

THE SEWARD HIGHWAY ROAD GUIDE

JOURNEY DEEP INTO ALASKA & OUT OF THIS WORLD

VOLUME

2

COMMUNITIES



WELCOME TO THE SEWARD HIGHWAY

ALASKA'S ALL AMERICAN ROAD & SCENIC BYWAY

The Seward Highway is alive with spectacular Alaskan scenery, wildlife, history, and recreational opportunities.

Linking Anchorage and Seward, the highway takes travelers on a 127-mile journey alongside rivers, lakes and a glacial fjord, through rainforests and snowcapped mountain passes, past glaciers and prime wildlife viewing areas, and into stunning beauty all along the way.

SMALL TOWN SPIRIT, BIG TIME FUN

Take your time driving the Seward Highway and discover all the wonderful, quirky, truly Alaskan communities along the way.



ANCHORAGE Mile 127 • Pop. 282,813

Anchorage is the largest city in Alaska — and your gateway to the Seward Highway. Anchorage got its start in 1915 as a small tent community of 2,000 people centered around the railroad. Today it's an international travel destination, with many cultural, recreational and scenic attractions.

Visitors can experience Native cultures from all over the state at the Alaska Native Heritage Center, just north of town. Downtown you'll find a scenic/historic walking tour, the award-winning Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center, and the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts that attracts some of the world's finest entertainers.

For active visitors, Anchorage offers endless recreation opportunities. The city's extensive trail system, including world-class cross-country ski

facilities, serves skiers, bikers and hikers year-round. And just down the Seward Highway a few miles is easy access to the half-million-acre Chugach State Park.

Popular wildlife and scenic viewing spots include anywhere along the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail (see Denali best from just west of Earthquake Park), Kincaid Park, Far North Bicentennial Park, Glenn Alps Trailhead, and — for guaranteed viewing of animals from all over the state — the Alaska Zoo.





12 MILES



	Railroad
	Seward Hwy
	Lakes/Rivers
	Gasoline
	Information
	Telephone
	Dining
	Lodging
	Public Toilets
	* Open Yr-Round
	Emergency Help
	Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
	Kenai Fjords National Park
	Chugach National Forest
	State Park
	Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

(Anchorage continued)

ELEVATION: 102 feet

SERVICES: Many hotels, motels, bed & breakfasts; hostel; campground; hundreds of restaurants. **FUEL.**

MAJOR ATTRACTIONS: Alaska Native Heritage Center, Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center, Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, Dena'ina Convention Center, Tony Knowles Coastal Trail, Alaska Public Lands Information Center, Alaska Zoo, Chugach State Park, world-class nordic ski trails, numerous parks and multi-use trails.

ANNUAL EVENTS: Fur Rendezvous Festival, Iditarod International Sled Dog Race, Tour of Anchorage Ski Race, Anchorage Folk Festival, Great Alaska Shootout, Eskimo Olympics, Oceans and Islands Festival, Anchorage International Film Festival, and numerous run, bike, ski and triathlon competitions.

INFORMATION SOURCES: Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau: (907) 276-4118 • www.anchorage.net
Log Cabin Information Center (4th & F Street)
Alaska Public Lands Information Center, 605 West 4th Ave. (907) 271-2737.

INDIAN/BIRD CREEK Mile 104 • Pop. 800

Indian and Bird Creek are two unincorporated communities along the highway, tucked into the rugged hillside bordering Chugach State Park. Bird Creek separates the two communities and is a popular silver salmon fishery, attracting hoards of anglers (and beluga whales) to the area. The area also offers good berry picking and bird watching.

ELEVATION: Sea level **SERVICES:** One campground, bar, motel, B&B and cafes. **FUEL.**

MAJOR ATTRACTIONS: Bird Creek (fishing, interpretive kiosks, spotting scopes, campground), Chugach State Park, several hiking/skiing trailheads.



GIRDWOOD Mile 90 • Pop. 2,000

Girdwood is a fun, active community nestled in the forest. Its residents are a diverse population of outdoor enthusiasts, local businesses, services and Anchorage commuters. Visitors will find plenty of services, including a mercantile, post office, and a variety of boutiques and shops.

