

**W**elcome to the Alaska Railroad, America's only full-service railroad, offering both freight and passenger service year-round. Our route, including branch lines and sidings, covers more than 500 miles. The line runs from tidewater at Whittier and Seward to Anchorage, the state's largest city, and through the heart of Alaska to Fairbanks. The map on the other side of this page is a guide to some of the scenery and significant points you can see along your trip.

Construction of the line began in 1915 and was completed in 1923. The railroad was built in sections by work gangs. Their construction camps grew into section stations where crews who maintained the line lived, along with their families. Today most of the maintenance is performed by roving work crews whose families live in towns that sprang up along the tracks. In fact, nearly 70 percent of Alaska's population lives along the railroad corridor.

The Alaska Railroad hauls a diverse freight load from natural resources such as coal, gravel, logs and petroleum products, to groceries and heavy equipment. Thousands of tourists from around the world ride the Alaska Railroad taking advantage of the scenic rail packages and adventure excursions. The Alaska Railroad employs about 600 men and women. Please give us a call at 1-800-544-0552 or 265-2494 in Anchorage or visit [www.AlaskaRailroad.com](http://www.AlaskaRailroad.com).



**0.0 SEWARD** • A year-round deep-water port, Seward is the gateway to Interior Alaska and is situated on Resurrection Bay's fertile salmon and halibut-filled waters. The town is named in honor of William H. Seward, who orchestrated the purchase of Alaska from the Russians in 1867.

**3.0 RESURRECTION RIVER**

**12.0 DIVIDE** • Summit of the first crossing of the Kenai Mountains.

**25.7 LOWER TRAIL LAKE** • The last in a trio, the lower lake drains into Kenai Lake.

**25.9 MOOSE PASS** • This small settlement along Upper Trail Lake was once a railroad section station.

**44.3 TRAIL GLACIER** • Great views of Trail Glacier, Trail Creek and Trail Canyon.

**44.9 GRANDVIEW** • Grandview is the staging area for special winter "ski trains" for cross-country skiing.

**48.2 BARTLETT GLACIER** • Named in 1907 for Frank Bartlett, Alaska Central Railroad civil engineer, the glacier is visible just 800 feet away from the tracks. Deadman Glacier rises above.

**51.0 TUNNEL** • A section station today, this was once headquarters for the "Loop," an engineering marvel which allowed the tracks to cross over themselves on a wooden trestle as the trains wound through the canyon.

**53.7 SPENCER GLACIER** • This magnificent wall of ice is less than a mile from the tracks.

**64.0 PORTAGE** • Devastated by the 1964 earthquake, the old town of Portage is all but gone. Dead trees stand in silent testimony to the power of the quake, which flooded the town and dropped the surrounding land 10 to 12 feet.

**F 0.0 WHITTIER** • A 12.4-mile branch line connects Portage and Whittier. The tunnel to Whittier is the longest highway tunnel in North America (13,300 feet or 2.5 miles). It is also the longest combined rail-highway use tunnel in North America.

**74.5 GIRDWOOD** • Alaska's finest ski resort, condominiums, chalets, first class accommodations and restaurants are located at the base of Mount Alyeska.

**88.7 INDIAN** • Home of local craftsmen and artisans, Indian offers a panoramic view of Turnagain Arm and the Kenai and Chugach mountains.

**100.6 POTTER** • The historic Potter section house and Potter Marsh Wildlife Viewing Area mark the junction of Cook Inlet and Turnagain Arm, so named when Captain Cook's search up the arm for the Northwest Passage ended when he had to "turn again." Watch for the bore tide, a six-foot wall of water that can rush into or out of the arm during the area's huge tide changes – which can range as much as 30 feet.

**114.3 ANCHORAGE** • Perched on the Knik Arm of Cook Inlet and framed by the Chugach Mountain Range, Anchorage began as a railroad construction base and saw boom times through both World War I and II as a military staging city. Anchorage has grown into Alaska's center for finance and industry. It is the state's largest city, with more than 250,000 people.

**119.1 WHITNEY** • The rail line passes through Elmendorf Air Force Base where fighter jets can frequently be seen taking off or landing.

**141.8 EKLUTNA** • Location of Alaska's earliest hydroelectric project and the source of fresh water for Anchorage. Named for the nearby Athabaskan Indian village of Eklutna, the village is also the site of a traditional cemetery and a Russian Orthodox church.

