



Icy Bay to Mckinley Natl Park

Series 2: Gulf of Alaska And Denali's Foothills

Your next Alaskan chapter begins at Icy Bay Airport (19AK), launching into the Tongass National Forest's wild embrace along the Gulf of Alaska.

The first leg traces Icy Bay's icy shores to Eyak Lake near Cordova, skirting the massive Guyot Glacier and the Copper River Delta's sprawling marshes, landing at Cordova Municipal Airport (PAVC) runway 27 amid a landscape of fjords and fishing heritage.

From there, you lift off from PAVC runway 27, weaving through Prince William Sound's intricate waters via Hawkins Island's forested shores and Surprise Cove Marine Park's serene bays, touching down at Whittier Airport (PAWR) runway 22 beneath Chugach peaks and wartime relics.

The third leg departs PAWR runway 22, soaring over Portage Lake and Glacier's icy expanse and Girdwood's ski slopes to Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (PANC) runway 33, bridging the sound's wilds with Anchorage's urban pulse.

Next, you take off from PANC runway 33, cutting through the Matanuska-Susitna Valley's wetlands and lakes like Big Lake and Nancy Lake, following the mighty Susitna River to Talkeetna Airport (PATK) runway 01, a climber's haven near Denali's shadow.

Finally, the fifth leg launches from PATK runway 01, tracing the Talkeetna River and Denali State Park's rugged hills past Eldridge Glacier's frozen flow, landing at Healy River Airport (PAIN) runway 35 near the Nenana River and Denali's towering presence.

This five-leg journey unveils Alaska's stunning contrasts, from coastal glaciers and sound-dotted islands to inland valleys and the Alaska Range's icy heart, all guided by nature's vivid landmarks and your steady wings.

No. of Legs:	5
Total distance:	436 nm
Author:	Perfect Flight

1 Legs

1.1 Leg 1: 19AK - PACV

Departure: Icy Bay (19AK)

Destination: Merle K (Mudhole) Smith (PACV)

Distance: 118,9 nm



1.1.1P OI1-Guyot Glacier

Distance: 5,5 nm

Dist. from Dept.: 5,5 nm

Dist. to Dest.: 113,4 nm

True Course: 287°

Magnetic Course: 269°

After takeoff, climb straight out on a heading of 240 then follow Icy Bay's southern shore northwest. Guyot Glacier looms 5 nautical miles to your right, a sprawling icefield spilling from the St. Elias Range's 15,000 foot peaks.

Guyot Glacier, a tidewater giant in the Tongass National Forest, stretches from the St. Elias Range to Icy Bay, named for geologist Arnold Guyot by 19th-century explorers. Its calving ice feeds the bay, a spectacle for rare visitors, while its retreat reveals new land studied for climate insights. Bears and seals roam its edges, thriving in Alaska's icy frontier.

1.1.2 POI2-Duktoth River

Distance: 21,0 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 26,5 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 92,4 nm
True Course: 287°
Magnetic Course: 269°

From Guyot Glacier, follow Icy Bay's western shore, keeping the water on your left. After 20 nautical miles, the Duktoth River emerges, a braided, silt-laden stream flowing from the St. Elias foothills into the Gulf of Alaska.

Duktoth River, a glacial lifeline near Icy Bay, winds through the Tongass National Forest, its name possibly a Tlingit or early settler term lost to time. Fed by melting ice, it carries sediment to the Gulf of Alaska, shaping a delta rich with migratory birds and fish. Its remote course remains untouched, a quiet thread in Alaska's wild tapestry.

1.1.3 POI3-Vitus Lake

Distance: 27,7 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 54,2 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 64,7 nm
True Course: 276°
Magnetic Course: 259°

Leaving Duktoth River, follow the Gulf of Alaska's coastline, keeping the forested flats on your right. After 25 nautical miles, Vitus Lake appears inland, a large, irregular basin at the Bering Glacier's toe, its milky waters framed by spruce and low ridges.

Vitus Lake, a glacial meltwater pool in the Tongass National Forest, formed at the Bering Glacier's edge, its name honoring Vitus Bering, the 18th century Russian explorer. Expanding as the glacier retreats, it's a haven for waterfowl and a study site for scientists tracking ice loss. Its stark beauty reflects Alaska's shifting landscape.

1.1.4 POI4-Bering Lake

Distance: 28,0 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 82,3 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 36,7 nm
True Course: 290°
Magnetic Course: 273°

From Vitus Lake, maintain a heading of 270 and follow the Bering Glacier's southern edge.

