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Parts of south-central Alaska tend to run a bit more mild than other parts of the state due to its proximity to the Pacific Ocean.

By Matt Rocheleau

GLOBE STAFF DECEMBER 16, 2016

It was warmer in parts of Alaska Friday than it was in Boston.

As of 11 a.m., it was 10 degrees at Logan International Airport in Boston. At the same time, according to the National Weather Service, it was 22 degrees at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, where the local time was 7 a.m.

Other places around the world — including cities within the Arctic Circle and parts of Antarctica — were also warmer than Boston on Friday morning, according to officials at AccuWeather.com.

Up in balmy Anchorage, Eddie Zingone chuckled as he bragged, “We can certainly say, ‘We’re warmer than you right now.’”



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Such temporary role reversals are not entirely unusual.

“The way the weather patterns often work out, a lot of times when you have your coldest weather in the lower 48s, we’re having our warmest,” said Zingone, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in Anchorage.

And Anchorage, because of its location in south-central Alaska and its proximity to the Pacific Ocean, tends to run a bit more mild than other parts of that state, even though it is much farther north than Boston.

Zingone said he wouldn’t expect to see any Bostonians

flocking up there for a winter getaway.

“Whether you live in Boston or Anchorage, you’re going to get some pretty cold days in the winter so I think most people are used to that,” he said.

In fact, Anchorage just went through a much longer, more frigid cold snap than Boston is experiencing now.

Zingone said temperatures there were regularly well below normal for a few weeks. On Dec. 5, for example, the official temperature at Anchorage’s airport was minus 8 degrees, he said.

The airport is one of the warmer areas there, though. In other nearby spots, temperatures were reported to reach as low as minus 16, he said.

Kristina Pydynowski, a senior meteorologist at AccuWeather.com, said this morning’s low of 4 degrees in Boston was not a record low for the date. That record is held by Dec. 16, 1883, when the temperature fell to 1 degree.

Friday marked the coldest December morning since the morning of New Year’s Eve in 1996, and the coldest morning of any month since Valentine’s Day of this year, when the low was minus 9 degrees.

(The cold Friday in Boston was heightened by brisk winds that made it feel like it was well below zero.)

Pydynowski found some other places around the planet that were surprisingly warmer than Boston.

When it was 4 degrees in Boston this morning, it was warmer:

- In Barrow, on the northernmost tip of Alaska, where it was 21 degrees.
- In Alta, Norway, north of the Arctic Circle, where it was 35 degrees.
- In Nome, Alaska, where it was 24 degrees.

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- In Fairbanks, Alaska, where it was 9 degrees.
- In Kimmirut in Nunavut, Canada, located on an island north of the province of Quebec, where it was 10 degrees.
- And in Antarctica, at Base Presidente Eduardo Frei Montalva, where it was 34 degrees. (Pydynowski noted, though that the base actually isn't typically colder than Boston because it sits on a peninsula and the surrounding water helps warm the air temperature.)

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](https://twitter.com/mrochele)

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