

Parks Highway Road Log

Mile by Mile Description of the Parks Highway
from Anchorage to Fairbanks, Alaska



Parks Highway Highway

Over twelve years and \$150 million went into the completion of this route which extends through 358 miles/576 km of Alaska's most rugged terrain. Yet this highway need not be feared, because it is the state's widest and best year-round road. There are over 40 bridges to cross with the longest being a 1050-foot span of the Susitna River at mile 104. The most spectacular, Hurricane Gulch Bridge, at mile 174.3 is only half the length of the Susitna Bridge, but it is a breathtaking 254 feet above the white water of Hurricane Creek.

Denali (Mt. McKinley), the nation's tallest peak at 20,320-feet, lies about half way between Anchorage and Fairbanks and can be seen from the Park Highway on a clear day. There are much excellent views of the mountain from mile 70 at Willow, and the rest areas at mile 133 and mile 163. At mile 104 there is a good view of the three tallest peaks in the Alaska Range: Foraker, Hunter and Denali, left to right. At mile 132.5 you enter Denali State Park.

The mileage figures in the following highway description correspond to the numbers appearing on the mileposts in place along most of the highway. The description begins in Anchorage and follows the route's 358 miles to Fairbanks. The first 36 miles from Anchorage are on shared with the Glenn Highway. The two highways split just before reaching Wasilla.

Updates on Road Conditions and Construction:
<http://511.alaska.gov>

mile 0 Anchorage - Junction with Ingra Street. The Parks Highway follows the Glenn Highway for 36 miles before branching off.

mile 2 Boniface Parkway. Russian Jack Springs city campground is located south of the highway off Boniface Parkway. Not suitable for large units. Turn north for Elmendorf.

mile 4 Muldoon Road. City bypass route to Seward Highway and the Anchorage International Airport. Exit for Alaska Native Heritage Center. www.alaskanative.net

mile 6.5 Northbound exit to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and Arctic Valley Road. Arctic Valley Ski Area is 7.5 miles on a steep road not recommended for large RV's.

mile 7 Southbound exit to Ft. Richardson and Arctic Valley Road.

mile 12 Eagle River Campground, take Hiland Road/Eagle River Loop Exit. Access via 1.4 mile side road. 57 camp sites, with picnic tables, fire pits, water, flush toilets and dump station. Overflow camping area of 10 sites. Fee area. Campground Host. Recreation: Fishing, whitewater rafting. Short hiking trails.

Special Note: One-half of the campsites are available by reservation - call 907-694-7982 or online at: www.lifetimeadventures.net

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mile 13 Bridge over Eagle River.

mile 13.6 Exit to the twin communities of **Chugiak-Eagle River**. Since 1930, when the first homestead (300 acres) was hewn out of the wilderness, the area has grown into a sizeable community. A rodeo is staged here each summer, and winter sports activities include sled dog and snowmobile racing.

Vitus Energy at Birchwood. Fuel, snacks, clean restrooms, ATM-services, a liquor store as well as ice cream, hot showers and laundry facilities. North Birchwood exit in Chugiak at 19223 Old Glenn Hwy.

mile 15.3 Exit for Old Glenn Highway and North Eagle River.

mile 16.3 Fire Lake.

mile 17.5 South Birchwood Loop Road. Exit to Chugiak-Eagle River and Fire Lake.

mile 20.7 North Birchwood Loop Road exits both sides of highway. East to Chugiak or the Old Glenn Highway south to Eagle River.

mile 21 Bridge over Peters Creek.

mile 21.6 South Peters Creek exits both sides of highway, visitor facilities.

mile 22.6 North Peters Creek exits both sides of highway.

mile 23.6 Mirror Lake. Picnic wayside for northbound traffic only. Swimming, boating.

mile 24.5 Southbound exit for Mirror Lake Municipal Park.

mile 25.2 Thunderbird Falls exit for northbound traffic only and access to Eklutna Road. Thunderbird Falls is about a 1 mile hike from the highway. The trail to the falls goes through private property down to a picnic area.

mile 25.6 Eklutna River.

mile 26 Overpass with exits on both sides of highway to **Eklutna and Thunderbird Falls**. Head east on Eklutna Road for 10 miles/16 km to Eklutna Lake Recreation Area in Chugach State Park. The campground has 50 camp sites, picnic shelters, toilets, water, and hiking trails. Fee area. Eklutna Lake is the largest lake in Chugach State Park with good fishing for Dolly

Varden and rainbow. Short hike to Eklutna glacier at far end of canyon-watch for falling rock and debris near glacier, this is a dangerous area. Do not climb on the glacier without proper equipment, knowledge, and companions.

