



# Seward Highway Road Log

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Mile by Mile Description of the Seward Highway  
from Anchorage, Alaska to Seward, Alaska



## Seward Highway

This 127 mile/204 km highway has been designated a National Forest Scenic Byway. It connects the cities of Anchorage and Seward traveling past salt water bays, ice-blue glaciers, and alpine valleys. The first 50 miles of the highway twists and turns along the base of the Chugach Mountains, and the shore of Turnagain Arm. The 37-foot tides here are exceeded only by those in Nova Scotia's Bay of Fundy. The waters racing out of the inlet expose miles of mud flats and when they return, frequently create 6-foot bore tides.

Thirty-eight miles from Seward, the route joins the Sterling Highway which continues down the peninsula to Soldotna, Kenai, Ninilchik, Anchor Point, and Homer. The Alaska Railroad parallels the Seward Highway to Portage, where it has a branch line to Whittier Alaska -port for the Alaska Marine Ferry System. Alaska Marine Ferry System has service to Valdez and Cordova. The railroad also serves Seward, which was the original starting point of the Alaska Railroad. Just past the turn-off for Portage Glacier, you will enter the Kenai Peninsula Borough - over 25,000 square miles of scenic park lands, forests, volcanoes, glaciers, coastline, rivers, and unique communities. Here it is easy to try your luck at hooking a world record king salmon or a giant halibut, photograph a Russian church, spotted sea lions, whales, and a kaleidoscope of seabirds on a scenic cruise, and do it all on the same day!

**Warning:** The mudflats along the coast from Anchorage to Portage (Turnagain Arm) exhibit quicksand-like conditions. It is extremely dangerous to walk on the beach or mudflats in this area.

**mile 127 Anchorage.** Gambell Street and 15th Ave.  
**mile 125 Airport Road.** 8 miles to International Airport, no access from New Seward Highway. You must turn west on Dimond or Tudor Road to Old Seward Highway, then take Airport Road to Anchorage International.

**mile 124.7 Tudor Road.** Bypass route around Anchorage to Glenn Highway via Muldoon Road.

**mile 122.2 Dimond Boulevard.** Exit for Dimond Mall, Costco, Fred Meyers.

**mile 120.7 O'Malley Road.** To reach Alaska Zoo, turn left (southbound from Anchorage) and drive 2 miles.

**mile 119.5 Huffman Road.**

**mile 118.1 Old Seward Highway and Rabbit Creek Road.**

**mile 117.6 Parking for Wildlife Viewing Boardwalk and Rabbit Creek Rifle Range.**

**mile 117 Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge** (Potter Marsh), a 2,300-acre wetland for bird watching, interpretive displays along the boardwalk. Nesting ponds for Arctic tern, geese, ducks, and swans.

**mile 116.1 Potter's Marsh, parking.**

**mile 115 Potter Section House and Historic Park.** Built in 1929 to maintain a section of the railroad, the house serves as Chugach State Park Visitor Center and railroad museum.

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Open daily 8 to 4:30 year round. Chugach State Park, north boundary. From here to mile 103 there are several scenic viewpoints of Turnagain Arm.

**mile 113.3** Parking.

**mile 111 McHugh Creek State Picnic Area.** Picnic sites, water, toilets and trails. The views of Turnagain Arm and Cook Inlet are breathtaking. Fast movement of the water (up to 6 knots) usually visible to naked eye.

**mile 111.2** Parking; Potter trailhead.

**mile 110.3 Beluga Point interpretive site** with telescopes. Enjoy beautiful views of Turnagain Arm while you watch for beluga.

**mile 109.2** Parking.

**mile 108.9** Parking.

**mile 108.7** Parking.

**mile 108.4** Rainbow Road to Rainbow trailhead and parking, access to Old Johnson Trail.

**mile 108** Parking.

**mile 107.7** Parking.

**mile 106.8** Scenic viewpoint, parking. Fallen Rock Trail access.

**mile 105.6** Falls Creek trailhead, parking.

**mile 104** Indian Valley Mine.

**mile 103.9** Indian Road.

**mile 103** Bridge over Indian Creek, rest area at south end of bridge. Heavily fished by local residents. Sea-run Dolly Varden, silver salmon, rainbow-June to Sept. Pink salmon-July and August.

