

Seward Highway

Seward Highway showcases the natural beauty of south-central Alaska between Anchorage and Seward. From jagged peaks and alpine meadows to breathtaking fjords and crystal lakes, find a concentrated series of diverse landscapes and experiences. See sights such as Beluga whales or dog teams in the winter.



Length: 127 miles / 203.2 km

Time Take five hours to drive or
to two days to enjoy the entire
Allow: byway.

Local Information

Alaska Public Lands Information Center

907-271-2737

Chugach National Forest

Phone: 907-743-9500

Fax: 907-743-9476

Send E-mail

Visitor Services

Fees



Some attractions may charge fees.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



The byway is a well-surfaced, well-maintained highway with wide shoulders in many locations. Passenger vehicles are easily accommodated. Pedestrians are also accommodated at most of the byway's pullouts and along many of the trails paralleling the route. Bicyclists can take advantage of existing wide shoulders and 32 miles of separated bike paths, including an abandoned six-mile segment of the Seward Highway north of Girdwood that was converted for bicycle use. Alaska's TRAAK Program (Trails and Recreational Access for Alaskans) has committed to the development of a bike path from Anchorage to Seward, with a preference for a trail separated from the byway when site conditions permit.

Camping



Camping facilities throughout the corridor consist of: * Chugach State Park: 3 campgrounds, 134 sites * US Forest Service: 13 campgrounds, 720 sites * City of Seward: 2 campgrounds, 900 sites For reservations to the Cooper Creek South campground, visit [Recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov/)

camping/Cooper_Creek_South_Ak/r/
campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=70700&topTabIndex=CampingSpot)
The Chugach National Forest offers camping and cabins along the corridor.
Visit the following link for additional information: [Chugach National
Forest](<http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/seward/rec/index.htm>).

Food



There are places to buy food along this byway.

Gasoline



Gasoline is available.

Information



The Seward Highway Travel Guidebook can be picked up for free at any one of the APLICs (Alaska Public Lands Info Centers). The contact phone is: 907-271-2737. For recreation and interpretive facilities, the Seward Highway can boast: * Chugach State Park- Trail heads: 12, Interpretive Pullouts: 6, Trail miles: 10 * Chugach National Forest- Trail heads: 10, Interpretive Pullouts: 12, Trail miles: 200 * Several of the trails are found within [Chugach National Forest](<http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/seward/>). Wildlife viewing facilities are available at: * Potter Marsh * Windy Corner Sheep Viewing Area * Moose Flats * Williwaw (salmon) * Salmon hatchery at Moose Pass

Lodging



#####Lodging facilities throughout the corridor consist of:##### * Many hotels/motels/bed & breakfasts * Anchorage: 6,000 rooms * Girdwood: 300 rooms * Seward: 500 rooms

Phone



Public phones are available along this byway.

Restrooms



There are toilet facilities along this byway.

Retail



There are places to shop along this byway.

Special Considerations

The only significant seasonal problem facing the Seward Highway is adverse winter conditions. The road is closed by avalanches an average of five times a year for approximately four hours each time.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has made a serious and effective commitment to keeping the Seward Highway passable during the winter

months, as it is the principal highway serving the Kenai Peninsula. The highway, shoulders, and many of the pullouts are plowed throughout the winter months.

An electronic message sign at Porter Marsh at the northern end of the route advises travelers of conditions ahead. Avalanche gates have been installed in all potential avalanche areas. Additionally, current and planned reconstruction of segments of the Highway are attempting to relocate the Seward highway out of avalanche zones.

Restrictions

Due to extreme conditions during the winter, the road is closed by avalanches an average of five times a year for approximately four hours each time.

Seasons

Best Time to Drive

Year-round

High Season

From May to mid-October, the byway is alive with visitors for obvious reasons. Salmon fishing is at its peak during these months and visitors will see whales along the shore and sheep on the mountainsides. Take a hike among the wildflowers.

Off Season

The off season consists of winter and spring. Winter may present driving challenges, but provides breathtaking vistas. Avalanches may cause the road to be closed for short periods of time throughout the winter.

Map and Directions



Legend:

Point of Interest	Campground	Featured Byway	Water	State Border
Park	Picnic/Rest Area	America's Byways	Wildlife Refuge	Urban Area
Mountain	Interstate	Other Byway	Wilderness Area	Tribal Nation
City	U.S. Highway	Other Road	Other Federal Lands	Military Base
Capital	State Highway	Trail	Other State Lands	

Driving Directions

- The byway starts in Anchorage, AK at the junction of E. 5th Ave. and Gambell St.

- Drive south on State Hwy. 1/Gambell St. the road then changes into Seward Hwy.
- Stay on State Hwy. 1/Seward Hwy. until the road changes again to State Hwy. 9/Seward Hwy.
- Stay on State Hwy. 9/Seward Hwy. to Seward, AK

Getting to the Byway



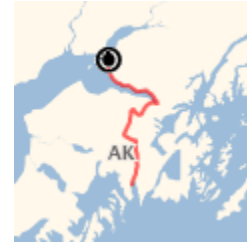
Nearby cities

Anchorage, AK (On the byway)

Start:  475 Gambell St. Anchorage, AK
[N 61.218° W 149.867° \[?\]](#)

Directions:

- Get on AK-1 south.
- The byway begins at 5th Ave. and Gambell Street/Seward Highway.



