

Kenai Peninsula

SEWARD HIGHWAY ① ⑨

Connects: Anchorage to Seward, AK **Length:** 127 miles

Road Surface: Paved **Season:** Open all year

Highest Summit: Turnagain Pass 988 feet

Major Attractions: Mount Alyeska; Portage Glacier; Kenai Fjords National Park

(See map, page 507)



Canyon Creek rest area near the Hope Highway turnoff on the Seward Highway.

(© Kris Graef, staff)

The 127-mile-long Seward Highway connects Anchorage with the community of Seward on the east coast of the Kenai Peninsula. (Driving time is about 3 hours.) The Seward Highway has been called one of the most scenic highways in the country. It was designated a National Forest Scenic Byway in 1998, and an All-American Road in 2000, one of 15 roads recognized for outstanding scenic, natural, historic, cultural, archaeological and recreational qualities.

Leaving Anchorage, the Seward Highway follows the north shore of Turnagain Arm through Chugach State Park and Chugach National Forest, permitting a panoramic view of the south shore and the Kenai Mountains on the Kenai Peninsula. The Kenai Peninsula is just that—a peninsula, measuring 150 miles long and 70 miles wide, extending southwest from Turnagain Arm and Passage Canal. It is bounded to the east by the Gulf of Alaska, and to the west by Cook Inlet.

The Seward Highway provides access to Girdwood and Alyeska ski resort via the Alyeska Highway; to Hope via the Hope Highway; to Whittier and to Portage Glacier via the Whittier/Portage Road; and to Seward, gateway to Kenai Fjords National Park. The Seward Highway junctions with the Sterling Highway 90 miles south of Anchorage. The Sterling Highway leads to

Soldotna, Kenai and Homer (see page 544).

The first 9 miles of the New Seward Highway are a major Anchorage thoroughfare (4-lane divided freeway), connecting South Anchorage with downtown. South of Anchorage, the Seward Highway is a paved, 2-lane highway with passing lanes. There are no gas stations on the Seward Highway between **Milepost S 90** (Girdwood turnoff) and **Milepost S 6.6**, just outside Seward.

The highway is open all year. Some sections of the highway are subject to avalanches in winter. Check locally for winter road conditions and avalanche road closures.

Bike trails along the Seward Highway include a 3-mile trail between Indian and Bird; a 6-mile trail between Girdwood and Bird Point; and an 8-mile bike trail (the Sixmile Trail) between the Hope Highway junction and the Johnson Pass Trailhead.

There are also a number of trailheads along the Seward Highway for both Chugach State Park and USFS hiking trails.

CAUTION: The Seward Highway from Anchorage to just past Girdwood statistically has one of the highest number of traffic accidents in the state. DRIVE CAREFULLY! Motorists must drive with headlights on at all times.

Delay of 5 vehicles or more is illegal; use slow vehicle turnouts. Pass with care!

	Alyeska	Anchorage	Hope	Seward	Whittier
Alyeska		42	56	95	28
Anchorage	42		88	127	60
Hope	56	88		75	52
Seward	95	127	75		91
Whittier	28	60	52	91	

Emergency medical services: Phone 911 or use CB channels 9, 11 or 19. Cellular phone service is available as far south as Girdwood and is also available in Seward. Emergency call boxes are located at Turnagain Pass (**Milepost S 68.5**), Hope Highway junction (**S 56.3**), Summit Lake Lodge (**S 45.8**) and at the Sterling Highway junction.

Seward Highway Log

Distance from Seward (S) is followed by distance from Anchorage (A).

Physical mileposts show distance from Seward. Many mileposts were missing in summer 2001.

ALASKA ROUTE 1

S 127 A 0 Gambell Street and 10th Avenue in Anchorage. The New Seward Highway (Gambell Street southbound, Ingra northbound) connects with the Glenn Highway in Anchorage via 5th Avenue (westbound) and 6th Avenue (eastbound). (See map in the ANCHORAGE section.) Follow Gambell Street south.

S 126.7 A 0.3 15th Avenue.

S 126.6 A 0.4 16th Avenue; access to Sullivan sports arena, Ben Boeke ice rinks and baseball stadium. Begin divided 4-lane highway southbound.

S 126 A 1 Fireweed Lane. Shopping and services to west.

