Welcome to Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve where you have the opportunity to experience a wild corner of Alaska on a grand scale! More than 13 million acres of natural processes are at work all around you! This National Park Service Unit is part of the Kluane / Wrangell-St. Elias / Glacier Bay / Tatshenshini-Alsek World Heritage Site, the largest protected area in North America.

Human beings have been a part of this landscape for millennia. Much of this land has long been home to the Ahtna Athabascans, Upper Tanana Athabascans, Eyak, and Tlingit peoples. They along with other rural residents continue to hunt, fish, and gather foods from the land today. Miners came in search of copper and gold, and their buildings are a fascinating reminder of their efforts and perseverance. Active mining operations continue in the park. Today, we welcome you!

For Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve to be protected for our enjoyment and the enjoyment of future generations, it takes the support and efforts of a whole lot of people, including you! Please enjoy the park’s wilderness and wildlife but also protect it by taking care of your trash and keeping your distance, and your food, away from wildlife. Whether this is your first time here or your hundredth, you are seeking solitude or enjoying the company of family and friends, we hope your visit is special. Our wish is that you make memories and our request is that you leave this special park a little better than you found it. Please travel safely. A little bit of planning may make your time here more enjoyable and memorable.
Now That You’re Here...

There are many activities that are available to every visitor to Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. It really is a matter of how much time you plan to spend in the area. For some guidance you may want to use one of these itineraries:

**One Day**
- Visit the Wrangell-St. Elias Visitor Center, located 10 miles south of Glennallen. Explore the exhibits, browse the bookstore, stroll the Shoreline Forest Trail, view the Wrangell Mountains, and enjoy the 22-minute park movie, Crow of the Continent. Talk to a park ranger to help you discover the park and surrounding area and plan your visit. Interpretive programs are offered daily during the summer.
- Drive south towards Chitina. Along the way, hike on the Tonsewa River Trail or the Liberty Falls Trail and enjoy a panorama of the park's high peaks. Please contact a ranger at the visitor center to get detailed information about these hikes and their location.
- Stop by the Chitina Ranger Station, open most days during the summer, to view historic photos of Chitina and to visit a historic cabin.
- Continue to the nearby river over the Copper River where in summer you can watch Alaskans harvesting salmon with traditional fishwheels and dipnets.
- Another one-day option is to book a flight with a local air taxi service at the Chitina airport for a day trip to McCarthy and Kennecott. Because it takes 3 hours drive one-way from Copper Center to McCarthy, plus the time it takes to take a shuttle to Kennecott, we do not recommend that you plan a day trip via car to McCarthy or Kennecott.

**Three Days**
- One option is a drive along the Nabesna Road which will take you to remote corners of the park with great camping, hiking, and wildlife viewing. See the Nabesna Road Guide in this publication for more details. Make sure that you stop at the Skaa Ranger Station to get latest trail and road conditions.
- Another option is to drive along the McCarthy Road, which allows for exploring a rural Alaskan town and the Kennecott Mine National Historic Landmark. See the McCarthy Road Guide in this publication for more details.
- Once in Kennecott, a moderate hike along the Root Glacier Trail brings you up close to the area’s rich history and a mighty river of ice. More strenuous hikes lead to the mountainous Borealis and Jumbo Mines. Join a local guide/outfitter service for glacier hikes, mill building tours, and river rafting trips. Make sure that you stop at the Kennecott Visitor Center to get latest trail conditions. Interpretive programs are offered daily during the summer.
- A flightseeing excursion among the glaciers and mountains will give you a whole new appreciation of the size, wilderness, and magnificence of Wrangell-St. Elias. Park rangers at any visitor center can help you plan such an adventure.

**Become a Wrangell-St. Elias Junior Ranger!**

Young people of all ages can become a Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve Junior Ranger! Stop by one of the visitor centers in the park and ask a park ranger for the Junior Ranger Activity Book. Complete the required sections, state the official pledge with a ranger, and you will earn your own badge and certificate.

If you cannot visit the park in person and you have internet access, complete an online version of the Junior Ranger booklet! Visit the park website at www.nps.gov/wrst/learn/kidsyouth/.

Also...you can be a national park service WebRanger! Young people of all ages can become a WebRanger! Visit the park website at www.nps.gov/wrst/learn/kidsyouth/.

Park Visitor Centers

**Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve has various visitor contact points. Each of these facilities is staffed by interpretive park rangers who can assist you with your visit. Their first-hand knowledge of the park can be a great asset to you as you plan activities and learn about the unique features of the area. You can also view exhibits, maps, and the park movie at most locations.**

JOIN A RANGER A full range of interpretive activities are offered throughout the summer. Stop by a visitor center and join a park ranger for a guided walk, talk, or evening program.