Eklutna Historical Park. Twenty-six miles from Anchorage, is the historical location of the Dena'ina Athabaskan people. Dating back to 1650, this site has tiny buildings called "Spirit Houses" atop the graves of many generations of deceased. Next door, the Heritage House Museum is filled with photographs and craft displays portraying the native lifestyle and Russian influence. The oldest building in the greater Anchorage area (dated back to 1830) is the St. Nicholas Church, located in this park. Admission fee. Eklutna Historical Park is open to the public 8am-6pm daily Memorial Day-Labor Day. There is plenty of free parking and public facilities within the park for visitors. 907 696-2828 or 688-6026.

mile 29.5 Old Glenn Highway.

mile 29.9 In the next mile, 3 bridges cross the Knik River.

mile 30.6 Knik River Public Use Access. Reflections Lake trail with boardwalk over wetlands.

mile 31.4 Bridge over Matanuska River.

mile 35.3 Glenn Highway/Parks Highway Interchange, Trunk Road exit

mile 39.3 Seward Meridian Road, Meridian Center Mall and Walmart.

mile 40.9 Cottonwood Creek Mall.

mile 41.5 Junction of the Palmer-Wasilla Highway.

mile 41.7 Newcomb Wasilla Lake Park, a very nice picnic area on the shores of Wasilla Lake. George Parks Monument.

mile 42.2 Junction with Knik-Goose Bay Road. Wasilla. Access to Hatcher Pass via Main Street, which becomes Wasilla Fishhook Road.

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mile 43.7 Best Western Lake Lucille Inn. The Valley's premier hotel and has been recently renovated. Located on Lake Lucille with breathtaking views of the Chugach Range; only 45 miles from Anchorage. They have banquet and meeting facilities, fitness room with hot tub and sauna, free Wi-fi and complimentary deluxe continental breakfast. Turn left (when north-bound) on Hallea Rd (Lucas Rd when turning right). 1-800-897-1776

mile 47 The Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry was founded as the Air Progress Museum in Anchorage in 1967 as part of the statewide Alaska Purchase Centennial. After a disastrous fire in 1973, the museum languished for a number of years before it was reborn under its present name.

The museum contains a variety of vehicles, tools, and equipment used by the early pioneers of Alaska, as well as more recent airplanes, railroad cars, boats, automobiles, fire trucks, military weapons, trucks, farm equipment, and other materials.

Museum is open May 1st The museum is open seven days a week from 10:00am to 5:00pm through September 30.

mile 52.2 Meadowood Mall west of highway.

mile 52.2 Junction with Big Lake Road leads to Big Lake Recreation area, one of the major recreational areas for Southcentral Alaska, and is easily accessible by highway. Turn West at mile 52 on the Parks Highway, and drive 3.6 miles to Fishers Y. Keep to the left and you will come to East Lake Mall. Groceries, pizza, liquor store. From Fishers Y, paved and unpaved roads lead to Big Lake, Beaver Lake, Rocky Lake, Horseshoe Lake, and numerous campgrounds. The lakes are connected by dredged waterways. Fishing is good for rainbow, lake trout, Dolly Varden, burbot, and landlocked salmon. If you're piloting your own plane, Big Lake has a good airstrip and is only a short flight from Anchorage. Most area resorts provide land and/or water taxi service. Motor and sailboats are for hire at the recreational marinas and resorts. Guide services are also available.

mile 57 Bridge over Little Susitna River, parking. Fair rainbow fishing and good for king, red, humpie, and silver salmon in season. June through September. There is a good boat launch available to the public.

mile 57.4 Houston has all visitor facilities, groceries, restaurant, post office, campground, and lodging by the Little Susitna River, excellent fishing and riverboat services available.

