

# ALASKA

## MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM



COMING IN 2013

# THE ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY.

A year-long celebration highlighting the history of the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) and the unique role it plays in transportation systems in Alaska.

Keep us in mind when planning your fall 2012 and 2013 editorial calendars.

The history of the AMHS begins prior to statehood with a single vessel. The AMHS has since grown to a fleet of 11 vessels carrying an average of 312,000 passengers and 98,000 vehicles per year. Many of the communities served by the system cannot be reached by road.



**M/V Malaspina**

Alaska State Library, George Family  
Collection, ASL-P344-647



**M/V Chilkat**

Alaska State Library,  
ASL-Transportation-Ferry-System-16



**M/V Chilkat**

Alaska State Library,  
ASL-Transportation-Ferry-System-35

- ▶ **1949:** A privately owned company begins operating a small, surplus navy vessel between Juneau, Haines and Skagway.
- ▶ **1951:** The territory of Alaska purchases the vessel and assumes operations.
- ▶ **1959:** Alaska becomes the 49th state and the M/V Chilkat becomes the first state-owned ferry.
- ▶ **1963:** The Alaska Marine Highway System is officially formed to provide transportation of people, goods and vehicles between Alaska communities, Canada and the "Lower 48."
- ▶ **1989:** Bellingham replaces Seattle as the southern terminus.
- ▶ **2002:** The Alaska Marine Highway is designated as a National Scenic Byway.
- ▶ **2005:** New fast ferries are added, bringing the fleet to a total of 11 vessels.
- ▶ **2005:** The AMHS receives recognition as an All-American Road, the highest designation awarded by the National Scenic Byway Program.
- ▶ **2013:** Alaska celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Alaska Marine Highway System.

[FerryAlaska.com](http://FerryAlaska.com)

# ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY ALL-AMERICAN ROAD

The Alaska Marine Highway is a state-owned ferry system that operates a fleet of 11 vessels along a scenic 3,500-mile route from Washington state to the Aleutian Islands. It provides economical, year-round transportation to 31 Alaska port communities and a unique option for travelers.

Originally designed to provide transportation to roadless areas of Alaska, the Marine Highway offers locals and visitors the ability to travel together through some of the most breathtaking scenery in the world. In fact, the Marine Highway encompasses a route so spectacular it has been designated an All-American Road and one of America's National Scenic Byways.

The Marine Highway is ideal for independent travelers who want to choose their own destinations and how they'll get there. The fleet includes 11 ships in a variety of sizes, some able to carry as many as 500 passengers and 100 vehicles. Riders can walk on board or bring a car, truck, motorcycle or other means of transport, such as kayaks and bicycles. Passengers can book a cabin or, as a less-expensive alternative, pitch a tent and camp out under the stars.

From the deck of the ships, riders can enjoy views of vivid blue glaciers, snow-capped mountains, active volcanoes, majestic fjords and lush green forests. Passengers will also find ample opportunities to view wildlife such as dolphins, bald eagles, sea otters, whales and perhaps even bears on the coastline. Interpreters from the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are often on board to teach travelers about the natural surroundings.

The Alaska Marine Highway provides a unique and unforgettable way to experience Alaska.

- ▶ Inexpensive
- ▶ Off the beaten path
- ▶ Casual and laid-back
- ▶ The way many Alaskans travel

For more information about the Alaska Marine Highway, contact:

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# ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY ROUTE MAP

With more than 3,500 miles covered by 31 Alaska ports, the Alaska Marine Highway travels nearly all of Alaska's diverse and scenic coastline. The route begins in the southern ports of Bellingham, WA, 90 miles north of Seattle, and Prince Rupert, BC, and stretches from Alaska's Inside Passage to the Aleutian Chain.

FerryAlaska.com

# ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY IMAGES



Traveling the AMHS with motorcycles

AMHS © Chris Arend



Inside Passage, Alaska

AMHS © Accent Alaska



Dining on board the ferry

AMHS © Chris Arend



Watching for wildlife

AMHS © Chris Arend



Embarking on Alaska's Marine Highway

AMHS © John Hyde



M/V Malaspina

AMHS © John Hyde

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