S 125.8 A 1.2 Northern Lights Boulevard (one-way westbound). Access to **Sears Mall** from New Seward Highway. This was the first shopping mall in Anchorage. Shopping, services and 24-hour supermarket on Northern Lights Blvd. Fred Meyers east side of highway.

S 125.7 A 1.3 Benson Boulevard (one-way eastbound).

S 125.4 A 1.6 Southbound access only to Old Seward Highway to 36th Ave.

S 125.3 A 1.7 36th Avenue; **Providence Hospital** approximately 2 miles east. Z.J. Loussac library and Midtown post office to west.

S 125.2 A 1.8 Freeway begins southbound.

S 124.7 A 2.3 Tudor Road overpass; exits both sides of highway for shopping and

SEWARD HIGHWAY Anchorage, AK, to Seward, AK

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The boardwalk at Potter Marsh, Milepost S 117.4, is an ideal spot for bird watching. (© Lynne Ledbetter)

services.

S 124.2 A 2.8 Highway crosses Campbell Creek; Campbell Creek Greenbelt. Those are the Chugach Mountains to the east.

CAUTION: Watch for moose.

S 123.7 A 3.3 Dowling Road underpass; exits on both sides of highway to shopping and services. Access to Anchorage recycling center to west.

S 122.7 A 4.3 76th Avenue exit, southbound traffic only.

S 122.2 A 4.8 Dimond Boulevard overpass; exits on both sides of highway. Access west to **Dimond Mall**, gas stations, fast-food and major shopping area. Gas station to east.

S 120.8 A 6.2 O'Malley Road underpass; exits on both sides of highway. Turn east on O'Malley Road and drive 2 miles to reach the **Alaska Zoo**. Continue east on O'Malley for **Chugach State Park** Upper Hillside hiking trails (follow signs), which include the popular Flattop trail.

Turn west for access to Minnesota Drive to **Ted Stevens International Airport**.

S 119.7 A 7.3 Huffman Road underpass; exits on both sides of highway. Exit west for gas station, 24-hour supermarket and other services. Exit east for South Anchorage subdivisions.

S 118.5 A 8.5 DeArmour Road overpass, southbound exit only. (Northbound access to DeArmour is via Rabbit Creek exit, then north on Old Seward Highway.)

S 117.8 A 9.2 Overpass: Exits both sides of highway for Old Seward Highway (west); access to Rabbit Creek Road (east) to South Anchorage subdivisions. The picturesque Chapel by the Sea overlooks Turnagain Arm. The church is often photographed because of its unique setting and its display of flowers.

View of Turnagain Arm and Mount Spurr southbound.

S 117.4 A 9.6 Turnoff to west for **Rabbit Creek Rifle Range** (ADF&G); open to the public; summer and winter hours posted on gate or phone (907) 566-0130 for hours and fees. Covered firing positions on handgun and rifle ranges. Shotgun range (shot shells only).

Turnoff to east at Boardwalk Wildlife Viewing exit for **Potter Point State Game Refuge**. This is a very popular spot for bird

watching. From the parking lot, an extensive boardwalk crosses Potter Marsh, a refuge and nesting area for waterfowl. The marsh was created when railroad construction dammed a small creek in the area. Today, the marsh is visited by arctic terns, Canada geese, trumpeter swans, many species of ducks and other water birds. Bring binoculars.

CAUTION: Highway narrows to 2 lanes southbound. Pass with care! Drive with headlights on at all times. Speed limit 55mph.

S 117.2 A 9.8 Small paved turnout east side of highway.

S 115.4 A 11.6 Junction with Old Seward Highway; access to Potter Valley Road east to subdivision. Old Johnson trail begins 0.5 mile up Potter Valley Road; parking at trailhead. Only the first 10 miles of this state park trail are cleared. Moderate to difficult hike; watch for bears.

The natural gas pipeline from the Kenai Peninsula emerges from beneath Turnagain Arm here and follows the roadway to Anchorage.

WARNING: When the tide is out, the sand in Turnagain Arm might look inviting. DO NOT go out on it. Some of it is quicksand. You could become trapped in the mud and not be rescued before the tide comes in.

