

Seward.com

Alaska Starts Here.

Welcome to Seward! We hope you will enjoy your walk and take some time to get to know our town.

1. POINT OF INTEREST

For over a century, Seward has been a vital component to Alaska's transportation infrastructure. While the community has grown into a vibrant tourist destination, the **Port of Seward** remains a working harbor. As you travel west on Port Avenue, you will see the **Coal Loading Facility**. Coal is mined up North, near Denali, and transported to Seward by rail, where it is uploaded on cargo ships bound for the Pacific Rim.

- A. Mural: "Welcome to Seward"** in the Cruise Ship Terminal
Master Artist: Jennifer Headtke

2. POINT OF INTEREST

Seward Fisheries (Icicle) is also on your left, one of several fish processors in Seward. Seward attracts many commercial fishing vessels, making it one of the most active fishing ports in Alaska.

3. POINT OF INTEREST

The corner of Port and 4th Avenue marks the beginning of **Seward's "Main Street"**. The Seward train Depot is to your right, and to your left, the "Train Wreck", a collection of refurbished railcars from the Alaska Railroad that now house several private businesses.

4. POINT OF INTEREST

Turn left (south) onto 4th Avenue. This stretch of town is referred to as the **"Small Boat Harbor"**. With its collection of sailing yachts, sightseeing boats, Seward's charter fleet, and working boats, the harbor generally bustles with activity, and many visitors enjoy walking the docks or watching the fishing fleet return with their catch at the end of the day. Public restrooms are located behind the **Kenai Fjords National Park Visitor Center**, your final stop in the small boat harbor.

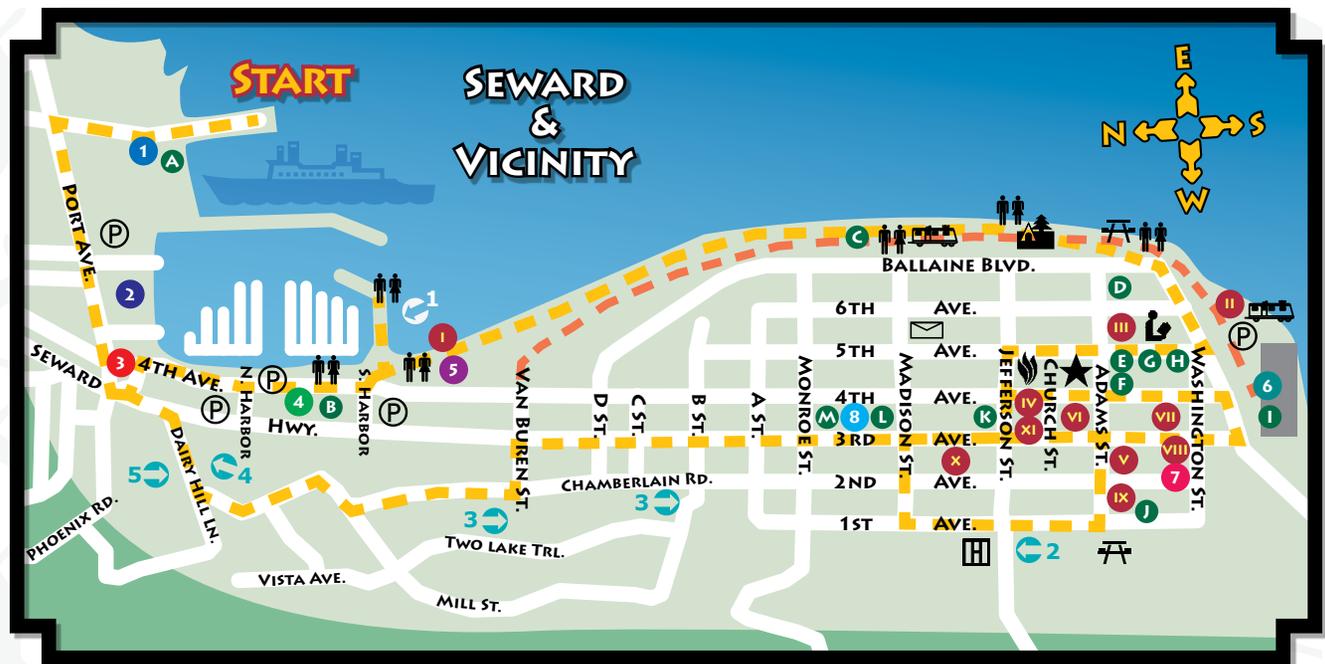
- B. Mural: "A Tribute to Rockwell Kent"** behind the Visitor Center

5. POINT OF INTEREST

Heading south, turn left onto the scenic, paved **Coastal Walk**, across from Van Buren St. A small bridge protects a salmon spawning stream. Along the coast, keep your eyes open for otters, sea lions, and even whales.