Check the activity schedule posted at all visitor centers.
America’s Largest National Park

High Peaks of the Coastal Chugach Range intersect ocean storms, providing a buffer to warmer marine air masses. As a result, with the exception of the coastal strip near Yakutat (150 inches of rain/year), the park has an interior dry continental climate characterized by long, frigid winters followed by short, warm summers.

Weather & Climate

When the park was created in 1915, the purpose of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve was to and is still to maintain the natural scenic beauty of the diverse geologic, glacial, and tundra environments and to protect the abundant wildlife populations and their habitats; to ensure continued access for a wide range of wilderness-based recreational opportunities; and to provide continued opportunities for subsistence use.

Staying Safe in Bear Country

Both black bears (Ursus americanus) and grizzly/brown bears (Ursus arctos) are found throughout Wrangell-St. Elias. A few precautions can help keep you safe while camping and hiking, and protect the bears. Once a bear learns to identify hikers, campsites, or cabins as a source for food, there is rarely a happy ending.

Encountering a Bear
- If the bear is unawares of you, slowly move away quietly.
- If the bear sees you, stop where you are. Wave your arms and talk to the bear in a calm voice. Retract slowly, keeping the bear in sight.
- If the bear begins to follow you, change direction or stand your ground. DO NOT RUN.
- If contact is unavoidable, try to make yourself appear larger. Do not run.
- If you are attacked, play dead. Lie flat on the ground, face away from the bear, and try to protect your stomach and vital organs.

Food Storage
- Keep all food inside your car. Backcountry camping, you can borrow NPS-approved bear-resistant food containers (BRFCs) at park visitor centers.
- Carry Pepper Spray. It is highly recommended that you carry bear spray. Bear spray contains capsaicin, a red pepper extract, which is an effective, non-lethal deterrent against attacks by aggressive wildlife. Sprays have a maximum range of about six to eight yards. If you are inexperienced, you are more likely to be injured by a gun than a bear, and any misplaced shot may enrage the bear further, prolonging an attack. We generally recommend that hikers carry bear spray rather than a firearm.
- If you plan your visit. Amenities, services, and the Slana Ranger Station are only open and available during the summer. We hope you enjoy your visit!

The North District/Nabesna Area

Weather & Climate

There is much to see in the North District/Nabesna Area, located in the northern end of the park. Here you will find the site of Alaska’s last great gold rush, wildlife, stunning scenic views, historic homesteads, and connections to World War II. Come experience the outdoor recreation opportunities set within geologic formations and stunning views of the Wrangell Mountains.

Camping along the Nabesna Road

One of the best camping areas is in the northern part of the park, along the Nabesna Road. There, you will find pull-outs along the road that are perfect for a small R/T, camper trailer, or tent camping. Please note that many of these sites are close to the road and can be a little busy when traffic passes. The Nabesna District also hosts the only National Park Service-owned and operated campground in the park. The Nabesna Road boasts spectacular scenery, majestic views of the Wrangell Mountains, wildlife viewing, and hiking opportunities.

Kendessi Campground, mile 27.8

Camping, hiking, backpacking, and the like are great in the backcountry. However, be careful when traveling in the Nabesna area. The Nabesna Road has two separate areas of travel. Be sure to plan your visit. Amenities, services, and the Slana Ranger Station are only open and available during the summer. We hope you enjoy your visit!

Popular Day Hikes in the Nabesna Area

All trails in the Nabesna area eventually turn into routes. You are welcome to explore these routes, but please be prepared for remote hiking where help may not be readily available. More detailed descriptions of each trail are available on the park website or at park visitor centers. Hipsters should be well-prepared and carry food, water, map, extra clothing, rain gear, and sun protection. Many trails require route-finding and hiking may become intense. Bears may be present. You must properly contain your food — do not leave food or backpacks unattended at any time. Camping bear-spray is recommended. However, please learn how to properly use bear spray if you choose to carry it. The removal of artifacts from historic sites and the destruction of historic buildings are prohibited.

K’detà’i

Popular Day Hikes in the Nabesna Area

Trail Name Trail Length Difficulty Trail Description
Caribou Creek Trail 0.6 miles 1 km Easy/Moderate The trail gains elevation to a pass and heads west towards a small lake. At the pass, there is a nice view of the Wrangell Mountains.