Little Susitna River Campground. Fee area. The river is famous for its world-class sport fishing. Little Susitna Public Use Facility offers camping and boating access. The area is heavily forested with spruce and birch. A general store food, showers, storage, and gas is located within five miles of the campground. This is not an Alaska State Park, but is managed as one.

mile 66.5 Nancy Lake State Recreation Site. 30 camp sites is on the northeast shore of Nancy Lake, a popular fishing and boating area near Willow (67 miles from Anchorage, 30 miles north of Wasilla). A picnic area and a boat launch are also on the site. Electric hookups, phone. Fee area.

The 700-acre lake has fair fishing for rainbow and Dolly Varden, with occasional catches of silver salmon, whitefish, and burbot.

mile 69 Willow, population 1600 has a post office and a local airport.

mile 70.8 Willow Creek State Recreation Area has a 100 camp sites, 64 with electrical hookups, water, modern restrooms, hiking trails. Fee area. Fishing access to Willow Creek and its confluence with the Susitna River. There is excellent salmon fishing in the Willow area.

mile 71.2 Junction. Hatcher Pass Road 49.5 miles. For a beautiful drive on some of the highest, most spectacular, and wildest roadway in the state, take a detour up Palmer-Fishhook Road (Hatcher Pass Road). After about 13 miles of modern pavement, you'll negotiate some rough conditions up and over the mountains-peaking at Hatcher Pass (3,886 feet). This old mining area is scenic, rich in history, and offers great hiking and berry picking. Hatcher Pass Road is 49 miles total and continues west to Palmer on the Glenn Highway.

mile 71.5 Lower Willow Creek. Rainbow, silver salmon. Only creek in area that is navigable to the Big Susitna River.

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mile 74.7 Little Willow Creek. There is fair summer-fall fishing for trout & salmon in season. Parking.

mile 76.4 Kashwitna Lake; large parking area.

mile 81.2 Large gravel parking area on both sides of highway at Grey's Creek. Fishing.

mile 82.8 Susitna Landing State Recreation Area. boat launch, campground, RV park, restrooms, showers, fishing. Fee area.

mile 83.2 Kashwitna River and bridge, there are large parking areas at both ends of the bridge.

mile 84 Large parking area. Public access road to Caswell Creek.

mile 85 Caswell Creek.

Gigglewood Lakeside Inn, mile 87.9, Vacation Rentals. Beautiful guest rooms, private unit with kitchen and bath. Outdoor wood sauna & TV/VCR. Great breakfast. A lake side cabin in the deep woods, lots of birds and wildlife. Nature hikes and mountain biking. Turn at mile 88.1 Parks Highway on Hidden Hills Access Road 1/2 mile to the fork. Take the fork to the left which is Caswell Lake Road. Continue 4 miles on Caswell Lake Road to Rainbow Ridge Road and turn left. First log home on the left next to Caswell Lake. For more information 907-495-1014

mile 88.5 Sheep Creek, large parking area at north end of bridge.

mile 89 Parking.

mile 93 Parking.

mile 93.5 Goose Creek, parking.

mile 96.4 Montana Creek Campground.

Mile 99 Cubby's Marketplace mile 99 The only full-service supermarket on the Parks Highway north of Big Lake. At the Talkeetna Junction. 907-733-5050

mile 99 Talkeetna Junction. Paved road leads 14 miles to Talkeetna.

Sunshine Gas & Convenience Store- Tesoro gas and oil products, convenience items.

mile 102.2 Parking.

mile 104.2 Big Susitna River, State wayside, tables, fires pits and toilets.

mile 104.5 Rabideaux Creek, day use area. Short trail to creek.

mile 105.9 Rabideaux Creek bridge.

mile 114.8 Trapper Creek Inn visitor services.

mile 115 Community of Trapper Creek. Before the Susitna River was bridged, miners and homesteaders crossed it on winter ice and forged their way up the Petersville mining road.

mile 115.5 Vitus Energy in Trapper Creek. Fuel, restaurant and cabin rentals. Amenities include snacks, clean restrooms, ATM-services, a liquor store as well as ice cream, hot showers and laundry facilities.

mile 121.6 Parking.

mile 126.5 Parking.

mile 127 Parking.

mile 132.2 Denali State Park. The park is undeveloped for the most part. Several nature trails are found in area to the 2,000-ft. butte at the back of Byers Lake. The view from the butte is splendid.

