



# Sterling Highway Road Log

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Mile by Mile Description of the Sterling Highway  
from the Seward Highway to Homer, Alaska





## Sterling Highway Highway

The Sterling Highway runs along the western edge of the Kenai Peninsula and features extraordinary mountain scenery, sparkling lakes, glacier-fed streams, and beautiful coastal inlets. Wildlife abounds along this scenic route and you'll probably even encounter a giant Kenai moose.

Many good private, state and federal camp sites are found along the way, the highway passes through a number of intriguing villages and towns, each worth a visit. The Kenai Peninsula is recognized as a sportsman's paradise.

Mileage markers along this route read from Seward (mile 0) to Homer (mile 173). Details for the first 38 miles of this highway will be found in the highway description of the Seward Highway (mile 38 to mile 0, Seward).

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

**mile 37 Sterling Junction.** You are 89 miles from Anchorage, 135 miles from Homer. The Seward Highway continues north. There is an interpretive observation platform overlooking Tern Lake with great views of the surrounding mountains.

**mile 37.4 USFS Tern Lake day-use** picnic area tables, water, toilets, firepits. Trout fishing in Daves Creek. King salmon spawning area, informative viewing trail.

**mile 38.3** Parking with emergency phone.

**mile 38.8** Parking.

**mile 39** Dave's Creek, good fishing for Dolly Varden and rainbow. It flows into Quartz Creek at mile 42.5.

**mile 40.5** Parking. There are several small parking areas between mile 40 and mile 55.

**mile 41** Quartz Creek, empties into Kenai Lake.

**mile 43** Parking.

**mile 43.5** Parking.

**mile 44.3** Refuse deposit site.

**mile 44.9 Quartz Creek Forest Service Campgrounds.** Fee area. Quartz Creek campground borders Kenai Lake. Access via 1/2-mile road. 45 camp sites, boat ramp, good sandy swimming beach, flush toilets. Dall sheep can often be spotted on mountain sides. Trail leads along nearby Quartz Creek. Fishing for Dolly Varden and rainbow.

**Crescent Creek Campground**, access via 3 mile road, 9 campsites, no water, tables and toilets, at confluence of Crescent and Quartz Creeks. Camping fee. Crescent Creek trail is 1/2-mile past campground near end of road-watch for sign. Good trail leads to Crescent Lake and Forest Service cabin (make reservation through USFS in Anchorage or Seward) round trip, 12.4 miles hiking time, 5-8 hours. Viewing decks just outside the campground offers a good place to watch for salmon and Dolly Varden. The best place to observe spawning is along the creek at the Crescent Creek campground.

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**mile 45** The highway parallels Kenai Lake, good fishing for Dolly Varden and trout, it is closed to salmon fishing.

**mile 45.5** Parking, Dall Sheep can often be seen on the surrounding mountains.

**mile 47** Parking.

**mile 47.6** Cooper Landing Chamber of Commerce visitor center cabin.

**mile 47.7** Bean Creek Road access to Kenai Princess Lodge and RV Park and Kenai Princess Wilderness Lodge- 2 miles.

**mile 47.7 Kenai Princess Wilderness Lodge** This true Alaskan lodge overlooking the Kenai River is just two hours from Anchorage in the geographic heart of the Kenai Peninsula. Enjoy excursions along the Peninsula then return to the comfort of this wilderness lodge. Private hillside bungalow-style rooms with wood-stoves, seating areas, porches, telephones and televisions. Lodge amenities include a restaurant, lounge, espresso bar, outdoor deck, fresh-air hot tubs, exercise room, and gift shop. A tour desk can arrange river rafting, horseback riding, fishing, hiking, flight-seeing and day trips to Kenai Fjords National Park and Resurrection Bay. Reservations suggested. In keeping with the Princess tradition, this lodge offers the utmost in warm comfort and quality. Open year-round. Call 800-426-0500 for reservations.

**mile 49.7 Kenai Princess RV Park** 29 sites with water, power and septic. General store, 24-hour, coin-operated shower and laundry facilities. Guests enjoy full privileges at the adjacent Kenai Princess Wilderness Lodge. Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Diners Club accepted. \$25 per night. Open mid-May through mid-September. 907-595-1425 for reservations and information.

**mile 47.8** Kenai River Bridge, boat launch, day-use parking, toilets, viewing decks and informative signs. The river empties into Kenai Lake and flows across the Kenai Peninsula 80 miles to Cook Inlet. King, pink and silver salmon, rainbow and Dolly Varden, which are usually present even when the salmon are not running. Salmon eggs and brightly colored lures are most commonly used, although fly fishing is also very productive. It's best to inquire locally.