S 115.2 A 11.8 Entering Chugach State Park southbound. Turnoff to west for Chugach State Park Headquarters and the Kenai Peninsula Visitor Center; RV parking, public restrooms, visitor information, espresso and snacks.

A vintage snowplow train and interpretive panels on the railroad are on display on the grounds here.



Chugach State Park Headquarters is housed in the historic Potter Section

House, once the home for a small crew of Alaska Railroad workers who maintained the tracks between Seward and Anchorage in the days of coal- and steam-powered locomotives. Maps and information on Chugach State Park, as well as park parking passes, are available in the headquarters building. Open Mon.-Fri. 10 A.M.-4:30 P.M. (closed for lunch 12-1 P.M.); phone (907) 345-5014.

Also at this location, housed in one of the old train cars, is the **Kenai Peninsula Visitor Center**, operated by the National Senior Service Corps in Alaska. The visitor center is open 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. daily in summer to assist visitors with Kenai Peninsula travel information as well as reservations for cruises, fishing, lodging and attractions. The visitor center also operates an espresso/snack stand. Phone (907) 336-3300 or visit www.kpvc.org for more information.

S 115.1 A 11.9 Turnoff to east for **Potter Creek Viewpoint and Trail** (Chugach State Park). Small parking area overlooking marsh with interpretive signs about wetlands and the railroad's role in creating these accidental marshes. Also an interpretive sign about the feeding habits of moose, who eat in marshes like these as well as in the backyards of Anchorage residents. Moose can eat the equivalent in twigs of a 50-lb. sack of dog food a day. Moose munch twigs and strip bark from willow, birch and aspen trees.

Drive up the hill via 2-lane paved road for large parking area, viewing platform with telescopes, interpretive signs and hiking trails. The 0.4-mile nature trail examines the natural history of the surrounding forest, a blending of 2 climates: the continental climate (the boreal forest of Interior Alaska) and the wetter coastal climate (Sitka spruce, hemlock).

This is the Potter Creek Trailhead for **Turnagain Arm Trail**. From here to McHugh Creek Picnic Area (at **Milepost S 111.9** on the Seward Highway) it is 3.3 miles, making it a good choice for a family hike. One-way walking time is about 1-1/2 hours. Turnagain Arm trail continues to Rainbow (7.5 miles) and to Windy Corner (9.4 miles) at **Milepost S 106.7** Seward Highway; see trail information signs. Turnagain Arm Trail parallels the Seward Highway and offers good views of Turnagain Arm. Rated as easy, with 250- to 700-foot elevation gains from the parking areas to the generally level trail on the hillside above the 4 trailheads.

S 114.7 A 12.3 Weigh station and pay phone to east.

S 114.5 A 12.5 Double-ended gravel turnout to east (posted no camping).

S 113.3 A 13.7 Slow vehicle turnout to west for southbound traffic. **Delay of 5 vehicles illegal; must use turnouts.**

Informal gravel turnout to east.

S 113.1 A 13.9 Informal gravel turnout to east at McHugh boulder area. Watch for rock climbers practicing on rock walls alongside the highway. The cliffs are part of the base of McHugh Peak (elev. 4,298 feet).

S 111.9 A 15.1 Paved side road to east goes up hill to **McHugh Creek Picnic Area**. This state wayside on the flank of McHugh Peak has a multi-tiered parking area. Restrooms, paved pathways, boardwalk, picnic tables, viewing platform with telescopes and interpretive signs about wildlife are at second tier parking. Third tier parking for access to McHugh Creek trailhead. McHugh Creek Scenic Overlook offers views of Turnagain Arm. McHugh Creek trailhead

to Turnagain Arm Trail. ♿

S 111.6 A 15.4 Informal turnout to east used by rock climbers.

S 111.2 A 15.8 Rough gravel turnout to east.

S 110.9 A 16.1 Double-ended gravel turnout to east; posted no camping.

S 110.4 A 16.6 Beluga Point scenic viewpoint and photo stop to west is a large paved double-ended turnout with a commanding view of Turnagain Arm. A good place to see bore tides and beluga whales. (The only all-white whale, belugas are easy to identify.) Tables, benches, telescopes and interpretive signs on orcas, bore tides, mountain goats, Captain Cook, etc.

