

The George Parks Highway Scenic Byway

Completed in 1971, the George Parks Highway shares with travelers some of Alaska's most memorable and spectacular scenery. Access to Denali National Park and Preserve is via the Parks Highway.



Length: 230 miles / 368.0 km

Time to Allow: Four hours

Local Information

We do not have contact information for this Byway.

Visitor Services

Accessibility



Most of the many visitor amenities in Fairbanks follow ADA standards for accessible design. Additionally, viewing areas, visitor centers, trails, waysides, and rest areas in Denali National Park and Preserve and Denali State Park follow the same standards to assist travelers of varying abilities.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



Paved shoulders, six feet or more in width, extend the length of the byway and provide good accommodation for bicyclists. Shoulders on some bridges along the byway are narrower than highway shoulders, but still provide adequate accommodation for pedestrians and bicyclists. Some developed areas such as the Nenana Canyon commercial area, have paths and trails separate from the roadway.

Food



There are places to buy food along this byway.

Gasoline



Gasoline is available.

Information



Several cities along the Highway provide traveler information: In Fairbanks, the Public Lands Information Center at 250 Cushman St. offers information on Alaska's public lands. It is open daily in summer and from Tuesday-Saturday in winter. Also in Fairbanks, the Log Cabin Visitor Information Center at 550 1st Ave offers information on tours and various city attractions. It is open

daily year-round. In Nenana, the Nenana Visitor Center is open daily from Memorial to Labor day. It is located at the byway's junction with A Street. The Denali Chamber of Commerce at .5 Healy Rd. and Healy is open May to September.

Special Considerations

The byway travels through areas frequented by moose and other wildlife, who cause a small number of traffic accidents annually.

When driving in winter, be prepared for winter driving conditions, such as snow, wind, and cold.

In winter, services are unavailable on the following sections of the byway:

- from milepost 132 at Denali State Park to milepost 210 at Cantwell (78 miles)
- from milepost 248 in Healy to milepost 305 in Nenana (57 miles)
- from milepost 305 in Nenana to approximately milepost 357 north of Ester (52 miles).

Seasons

Best Time to Drive

The best time to travel on the byway and experience the byway's natural and recreational qualities is between May and September.

High Season

Most tourists visit the area between May and September.

Winter

Winter driving conditions can be challenging. The ADOT&PF maintains the highway year-round.

Map and Directions



Legend:

Point of Interest	City	Water
Campground	Capital	Roads
Mountain	U.S. Highway	Scenic Byway
Pass	Interstate	All-American Road or National Scenic Byway
	State Highway	Unpaved Road

Driving Directions

- The byway starts at the Chulitna River Bridge in the Denali State Park.
- Drive north on State Hwy. 3/George Parks Hwy./N. Parks Hwy.


- West of Fairbanks, AK you will turn west on State Hwy. 3/Airport Way going into Fairbanks, AK.
- The byway ends at the junction of State Hwy. 3/Airport Way and State Hwy. 2/Steese Hwy.

Getting to the Byway




Nearby cities

Anchorage, AK (35 miles / 56.33 km, 45 minutes)

Start:  Anchorage International Airport
N 61.175° W 149.982° [?]

- Exit the airport on International Airport Rd.
- Take Minnesota Dr. north.
- Turn east (right) onto W. Benson Blvd. (a one-way street.)
- Turn north (left) onto the Seward Highway (AK-1.)
- Take the Seward Highway north and turn east (right) onto 6th Ave.
- Follow 6th Ave a block or two as it merges onto 5th Ave.
- Stay on 5th Ave (AK-1) as it becomes the Glenn Highway.
- Take AK-1 about 35 miles north to Wasilla.
- Take the George Parks Highway exit (Alaska Route 3) and proceed north.
- The byway begins at milepost 132, a few miles past Trapper Creek, at Denali State Park.

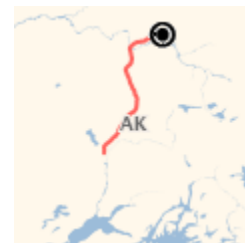
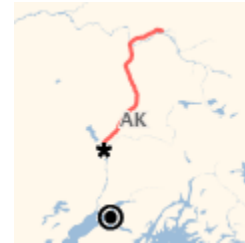
Directions:

Junction with byway:  Milepost 132 on Parks Highway near Wasilla
N 62.546° W 150.236° [?]

