

# Glenn Highway

Tracing the receding glaciers responsible for this rugged gateway to Alaska's interior, Glenn Highway tells of powerful geological processes and the resourceful people who have managed to thrive along its corridor. Begin your journey in Anchorage and wind along 135 miles through fascinating landscapes, historical sites, and cozy roadhouses.



Length: 135 miles / 216.0 km

Time 2.5 hours to drive or eight to hours to visit the entire

Allow: byway.

## Local Information

**Matanuska-Susitna Convention and Visitor Bureau**

907-746-5000

## Visitor Services



### Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities

The byway accommodates pedestrians and bicyclists with separated trails between East Anchorage and Chugiak. \* Pedestrians are not allowed on the controlled access facility between Chugiak and the Parks Highway. Tour bikers often use the eight-foot shoulders along this segment. \* Between the Parks Highway and Sutton pedestrians and bicyclists may use the shoulder. \* Sutton has a new four mile separated trail. \* The road is narrow between Kings River and the end of the byway at Mile 135; pedestrian and bicycle traffic is not recommended.



### Camping

Camping is available at Chugach State Park, Long Lake State Wayside, and Matanuska Glacier.



### Food

Visitors will be able to find places to eat in Anchorage, Eagle River, Palmer, King Mountain State Wayside and Lodge, Hicks Creek Lodge, Sheep Mountain Lodge, and Eureka Summit Lodge.



### Gasoline

Full service stations exist in Anchorage, Eagle River, Palmer, Sutton, and Glennallen. Gas and minor servicing is available through the corridor.



### Information

Information is available at museums, visitor centers, and kiosks all along the byway.



### Lodging

Many of the lodges are geared for both summer and winter recreation activities. Food, and in some cases gas, are available at these lodges.



### 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

Tour buses travel the Glenn Highway Corridor extensively during the summer tourist season. Buses stop at various lodges and state waysides for scenic views, food or to use facilities. The final destination of the tour buses are usually Anchorage, Glennallen, or Valdez.

The Glenn Highway is subject to avalanches averaging one or two road blockages a year. Winter travelers are encouraged to check road and weather information prior to departing on their trip and to carry appropriate winter gear in case of a break down.

Pull-offs are plowed and available for viewing in the winter.

## Restrictions

- The Glenn Highway can be safely traversed by two wheel drive vehicles.
- Because the road is narrow between Kings River and the end of the Byway at Mile 135, pedestrian and bicycle traffic is not recommended.
- Most of the State Park facilities are closed during the winter beyond Sutton.

## Seasons

### Summer

Summer is beautiful with wildflowers and forests in full bloom.

### Winter

Winter travel conditions are generally fair to good with some days where travel is not recommended. Winter travelers are encouraged to check road and weather information prior to departing on their trip and to carry appropriate winter gear.

## 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 on State Hwy. 1/Glenn Hwy. at the intersection with Lake Louise Rd. northeast of Mendeltna, Alaska.
- Drive southwest on State Hwy. 1/Glenn Hwy. all the way to E. 5th Ave. in Anchorage, Alaska.
- Drive west on E. 5th Ave. to Gambell St. where the byway stops.

## Getting to the Byway



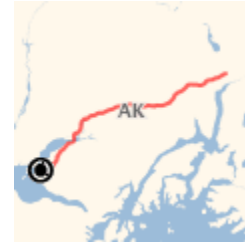
### Nearby cities

**Anchorage, AK** (3 miles / 4.83 km, 10 minutes)

**Start:**            ⊙ AK-1 eastbound, Anchorage, AK  
N 61.218° W 149.900° [?]

**Directions:**            • Get on AK-1 east.  
                              • Byway begins where 5th Ave.  
                                  turns into Glenn Highway.

**Junction with**   \* 2600 E 5th Ave. Anchorage, AK  
**byway:**            N 61.218° W 149.831° [?]



## Road Trip: Culture and Nature along Glenn Highway

**Departure:** Anchorage, Alaska

**Destination:** Mile 118 Raptor Viewing Area, Alaska

**Time to allow:** 1 day

Covering rugged mountain terrain through the last real American frontier, you'll experience natural beauty and native culture.

### 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 2: Alaska Native Heritage Center**

**From previous stop:** same location

**Directions:** The Center is located in northeast Anchorage, next to Bartlett High School. Just a short drive from downtown, the Center is surrounded by the majestic Chugach Mountains.

This center brings to life the rich history, culture, music and art of major Native American peoples of Alaska.

- **Stop 3: Eklutna Village**

**From previous stop:** same location

**Directions:** Take Glenn Highway north to Eklutna. Exit at Eklutna, turn left to the park.

The Athabascan Village of Eklutna features a combination of Russian and Native culture.

- **Stop 4: Eklutna Flats and Palmer Hay Flats**

**From previous stop:** same location

**Directions:** Just a few minutes up the Byway from Eklutna Village.

The Eklutna Flats and Palmer Hay Flats are a tidally influenced wetlands area at the confluence of the Knik and Matanuska Rivers. This flat open area provides the broadest view of the Matanuska Valley bordered by the Chugach Mountains, a stone's throw to the east. The ancient Talkeetna Mountains rise in the distance.

This area is teeming with waterfowl and other migratory birds in spring and fall. Visitors may even spot a moose during the long winter months. The Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge comprises a large portion of this area.

- **Stop 5: Kepler- Bradley State Park**

**From previous stop:** same location

**Directions:** Follow the Byway for a short distance, the state park is on the west side of the Byway.

A fisherman's paradise, this popular state park comprises several trout and grayling filled lakes. Kepler-Bradley State Park is within easy driving distance of Anchorage. The lakes are located in crevasses in between moraine ridges formed by glaciers. Trails from the park connect to the Mat/Su Borough Crevasse Moraine Trail System.

- **Stop 6: King Mountain State Wayside and Lodge**

**From previous stop:** same location

**Directions:** Continue along the Byway, Lodge is located just off the road.

King Mountain State Wayside is located in the shadow King Mountain and adjacent to the Matanuska River.

- **Stop 7: Matanuska Glacier State Recreation Area**

**From previous stop:** same location

King Mountain State Wayside is located in the shadow of King Mountain and adjacent to the Matanuska River. The wayside provides a scenic place for travelers to camp and have a picnic.

Just a quarter mile up the road is the historic King Mountain Lodge. One of the original roadhouses, the lodge provides food, lodging and camping opportunities. It serves as the center of the Chickaloon community.

- **End: Mile 118 Raptor Viewing Area**

**From previous stop:** same location

**Directions:** Located farther down the Byway.

At this raptor viewing area peregrine falcons and golden eagles can be seen soaring over the Interior highlands in search of prey. During March, April, and early May, these birds create quite a spectacle and observers marvel at their presence. As the most prominent flyway viewing spot in Alaska, the flyway at Milepost 118 was only discovered 20 years ago.

Informational panels include discussion and maps of the early Knik, Chickaloon, and Nelchina Trail system part of which makes up the Glenn Highway Corridor. It also discusses Lion's Head, an ancient volcano that alone withstood the might of the Matanuska Glacier and provides testament to yet another geological force that help formed the magnificent landscape of the corridor.

### **Totals for Day 1**

**Total Distance Traveled:** 0 miles / 0.0 km

**Total Travel Time:** 0 minutes

**Total Stopping Time:** 0 minutes