Bering Lake, nestled near the Bering Glacier in the Tongass National Forest, drains into the Gulf of Alaska via the Seal River, its waters a spawning ground for salmon and a stopover for migratory birds. Named for the same explorer as Vitus Lake, it's a relic of glacial retreat, its shores once Tlingit hunting grounds. Its solitude draws anglers seeking its quiet bounty.

1.1.5P OI5-Martin Lake

Distance: 7,9 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 90,2 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 28,8 nm
True Course: 303°
Magnetic Course: 286°

Leaving Bering Lake, follow the Gulf of Alaska's shoreline west. After 8 nautical miles, Martin Lake appears inland, a small, oval lake near the Copper River Delta's edge.

Martin Lake, a tranquil spot in the Tongass National Forest, lies near Cordova, its waters fed by streams from the Chugach foothills and rich with trout. Named perhaps for an early settler or trapper, it's a quiet piece of the Copper River Delta's vast wetland mosaic. Its shores offer a glimpse of Alaska's pristine coastal wilderness.

1.1.6P OI6-Flag Point

Distance: 16,9 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 107,0 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 11,9 nm
True Course: 287°
Magnetic Course: 270°

At Martin Lake, turn to a heading of 270. Follow the Gulf of Alaska's coast west for 15 nautical miles. Flag Point is juts out as a low, forested promontory near Cordova, its tip a clear landmark against the shoreline.

Flag Point, a subtle outcrop near Cordova in the Tongass National Forest, marks a navigational aid along the Copper River Delta, possibly named for early markers set by fishermen or surveyors. Its shores host bald eagles and seals, thriving amid the delta's rich tidal flats. The point's quiet prominence ties it to Alaska's maritime heritage.

1.1.7 POI7-McKinley Lake

Distance: 3,2 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 110,2 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 8,8 nm
True Course: 280°
Magnetic Course: 263°

Leaving Flag Point, maintain current heading and follow the Gulf of Alaska's shoreline towards McKinley Lake, a small forested lake near the Chugach foothills.

Tucked in the Tongass National Forest near Cordova, McKinley Lake is a serene fishing spot named possibly for Mount McKinley (Denali) or a local figure, its waters stocked with trout and surrounded by bear trails. Once a Tlingit resource, it's now a retreat for anglers and hikers. Its stillness mirrors the delta's untouched wilds.

1.1.8PACV-Merle K (Mudhole) Smith



Distance:	8,8 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	118,9 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	0,0 nm
True Course:	284°
Magnetic Course:	267°

Turn gently to the left and follow the Copper River Delta's eastern edge south. Cordova Municipal Airport runway 27 appears on Hawkins Island.

The Municipal Airport serves Cordova, a fishing town. Founded by Tlingit and later Eyak people, Cordova grew with canneries in the 1880s, now a gateway to the delta's wetlands and glaciers. Its rugged charm draws adventurers to Alaska's Gulf Coast.

1.2 Leg 2: PACV - PAWR

Departure: Merle K (Mudhole) Smith (PACV)

Destination: Whittier (PAWR)

Distance: 99,6 nm



1.2.1P OI8-Eyak Lake

Distance: 5,1 nm

Dist. from Dept.: 5,1 nm

Dist. to Dest.: 94,5 nm

True Course: 302°

Magnetic Course: 285°

After takeoff, climb straight out on a heading of 270 and Eyak Lake emerges near Cordova, a shimmering oval framed by spruce near the gulf's edge.

Eyak Lake, just east of Cordova in the Tongass National Forest, mirrors the Chugach foothills with its calm waters, a vital fishery for the Eyak people who've lived here for millennia. Named for this indigenous group, it supports salmon runs and draws bald eagles to its shores. Its proximity to the Copper River Delta ties it to Alaska's rich coastal ecosystem.

1.2.2 POI9-Hawkins Island

Distance: 12,8 nm

Dist. from Dept.: 17,8 nm

Dist. to Dest.: 81,8 nm

True Course: 264°

Magnetic Course: 248°

From Eyak Lake, turn left and follow the Copper River Delta's southern edge southwest.

Hawkins Island, a quiet sentinel in Prince William Sound, sits within the Tongass National Forest, its spruce and hemlock shores once a Tlingit and Chugach summer camp. Named for an 18th century

British admiral, it saw brief logging in the early 1900s but remains largely wild. Today, it's a refuge for sea otters and a waypoint for boaters in the sound's intricate waters.