Although best known for its world-class ski slopes, you'll find all kinds of year-round activities here. Active folks can raft, mountain bike, hike, whitewater kayak, paraglide and pull themselves across a raging river in a hand tram in summer...downhill or cross-country ski, snowboard, snowshoe or snowmachine in the winter.

You don't have to be an adrenaline junkie to enjoy Girdwood. There's also breathtaking views from 2,400 feet up Mt. Alyeska (via 7-minute mountain tram ride), gold panning at the historic Crow Creek Mine, berry picking, or kicking back and enjoying the various festivals and great restaurants.

ELEVATION: 150 feet

SERVICES: One resort; numerous condos, chalets, cabins and bed & breakfasts; several restaurants and cafes. **FUEL.**

MAJOR ATTRACTIONS: Alyeska (resort, mountain tram, skiing, paragliding, etc.), Crow Creek Mine, and several trailheads.

ANNUAL EVENTS: Girdwood Forest Fair, Alyeska Blueberry and Mountain Arts Festival, Alyeska Classic Mountain Run.

INFORMATION SOURCES: Girdwood Chamber of Commerce:

www.girdwoodchamber.com





Chugach National Forest

PORTAGE/WHITTIER

• Mile 78.9 • Pop. 161

There's a lot going on in Portage but there's not much left of the former community of 50 – 100 residents. In 1964, the Good Friday Earthquake lowered the land here by as much as 12 feet. The high tide then flooded the area and turned the community into a marsh.

The good news is that today you'll find all sorts of attractions in the area. The Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center at Mile 79 is an excellent place to view bears, moose, caribou, birds of prey and much more.

Portage Valley is a great place to go camping, walk or bike the interpretive trails, take a boat tour up to Portage Glacier, and learn about the natural and human history of the region at the fascinating Begich, Boggs Visitor Center.

At the end of the valley is the longest railroad-vehicle tunnel in North America. This 2.6-mile tunnel is the gateway to Whittier and Prince William Sound. (Toll charged.)

ELEVATION: Sea level – 150 feet

SERVICES: One day lodge (restaurant, gift shop), two campgrounds, one private cabin & RV park (with small store). Whittier has a limited number of hotels/motels and bed and breakfasts, and several small eateries.

MAJOR ATTRACTIONS: Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, Kenai Peninsula Visitor Information Center, Portage Valley campgrounds & interpretive trails, Portage Lake, Begich, Boggs Visitor Center, Portage Glacier Tours, Byron Glacier, Anton-Anderson Memorial Tunnel to Whittier, Prince William Sound (kayaking, fishing, glacier & wildlife cruises) and Prince William Sound Museum.

INFORMATION SOURCES: Begich, Boggs Visitor Center: (907) 783-2326 or (907) 783-3242 www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/chugach_pages/bbvc.html
Greater Whittier Chamber of Commerce: www.whittieralaskachamber.org



Chugach National Forest

HOPE

• Jct. at Mile 56.7 • Pop. 150

This quiet little town was once a booming gold rush city. Thousands flocked to Hope and neighboring Sunrise City in the late 1890s to make their fortunes. Some did. Others are still working on it.

Today, there are still active mining claims in the area but it's the outdoor enthusiasts and history buffs who flock here every year.

Hikers and mountain bikers can choose from a wide range of trails that lead to panoramic vistas or mining ruins, along windswept coastlines or mountain streams, through dense forest or alpine valleys. Road bikers love the quiet, scenic ride along the road into town. There's also fishing, rafting, birdwatching and recreational gold panning.

History buffs will appreciate the many old remaining gold rush era buildings and reliving the town's rich history at the Hope/Sunrise Historic Museum.

ELEVATION: 43 feet

SERVICES: Several bed and breakfasts, cabins/lodges, campgrounds; restaurants, bar and most services (except gas).

MAJOR ATTRACTIONS: Hope/Sunrise Historic Museum, Sixmile River whitewater rafting, several hiking & mountain biking trailheads, fishing charters and cross-country ski trails in winter.

ANNUAL EVENTS: Wagon Trail Run Weekend (5K run, dance, and BBQ), Memorial Day Weekend (parade & games), Coeur d'Alene Run/Walk, Hope Point Run.