The park is bordered by the Talkeetna Mountains and Alaska Range. The latter protects the area from the extreme winter cold of the Interior (to the north). The diverse landscape of the park is dominated by Curry and Indian ridges, which form a rugged 30-mile spine for the length of the park. Small terrace and upland lakes are found along the rock ridges. Numerous high points overlook the Alaska Range.

The park is a game refuge but you may not see any animals during the summer. Moose retreat to higher elevations as the snow melts, and the bear prefers his natural habitat. Sheep inhabit only the alpine regions and caribou cross the highway only in winter when they migrate.

mile 132.8 Chulitna River, parking.

Mt. McKinley Princess Wilderness Lodge, Mile 133. On the southern border of Denali National Park, this lodge features spectacular views of Mt. McKinley and the Alaska Range. The lodge has fine dining, a lounge, a casual cafe, espresso bar, and a gift shop. Guests enjoy mountain views from the outdoor hot tubs. Private rooms are situated in a peaceful wilderness setting. Each room has a TV & phone. Open mid-May through mid-September. Lodge often runs special summer rates. 800-426-0500



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mile 134.5 Mary's McKinley View Lodge.

mile 135.2 Denali Viewpoint South, large parking area with excellent view of Mt. McKinley. Telescopes, toilets, water pump, trail, camping.

mile 137.2 Lower Troublesome Creek and trailhead, 20 campsites, picnic sites, water, picnic shelters, toilets. Trails and fair trout and salmon fishing, some grayling. Fee area.

mile 137.6 Upper Troublesome Creek Trailhead; parking, water, toilets.

mile 143.8 Byers Creek.

mile 145.7 Parking.

mile 147 Byers Lake Campground. 73 camp sites, picnic sites, water, toilets, trails, fishing and boat launch. Cascade Ridge Trail leads up Curry Ridge from campground. Lake is not open to motorized boats. Berries in the area are abundant. Fee. area. There are a lot of bears in this area so be careful.

mile 147.1 Alaska Veterans Memorial and rest area. Tables, toilets, water and picnic shelters, trails and historical features.

mile 156.5 Ermine Hill Trailhead, parking.

mile 159.4 Parking.

mile 159.9 Horseshoe Creek, small parking area by creek.

mile 161 Parking.

mile 162.4 Denali Viewpoint North. Large parking area.

mile 162.7 Denali View North campground, 20 camp sites, picnic sites, water, fire pits, toilets. Hiking trail, interpretive signs, viewing telescope. Fee area. Handicap accessible.

mile 163.2 Little Coal Creek, parking at south end of bridge.

mile 163.9 Little Coal Creek trailhead and parking. Toilets and hiking trail.

mile 165.6 Parking on both sides of highway by small stream.

mile 168.5 Denali State Park Northern Boundary.

mile 170 Scenic viewpoint, parking.

mile 173 Parking, viewpoint.

mile 174 Hurricane Gulch. This 550-foot bridge is 260 feet above Hurricane Creek. Parking at both ends of bridge. Highway opening ceremonies held here October 14, 1971.

mile 176 Parking.

mile 176.6 Parking.

mile 178.1 Honolulu Creek, parking on both sides of the creek.

mile 179.5 Parking beside lake.

mile 180 Parking beside lake.

mile 183.1 Large parking area.

mile 184.5 Parking.

mile 185.1 East Fork of the Chulitna River.

mile 185.8 State Wayside. Picnic tables, shelter, water, firewood, fire pits, toilets.

mile 187.5 Parking.

mile 188.5 Igloo City, no services.

mile 191.2 Large parking area.

mile 194 Broad Pass separates the Chulitna and Nenana River basins and divides the Susitna and Yukon River watersheds. Elevation is 2300 ft.

mile 194.5 Middle Fork Chulitna River. Parking at south end of bridge.

mile 195.9 Good views of Mt. McKinley and Broad Pass, parking.

mile 201 Large parking area.

mile 203.6 Large parking area.

mile 208 Pass Creek, parking.

mile 209.5 Jack River.

mile 209.9 Junction. The Denali Highway heads east for 133 miles to Paxson (mile 185.5 on the Richardson Highway). The Denali Highway is a true wilderness highway and it is usually rough and dusty. Most rental vehicles are prohibited from driving the Denali Highway.