An easterly extension of Cook Inlet, **Turnagain Arm** was called Return by the Russians. Captain Cook, seeking the fabled Northwest Passage in 1778, called it Turnagain River, and Captain Vancouver, doing a more thorough job of surveying in 1794, gave it the present name of Turnagain Arm.

Turnagain Arm is known for having one of the world's remarkably high tides, with a diurnal range of more than 33 feet. A bore tide is an abrupt rise of tidal water just after low tide, moving rapidly landward, formed by a flood tide surging into a constricted inlet such as Turnagain Arm. This foaming wall of water may reach a height of 6 feet and is very dangerous to small craft. To see a bore tide, check the Anchorage-area tide tables for low tide, then add approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes to the Anchorage low tide for the bore to reach points between 32 miles and 37 miles south of Anchorage on the Seward Highway. Visitors should watch for bore tides from Beluga Point south to Girdwood.

WARNING: Do not go out on the mud flats at low tide. The glacial silt and water can create a dangerous quicksand.

S 110 A 17 Informal gravel turnout to east.

S 109.9 A 17.1 Wide shoulder to west for parking.

S 109.2 A 17.8 Paved turnout to west.

S 109 A 18 Gravel turnout to east.

S 108.7 A 18.3 Paved double-ended viewpoint to west.

S 108.4 A 18.6 Rainbow trailhead to Turnagain Arm Trail east side of highway.

S 108.3 A 18.7 Paved turnout to west.

S 107.9 A 19.1 Turnout to west.

S 107.3 A 19.7 Rough gravel turnout uphill to east is used by rock climbers practicing on the cliffs here.

S 106.9 A 20.1 Scenic viewpoint to west; double-ended paved turnout. Watch for Dall sheep near road. **NOTE: DO NOT FEED WILDLIFE.**

S 106.7 A 20.3 Windy Corner Trail trailhead to Turnagain Arm Trail east side of highway; parking.

S 106.6 A 20.4 Shoulder parking to west.

S 106.2 A 20.8 Slow vehicle turnout southbound.

S 105.9 A 21.1 Slow vehicle turnout southbound.

S 105.7 A 21.3 Falls Creek Trailhead and parking east side of highway. Moderate 1.5-mile hike along creek.

S 104.9 A 22.1 Single-vehicle turnout to east under rock overhang by small waterfall.

Distance marker northbound shows Anchorage 23 miles.

S 104.4 A 22.6 Slow vehicle turnout northbound.

S 104.3 A 22.7 Slow vehicle turnout

southbound.

S 104 A 23 Indian Valley Mine National Historic Site.

S 103.9 A 23.1 Indian Road to Indian Valley Meats.

Indian Valley Meats. Reindeer sausage and much more from this federally inspected processor of exotic game and fish. Fish boxes ready for shipping, gift packs with game jerky, smoked salmon and much more. Come visit our gift shop featuring our 20-plus flavor jerky bar. Great buys! In business 25 years. Please stop in, meet our pet reindeer and tour the stunning grounds, featuring flowers, rock walls, B&B, log conference hall and trophy animal mounts. Just 1/2 mile up Indian Road. See display ad this section. [ADVERTISEMENT]

S 103.6 A 23.4 INDIAN. Indian House.

S 103.1 A 23.9 Bore Tide Road, also called Ocean View Road. Access to Indian Valley trailhead (1.4 miles), a 6-mile moderately steep hike to Indian Pass. Turnagain House restaurant.

S 103 A 24 Bridge over Indian Creek; rest area with observation area with telescope to west at south end of bridge. The old Hope Gold Camp and Avalanche Shoots can be seen through the telescope. Interpretive signs explain. Bar and liquor store to east. Pay phone. Begin 3-mile-long Indian to Bird bike trail south to Bird Creek campground. ♿

Indian Creek is heavily fished for pink salmon, sea-run Dolly Varden, few coho (silver) salmon and rainbow, June to September; pink salmon run from latter part of July to mid-August in even-numbered years. ➔

S 102.1 A 24.9 Bird Ridge trailhead and parking east side of highway. This steep 2.5-mile hike (moderate difficulty) is the first snow-free spring hike in Chugach State Park, according to rangers. Hike offers good views of Turnagain Arm.

