

HOUSTON
it's an open market

History repeats itself as downtown's Market Square Park becomes an open-air shopping venue, much like the bustling street market in the same location that thrived from the 1840s to the 1920s. The new, colorful Saturday market is a fresh-air shopping destination for those wishing to buy or sell a wide variety of items. **Market Square Market** is open every Saturday, rain or shine, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 713.817.7181; marketsquaremarket.com — Carol Rust

summer on stage

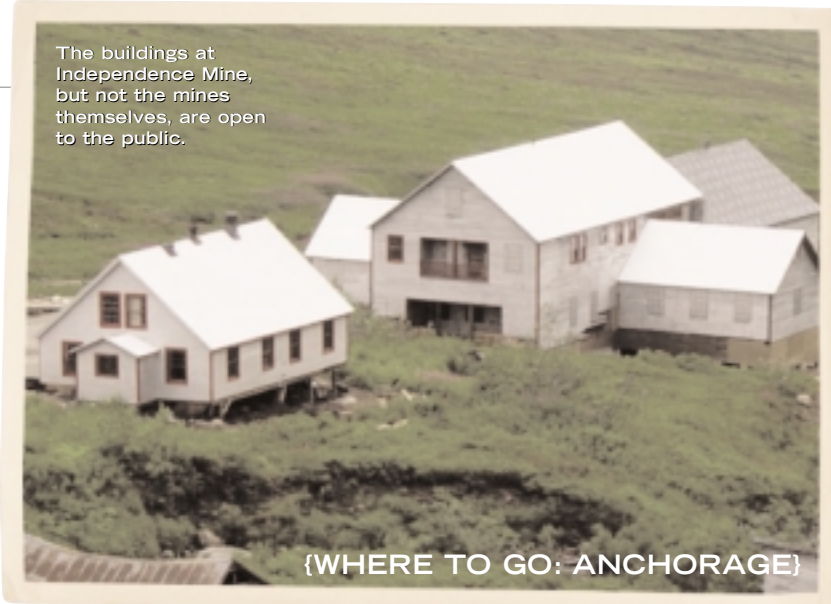
The Houston Ballet presents a supreme example of 19th-century balletic romanticism at the Wortham Theater Center June 9–19. **Giselle**, the story of a peasant girl and her love for a young aristocrat, depicts love, betrayal, and redemption in stunning simplicity. Also on the program is the Houston Ballet premiere of **Maninyas**, the abstract ballet that first afforded international exposure to Stanton Welch, Houston Ballet's artistic director. 800.828.ARTS; houstonballet.org — C.R.

CLEVELAND
that hot new sound

Cleveland becomes the home of new rock on June 9–11, when as many as 100 bands gather for the **CMJ/Rock Hall Music Fest**. Emerging bands perform at eight venues around town, including the House of Blues and the Grog Shop, plus multiple stages at the Festival Village at Nautica on the West Bank of the Flats. CMJ, producers of the famed NY Music Marathon, have teamed up with the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame to bring this festival of rock to Cleveland. 216.781.7625; cmj.com/rockfest — Laura Taxel

parading around

Creativity is king and the spirit of whimsy reigns at the **16th Annual Parade the Circle Celebration** on June 11 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eye-catching floats, along with 2,000 masked and costumed marchers, strut their stuff starting at the Cleveland Museum of Art. The free, day-long event in University Circle's Wade Oval includes live music, theater, dance, hands-on crafts, and plenty of good food. 216.421.7350; clevelandart.org — L.T.



The buildings at Independence Mine, but not the mines themselves, are open to the public.

{WHERE TO GO: ANCHORAGE}

After the Gold Rush

IT'S THE FIRST RULE OF PROSPECTING: DON'T ASK SOMEONE HOW MUCH GOLD they found last year. "It's like asking someone's salary," says Cynthia Toohey, one of the owners of **Red Creek Mine**. Still, chances are she had quite a take, with an estimated one million yards of unmined, possibly gold-laden dirt at Crow Creek alone. It is just one of three gold mines within 65 miles of Anchorage, Alaska, that are worth their weight in, well, gold.

The Alaskan Gold Rush began in the 1890s and lasted about 50 years, but visitors and prospectors continue to explore the mines of Anchorage today, seeking fortune and fun. Anchorage's population swelled through its support of this industry and today the city accounts for almost half of Alaska's population.

During the boom, Crow Creek miners averaged 700 ounces monthly, worth \$300,000 today. "There's an incredible amount in the ground still," says Toohey. Here the precious metal is found loose in streams and embedded in gravel. It comes from the mountains, where glaciers grind rock into gravel, slowly pushing it down through valleys. Visitors to nearby **Indian Valley Mine**, originally a hard rock mine, can pan for gold — but in a tub, not a creek.

Sixty-two miles north of Anchorage in Willow Creek Valley, in 1906, prospector Robert Lee Hatcher found the area's mother lode in an exposed quartz outcropping. In its prime, the Willow Creek Mining District supported 38 hard rock mines, recovering 623,874 ounces, but **Independence Mine** is the only one remaining. Now a state park, its 24 miles of interconnected, tunnels house most of its mining evidence underground.

These historic landmarks still can be enjoyed by families and treasure seekers alike. From Anchorage, the Seward and Glenn highways lead past stunning scenery along the way to gold. — Deborah Abrams Kaplan



COURTESY OF INDEPENDENCE MINE (ANCHORAGE)

DREW DONOVAN (GISELLE); ANDREW MURPHY AND BARBARA BEARS;

1,955

square miles of total area make the city of Anchorage larger than the entire state of Delaware.

Source: anchorage.net