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mile 210 Cantwell 2 miles west of the Parks Hwy. Population approximately 200.

Vitus Energy at Cantwell. Fuel, snacks, clean rest-rooms, ATM-services, a liquor store.

mile 211.5 Parking

mile 213.9 Parking

mile 215.6 Nenana River bridge

mile 216 Parking

mile 219.8 Parking

mile 220.8 Large Double Ended Parking by Nenana River

mile 222.5 Parking

mile 224 Carlo Creek bridge. Visitor facilities

mile 229 Denali Cabins is the perfect base camp for all your Denali adventures. Just eight miles south of the Denali National Park entrance, their 46 cedar cabins are peaceful abodes quietly nestled in the wilderness. Enjoy Prey Pub & Eatery, the on-site restaurant that's serving up classic pub favorites with an Alaska twist. Call 800-808-8068 to book your stay today. Denali Cabins is also the home for **Denali Backcountry Adventure**, giving guests the opportunity to explore Denali National park on an all day journey deep in the heart of the park.

mile 229.5 Denali Air Enjoy a 60 minute fully narrated flight of Mt. McKinley and the splendor of Denali National Park. Every seat in the aircraft is a window seat that affords a great view of some of the most spectacular scenery in Alaska. Flights are scheduled every 2 hours. To book your adventure call 907-683-2261.

mile 231 Denali Grizzly Bear Resort. 72-room cedar hotel, cabins and RV Park. 907-583-2696 or toll free 1-866-583-2696.

mile 231.3 Nenana River. Denali National Park Boundary.

mile 234.1 Parking area, scenic view.

mile 237.2 Riley Creek.

mile 237.3 Denali National Park and Preserve Entrance.

mile 238 Nenana River Bridge.

mile 238.2 Kingfisher Creek.

mile 240.1 Denali Townsite.

Denali Rainbow Village mile 238.6, one mile north of Denali Park entrance has rooms with full kitchens. The motel is within walking distance to all the shops, restaurants and tours in Denali area.

Denali Jeep Excursions gives you the opportunity to drive a 4-door, 4x4 Jeep Wrangler on the scenic Denali Highway, experiencing views of Mt. McKinley, the Alaska Range, glaciers, & wildlife! This guided tour is 5 hours long and covers 120 miles. Drinks & snacks are provided. On the Boardwalk next to Tesoro Gas. 907-683-5337

Denali ATV Adventures offers four unique tours traveling deep into the Alaskan bush. 2½ - 4 hours and even a midnight sunset trip! One or two person, side-by-side ATVs. Professional guides provide a history of the area, show you the beautiful scenery and point out wildlife! On the Boardwalk next to Tesoro Gas. 907-683-4288

Denali Raft Adventures 1/2 mile north of the entrance to Denali National Park. Your choice of a 2 hour exhilarating whitewater or a mild water trip with stunning scenery, enjoy both options with a four hour combined trip. You can choose to be guided or to paddle with one of our expert paddle guides. Ride in comfort, Gortex drysuits are provided. Be sure to check out the Gift Shop. 1-888-683-2234. 10% Discount or check our website for specials.

Denali Raft Gift Shop Find us on the Rainbow Village Boardwalk between Northern Originals and Three Bears Gallery. We carry a large selection of Denali/ Alaska Christmas ornaments, Russian made crafts including nested dolls, unique T-shirts, fun stuffed Alaska Animals, souvenirs for Children and infants and a fine assortment of other Denali Park Souvenirs. Our staff is happy to provide visitor information. We ship anywhere. Summer 907-683-1295 Winter 907-683-2234. Open Mid-May to Mid-Sept.