**mile 47.9** Snug Harbor Road. 12 mile access road to Cooper Lake and trailhead. Dolly Varden spring and fall. Boat suggested. Beginning of Russian Lakes trail off Snug Harbor Road.

**mile 48.5 Cooper Landing**, visitor facilities.

**mile 50.5 Cooper Creek Forest Service Campground.** 28 campsites, water, toilets, tables, dumpsters. Dumpstation. Fishing for red salmon.  
**mile 58** Once a part of the main highway, this well-maintained, 20-mile gravel road rejoins the Sterling Highway at mile 76. There are 8 Fish and Wildlife Service campgrounds, all on good fishing lakes, as well as a number of maintained hiking trails. The Hidden Lake Campground, is one of the nicest on the peninsula.

**mile 60.5** Jean Lake, 3 campsites, picnic area, boat launch. Fishing for rainbow. Berry picking.

**mile 60.8** Skyline Trail, parking.  
**mile 62.3** Parking.

**mile 68.3** Access to Peterson Lake (.5 mile) and Kelly Lake (1 mile) small public campgrounds .5 mile side road, campsites, tables, fireplaces, toilets, handicap accessible, boat ramp, fishing for rainbow, swimming, and hiking along Seven Lakes Trail-7 miles over level ground.

**mile 70.4** Egumen wayside with large parking area. Short trail (.5 mile) to Egumen Lake fishing for rainbow.

**mile 71.3** Watson Lake, parking at entrance to Watson Lake campground. 3 campsites, tables, toilet, handicap accessible, drinking water, steep boat ramp. Rainbow. East Fork Moose River.

**mile 72.9** Parking.

**mile 75.3** Skilak Lake Loop Road leaves the Sterling Highway here and rejoins it at mile 58.

**mile 81 Sterling**, visitor facilities.

**mile 83.7** Swanson River Road. Leads to four campgrounds and two canoe systems: Sunken Island Lake Campground (7 miles), Dolly Varden Lake Campground (15 miles),





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Rainbow Lake Campground (16 miles), Swanson River Campground (18 miles).

Sunken Island Lake is good for (stocked) silver salmon, and there are rainbow in Forest Lakes at mile 9.5 on Swanson River Road. All 4 campgrounds on this road have camping, tent and trailer sites, picnic tables, fireplaces, drinking water, toilets, boat ramps. Scout Lake Loop Road rejoins the highway at mile 85. Two canoe systems traverse well-marked lakes connected by streams or short portages. Swanson Lake route is 60 miles and Swanson River route is 80 miles.

**mile 85** Scout Lake Loop Road extends 7 miles and rejoins the Sterling highway at Mile 83.7. Scout Lake State Recreation Site, toilets, water, picnic shelters, hiking trails, and fishing. Follow Scout Lake Loop Road 1.5 miles to Morgan's Landing State Recreation Area, 41 campsites, toilets, water and fishing.

**mile 85** Refuse Deposit site.

**mile 87.5** Robinson Loop Road.

**mile 91.8** Reflection Lake Road.

**mile 92** Birch Ridge Golf Course.

**mile 92.7** Mackey Lake Road.

**mile 94.2 Swiftwater Campground** 40 campsites, tables, toilets dump station, boat launch. Handicap accessible. Hiking and fishing.

**mile 95.2 Soldotna and Junction to Kenai** (12 miles on the Kenai Spur Road).

**mile 96.3 Junction.** Kalifornsky Beach Road to west, Funny River Road to east. Turn east on Funny River Road and continue for 2 miles for Soldotna Airport or west on Kalifornsky Beach Road to Centennial Park Campground, 176 sites in heavily wooded area on the banks of the Kenai River, water, tables, firepits, toilets, dump station. handicap accessible. Good salmon fishing area borders river near small boat ramp at end of campground. Fee area.

**mile 105.5** Large parking area.

**mile 108.8** South junction with Kalifornsky Beach Road via Kasilof - this road rejoins Sterling highway at mile 96.3.

**mile 109.5 Kasilof River State Recreation Site.** 10 campsites, water, tables, toilets, hiking trails, boat launch and fishing, access to Tustemena Lake.

**mile 110** Access to Johnson and Tustemena Lakes. Johnson Lake state campground is reached by short sideroad. 50 campsites, toilets, water, shelters, boat ramp and fishing for rainbow. Tustemana Lake is 6.5 miles. 10 campsites, toilets, boat launch, fishing for lake trout. Refuse deposit site.

**mile 110.5** Parking.

**mile 111** North junction of Coho Loop Road leads 7 miles past homesteads and ocean beaches, and returns to highway at mile 114.6. Crooked Creek State Recreation Site, 79 campsites (parking lot style), water, toilets, trails and fishing. 1 3/4 miles on Coho Loop Rd. When salmon are spawning, you can see them in the pools just east of the highway. The Crooked Creek Weir . More than 110,000 Chinook smolts are released each June into Crooked Creek to augment wild runs for fishermen.

