



## *Getting There Is Half the Fun!*

Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark & McCarthy, Alaska



Historic Kennecott is located along the edge of the Kennicott Glacier

**M**ajestic mountains, merging glaciers, and rich, fascinating history await visitors to this beautifully rugged oasis of civilization, nestled in the midst of the vast wilderness of Wrangell-St. Elias. It was in this area during the summer of 1900 that two adventurous prospectors, exploring near the Kennicott Glacier, discovered an extraordinarily rich outcropping of copper. The unprecedented purity of the copper ore sent global shock waves through the mining community. Shortly thereafter, Kennecott Copper Corporation was formed and this remote valley came alive.

Against all odds, 6000 men, working throughout the harsh Alaskan winters, built a 196-mile rail line from the port of Cordova, at the mouth of the Copper River, through the booming town of Chitina, to the newly-constructed Kennecott Mill Town. Four miles distant from Kennecott, the town of McCarthy was born to fulfill the needs of the isolated miners, whose numbers approached 600. Mining and extraction of copper ore continued until 1938, producing, in today's dollars, a phenomenal \$1,287,000,000 net profit!

### **Kennicott or Kennecott?**

Kennicott Glacier was named in 1899 for Robert Kennicott, director of the scientific corps of the 1865 Western Union Telegraph Expedition. For reasons unknown, Kennecott Copper Corporation, upon formation, adopted the "e" spelling.

Today, a visit to Kennecott and McCarthy is an awe-inspiring scenic adventure and a step back in time. Whether meandering the dirt streets of quaint McCarthy, absorbing the enriching history of Kennecott, or exploring the nearby glaciers and ridges, it's an unforgettable Alaskan experience that you won't want to miss!

# How Can I Get There?

## Drive

Following in the path of the Kennecott ore trains, the **McCarthy Road** extends 60 miles from the town of Chitina to a pedestrian bridge at the Kennicott River, near McCarthy. Historic remnants of the region's copper heyday, like the Kuskulana Bridge and Gilahina Trestle, dot the route, serving as reminders of days gone by. Additionally, scenic vistas, wildlife, and hiking opportunities await the traveler.

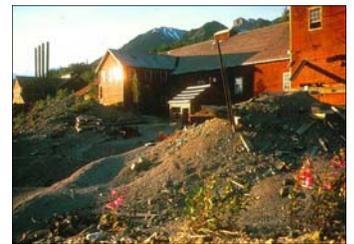


Kuskulana Bridge

The surface of the rather narrow McCarthy Road is gravel and, although graded periodically, can contain washboard and potholes. One should expect to cover the 60 miles, on average, in approximately 3 hours. Although most vehicles are adequate for the journey, those in excess of 24 feet in length are discouraged. Some car rental agencies disapprove of travel on the McCarthy Road. Stop by the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park visitor center (*Mile 106.8 Richardson Highway, near Copper Center, 907-822-7440*) for road updates. Please note that Chitina is your last opportunity for fuel and that there are no RV dump facilities along the McCarthy Road. A full-sized spare tire is always recommended.

## Ride

Seasonally, **Backcountry Connections** (907) 822-5292 [www.alaska-backcountry-tours.com](http://www.alaska-backcountry-tours.com) makes daily runs from Glennallen to McCarthy. The shuttle departs Glennallen at 7:00 AM, arriving in McCarthy at 11:30 AM. Departure from McCarthy is 4:00 PM, with arrival in Glennallen at 8:30 PM.



Historic Kennecott

Seasonally, **McCarthy-Kennicott Shuttle** (907) 554-1222 [www.mccarthykennicottshuttle.com](http://www.mccarthykennicottshuttle.com) also provides daily transportation from Glennallen to McCarthy. They also provide transport from Anchorage all the way to McCarthy. Shuttles depart Anchorage on Wednesdays and Sundays at 9:00 am and arrive at McCarthy by 5:00 pm.

## Fly

Based in McCarthy, **Wrangell Mountain Air** provides three scheduled flights between Chitina and McCarthy on a daily basis. For further information phone 1-800-478-1160,

e-mail [info@wrangellmountainair.com](mailto:info@wrangellmountainair.com), or online [www.wrangellmountainair.com](http://www.wrangellmountainair.com).



Above the Kennicott Glacier

FROM CHITINA		FROM MCCARTHY	
Departure	Arrive McCarthy	Departure	Arrive Chitina
9:05 AM	9:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:55 AM
2:45 PM	3:15 PM	2:00 PM	2:30 PM
5:45 PM	6:15 PM	5:00 PM	5:30 PM

Other flight services which offer charter flights to McCarthy include:

**McCarthy Air** (907)-554-4440 [www.mccarthyair.com](http://www.mccarthyair.com), and **Ellis Air Taxi** 1-800-478-3368 [www.ellisair.com](http://www.ellisair.com)



Downtown McCarthy



Gilahina Trestle



Hiking Root Glacier