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mile 240.2 Hornet Creek.

mile 240.4 Parking.

mile 241 Parking.

mile 241.2 Fox Creek, parking.

mile 242.2 Dragonfly Creek.

mile 243 Moody Bridge spans Windy Canyon on the Nenana River. Winds have been clocked as high as 120 mph. It is 174 feet to the canyon floor, parking at south end of bridge.

mile 243.8 Bridge over Bison Gulch, small parking area at north end of bridge.

mile 244.6 Antler Creek.

mile 245.1 Denali RV Park & Motel offers value priced rooms. Two beds or a family unit with kitchen. Free cable TV & Wifi. Great Gift Shop with unique items. Mile 245.1, Eight miles north of park entrance. 907-683-1500, 1-800-478-1501.

mile 248.6 Parking.

mile 248.8 Healy. Healy is at Mile 248 Parks Highway. It is home to the state's only commercial coal mine. Founded in 1943, Usibelli Coal Mine has a work force of about 95 employees and operates year-round. Usibelli coal is among the lowest sulfur coal produced in the world. Other environmental benefits include low nitrogen content, high calcium content and excellent performance characteristics in equipment designed to clean flue-gas emission. For over 60 years UCM's success in a harsh climate and remote location can be attributed to innovation in its operations. State-of-the-art equipment and modern methods have maximized efficiency. Currently, an average of 1.3 million tons of coal is produced annually, supplying six Interior Alaska's power plants and also shipping coal to South Korea and Chile through the Port of Seward.

mile 248.7 Totem Inn just 12 scenic miles north of the Denali Paak entrance, in Healy. All rooms include free Wi-fi, microwaves, TV's coffee pots, and memory foam mattress. Restaurant & Sports Bar with big screen TV. 907-683-6500

mile 249.8 Dry Creek.

mile 251.3 Small parking area.

mile 252.5 Panguingue Creek.

mile 259.4 Parking; Rex Dome is to the northeast, Walker and Jumbo domes to the east. Liberty Bell mining area lies between the peaks and highway.

mile 262.9 Parking.

mile 269 Rest Area. Sheltered picnic table, firepits, toilets. Steep road leads to June Creek and lower parking area. There is limited turnaround space for large RV's.

mile 269.3 Bear Creek, parking.

mile 271.3 Parking.

mile 275.8 Jack Coghill Bridge to the Interior /Nenana River Bridge.

mile 276 Tatlanika Trading Co.

mile 280 Clear Sky Lodge.

mile 283.5 Junction to Clear Air Force Station and Anderson.

mile 285.7 Julius Creek.

mile 286.8 Rest Area with picnic tables, outhouses and garbage bins.

mile 296.7 Fish Creek.

mile 304.6 Nenana Alaska Pop. 383

mile 305 Alaska Native Veterans' Honor Bridge over the Tanana River, large paved parking at the north end of bridge.

mile 305.5 Parking.

mile 309 Parking

mile 314.6 Rest area with picnic tables, outhouses and garbage bins..

mile 314.7 Little Goldstream Creek.

mile 318.8 Parking with view of Mt. McKinley on clear day.

mile 324.4 Short loop road on right northbound with scenic view to south.

mile 331.7 Short loop road on right northbound.

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mile 335.6 Short loop road on left northbound.

mile 339 From here to mile 345, Murphy Dome, elevation 2,930 feet, is visible. On the summit are white communications installations.

mile 341 Loop Road to scenic viewpoint on left northbound.

mile 344.2 Large paved parking area. Monument in honor of George Alexander Parks, former governor of Alaska. Also here is a Blue Star Memorial plaque honoring the armed forces. The Tanana River can be seen below in the valley.

mile 349.9 Alder Creek

mile 351.2 Turn-off for Ester, a former gold mining camp. Drive .4 miles, turn right on road marked Ester, and drive .2 miles to an intersection.

mile 355.8 Sheep Creek Road. Road to Murphy Dome (this is a restricted military site).

mile 356.8 Turn-off to the University of Alaska, Geist Road where there is a post office, Chena Ridge Loop and Chena Pump Road, where the old Chena Pump House National Historical Site is located. The Chena Pumphouse is one of Fairbanks' finest restaurants.

mile 357.7 Bridge over Chena River.

mile 357.8 Exit to **Fairbanks International Airport**.

mile 358 Fairbanks. The Parks Highway crosses Airport Way and becomes Mitchell Expressway. Follow Airport Way for downtown Fairbanks and visitor facilities or continue straight ahead on the Mitchell Expressway to reach the Richardson Highway which connects to the Alaska Highway at Delta Junction.