S 101.5 A 25.5 Bridge over **Bird Creek**; parking. This is a very popular fishing spot and it is very busy during salmon runs. Bird Creek has a tremendous silver salmon run in summer. Check current regulations for daily bag and possession limits and also for king salmon closures. ➔

CAUTION: Watch for pedestrians next mile southbound. Anglers are urged not to trespass on private property or park illegally along the highway. Use Bird Ridge trailhead parking to north, or Bird Creek parking to south.

S 101.2 A 25.8 Bird Creek fishing access to east; campground to west. **Bird Creek**



Spectators watch anglers from observation deck at Bird Creek.

(© Mike Jones)

State Recreation Site has 28 campsites, firepits, pay phone, covered picnic tables, toilets and water. Firewood is sometimes available. Camping fee \$10/night or resident pass. A pleasant campground densely wooded but cleared along the high banks of Turnagain Arm. Great spot for sunbathing. This campground is full most weekends in the summer. Campground also has additional walk-in tenting sites. Paved 3-mile Indian to Bird bike trail goes through campground. ▲

Parking for Bird Creek fishing. Overflow paved camping to east above fishing access parking area. Interpretive signs, viewing area with telescope, picnic tables, toilet, firepits. Also acts as day-use parking area. 16 camping sites.

WARNING: Do not go out on the mud flats at low tide. The glacial silt and water can create a dangerous quicksand.

S 100.8 A 26.2 Gas station with diesel and grocery; cafe.

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S 100.8 A 26.2 Shoreside Texaco. See display ad this section.

S 100.6 A 26.4 Konikson Road. Trailhead parking at end of road for Bird Creek Trail.

S 100.4 A 25.6 Distance marker southbound shows Girdwood 10 miles, Seward 98 miles, Homer 194 miles.

S 99.9 A 27.1 Paved turnout to west.

Southbound traffic entering "Avalanche alley," a 9-mile corridor from here south to the Girdwood turnoff that is prone to avalanches.

S 99.3 76 Rough gravel turnout to west.

View across Bird Flats on Turnagain Arm to the cut in the mountains where Sixmile Creek drains into the arm; the old mining settlement of Sunrise was located here. The town of Hope is to the southwest. The peak visible across Turnagain Arm between here and Girdwood is Mount Alpenglow in the Kenai mountain range. Avalanche gates.

S 99 A 28 Avalanche gun emplacement (motorists will notice several of these along

the highway) and double-ended gravel turnout to west with plaque. The guns fire 105mm shells at Penguin Ridge above the highway south from Bird Hill to knock down potential slides and stabilize the slopes in winter.

Plaque here memorializes Kerry Brookman: "This monument is dedicated to Mr. Brookman and the men and women of the Alaska Railroad and Alaska Dept. of Transportation who work on the front line each winter keeping Alaska's railroad and highways safe for the traveling public. While working to clear 2 avalanches that had closed the railroad and highway east of this site, Mr. Brookman from the Alaska Railroad and 2 co-workers from the Dept. of Transportation were engulfed by a third avalanche. Mr. Brookman died on Feb. 1, 2000, from injuries sustained in this tragic incident. His co-workers survived."

S 98.8 A 28.2 *Begin 65 mph speed zone southbound. Begin 55 mph speed zone north-*

bound.

S 96.7 A 30.3 Improved highway begins southbound. The new "Bird to Gird" segment of the Seward Highway was completed in 1998, replacing the narrow, winding road over Bird Hill. The approximately 7 miles of new alignment lie on the water side of the railroad tracks along the shore of Turnagain Arm. The old Bird Hill road is now part of the Girdwood to Bird Point bike trail.

S 96.5 A 30.5 Turnoff for **Bird Point Scenic Overlook**; large paved parking area overlooking Turnagain Arm with walkway, wind shelter, information panels and restrooms.



Access from overlook parking area to **Bird Point to Girdwood Trail**. This 6-mile bike trail goes over Bird Hill on the old Seward Highway alignment. The trail has information displays, viewpoints and telescopes along the way.

S 95.7 A 31.3 *Passing lane begins southbound.*

S 95.3 A 31.7 Double-ended scenic turnout to west overlooking Turnagain Arm.

S 94 A 33 Scenic turnout to west.

