventurous, creative, kind, loyal, generous, and above all, *quirky.* To prove this last point, we're going to end this flyer with a song set to the tune of Rupert Holmes' "Escape" (a.k.a. the "Piña Colada Song")… We hope to see you in Cordova soon!