1.2.3 POI10-Anderson Bay

Distance: 14,5 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 32,3 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 67,3 nm
True Course: 259°
Magnetic Course: 243°

Leaving Hawkins Island, maintain a heading of 245 and follow Prince William Sound's southern shore southwest. Anderson Bay opens as a shallow inlet on Hinchinbrook's northwestern coast.

Anderson Bay, tucked into Hinchinbrook Island, offers a sheltered nook in the Tongass National Forest, its calm waters a haven for harbor seals and kayakers exploring Prince William Sound. Named possibly for an early explorer, it's tied to the region's maritime past, with Tlingit fishers once harvesting its shores. Its seclusion highlights Alaska's coastal serenity.

1.2.4 POI11-Naked Island

Distance: 26,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 58,6 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 41,0 nm
True Course: 292°
Magnetic Course: 275°

From Anderson Bay, adjust to a heading of 275, crossing Prince William Sound towards Naked Island. Maintain your heading to overfly the island, staying over the water and clear of the 3,000 foot Chugach peaks on the mainland to the north.

Naked Island, a rugged speck in Prince William Sound, lies within the Tongass National Forest, its name a mystery. Perhaps from bare cliffs or a sailor's jest. Uninhabited, it's a sanctuary for seabirds and sea lions, with Tlingit hunters once stalking its shores. Its isolation makes it a pristine stop amid Alaska's island-dotted gulf.

1.2.5 POI12-Perry Island

Distance: 15,0 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 73,6 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 26,0 nm
True Course: 284°
Magnetic Course: 267°

Leaving Naked Island, stay on course and cross Prince William Sound's open waters. Perry Island is a larger, forested landmass with steep shores.

Perry Island, a wild outpost in Prince William Sound, sits in the Tongass National Forest, its dense spruce and rocky bays untouched by settlement. Named for a 19th century surveyor, it's steeped in Chugach history, with native fish camps once dotting its shores. Today, it's a quiet refuge for marine life and a scenic gem for sound explorers.

1.2.6 POI13-Surprise Cove Marine Park

Distance: 16,2 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 89,7 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 9,9 nm
True Course: 286°
Magnetic Course: 270°

From Perry Island, maintain a heading of 270 and after 15 nautical miles, Surprise Cove Marine Park appears as a sheltered bay on the mainland near Cochrane Bay.

Surprise Cove Marine Park, a jewel in Prince William Sound's Chugach National Forest, offers a tranquil anchorage with cascading waterfalls and sea caves, protected since the 1980s for recreation. Chugach people fished its waters long before Exxon Valdez oil touched its shores in 1989, now restored. Its beauty draws kayakers and boaters to Alaska's coastal wilds.

1.2.7 POI14-Whittier

Distance: 8,0 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 97,7 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 1,9 nm
True Course: 281°
Magnetic Course: 265°

Leaving Surprise Cove Marine Park, turn to a heading of 265 and cross Blackstone Bay, keeping the Chugach Mountains' steep slopes on your right.

Whittier, a quirky port at Prince William Sound's edge, thrives in the Chugach National Forest, its 200 residents living mostly in one building. Built as a secret military base in the 1940s, it's now a fishing and tourism hub, linked by tunnel to the world. Its dramatic fjord setting captivates visitors year-round.

1.2.8 PAWR-Whittier



Distance: 1,9 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 99,6 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 0,0 nm
True Course: 263°
Magnetic Course: 247°

Land at Whittier Airport

1.3 Leg 3: PAWR - PANC

Departure: Whittier (PAWR)

Destination: Ted Stevens Anchorage Intl (PANC)

Distance: 46,8 nm



1.3.1 POI15-Portage Lake and Glacier

Distance: 2,2 nm

Dist. from Dept.: 2,2 nm

Dist. to Dest.: 44,6 nm

True Course: 239°

Magnetic Course: 224°

After takeoff, climb straight out on a heading of 250. Portage Lake and Glacier emerge ahead, a shimmering lake framed by the icy face of Portage Glacier, nestled against the Chugach Mountains' steep slopes.

Portage Lake and Glacier, a stunning duo in the Chugach National Forest, draw visitors with their icy beauty, the glacier's retreat since the 1900s forming the lake now popular for boating and icebergs. Once a Tlingit travel route, it became a key stop during the Alaska Railroad's construction in the 1910s. Its serene waters and calving ice offer a glimpse into Alaska's glacial legacy.