Road Trip: Adventures in Anchorage's Past

Departure: Anchorage, Alaska

Destination: Anchorage, Alaska

Time to allow: 1 day

Before beginning a trip along Seward Highway, stop to spend a day in historic Anchorage, Alaska. Learn about the history of Alaska through a myriad of museums and historic sites, each of which has its own story to tell. Drop by the Alaska Museum of Natural History to learn about Alaska's dinosaur discoveries, or stop in at the Alaska Native Heritage Center to unearth Alaska's native traditions and culture. In Anchorage the past is today's adventure.

Day 1

- **Start: Anchorage**

The city of Anchorage began as a ramshackle community of rail line workers living in tents. The community, settled in 1915, has grown and evolved into the largest city in Alaska with 260,000 people.

For a look at Alaska culture, Anchorage is the place to be. Explore the Anchorage Museum of History and Art or the Alaska Native Heritage Center for a taste of what Alaska has to offer.



- **Stop 1: Alaska Heritage Museum**

From previous stop: same location

Directions: Start at Wells Fargo at 301 West Northern Lights in Anchorage.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour 30 minutes

History buffs will want to swing by the Alaska Heritage Museum to learn about Wells Fargo's role in the Alaskan Gold Rush. A three-quarter size stagecoach is featured in the museum as well as Alaska Native artifacts, a 2,600 volume reference library of books and fine art by Alaskan artists. Call 265-2834 or email bonadear@wellsfargo.com to contact the museum.

- **Stop 2: Alaska Museum of Natural History**

From previous stop: 10 minutes / 4.7 mi (7.5 km)

Directions: Turn south onto Eide St. then immediately turn east onto Benson Blvd. Turn north onto I-A1 go approximately 1.6 miles. Turn east to stay on I-A1, go approximately 2 miles. Turn north onto Bragaw St.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

Found in the Talkeetna Mountains, North America's oldest duckbill dinosaur is at home in the Alaska Museum of Natural History. Here you can also learn about other major dinosaur discoveries from the 90s. See the largest exhibits of minerals, rare fossils, and rocks in the state of Alaska. Call 274-2400 or email c.fine@alaskamuseum.org to contact the museum.

- **Stop 3: Alaska Native Heritage Center**

From previous stop: 8 minutes / 4.3 mi (6.9 km)

Directions: Start on Bragaw St. going south. Turn left east onto I-A1 go approximately 2.6 miles. Turn right onto ramp (Muldoon Rd North). Bear right (north) onto N Muldoon Road. Turn right onto Heritage Center Drive.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

Surround yourself with the Native traditions and customs of Alaska. Learn in both academic and informal settings. Take a workshop, experience a demonstration, or go on a guided tour in the indoor exhibits and outdoor village sites at the Alaska Native Heritage Center. Witness for yourself contemporary and ancient Alaska Native cultures in one place. Call 330-8000, 800-315-6608 or email info@alaskanative.net to contact the museum.

- **Stop 4: Oscar Anderson House Museum**

From previous stop: 12 minutes / 7 mi (11.2 km)

Directions: Start on Heritage Center Drive going North. Travel approximately .8 mile. Turn east onto N Muldoon Road. Take ramp (right) onto I-A1. Travel 4.8 miles and keep straight onto 5th Avenue for 1.2 miles. Turn right onto Main Street.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

Take guided tours to learn about the early history of Anchorage at the city's only house museum. The museum is one of the city's first privately built permanent family residences. Discover the history of Oscar Anderson, Anchorage pioneer and businessman. The museum contains many original fixtures and Anderson family belongings. Call 274-2336 to contact the museum.

- **Stop 5: Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center**

From previous stop: 3 minutes / 0.89 mi (1.4 km)

Directions: Start on Main Street going south. Turn east onto 5th Avenue. Then turn south onto L Street. Finally turn east onto W 7th Avenue.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours 10 minutes

Tour spacious galleries that house Alaskan art, Alaska state history and information about Alaska's Natives. Attend classes, tours, lectures, films and performances in the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center. You can stop by the museum shop, take a break in the cafe, or search the library and archives. Call 343-4326 or email museum@anchagemuseum.org to contact the museum.

- **Stop 6: Alaska Statehood Monument**

From previous stop: 3 minutes / 0.6 mi (1.0 km)

Directions: Start on E Street going south. Then turn left east onto 3rd Avenue. Turn south onto C Street. Then turn east onto W 7th Ave.

Suggested time at this stop: 30 minutes

Erected in 1990 the Alaska Statehood Museum offers you a chance to view the valley where immigrants first arrived in the Anchorage area. The monument also celebrates January 3, 1959-- the date that Alaska was declared a state in the Unites States.

- **End: Anchorage**



From previous stop: same location

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For a look at Alaska culture, Anchorage is the place to be. Explore the Anchorage Museum of History and Art or the Alaska Native Heritage Center for a taste of what Alaska has to offer.

Totals for Day 1

Total Distance Traveled: 17.49 miles / 28.0 km

Total Travel Time: 36 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 10 hours 10 minutes