Lost Creek Trail 7 miles 11.2 km Easy/Moderate The trail gains some elevation as it goes through woods and then enters a creek drainage. After 6 miles, trail becomes a route to a pass. Moderately difficult due to walking in rocky creek bed and climbing tundra hills. Total elevation gain to the pass: 3000 feet.

Skookum Volcano Trail 2.5 miles 4 km Medium Difficult The trail gains about 800 feet with some stream crossings along the way. Trail may be muddy.

Ramber Mine Trail 1.9 miles 3 km Medium Difficult The trail gains about 400 feet with some spectacular views. The trail leads to an abandoned gold mine, with the choice of climbing up a further route.

Traillhead Location

The Nabesna Road is at mile 19.2 on the Nabesna Road. Parking is located at 14 miles from the trailhead at mile 18.9.

The trailhead is located at mile 31.2 on the Nabesna Road, just after Lost Creek crosses the road. Parking is located along the road - do not park within the creek drainage.

The trailhead is located at mile 36.2 on the Nabesna Road. Parking is located at the trailhead.

The trailhead is located at the end of the Nabesna Road (mile 42). Drive past Donnelly Mountain Lodge for 44 miles with trailhead parking on the right. Walk 1/3 of a mile for the start of the trail on the right.
Nabesna Road Basics

- Begin at mile 60 of the Tok Cutoff (Iliamna, Slana, AK).
- Mileposts are 1 mile apart.
- Intersection and maintained by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.
- This is a remote area with limited services. For compass users, it is accessible to the park's north gate (chirichino Creek Trailhead) miles north.
- Drive safely, courteously, and carefully.
- Private land adjoining parts of the trail. Please respect private property.
- Cell phone coverage is very limited.

Nabesna Road Access

- Rallies often begin trips down the Copper River here. The confluence of the Copper River and the Slana River is less than a mile downstream. The Slana River begins in the Mientasta Mountains, seen to the north.

Change in Land Status - Entering Federal Land

On the south side of the road, the boundary of the “National Preserve” begins.

Junction with “4-Mile” Road

This road leads into the Slana Settlement, created in 1983 when the BLM opened over 10,000 acres to homesteading. It was one of the last opportunities for homesteading on federal land. Eight homestead claims were filed, but most were soon abandoned. Aluminum antlers were taken. Today, about 50 people live in the settlement on private property.

Change in Land Status - Preserve to Park

The northern part of the road is in a “National Preserve” whereas the southern part is in “National Park.” Sport hunting is not allowed in the preserve, but not in the park. Subsistence hunting by local, rural residents is allowed in both the park and preserve.

Copper Creek Trailhead

This trail is primarily an ORV trail and is generally not suitable for hiking. It is the first 2.5 miles of the 13-mile trail are generally suitable for hiking, then the trail crosses Tanacross Creek and trail conditions deteriorate.

15-18 Views of the Wrangell Mountains

Over the next few miles, enjoy the splendid views of the Wrangell Mountains. Mt. Sanford (16,237 feet) is the tallest mountain that can be seen from the Nabesna Road. To the left of Sanford is the rounded, daisy dome of Mt. Wrangell (14,386 feet). This is the park’s only active volcano and exceptionally steam can be seen ranging from the summit. Wrangell’s broad sloping profile is an excellent example of a shield volcano. The jagged summits of Tanacross Peak to the left of Mt. Wrangell and Capital Mountain to the right of Mt. Sanford are remnants of viscous shield volcanics.

Kettle Lake Wayside

This is a primitive camping spot and rest area. There are no sauna toilets here.

Dead Dog Hill Rest Area

This is a great spot to take a break for wildlife viewing or bird watching. There are no views of salt flats, a small lake, and boreal forest. Moose are seen here and caribou migrate through this area in the spring and fall. There is a toilet at this pullout at Mile 31.

Parking for the Caribou Creek Trail

19.2 Caribou Creek Trail & Access to Caribou Creek Cabin

This trail is approximately 11/2 miles long to the cabin and departs from the north side of the road. Reservations are required for use of Caribou Creek Cabin. Contact the Wrangell-St. Elias Visitor Center to sign up for this public use cabin.

21.8 Rock Lake Wayside & Access to Viking Lodge Cabin

This is a primitive camping spot and rest area. There is a toilet here. The trail is approximately 1 1/2 miles long to the cabin and departs from the north side of the road. Reservations are required for use of Viking Lodge Cabin. Contact the Wrangell-St. Elias Visitor Center to sign up for this public use cabin.