1.3.2 POI16-Girdwood

Distance: 15,5 nm

Dist. from Dept.: 17,7 nm

Dist. to Dest.: 29,2 nm

True Course: 321°

Magnetic Course: 305°

From Portage Lake, turn right to a heading of 305 and follow the Portage Creek valley northwest.

Girdwood, a cozy hamlet in the Chugach National Forest, thrives on skiing and tourism, its Alyeska Resort a magnet for powder hounds since the 1960s. Originally a gold mining camp in the 1890s, it's

now a haven for outdoor enthusiasts, nestled along Turnagain Arm's dramatic tides. Its forested charm blends Alaska's wild roots with modern adventure.

1.3.3 POI17-Anchorage

Distance: 21,9 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 39,6 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 7,3 nm
True Course: 290°
Magnetic Course: 274°

Leaving Girdwood, adjust to a heading of 350 and follow Turnagain Arm's northern shore northwest, keeping the water on your left. Anchorage sprawls ahead along Cook Inlet's edge with its skyline of low rise buildings and the Knik Arm's waters.

Anchorage, Alaska's bustling hub of 290,000, anchors the Cook Inlet with a mix of commerce, culture, and wilderness, its name from a 1914 ship anchorage during railroad days. Home to Dena'ina Athabascans for millennia, it boomed with oil and military growth in the 20th century, now a gateway to the state's vast interior. Its urban pulse contrasts with the Chugach wilds at its doorstep.

1.3.4 PANC-Ted Stevens Anchorage Intl



Distance: 7,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 46,8 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 0,0 nm
True Course: 318°
Magnetic Course: 303°

Turn to a heading of 305, and follow the Cook Inlet's southern shore westward. Land at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport.

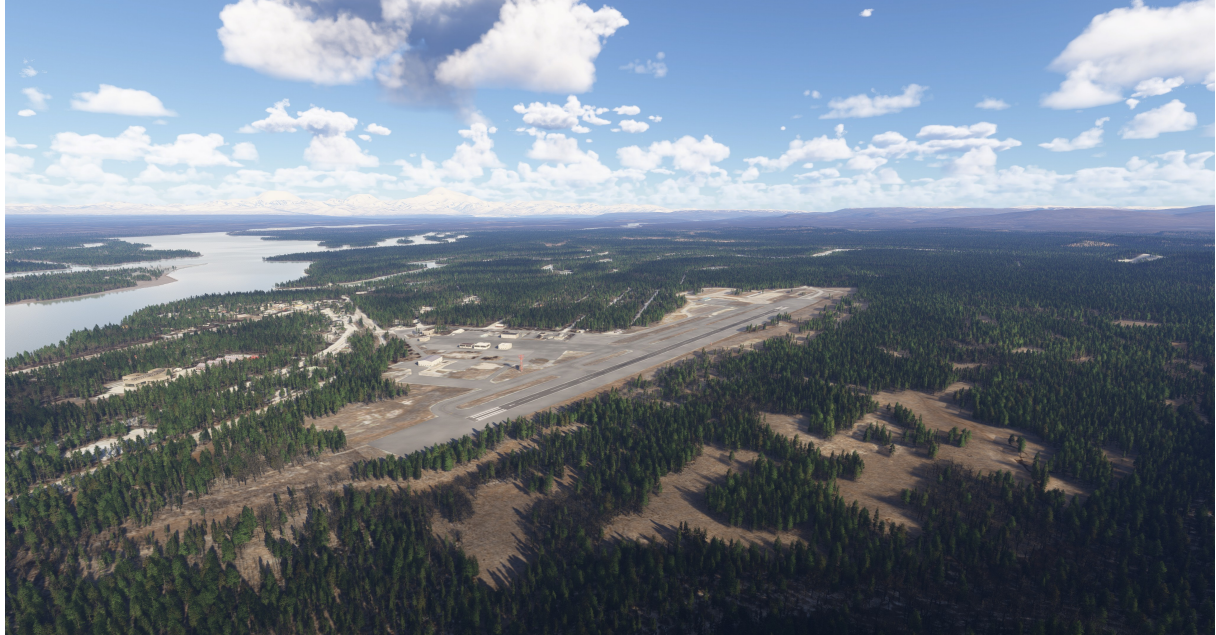
Ted Stevens International Airport serves Anchorage, Alaska's lifeline for air travel and cargo, named for the long serving senator who shaped its growth. Handling half the world's seaplane traffic and global freight, it's a hub rooted in WWII military use, now connecting the state to the world. Its runways sit amid Cook Inlet's tides and the Chugach's rugged embrace.