- C. Mural: "Wildflower Quilt"** on the waterfront between Madison and Monroe streets.

➔ **Side Trip 1: Resurrection Bay Lookout**



I. HISTORICAL LOCATION

The coastal walk follows the route of the original **Iditarod National Historic Trail**, used heavily from 1909 to the mid-1920's to support mining communities on Turnagain Arm with mail and supplies arriving at Seward's ice-free harbor by steamship.

II. HISTORICAL LOCATION

The coastal walk ends at **Mile 0**, at the south-eastern corner of the downtown waterfront. The **Founder's Monument** honors John Ballaine, Seward's founder, and the landing party which arrived on August 28, 1903. Looking to the right, imagine a bustling steamship harbor in the early 1900s or an active rail terminal in the middle of the century. Until 1964, the waterfront area housed warehouses, docks, and a pattern of intersecting railroad tracks. **The Green Building** to the west was built in 1917 as the depot for the Alaska Railroad and served that purpose until 1964, when the tracks were destroyed by tidal waves.

III. HISTORICAL LOCATION

Turn right onto 6th Ave. Turn left onto Adams St. On the southeast corner of 5th and Adams is the **Seward Community Library**, where you can enjoy a showing of the "Earthquake video" daily. Across Adams is the Ray Building, built by the Harriman Bank of New York in 1916. It served as a bank until 1924, and the local high school until 1933. Next door is the old **Odd Fellows**

Hall. Built in 1918, it served as a community center for many years.

- D. Mural: "Chart the Entrance to Resurrection Bay"** on Adams between 6th and Ballaine

- E. Mural: "The Dawn of Aviation"** on the northern wall of Resurrection Bodyworks
Master Artists: Jennifer Headtke & Tim Sczawinski

IV. HISTORICAL LOCATION

Turn right on 4th, past City Hall. Turn left onto Church St. On the corner is the **former army chapel**, moved in 1942 from Fort Raymond (now the site of the Seward Military Resort). The Methodist Church in Seward was organized in 1905, and responsible for building and/or managing the Jesse Lee Home, Seward General Hospital, and the Seward Tuberculosis Sanitorium (1950s). Further along Church St is the former Lutheran Church, originally built in 1916-17 and now a coffee house and art gallery.

V. HISTORICAL LOCATION

Turn left on 3rd and proceed downhill to Adams. Diagonally across the street is the **Taroka Inn**, which was the USO during WWII. Turn left onto Adams. **The Liberty Theater**, built in 1944 by Don Carlos Brownell, a silent film actor, has been in continuous operation since then and boasts the most comfortable movie seats you'll ever sit in.

VI. HISTORICAL LOCATION

Next door to the Liberty is the **Van Gilder Hotel**, built in 1916 as an office building. Since 1921, it has been a hotel, which boasts placement on the State and National Historic Registers. Next to hotel is a small public park, featuring a bronze bust of **William H. Seward**, crafted by local artist Dennis Treadwell.

VII. HISTORICAL LOCATION

Turn right onto 4th Ave and proceed downhill into the 4th Ave business district. While the west side includes some original construction, all of the original buildings on the east side of the street were destroyed by various fires, with the last devastating one in 1941. Of note, **Brown and Hawkins** dates from 1907 and is the oldest continually-operated business in Seward, while **Urbach's Clothiers** has been in business since 1915. Both shops maintain historical artifacts in addition to their wares.

F. Mural: "Wildflower Garden" in Kawabe Park on 4th and Adams
Master Artist – Gail Neibrugge

G. Mural: "Postcards from Our Past" on the northern wall of the McMullen Building
Master Artist – Jennifer Headtke & Jeannie Shirk

H. Mural: "A Tribute to Commercial Fishing" on southern wall of Ranting Raven
Master Artist – Tom Missel

6. POINT OF INTEREST

At the end of 4th is **The Alaska SeaLife Center**, the state's only marine research and rehabilitation facility. Turn right on Railway to the intersection with 3rd Ave.

I. Mural: "Painting With Wyland" inside the Sealife Center

VIII. HISTORICAL LOCATION

In front of you stand a row of cottonwoods, located along the former "Alley B", Seward's notorious red-light district known as **The Line**. During its WWII heyday, with 5,000 G.I.s stationed in Seward, 21 little houses were located in this alley, owned and operated by local businesswomen. The Line closed down in the mid-1950's. Turn right on 3rd and proceed up the hill a short way.

7. POINT OF INTEREST

At the corner of 3rd and Washington is the **Chugach Museum and Institute of History and Art**. Proceed one more block, where you will find the **Qutekcaak Native Heritage Center**.