Watershed Divide (3,320 ft)

You have reached the highest point on the Nabesna Road, and crossed a major watershed. All water flowing from the divide is carried by the Copper River to the Gulf of Alaska. All waters flowing next enter the Nabesna River, the Kuskokwim, the Yukon, and ultimately the Bering Sea.

Kendrewi Campground

The Nabesna Road offers an opportunity to explore Interior Alaska and the northern reaches of the park. The road begins at mile 60 of the Glenn Highway (Tok Cutoff), and soon becomes gravel as it winds 42 miles into the park. The drive is an adventure with views of the Wrangell Mountains, Pickett Mountains, and the Nabesna Peaks. Along the way you’ll find campgrounds, scenic vistas, hiking routes, and opportunities for wildlife viewing. But you won’t find many people. So if you like taking a road less traveled, the Nabesna Road may be right for you.

Before beginning your trip, stop at the Slana Ranger Station to check on current road conditions. Generally the road is passable by two-wheel drive vehicles. At times, high clearance and four-wheel drive are recommended beyond Mile 29, where you may find yourself on some sandy roads. If you are using a tow vehicle, private property adjoins parts of the road. Ask a ranger for information on area services.

This road was built to access the Nabesna Gold Mine, which operated from 1925 - 1945. Limited, small scale mineral extraction has occurred since then. The Nabesna Mine and its infrastructure remain here. The building is visible on the south side of the road. This roadhouse was built in the 1920s and 1930s, but there has been a structure here since 1912. It served travelers on the trail to Wrangell. Be aware that the Nabesna Road Audio tour that plays in your car’s stereo is available at any park visitor center.

Nabesna Road Basics

• Begin at mile 60 of the Tok Cutoff (Iliamna, Slana, AK).
• Mileposts are 1 mile apart.
• Intersection and maintained by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.
• This is a remote area with limited services. For compass users, it is accessible to the park’s north gate (chirichino Creek Trailhead) miles north.
• Drive safely, courteously, and carefully.
• Private land adjoining parts of the trail. Please respect private property.
• Cell phone coverage is very limited.

This is a primitive camping spot and rest area. There are no sauna toilets here.

This trail leads through an extinct, deeply eroded volcanic system with fascinating geology. The trailhead is approximately 0.25 miles north of the road. It allows quick access to the backcountry. The trail ends within the creek drainage, but allows quick access to the backcountry. The trail ends within the creek drainage, but

This trail is primarily an ORV trail and is generally not suitable for hiking. It is the first 2.5 miles of the 13-mile trail are generally suitable for hiking, then the trail crosses Tanacross Creek and trail conditions deteriorate.

The Nabesna Road begins at mile 60 of the Tok Cutoff. Look for the mile-marker posts and follow along with this guide.

OFF Road Vehicles (ORVs) are permitted in Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve. ORV users must obtain a permit. The following trails are open to recreational ORVs: Trail Creek Trail, Lost Creek Trail, and Soda Lake Trail. All roads are open to recreational ORVs (limited to local, rural residents).

Before you continue:

• Cell phone coverage is very limited.
• Road conditions can deteriorate beyond this point. Trail conditions end at mile 42.0. Road conditions may be hazardous.

This road leads into the Slana Settlement, created in 1983 when the BLM opened over 10,000 acres to homesteading. It was one of the last opportunities for homesteading on federal land. Eight homestead claims were filed, but most were soon abandoned. Aluminum antlers were taken. Today, about 50 people live in the settlement on private property.

LOOK for information on area services.

The Nabesna Road Basics

• Begin at mile 60 of the Tok Cutoff (Iliamna, Slana, AK).
• Mileposts are 1 mile apart.
• Intersection and maintained by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.
• This is a remote area with limited services. For compass users, it is accessible to the park’s north gate (chirichino Creek Trailhead) miles north.
• Drive safely, courteously, and carefully.
• Private land adjoining parts of the trail. Please respect private property.
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• Drive safely, courteously, and carefully.
• Private land adjoining parts of the trail. Please respect private property.
• Cell phone coverage is very limited.

This road was built to access the Nabesna Gold Mine, which operated from 1925 - 1945. Limited, small scale mineral extraction has occurred since then. The Nabesna Mine and its infrastructure remain here. The building is visible on the south side of the road. This roadhouse was built in the 1920s and 1930s, but there has been a structure here since 1912. It served travelers on the trail to Wrangell. Be aware that the Nabesna Road Audio tour that plays in your car’s stereo is available at any park visitor center.