Fairbanks, AK (4 miles / 6.44 km, 10 minutes)

Start:  SR 2 and Airport Way, Fort Wainwright
N 64.835° W 147.709° [?]

Directions: Take SR 2 (Steese Highway) south. Turn west onto SR 3. Continue west until



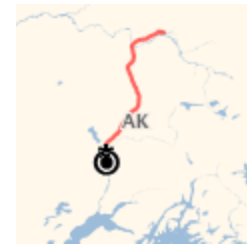
University Ave, where the George Parks Highway begins.

Junction with byway: * SR 3 and University Ave.
N 64.824° W 147.818° [?]

Trapper Creek, AK (17 miles / 27.36 km, 25 minutes)

Start: ● U.S. 3 in Trapper Creek
N 62.316° W 150.234° [?]

Directions: Take the George Parks Highway (Alaska Route 3) north for 17 miles. The portion designated as a byway begins at milepost 132.



Junction with byway: * Milepost 132 on Parks Highway near Wasilla
N 62.546° W 150.236° [?]

Road Trip: The Grandeur and Wildness of the Last Frontier

Departure: Denali View South Wayside, Alaska

Destination: Minto Flats State Game Refuge, Alaska

Time to allow: 1 day

A journey on the Parks Byway, with its views of Mt. McKinley, state and national parklands, sightings of large mammals, outdoor recreation opportunities, frontier culture and pioneer history perfectly captures the spirit, grandeur, wildness and abundance that is Alaska and the last frontier. Travelers can expect unparalleled views of un-inhabited lands, world class geological formations, wildlife sightings and a variety of recreational opportunities.

Day 1

- **Start: Denali View South Wayside**

This stop provides the visitor with exceptional views of the Alaska Range. The natural landscape is breathtaking and shows the visitor the grandeur of majestic Mt. McKinley. Interpretive signs provide the visitor a “map” of the Alaska Range as seen from the wayside. A short trail to an overlook provides for another view of the geology of the Alaska Range.



- **Stop 1: Broad Pass**



From previous stop: 1 hour 25 minutes / 68.8 mi (110.1 km)

Directions: Continue north on the Parks Highway to milepost 203.5 which has a paved pull-out on the north-bound side of the byway.

Suggested time at this stop: 30 minutes

Broad Pass is an unequalled stop which highlights the vastness of the geological formations that is Denali Country. One of the lowest mountain passes in the world, its unending views provide the traveler a sense of the Last Frontier’s wild and open spaces.

- **Stop 2: Denali National Park and Preserve**



From previous stop: 45 minutes / 33.8 mi (54.1 km)

Directions: Continue north on the Parks Highway to Denali Park Road at milepost 237.3. Turn left onto the Park Road. Signage is provided to the Wilderness Access Center, Visitor Center, Murie Science & Learning Center and Park Headquarters.

Suggested time at this stop: 4 hours

Grizzly bears, wolves, Dall sheep, caribou and moose are just a few of Denali National Park and Preserves' diverse wildlife. Enjoy backpacking, mountain climbing, and the wonderful sights of the park. In the summer wildflowers and birds show their colors on North America's highest peak. Mount McKinley will amaze you as you examine all 20,320 feet of its height.

Two million of the park's more than six million acres have been in protected status since 1917, making the park the largest continuously protected area in the world. The park was designated an International Biosphere Reserve in order to recognize internationally the exceptional health and integrity of this colossal ecosystem.

- **End: Minto Flats State Game Refuge**



From previous stop: 1 hour 30 minutes / 81.3 mi (130.1 km)

Directions: Exit the Denali Park Road and turn left onto the Parks Byway. Continue to milepost 318 to the pull-out on the south bound side.

Minto Flats State Game Refuge provides the traveler with spectacular views of Alaska's vast wetland system formed by the natural system of fire and flooding. Travelers can stop along the byway at milepost 318 to view this exceptional area for Sandhill Cranes, Trumpeter Swans, and other migratory birds and fur-bearing animals.

Access to the refuge is via air service, boat horse and off-road vehicle which can be arranged in Nenana or Fairbanks.

Totals for Day 1

Total Distance Traveled: 183.9 miles / 294.2 km

Total Travel Time: 3 hours 40 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 4 hours 30 minutes