**mile 114.3** Coho Loop Road rejoins highway at mile 111.

**mile 117.4 Clam Gulch State Recreation Area** and Clam Gulch Beach Road. 1/2 mile to beach-good razor clam digging during minus tides, April-August. (All beaches are closed to clamming since 2015). Clam Gulch State Recreation Area provides picnic sites, shelters, campsites, water and toilets. Excellent view of Aleutian Range across inlet. The steep hill leading to the beach should not be attempted unless you have a 4-wheel drive vehicle.

**mile 118.2** Clam Gulch, post office.

**mile 122.9** Parking.

**mile 124.8** Parking with view.

**mile 126.8** Scenic wayside.

**mile 127.1** Large parking area.

**mile 127.1** Scenic View RV Park.

**mile 134.5** Ninilchik River Campground. 39 camp sites, picnic shelters, toilets, water, fishing and hiking trails.

**mile 134.8** Road toward inlet leads to Old Russian Church. Magnificent view of inlet, volcanos, beach and village. Ninilchik Scenic Overlook, this site offers both day use and overnight camping. 9 campsites, water, toilets, tables, trails provide access to fishing along the Ninilchik River. Fishing.

**mile 135** Ninilchik River.

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**mile 135** Side road leads to Old Ninilchik. This fishing village was colonized in 1820 by Russian fur traders. Steeped in the history of early Russian America, it affords an unexcelled old-world setting with its Russian Orthodox Church atop a nearby hill, quaint fishermen's cottages and log homes. Information signs tell the history of Ninilchik. Walking tour maps are available at local businesses. A trail leads to the church and cemetery on the hill. The road continues to the beach where there is camping, and toilets.

**mile 135.7** Ninilchik View Campground on a bluff above Ninilchik Beach; 12 campsites, water, dump station. The Ninilchik, as well as nearby Deep Creek, also has Dolly Varden, Arctic char, and rainbow The Alaska Peninsula and Cook Inlet may be seen to the west, as well as the snowy volcanic peaks of Mt. Iliamna and Mt. Redoubt.

**mile 135.5 Ninilchik.** Population: 883.

**mile 135.9** Intersection of Oil Well Road, turn here to reach public air strip, fishing charters, B&B's and other businesses. This is a gravel road, and may not be suitable for larger RV's.

**mile 136** Kenai Peninsula Fairgrounds.

**mile 137** Deep Creek North located on the north side of Deep Creek. 29 campsites, for vehicles up to 50 feet. Water, toilets, fireplaces, interpretive information and viewing areas are provided at this scenic location. Deep Creek South located on the south side of Deep Creek. Day use only. Water, toilets, interpretive kiosks are available.

**mile 137.3 Deep Creek State Recreation Area,** 100 campsites in the park, water, toilets, boat ramp, fresh & salt water fishing for halibut, Dolly Varden, steelhead, king and silver salmon.

**mile 138.5** Refuse Deposit site.

**mile 140.3** Large parking area overlooking Cook Inlet.

**mile 142.6** Large parking area with an excellent view of Mount Iliamna.

**mile 145** Happy Valley.

**mile 148** Scenic viewpoint and historical marker. Across the inlet you can see Mt. Iliamna and Redoubt.

**mile 150.9** Bridge over Stariski Creek. Parking on both sides of highway. Not recommended for large vehicles. Fish walk and fishing .

**mile 152.1 Stariski State Recreation Site** is situated on a high bluff overlooking Cook Inlet, offering spectacular views of Mount Augustine, Mount Iliamna and Mount Redoubt. 13 campsites, toilets, water, shelters. These mountains are the beginning of a chain of mountains and islands known as the Aleutian Chain which extends westward over 1,700 miles to Attu, beyond the international date line, to the Bering Sea. No fishing available.

**mile 156.9 Anchor River State Recreation Site.** 30 campsites with tables, water, toilets. Fishing.

**mile 157** Anchor Point . Anchor Point Chamber of Commerce.

**mile 161** Anchor River.

**mile 162.5** Parking beside Anchor River.

**mile 164.8** Old Sterling Highway leads 8 miles to Anchor River Road and Anchor River State Recreation Area. This is a fee area with camping, accessible to RV's. Anchor River Beach Road leads back to Anchor River Inn and the town of Anchor Point on the Sterling Highway.

**mile 169.6** Large rest area with panoramic view over the city of Homer, Homer Spit and Kachemak Bay. Easy on and off access to highway.

**mile 173** Homer. Population: 5400