The Nabesna Road Basics

• Begin at mile 60 of the Tok Cutoff (Iliamna, Slana, AK).
• Mileposts are 1 mile apart.
• Intersection and maintained by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.
• This is a remote area with limited services. For compass users, it is accessible to the park’s north gate (chirichino Creek Trailhead) miles north.
• Drive safely, courteously, and carefully.
• Private land adjoining parts of the trail. Please respect private property.
• Cell phone coverage is very limited.
This is the end of the McCarthy Road. There are privately-owned parking areas nearby. There is a commercial tour. Rangers are available in the Kennecott Visitor Center to help plan your visit. Amenities, shuttle, services, and the Kennecott Visitor Center are only open and available during the summer. We hope you enjoy your visit!

Camping along the McCarthy Road & in Kennecott
Most camping is located at the beginning and end of the McCarthy Road. There are no National Park Service operated campgrounds in this area of the park, although you will find privately-owned campgrounds. The McCarthy Road boasts spectacular scenery, views of the Copper and Chitina Rivers, wildlife viewing, and historic structures. There is private property located along the McCarthy Road and within Kennecott. Please take care not to camp or hike on private property.

Copper River Campground, mile 1.6
This is a non-Park Service primitive campground. It is located just past crossing the bridge. This area has 12 sites, picnic tables, fire pits, and vault toilets.

Kennecott River, mile 59.4
This is the end of the McCarthy Road. It is privately-owned parking areas.

Popular Day Hikes in the Kennecott Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAILNAME</th>
<th>TRAIL LENGTH</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY</th>
<th>TRAIL DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>TRAILHEAD LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wagon Road 4.5 miles/8 km one way Easy/Moderate This trail takes you through a forest while you walk on a road. It leads to Kennecott. You may hike one way or out to a shuttle back.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Root Glacier Trail 2 miles/3.2 km one way Easy/Moderate This trail takes you to the Root Glacier. Trail crosses seasonal snowsheds - your best bet may well be. If hiking on the glacier, crampons are highly recommended.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonanza Mine Trail 4.5 miles/7.2 km one way Difficult/Sustained The trail spars 3800 feet in 4.5 miles with some difficult climbing along the way. There are stunning views once above treeline and abandoned mine buildings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jumbo Mine Trail 5 miles/8 km Difficult/Sustained The trail spars 3200 feet in 5 miles with some difficult climbing along the way. There are amazing views once above treeline and abandoned mine buildings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erie Mine Trail 4 miles/6.4 km one way Easy/Moderate This trail takes you through a forest, along the edge of the Root Glacier. There are great views of the Stetney Ice fall. This trail does not take you to the actual Erie Mine - it ends 3000' below the mine.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

End of the McCarthy Road
McCarthy Road Information Station - Mile 58.6
Posted information about the Kennecott District can be found here. This site has day-use parking, restrooms, and a short trail. No overnight parking or camping is allowed. This information station is usually not staffed.

Parking
All vehicles must park at one of the designated parking lots near the end of the McCarthy Road. Vehicles access into McCarthy and Kennecott for local residents only. Free public day-use parking is available at the McCarthy Road Information Station, located a half-mile from the end of the road. Day-use and overnight parking is available for a fee in one of the private parking lots located closer to the end of the road.

Camping & Dining Options
There are few private campgrounds located near the end of the road, and some dining options. More dining options can be found in McCarthy.

Kennecott River Footbridges
There are two footbridges that span the Kennecott River at the end of the McCarthy Road, which provide access for visitors into McCarthy. Before crossing the footbridge, drop off passengers and luggage directly in front of the footbridge. You will find hand carts to help haul your luggage across the river.

Shuttle Service
Once you cross the first footbridge over the Kennecott River, there is a private shuttle that takes passengers into the town of McCarthy and/or to Kennecott Mill Town. Shuttle tickets are $5/one-way. The shuttle service is usually posted at the footbridge and other locations around town. Typically, the shuttle runs once or twice an hour during the summer, although shuttle times may vary. The shuttle does not operate in winter. You are welcome to walk, but be advised that from the Kennecott River, it is a half-mile walk into McCarthy and a 5-mile walk to Kennecott. There are no Park Service-operated shuttles in McCarthy or Kennecott.

Lodge Guests
There are accommodations at the end of the McCarthy Road and within the towns of McCarthy and Kennecott. A list of lodging options is available on the park website and at any park visitor center. Lodges on the other side of the Kennecott River footbridges generally provide transportation for their guests. Contact the lodge directly to arrange the lodge shuttle.