**mile 102.2** Parking, Bird Ridge Trailhead.

**mile 101.5** Bridge over Bird Creek, parking, observation platform. Heavily fished by local residents.

**mile 101.2 Bird Creek State Campground**

Warning: The tidal mudflats that are exposed by low tide in this area are extremely dangerous, do not go out on them.

**mile 100** There are many large scenic parking areas from mile 100 to the junction at Girdwood.

**mile 96.4** Bird Point rest area. The historic gold rush settlement of Hope can be seen across Turnagain Arm.

**mile 90.5** Tidewater Slough.

**mile 89.7** Junction to Girdwood and Alyeska Ski Resort. Tesoro 2 Go Tesoro gas and oil products convenience store. There is no gas available between Girdwood and Seward on this Highway.

**mile 89.8** Glacier Creek. View of 3 glaciers to the east.

**mile 89.2** Virgin Creek.

**mile 86** Parking, Chugach National Forest, West Boundary.

**mile 83.9** Peterson Creek.

**mile 81** Parking at Twenty Mile River Observation platform with information on Twenty Mile River wetlands and wildlife.

**mile 80.7** Bridge over Twenty Mile River which flows out of Twenty Mile Glacier. Parking.

**mile 80.3** Portage/Whittier Information Center

**mile 79.3** Portage Creek No. 2, parking.

**mile 79.2** Parking

**mile 79 The Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Alaska's wildlife through conservation and public education. AWCC takes injured and orphaned animals and provides spacious enclosures and quality animal care. Animals that cannot be released into the wild are given a permanent home at the center. Come be a part of these exciting programs and watch these animals display their natural, "wild", behavior. Coyotes peer out from behind the brush while a bald eagle swoops in on the salmon remains left by a grizzly bear. Wood Bison plod through 65 acres of tidal flat terrain, as part of a program that will one day restore the species to the Alaskan wilderness. AWCC has been able to provide care for hundreds of displaced animals because visitors to AWCC have made critical contributions in the form of admission fees, donations, memberships, and gift shop purchases. AWCC encourages you to visit the center with your walking shoes and camera in hand for an educational Alaskan experience to remember. [www.alaskawildlife.org](http://www.alaskawildlife.org)

**mile 78.9 Access road to Portage Glacier and Whittier, Gateway to Prince William Sound.**



## Portage Recreation Area

Portage Glacier Recreation Area is accessed via a 5 mile paved road at mile 79 of the Seward Highway. The road ends at a large parking lot next to Portage Lake with excellent views of the floating icebergs.

The first stop at Portage Glacier should be the Begich-Boggs Visitor Center, which contains a number of exhibits as well as a their excellent film, "Retreat and Renewal: Stories from Alaska's Chugach National Forest." The Glacier has receded over three miles in the past century and is no longer visible from the Visitor Center, which was built in 1986. Open from Late May to mid September, 7 days a week. 907-783-2326. Forest Service Naturalists describe the many phenomena associated with the glacier. A self-guided trail begins south of the visitor center. During July and August you can see spawning salmon in nearby Portage Creek.

Portage Glacier is one of Alaska's most accessible and frequently photographed glaciers.

**Portage Glacier Cruises** sets sail to Alaska's most visited attraction! Board Gray Line of Alaska's exclusive day boat and cruise to within 300 yards of the glacier from the comfort of the mv Ptarmigan! Nature willing, you will witness the "calving" of the ice from the face of Portage Glacier. It is a one hour cruise and operates 5 times a day between 10:30am and 4:30pm, mid-May to mid-September. This is a highly recommended excursion and consistently rates high on TripAdvisor and other rating sites. [www.graylineofalaska.com](http://www.graylineofalaska.com)

**Byron Glacier Trail** The trailhead is in the parking lot about halfway between the Visitors Center and the boat dock. The trail is an easy hike and will get you up close to the glacier with great views of the surrounding mountains.

## Whittier

Surrounded by three magnificent glaciers, Whittier is an adventure lovers paradise. Each summer the 220 residents of this bustling community welcome thousands of visitors arriving by road, cruise ships and ferries.