INFORMATION SOURCES: Hope Chamber of Commerce: www.hopealaska.info



Chugach National Forest



COOPER LANDING

• Junction at Mile 37 • Pop. 344

This friendly riverside community hugs the shores of Kenai River. The beautiful, blue-green stream is world-famous for its rainbow trout of monstrous proportions, exciting “combat fishing,” and gorgeous scenic rafting.

A full-service center, the community was named after Joseph Cooper, a miner who worked the area in the 1880s. There is a five-building national historic district that includes the post office and a handful of homesteader’s cabins.

Cooper Landing is best known for red salmon fishing, especially at the confluence of the Kenai and Russian rivers. Here, when the reds are running, the banks are lined with a sea of anglers, fishing side-by-side.

People aren’t the only ones after fish. Bears, eagles and many other wildlife depend on the bounty of the river — and that makes for wonderful scenic rafting tours. Many companies offer both scenic floats and class III whitewater rides.



Chugach National Forest



Museum, Russian River Campground (with fishing access & viewing platforms), horseback riding, many hiking, mountain biking, and skiing trailheads.

INFORMATION SERVICES: Cooper Landing Chamber & Visitor’s Bureau: (907) 595-8888
www.cooperlandingchamber.com

MOOSE PASS

• Mile 29 • Pop. 221

This picturesque mountain village is nestled on the shores of Upper Trail Lake in the heart of Chugach National Forest. The town got its start as a single log cabin in 1909, and then a roadhouse and supply house for miners headed either north with supplies or south with gold along the original Iditarod Trail, which was blazed through the area in 1910.



Today you can learn more about the area’s mining, Iditarod trail and railroad history at the visitor information center inside the general store. Or see a 10-foot replica of a waterwheel which once supplied the town’s electricity. The waterwheel also powered a public knife sharpening stone, with a sign that read, “Moose Pass is a peaceful little town. If you have an axe to grind, do it here.”

The contemporary Moose Pass is a cozy respite for highway travelers and active souls on their way to nearby hiking, biking, boating, fishing, and kayaking adventures.

ELEVATION: 472

SERVICES: Lodges, cabins, bed and breakfasts, campgrounds in the area, Post Office, limited services.



Chugach National Forest



Chugach National Forest

MAJOR ATTRATIONS: Upper Trail Lake (fishing, flightseeing), Estes Brothers Grocery & Waterwheel (historic replica & artifacts, photo display and information center), numerous popular trailheads (hiking, biking, wildlife viewing, berry-picking; winter skiing, sledding, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling).

ANNUAL EVENTS: Moose Pass Summer Solstice Festival

INFORMATION SOURCES: Moose Pass Chamber & CVB: (907) 288-3111
www.moosepassalaska.com

SEWARD

• Mile 0 • Pop. 2,606

This seaside town is a favorite play spot for outdoor adventurers, anglers, marine wildlife enthusiasts and anyone who wants to bask in gorgeous views of glaciers, fjords and wilderness majesty.



Greger Wright

Seward was founded in 1903 as an ice-free port and terminus for what is now the Alaska Railroad. In 1964, the town was virtually destroyed by the great earthquake and the resulting fires and tsunamis.

You can relive this incredible saga at the Resurrection Bay Historical Museum. Today Seward is a thriving community, cruiseship port and gateway to the salmon rich waters of Resurrection Bay and the famous tidewater glaciers and marine wildlife of Kenai Fjords National Park.

The Small Boat Harbor is usually abuzz with activity. Fishing, sailing, and glacier & wildlife day cruises all depart from here. In the afternoon, the filet knives fly at the fish cleaning station and proud anglers pose with their catches. The downtown area features a historic walking tour, museum and the Alaska SeaLife Center — a rescue/research facility, aquarium and interpretive center. You'll find shops and restaurants in both areas, which are also connected by a paved bike path that runs along the scenic shore and marks the start of the Historic Iditarod Trail.

ELEVATION: Sea level

SERVICES: Several hotels/ motels, dozens of bed and breakfasts, lodges/cabins, numerous restaurants/cafes, and all services. **FUEL.**

MAJOR ATTRACTIONS: Exit Glacier (9-mile side road at Mile 3.5), Seward Visitors Center (Mile 2), Small Boat Harbor, Kenai Fjords National Park (glacier & wildlife cruises, visitor center), Alaska SeaLife Center, Resurrection Bay Historical Museum, Seward Downtown Walking Tour, and endless recreation — fishing, kayaking, sailing, hiking, biking, birding, dog sledding, winter skiing and more.