ATVs and Motorcycles
It is against state law to take any type of motorized vehicle across the Kennecott River footbridges. ATV access into Kennecott is limited to private property owners and their guests in the process of accessing their property. If you’ve brought your personal ATV or motorcycle, please leave it parked at the end of the McCarthy Road.

Camping
There are no established campgrounds in McCarthy or Kennecott. There is a primitive camping area with no amenities located about 1.4 miles north of Kennecott. Please inquire for more information at the Kennecott Visitor Center if you’d like to camp here.

Dining Options & Potable Water
There are limited options for obtaining food on the west side of McCarthy, in downtown McCarthy, and in Kennecott. A current list of dining options is available at any park visitor center. There are no drinking fountains in McCarthy or Kennecott, but bottled water is available for purchase in both locations.

Kennecott Mill Tours
There are no tours in the 14-story Kennecott Mill building. It is closed for restoration. St. Elias Alpine Guides Tours are provided during the summer, for a fee. Contact them at 1-888-933-5427 or www.steliasguides.com.

Kennecott Visitor Center
Located in a historic building in the middle of Kennecott Mill Town, this is where you can obtain information about the South District and Kennecott area from park rangers. This site has restrooms, exhibits, park films, bookstore, ranger programs, bear canisters, and trip planning information.
Today’s road originated in 1909 as a railway constructed to support the Kennecott Copper Mines. When large scale mining ended in 1938, most of the rails were salvaged for scrap iron. In 1971 a new bridge was constructed over the Copper River and the railroad was covered with gravel, creating today’s surface of the McCarthy Road.

Narrowing and winding, the road still reflects its railway origins. In places, remnants of railbeds may surface along with the occasional spike, creating unexpected hazards. Although traffic and weather often results in ruts and washboarded surfaces, under normal summer conditions most passenger vehicles can make the trip. Please allow faster vehicles to pass by using and the rail bed was covered with gravel, creating today’s surface of the McCarthy Road.

This is the start of the McCarthy Road. It is a paved pull-out with vault toilets and exhibit panels. Chitina Depot, 1913

This is a one-lane bridge. Watch for oncoming traffic. Please do not stop in the middle of the bridge.

The road is now entering land managed by Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve.

McCarthy Road Basics

- Begins at mile 33 Edgerton Highway, in Chitina, AK
- 80 miles, allow 2 hours EACH WAY
- This road is unsuitable for the following vehicles: Commercial vehicle over 33 ft, RVs, horses, motorcycles, and snowmachines.
- This is a remote area with NO services. NO gas is available at Chitina. The nearest place to get fuel is Kinikinak Lake, AK.
- Drive slowly, cautiously, and courteously.
- We recommend that you carry a full-are survival kit and a multi-tool.
- Private land owners may ask that this road not be used.
- Please respect private property.
- Cell phone coverage is very limited.

The McCarthy Road begins in Chitina, AK. Look for the mile-marker posts and follow along with this guide.

The Town of Chitina

Famed as “Chitna,” the railhead town sprang to life in 1910. Chitina was one bustling as the major stopover and service point for the trains that carried ore from Kennecott to ships in Cordova. The railroad is gone, but today Chitina is busy during the summer fishing season and serves as a gateway to the park. Restaurants and informational panels can be found at the downtown end. There are restaurants, shopping, and lodging options in Chitina. There are no gas stations here.

Chitina Ranger Station

During the summer months, stop by the historic Chitina Ranger Station. This log cabin, which was constructed in 1910 by the Ed St. Din Stage Company to house its local superintendent, serves as an enduring reminder of Alaska’s colorful transportation history. One of Chitina’s oldest surviving buildings, it was recently rehabiliated by the National Park Service and now serves as a visitor contact station.

State Wayside - The Beginning of the McCarthy Road

This is the start of the McCarthy Road. It is a paved pull-out with vault toilets and exhibit panels.

Mileposts

1.4 The Copper River

As you drive across, the Copper River Bridge, you can see the confluence of the Copper and Chitina Rivers. Several small pull-out provide views of the mountains. Do not stop in the middle of the bridge for photos. After the bridge, the road becomes gravel. The large snow-covered mountain visible to the north is volcanic Mount Drum (12,101’), part of the Wrangell Mountains.

1.6 Copper River Campground - south side of the road

This is a non-reservation primitive campground. It is located just across the bridge. This area has 12 sites, picnic tables, fire pits, and vault toilets.