In 1941 the U.S. Army built a railroad tunnel to transport fuel and other supplies from Whittier to Anchorage. The Portage tunnel is 0.9 miles long and Whittier tunnel is 2.5 miles. Change came in 2000, when for the first time ever residents were able to reach Whittier by road.

The State of Alaska transformed the existing railroad tunnel into a one-lane, combination highway and railway tunnel. This created the longest combined rail and highway tunnel in North America.

The toll for the Whittier tunnel is \$13 for cars, motorcycles and RV's less than 28 ft.

**Whittier Chamber of Commerce** Uncover the great adventures of Prince William Sound in Whittier. Hiking, kayaking, glacier cruising, wildlife watching, fishing, cabin cruising and sitting enjoying the awe inspiring views of Prince William Sound.

**Lazy Otter Charters** is family owned and operated since 1994 and will take you on a customized Prince William Sound adventure. Small boat glacier and wildlife cruises offering exclusive departures for 2 to 27 people, which includes a beach landing and shore walk. Also offering guided kayaking and water taxi services to remote areas of the Sound.

Visit their whimsical and charming café on the harbor serving espresso, baked goods, and soft serve ice cream. Try the world famous salmon spread. 907-694-6887 or 907-529-0235 returning to Anchorage the same day.

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**mile 78.4** Placer River, large parking area.  
**mile 77.8** Placer River overflow. Parking area at south end of bridge

**mile 75.5** Scenic view, parking.  
**mile 75.2** Ingram Creek.  
**mile 74.5** Large parking area.  
**mile 72.5** Parking, northbound.  
**mile 71.4** Parking, southbound.

**mile 71.2** Parking, southbound.  
**mile 70.9** Parking, northbound.  
**mile 69.2** Scenic viewpoint.

**mile 68.1 Turnagain Pass Recreation Area** (elev. 988 feet). Parking with view of Turnagain Pass. Restrooms and emergency phone.

**mile 66.8** Parking.  
**mile 66** Parking.  
**mile 65.5** Bertha Creek.

**mile 65.4 Bertha Creek Forest Service Campground**. 12 camp sites, water, overlook benches, toilets, firepits. Handicap accessible. Fee area.

**mile 64.8** Spokane Creek.  
**mile 63.4** Johnson Pass trailhead.  
**mile 62.9** Granite Creek.

**mile 62.2 Granite Creek Recreation Area**. 19 camp sites, water, toilets, and tables. Fee area.  
**mile 61.9** East Fork Sixmile Creek.

**mile 61.1** Silvertip Creek.  
**mile 59** Parking.  
**mile 57.7** Dry Gulch Creek, parking.

**mile 56.7** Canyon Creek, rest area both sides of highway at north end of bridge tables, toilets and hiking trails.

**mile 56.5 Hope Junction**. Hope is reached by a 16-mile paved road.

**Chugach Outdoor Center** on Sixmile Creek near Hope, offers one of the best whitewater trips in Alaska. Dropping over 50 feet per mile, Sixmile flows out of the Chugach Mountains and cuts through three separate canyons. Towering walls with cascading

waterfalls and awesome whitewater make this a river runner's dream. It is a highly technical river and it requires physically fit participants. Chugach offers less demanding trips so be sure to check them out at mile 7.5 on the Hope Road.

**mile 54.8 Parking**.  
**mile 53.5** Parking.  
**mile 52.6** Parking.  
**mile 51.4** Parking.

**mile 50.6** Parking, southbound  
**mile 48** Fresno Creek, parking area.  
**mile 47.8** Lower Summit Lake.  
**mile 47.3** Parking, good photo spot.  
**mile 46** Colorado Creek.

**mile 45.9 Tenderfoot Creek Forest Service Campground**, 35 campsites, water, toilets, tables and firepits, on east shore of Upper Summit Lake-good spring and fall fishing for small, Dolly Varden. Fee area.

**mile 45.8** Summit Lake Lodge, services.  
**mile 45.4** Scenic view with parking on the shores of Summit Lake.  
**mile 44.7** Parking at end of lake.  
**mile 42.2** Quartz Creek.