S 93.6 A 33.4 *End passing lane southbound.*

S 93.3 A 33.7 Double-ended scenic turnout to west overlooking Turnagain Arm.

S 92.5 A 34.5 Double-ended scenic turnout to west overlooking Turnagain Arm.

S 92.4 A 34.6 Double-ended scenic turnout to west overlooking Turnagain Arm.

S 92.1 A 34.9 Slow vehicle turnout to east.

S 91.4 A 35.6 Double-ended scenic turnout to west overlooking Turnagain Arm.

S 90.5 A 36.5 Bridge crosses Tidewater Slough.

S 90.4 A 36.6 Single-vehicle turnout to east. Leaving Chugach State Park southbound.

Begin 55mph speed zone southbound. Begin 65mph speed zone northbound.

The 1964 Good Friday earthquake caused land to sink in the Turnagain Arm area, particularly apparent from here to **Milepost S 74**. As a result, many trees had their root systems invaded by salt water, as seen by the stands of dead spruce trees along here. Good bird watching, including bald eagles, arctic terns and sandhill cranes.

S 90.2 A 36.8 Girdwood highway maintenance station. End avalanche area southbound.

S 90 A 37 **Girdwood Junction.**

Junction with 3-mile Alyeska Highway to Crow Creek mine, Girdwood and Alyeska Recreation Area. Worth the drive! See "Alyeska Highway" log beginning on page 511.

Alpine Diner & Bakery. See display ad this section.

The Ice Cream Shop. See display ad this section.

This intersection of the Seward Highway
(Continues on page 515)

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VISITOR
INFORMATION

Alyeska Highway

The 3-mile Alyeska Highway provides access to Crow Creek Road, Girdwood, Mount Alyeska ski area and Alyeska Resort. There are many restaurants, gift shops and accommodations in the Girdwood/Alyeska area. Major attractions include the Alyeska Aerial Tramway and rainforest hiking trails. Well worth the drive.

There is a bike trail along this highway. **Distance is measured from junction with Seward Highway (J).**

J 0 Junction with Seward Highway at **Milepost S 90**. Girdwood Station Mall: 24-hour convenience store and gas station, Alpine Diner and Bakery, Ice Cream Shop.

Alpine Diner and Bakery. See display ad this section.

Ice Cream Shop. See display ad this section.

J 0.2 Bridge over Alaska Railroad tracks. Paved bike trail to Alyeska Resort begins. This is also the south end of the Bird to Gird bike trail from Bird Point at **Milepost S 96.5** on the Seward Highway.

J 0.4 Forest Station Road. **Chugach National Forest Glacier Ranger District** office (P.O. Box 129, Girdwood, AK 99587; phone 907/783-3242). Open 7:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. weekdays in summer; closed holidays. Maps and information available here.

J 0.5 Alaska Candle Factory. One-half mile off Seward Highway on Alyeska Highway. Home of handcrafted candles made in