1.8 Copper River Easement & Footwells - north side of the road

An easement is an area of land where股份 are granted the right to cross private property. The National Park Service has an easement here where you can access and use the Copper River. Please follow the easement markers and respect the private property that you are crossing. Visitors can use a small site along the Copper River where they may park a vehicle, load and unload raft, and temporarily camp for up to 24 hours. This is an excellent place to view the river and to witness Alaskans catching red, silver, and king salmon with dipnets and fishhooks.

5.0 Chitina River Scenic Vista

Stop here and enjoy the views. The Copper River and Chitina Rivers, as well as the Chitina River, drain an area of approximately 24,000 square miles. Much of this drainage basin lies within the park and almost 35% of it is covered by glaciers. Because of this, the region is very well watered. Low water occurs in late winter when snowmelt is frozen.

10.1 Streama Lake

A pull-out on the north side of the road provides access to a 1/3-mile trail to Streama Lake. The Alaska Department of Fish & Game stocks this lake with rainbow trout, although you may find other fish here as well.

10.6 Silver Lake

A short trail on the south side of the road provides access to Silver Lake for fishing. The Alaska Department of Fish & Game stocks this lake with rainbow trout, and you may find other fish here as well.

12.3 Sculpin Lake

A pull-out on the south side of the road provides access to a 1/4-mile trail to Sculpin Lake. The Alaska Department of Fish & Game stocks this lake with rainbow trout, although you may find other fish here as well.

14.5 Kotiana Trail - Backcountry Trailheads

The Kotiana Trail departs from the north side of the McCarthy Rd and provides access to backcountry hiking routes. Take this trail 2 3/4 miles to the Nugget Creek trailhead or 3.8 miles to the Dais Pass trailhead. The first part of this trail is a road, but it is not maintained and may not be passable for low-clearance vehicles. It may be a better option to park your car at the McCarthy Road and hike to the trailheads. Ask a park ranger for more information and route descriptions.

15.9 Change in Land Status - Entering Federal Land

The road is now entering land managed by Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve.

17.3 Kuskulana Bridge Wayside

This narrow hairpin pullout is accessible by foot, and has a great view.

29.0 Gilahina textile Wayside

This wooded structure was originally built in 1890 as a telegraph line and was completed in eight days in the winter of 1911. Due to the extreme arctic conditions, over 50% of the entire railway was built on trestles such as this. This neat area offers sickle tables and a gravel pull-out. There is a short 1/2 mile hiking path along the Kuskulana River and in the McCarthy/Kennecott area. Please do not climb on the trestle.

34.8 Crystaline Hills

These hills on the north side of the road are an excellent place to see Dall Sheep. Take a moment to pull over and look up into the hills. Watch for bright white spots on the hillsides—these may look like patches of snow, but they could actually be sheep!

44.0 Change in Land Status - Entering Non-Federal Land

The road is entering privately managed land.

45.5 Long Lake

Each year, in average of 18,000 sockeye salmon stream up the icy Copper and Chitina Rivers to spawn in this lake. This is a unique lake. Salmon begin entering the lake in late September and spawning continues until April.

53.5 State Wayside

This wayside is a gravel pull-out and has vault toilets and exhibit panels.

58.0 Change in Land Status - Entering Federal Land

The road is now entering land managed by Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve.

58.6 McCarthy Road Information Station

This National Park Service information station contains posted information that is updated during the summer. Day-use parking is available as well as vault toilets, updated bulletin boards, and a short hiking trail. No overnight camping or parking is available. This station is generally not staffed.

59.4 Kennecott River & Parking - The End of the Road!

You’ve made it to the end of the road, but in many ways, your adventure is just beginning. All visitors must leave their vehicles at the end of the road and walk, bike, or take a shuttle into McCarthy and Kennecott.

McCarthy - 1/2 mile from the footbridge

Homesteaded in 1903, McCarthy quickly grew into a lively community with a story all its own. McCarthy served as the gateway to the Kennecott Mining District. Town history is well portrayed by the local museum and guide services. Today, McCarthy retains much of its original flavor. Accommodations, dining, guide services, flightseeing, and art tours are some of the services available here.

Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark - 5 miles from the footbridge

Like a time capsule, the remains of the mining town—located just below where the mines were depleted represent an ambiguous time of exploration, discovery, and technological innovation. Currently, the National Park Service is stabilizing and rehabilitating many of the old buildings.

Kennecott Visitor Center

The McCarthy Ranger District is located within the historic landmark. Park services conduct programs and town tours daily during the summer. This is a renown mining historical park -- visit the Rust Glacier and up the mountains to spectacular views and historic mining structures.