IX. HISTORICAL LOCATION

Turn left (west) on Adams St. Ⓜ On the corner of 2nd Ave is **St. Peter's Episcopal Church**, completed in 1906. Prior to its wooden construction, all the other churches in town were tents.
J. Mural: "The Ascension" St. Peter's is noted for its famous mural, "The Ascension", with Resurrection Bay in the background. The mural was painted in 1925 by the Dutch artist Jan Van Emple, using the people of Seward as models.

➔ **Side Trip 2: Lowell Canyon and Mount Marathon Race exit chute**

X. HISTORICAL LOCATION

Turn right on 2nd and proceed two blocks. Turn right onto Madison and turn right on 3rd. Walking south, the homes on the western side of the street were built before 1910 by prominent citizens and were so elegant for the time the block is called "**Millionaire's Row.**" The home on the corner (#437) is the "**Ballaine House**", built in 1905 by Frank Ballaine. Frank and his brother John led the landing party of first settlers in 1903. Their goal was to build a railroad to the Yukon River. John founded Seward and chose the name to honor William H. Seward who negotiated the purchase of the Territory of Alaska from Russia in 1867. Two houses down is the "**Cameron House**", (#423) built by the construction engineer of the railroad. It was later owned by Dr. Joseph Romig, who operated Seward's first medical clinic and hospital in the house around 1910. The last home from the period is the **Stewart House**, (#409) highlighted by the round turret. Mr. Stewart, treasurer of the railroad, lavishly furnished the home, complete with a carpet said to be valued at more than \$1,000. Please note, these homes are privately owned and do not offer tours to the public.

XI. HISTORICAL LOCATION

Diagonally across 3rd Ave is the **Resurrection Bay Historical Society Museum**. The ground floor attraction features exhibits on Seward's Russian roots, the steamship port, the Iditarod and Alaska Railroad beginnings, WWII military role, and the 1964 Good Friday earthquake and tsunami.

K. Mural: "Mount Marathon" on the northern wall of the Museum
Master Artist – Susan Swiderski

8. POINT OF INTEREST

Heading east (downhill on Jefferson) and turn left on 4th Ave. As you head back to the Small Boat Harbor and the end of your tour, you will pass **the Buoy Tree**, a whimsical commentary on Seward's marine roots.

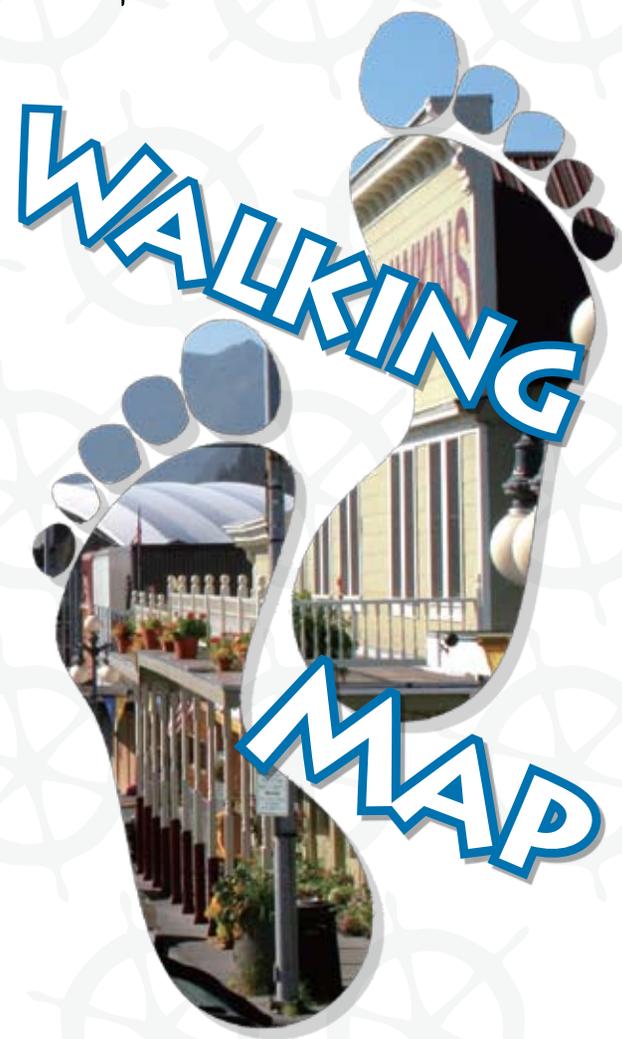
L. Mural: "The Iditarod Trail" one block east on the northern wall of Telalaska
Master Artist – Jon Van Zyle

M. Mural: "Remembering Exit Glacier" on the northern wall of AVTEC Student Services Building
Master Artist – Dot Bardarson

➔ **Side Trip 3: Two Lakes Park**
➔ **Side Trip 4: Benny Benson Memorial**
➔ **Side Trip 5: Jesse Lee Home**

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