**mile 39.5** Devil's Pass Trailhead. Part of Resurrection Pass Trail System. 10 miles to Forest Service recreational cabin and main trail between Hope and Cooper Landing (mile 56.4).

**mile 38.3** Scenic view.  
**mile 37.3** North Junction. Seward Highway and Sterling Highway.

**mile 37.1** Tern Lake Forest Service Picnic area. Toilets, water, tables, viewing platform. Trout fishing in Daves Creek.  
**mile 37** South Sterling Highway entrance

**mile 33.1** Carter Lake Trailhead, parking and toilets. Well-defined but steep trail leading into alpine country. Good trout fishing in Carter Lake and grayling fishing in east end of Crescent Lake. Trail is sometimes quite wet.  
**mile 32.6** Johnson Pass Trail, parking.

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**mile 32.5** Parking.

**mile 32.4** The Trail Lakes Fish Hatchery produce sockeye, coho, and chinook salmon for release at selected sites throughout the Cook Inlet watershed. Open 8-5 daily.

**mile 31.7** Upper Trail Lake wayside; water, toilets, and picnic tables.

**mile 30** Scenic view.

**mile 29.5** Moose Pass.

**mile 25.5** Lower Trail Lake, parking.

**mile 25.3** Trail River.

**mile 25** Falls Creek.

**mile 24.2 Trail River Forest Service Campground.** 53 camp sites, water, toilets, tables, and playground. Fee area. Access via 2-mile side road. Lake trout fishing in Kenai Lake; rainbow and Dolly Varden all summer in river. Kenai Lake extends 24 miles from mouth of Snow River to head of Kenai River to west.

**mile 23.3 Ptarmigan Creek Forest Service Campground.** 16 camp sites, picnic area, water, toilets. Good family trail follows creek to Ptarmigan Lake-7 miles, round trip. There is a good chance of spotting sheep and goats. You will find fair grayling fishing in outlet of lake, good rainbow and Dolly Varden in stream about one mile below the outlet. Fee area.

**mile 23.2** Ptarmigan Creek.

**mile 22.9** Parking area; scenic view.

**mile 22.6** View of Kenai Lake, 24 miles long. A sign explains how this lake gets its color from the glacial melt. There are several parking areas along Kenai Lake.

**mile 21.8** Parking good view of Kenai Lake.

**mile 19.7** Victor Creek Bridge and Trail; parking.

**mile 17.8** Snow River. Glacial stream crossed by three consecutive bridges.

**mile 16.8 Primrose Landing Forest Service Campground.** 10 camp sites at upper end of Kenai Lake, water, tables, toilets. Handicap accessible. One mile side road. Fee area. Primrose Trailhead. Fishing.

**mile 14.7** Parking. Wildlife viewing.

**mile 13.2** Grayling Lake trailhead, parking. Fishing for grayling.

**mile 12.1** Troop Lake. Fishing

**mile 8.3** Chugach National Forest, East Boundary.

**mile 6.6** Bear Lake Road.

**mile 6.5** Bear Creek.

**mile 6.3** Stoney Creek Road

**mile 5.9** Salmon Creek, good fishing for sea-run Dolly Varden beginning in August.

**mile 5.4** Lost Lake Trail (7.3 miles one-way), turn west into Lost Lake subdivision. Follow signs to trailhead. This is a scenic trail with spectacular views of surrounding mountains and high alpine terrain.

**mile 3.5 Road to Exit Glacier in Kenai Fjords National Park** approximately nine miles on good road. You can drive within 1/2 mile of the face of the glacier. Please use caution near the glacier as ice falls can be deadly.

**mile 3.2** Nash Road.

**mile 2.9** Resurrection River, 3 bridges.

**mile 2.6** Seward Airport.

**mile 2.4** Municipal campground.

**mile 2.2** U.S. Army and Air Force Recreation Resorts. RV parking and tent sites, cabins. For retired or active military only.

**Seward Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center** is open daily in the summer at mile 2 of the Seward Highway. Rest rooms, brochures and maps are available. 907-224-8051

**mile 1.3** Parking, memorial to Benny Benson, who designed the Alaska State flag.

**mile 1** Small boat harbor.

**mile 0 Resurrection Bay.**