**150.7 MATANUSKA** • Home of world-record vegetables and the center of agriculture for Southcentral Alaska, the Valley includes Palmer and surrounding communities. It was settled by "colonists" from the Lower 48 in the early 1930s.

**159.8 WASILLA** • The headquarters of the famed Iditarod Sled Dog Race.

**180.7 NANCY** • Nancy Lake State Recreation Area, a chain of lakes and streams, lies to the west.

**224.3 SCENIC VIEWPOINT** • Mount McKinley, 20,320 feet; Mount Hunter, 14,960 feet; Mount Foraker, 17,000 feet; Mount Russell, 11,600 feet; and Mount Dall, 9,000 feet, all are visible from this panoramic vantage point. This is the confluence of three major rivers, the Talkeetna, Chulitna and Susitna.

**226.7 TALKEETNA** • Base station for assaults on Mount McKinley, Talkeetna began as a trapping and mining outpost, today it's a world-class destination for salmon fishing, rafting and boating excursions, and a wide variety of other Alaskan adventures.

**248.5 CURRY** • Today a ghost town, Curry recalls a bygone era when a rail trip from Anchorage to Fairbanks involved two days of travel and an overnight stay in the now defunct hotel.

**279.0 SCENIC VIEWPOINT** • Mount McKinley, otherwise known as "Denali" or "the Great One," is only 46 miles from this point.

**284.2 HURRICANE GULCH** • One of the line's best photo vantage points, the bridge spans 918 feet, some 296 feet above the creek.

**288.7 HONOLULU** • Halfway point between Anchorage and Fairbanks, the area has a very active beaver population and dams can be seen along the tracks.

**297.1 COLORADO** • Access route to once-closed gold mines that are becoming active again.

**304.3 BROAD PASS** • Southern end of the broad, treeless pass that is the lowest traveled pass in the Rocky Mountain chain from Mexico to Alaska.

**312.5 SUMMIT** • The summit of the Continental Divide is at 2,363 feet and is the lowest rail pass in the Rocky Mountain chain. Summit Lake eventually drains both into the Pacific and the Bering Sea.

**319.5 CANTWELL** • A small settlement and starting point of the Valdez Creek gold mining district.

**342.7 OLIVER** • The site was named for former Railroad Roadmaster Thomas Oliver.

**347.7 DENALI PARK** • Entrance to Denali National Park and Preserve. Riley Creek Bridge is the railroad's second highest.

**358.1 HEALY** • Start of a 4-mile branch line serving nearby coal mines. Watch for dark coal seams in the exposed rocks to the east. The coal fuels electric power plants in the Interior and is exported to Korea.

**362.3 USIBELLI TIPPLE** • The tipple is a covered loading facility with a railroad track running through the center for coal loading. The coal is mined across the river and transported to the tipple by conveyor.

**371.2 FERRY** • This route across the Nenana River accesses historic gold fields to the east.

**392.9 CLEAR** • Nearby is an air base and early warning radar site.

**411.7 NENANA** • Originally an Athabaskan village, Nenana is located on the south bank of the Tanana River at its confluence with the Nenana River. It was a railroad construction camp in the early 1900s and today serves as a hub for barge operations, serving communities up and down the Yukon River and connecting waterways for hundreds of miles.

**413.7 MEARS MEMORIAL BRIDGE** • The 700-foot steel structure, one of the world's longest single-span bridges, marks the completion of the Alaska Railroad and was dedicated by President Warren G. Harding in 1923. Watch below for Athabaskan fish wheels in the Tanana River.

**463.0 HAPPY** • Once the beginning of a narrow-gauge railroad serving remote mining districts to the north, the line was abandoned as roads were built.

**466.0 UNIVERSITY FARM** • A working farm and experimental station on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus, the facility produces dairy, meat and vegetable products.

**467.1 COLLEGE** • Location of the world's northernmost institution of higher education – the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

**470.3 FAIRBANKS** • The "Capital of the Interior" and Alaska's second largest city, Fairbanks began as a trading post and mining town in 1901. It is the northern terminus of the Alaska Railroad and southern terminus of the famous Haul Road to the North Slope oil fields.

**G 28.0 EIELSON** • A 28-mile branch line serves Fort Wainwright, Eielson Air Force Base and the North Pole. Trains are loaded daily at a refinery at North Pole with petroleum products refined from North Slope crude oil taken from the nearby trans-Alaska pipeline.