Jumbo Creek Camping Area - 1.4 miles from Kennecott

This primitive camping area has no amenities. It is reached six foot travel only. Water is available from nearby streams and there are bear boxes for storing food.
Information and Services

Accessibility
The Wrangell-St. Elias Visitor Center is accessible. All other visitor contact stations are not currently accessible.

Administration Offices
If you have a business-related question or you need to reach a specific employee, please call the park administration offices at 907-822-5234.

ATMs & Banks
ATMs and banking facilities can be found in Glennallen. There is an ATM in McCarthy, but it is not always reliable.

Backcountry Permits
Permits are not required for the backcountry. However, we ask that you complete a voluntary backcountry itinerary form available at any park visitor center.

Camping
Visitors can stay up to 7 consecutive nights in the Kendesnii Campground. There are camping sites located along the Nabesna Rd, at the end of the McCarthy Rd, and at Jumbo Creek Primitive Camping Area near Kennecott. There is no camping available at the Wrangell-St. Elias Visitor Center.

Collecting
Some items may be collected including berries, mushrooms, plants, driftwood, seashells, and small rocks. Recreational gold panning is allowed. Items may only be collected for personal use and may not be sold. Items that may NOT be collected are silver, platinum, gemstones, fossils, antlers, horns, cave formations, archeological items, and threatened/endangered species. Rules may vary for subsistence users.

Dining Options & Grocery Stores
A list of dining options is available at any park visitor center. There is a grocery store in Glennallen, Copper Center, Slana, and McCarthy.

Entrance Fees
There are no entrance fees for the park. We do not sell or issue any interagency passes.

Firearms and Hunting
Firearms are allowed in the park but not allowed inside any federal buildings. Sport hunting is allowed on preserve lands and requires a state hunting permit. Subsistence hunting is allowed by local, rural residents on both park and preserve lands. A federal subsistence permit may be required.

Fires
Small ground fires and wood fires are permitted. If you choose to have a fire, destroy the fire ring, scatter the ashes, and insure the next camper will not see your impact. Only collect dead and downed wood.

Fishing
Sport fishing is allowed with a state fishing license.

Food Storage
Do not store food or scented items in tents, and never leave coolers, cook stoves, dishes, trash, or food unattended. Bear Resistant Food Containers (BRFCs) are required for all backcountry camping and are available at any park visitor center.

Gas Stations
Gasoline is available in Glennallen, Copper Center, and Kenny Lake. There is no gas available in Slana, Chitina, or McCarthy.

Junior Ranger
Kids of all ages can have fun earning a badge and certificate. A free booklet is available at visitor centers.

Lodging
There is private lodging around the borders of the park as well as within the park. Please see the park website or ask for a list of lodging options at any park visitor center.

Pets
Pets are permitted on trails and in the backcountry. Dogs must be leashed and under control by their owner at all times. Please clean up after your dog.

Phones
Cell phone coverage is extremely limited. There is a phone available for local calls at the Wrangell-St. Elias Visitor Center and Slana Ranger Station, and a pay phone in McCarthy.

Post Office
There is a post office in Glennallen, Copper Center, Slana, and Chitina. Stamps are not sold in park visitor centers.

Public Use Cabins
There are several backcountry cabins available for visitors to use in the park. These cabins are remote, VERY rustic, and are not maintained. Most are first come, first served but some require a reservation. For more information, go to www.nps.gov/wrstplayourvisit/backcountry-cabins.htm.

Ranger Programs
Join a ranger for an interpretive talk, guided hike, or evening presentation. These free programs are offered throughout the summer. Schedules are posted at visitor centers.

Recycling
Recycling containers are provided in visitor centers.

Showers and Laundry
There are no public showers or laundry facilities within the park. Showers and laundry may be available for a fee from private businesses.

Social Media
Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Flickr! Go to www.nps.gov/wrst to view information about the park and to follow our Backcountry Blog.

Suspicious Behavior
Please contact a park ranger if you see suspicious or questionable behavior done by another visitor. Do not approach suspicious individuals.

Visitor Centers
All park visitor centers and ranger stations are open during the summer only. The Yakutat Ranger Station is currently closed until further notice.

Wi-Fi/Internet
Free wireless internet is available at the Glennallen Library. Many lodges and private campgrounds provide wireless access to their customers. There is no public internet access at park visitor centers.

Potable Water
There is drinking water available at the Wrangell-St. Elias Visitor Center and Slana Ranger Station. There is no public, treated drinking water available in Chitina, McCarthy, or Kennecott. There is bottled water for sale in these locations.