ANNUAL EVENTS: Fourth of July festivities (including the Mt. Marathon Race), Seward Silver Salmon Derby, Polar Bear Jump-Off Festival.

INFORMATION SOURCES: Seward Chamber of Commerce, Conference & Visitor's Bureau: (907) 224-8051 www.seward.com



Greger Wright



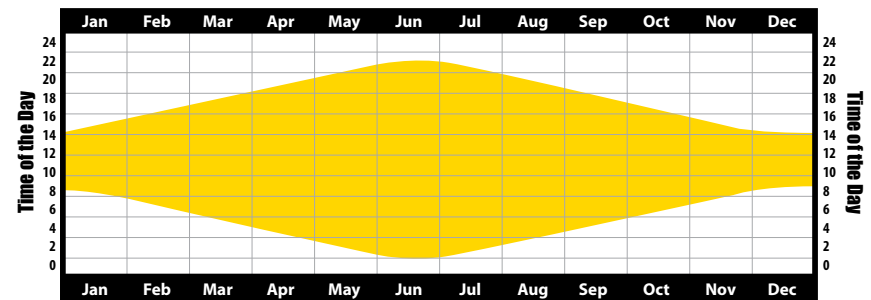
Greger Wright

TIPS TO HELP YOU STAY SAFE & ENJOY THE DRIVE:

- Pull over often so you can relax and enjoy the views.
- Drive with lights on at all times, day or night (it's the law).
- Let others pass — by law, if you have five vehicles behind you, you must pull off the road (in a safe place) and let them pass.
- Don't count on your cell phone. Mountains make cell service spotty, which means help may not be readily available should your vehicle have trouble. Be prepared.
- Watch for frost heaves. Seasonal freezing and thawing causes unexpected (and unmarked) bumps or breaks in the pavement.

! DAYLIGHT HOURS

This region is blessed with long summer days, with nearly 24 hours of daylight in June, and lingering winter sunsets that make for gorgeous photographs.



! DANGEROUS MUDFLATS

It is never safe to walk on the Turnagain Arm mudflats. Similar to quicksand, this glacial mud can — without warning — grab and hold the unwary. People caught in this predicament have drown when the tide rushes in.

LEAVE NO TRACE

You are encouraged to embrace the Leave No Trace philosophy of recreating in a way that minimizes your impact on the land. Ways to do so:

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly: Pack out what you pack in
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors



HELPFUL RESOURCES

EMERGENCY

Alaska State Troopers: 911 or (907) 269-5511

ROAD CONDITIONS

Call 511 or visit <http://511.alaska.gov>

LOCAL VISITOR CENTERS

Anchorage CVB 907-276-4118 www.anchorage.net

Begich, Boggs Visitor Center 907-783-2326

www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/chugach_pages/bbvc/bbvc.htm

Girdwood Chamber of Commerce www.girdwoodchamber.com

Whittier Chamber of Commerce www.whittieralaskachamber.org/

Hope Chamber of Commerce www.advenalaska.com/hope/

Cooper Landing Chamber & CVB 907-595-8888; www.cooperlandingchamber.com

Moose Pass Chamber & CVB 907-288-3111 www.moosepassalaska.com

Seward Chamber of Commerce, CVB 907-224-8051 www.seward.com

RECREATION INFORMATION

Alaska Department of Fish & Game: (907) 465-4100 www.adfg.state.ak.us

Alaska Public Lands Information Center (Anchorage): (907) 271-2737

Chugach National Forest: (907) 743-9500

Chugach State Park: (907) 269-8400

Public Information Center (Anchorage): (907) 269-8400

US Forest Service: (907) 743-9500 U.S. Forest Service

USDA Forest Service Glacier Ranger District: Girdwood (907) 783-3242

USDA Forest Service Seward Ranger District: Seward (907) 224-3374

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Alaska Weather Information: 1-800-472-0391 or (907) 266-5145

Avalanche Information Center: www.cnfaic.org

National Weather Service: www.arh.noaa.gov

OTHER SEWARD HIGHWAY GUIDES INCLUDE:

Volume 1: Scenic Wonders

Volume 3: Recreation

Volume 4: History & Culture



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