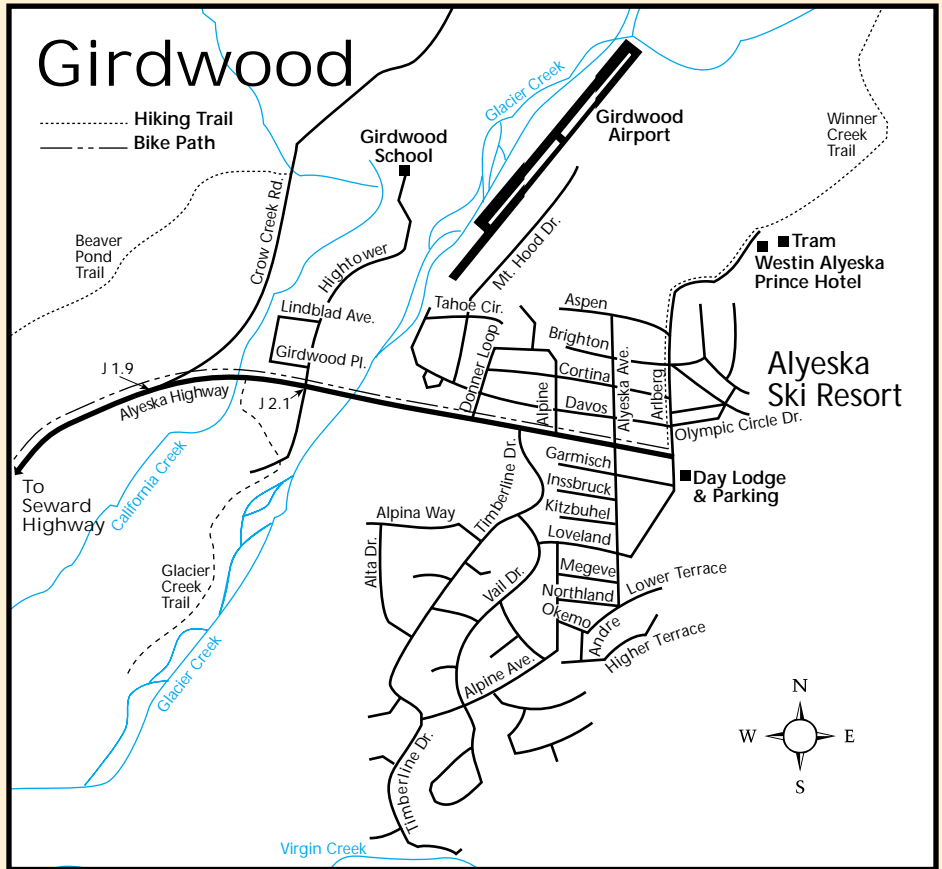
the form of Alaska wild animals. Hand-dipped tapers and molded candles made daily. All candles have unique individual designs. Open 7 days a week, 10 A.M. to 6 P.M., in summer until 7 P.M. Visitors welcome. Phone (907) 783-2354. P.O. Box 786, Girdwood, AK 99587. [ADVERTISEMENT]

J 1.5 Bike rentals. **J 1.9 Junction** with Crow Creek Road (1-lane dirt and gravel). **Crow Creek Mine National Historic Site** (description follows) at Mile 3.1; Crow Pass Trailhead at Mile 7. The road is not maintained past Mile 0.6 in winter.

Crow Creek Mine. Visit this historic 1898 mining camp located in the heart of Chugach National Forest. Drive 3 miles up Crow Creek Road (Old Iditarod trail).



Eight original buildings. Pan for gold. 1898 gold mining claims available for visitor prospecting! Mining equipment available for the day. Visit our gift shop. Enjoy beautiful grounds, ponds, flowers. Animals and friendly people. Horseback trail rides at the



mine. Campground for tents and self-contained vehicles. Open May 15 to September 15, 9 A.M. to 6 P.M. daily. Phone (907) 278-8060 (messages). www.crowcreekmine.com.

[ADVERTISEMENT] ▲

The old **Iditarod Trail** winds through the hemlock forest from near Girdwood Elementary school along Crow Creek Road to end near Crow Creek Mine. Hikers can connect with the Winner Creek trail via the Four Corners tram across Glacier Creek (see Winner Creek/Girdwood Valley Loop description at **Milepost J 4.1** Alyeska Highway). The Crow Pass-Iditarod Trail trailhead is at Mile 7 Crow Creek Road. Crow Pass trail climbs steeply 3 miles to ruins of an old gold mine and a USFS public-use cabin at Crow Pass near Raven Glacier; hiking time approximately 2½ hours. The Old Iditarod trail extends 22.5 miles north from Crow Pass down Raven Creek drainage to the Chugach State Park Visitor Center on Eagle River Road. All of the hiking trail, from Crow Creek Road trailhead to the state park visitor

center, is part of the Iditarod National Historic Trail used in the early 1900s. Trail is usually free of snow by mid-June. Closed to motorized vehicles; horses prohibited during early spring due to soft trail conditions.

J 2 California Creek bridge.

Girdwood



J 2.1 At the junction of Alyeska Highway and Hightower Road. **Population:** 1,935. **Emergency Services:** Alaska State Troopers, EMS and Fire Department, phone 911 or (907) 783-2704 (message only) or (907) 269-5711. **Medical Clinic:** Girdwood Clinic, adjacent post office, phone (907) 783-1355.

The town was named after Col. James Girdwood, who established a mining operation near here in 1901. Today, Girdwood has a substantial year-round community and a flourishing seasonal population,



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