1.4 Leg 4: PANC - PATK

Departure: Ted Stevens Anchorage Intl (PANC)

Destination: Talkeetna (PATK)

Distance: 70,0 nm



1.4.1 POI18-Goose Bay State Game Refuge

Distance: 13,3 nm

Dist. from Dept.: 13,3 nm

Dist. to Dest.: 56,7 nm

True Course: 5°

Magnetic Course: 349°

After takeoff, climb straight out then turn right to 350, following the Knik Arm's southern shore northeast.

Goose Bay State Game Refuge, a 1,400 acre wetland in the Tongass National Forest's fringe, protects a vital stopover for migratory birds like Canada geese along the Knik Arm. Established in the 1970s, it's a haven for moose and waterfowl, reflecting the Dena'ina Athabascan hunting grounds of old. Its quiet marshes offer a wild contrast to nearby Anchorage.

1.4.2 POI19-Big Lake

Distance: 8,3 nm

Dist. from Dept.: 21,6 nm

Dist. to Dest.: 48,4 nm

True Course: 3°

Magnetic Course: 348°

From the Goose Bay State Game Refuge, go straight for about 8 nautical miles. Big Lake is a large, irregular lake dotted with cabins and surrounded by spruce.

Big Lake, a recreational hub in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley, buzzes with floatplanes, boats, and snowmobiles, its name fitting its 67 square mile expanse carved by glaciers. Settled by homesteaders

in the 1950s, it's now a getaway for Anchorage residents seeking fishing and wilderness. Its shores blend Alaska's rugged beauty with a touch of suburban sprawl.

1.4.3 POI20-Nancy Lake

Distance: 9,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 30,9 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 39,0 nm
True Course: 353°
Magnetic Course: 338°

Leaving Big Lake, maintain a heading of 340 and follow the valley's western edge northwest.

Nancy Lake, part of a state recreation area in the Matanuska Susitna Valley, offers a peaceful mosaic of lakes and forests, named for Nancy Erickson, an early homesteader's wife. Protected since 1967, it's a canoeing and fishing paradise, home to loons and beavers. Its quiet beauty showcases Alaska's inland wilderness charm.

1.4.4 POI21-Susitna River

Distance: 13,4 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 44,3 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 25,6 nm
True Course: 343°
Magnetic Course: 327°

From Nancy Lake, follow the Highway 3 northern for 13 nautical miles. The Susitna River appears as broad, flowing south from the Alaska Range.

Susitna River, a 313 mile lifeline in Southcentral Alaska, drains the Alaska Range into Cook Inlet, its name from the Dena'ina word 'Susetnu,' meaning 'sandy river.' Vital to Athabascan fishing and travel for millennia, it now powers hydro dreams and salmon runs. Its vast, untamed flow defines the Mat Su Valley's wild heart.

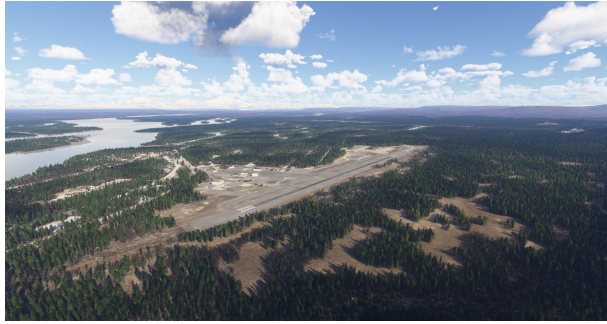
1.4.5 POI22-Susitna North

Distance: 14,6 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 59,0 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 11,0 nm
True Course: 6°
Magnetic Course: 350°

Leaving the Susitna River, adjust to a heading of 350, and follow the river's western bank northward.

Susitna North, formerly Y, sits along the Parks Highway in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley, a quiet stopover born from road access in the 1970s, its name a nod to the nearby river. Serving hunters, fishers, and highway travelers, it's a sparse outpost in the Tongass National Forest's reach. Its simplicity reflects Alaska's rural frontier spirit.

1.4.6 PATK-Talkeetna



Distance:	11,0 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	70,0 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	0,0 nm
True Course:	357°
Magnetic Course:	342°

From Susitna North, follow the George Parks Highway northeast. Talkeetna Airport is located near the town's edge.

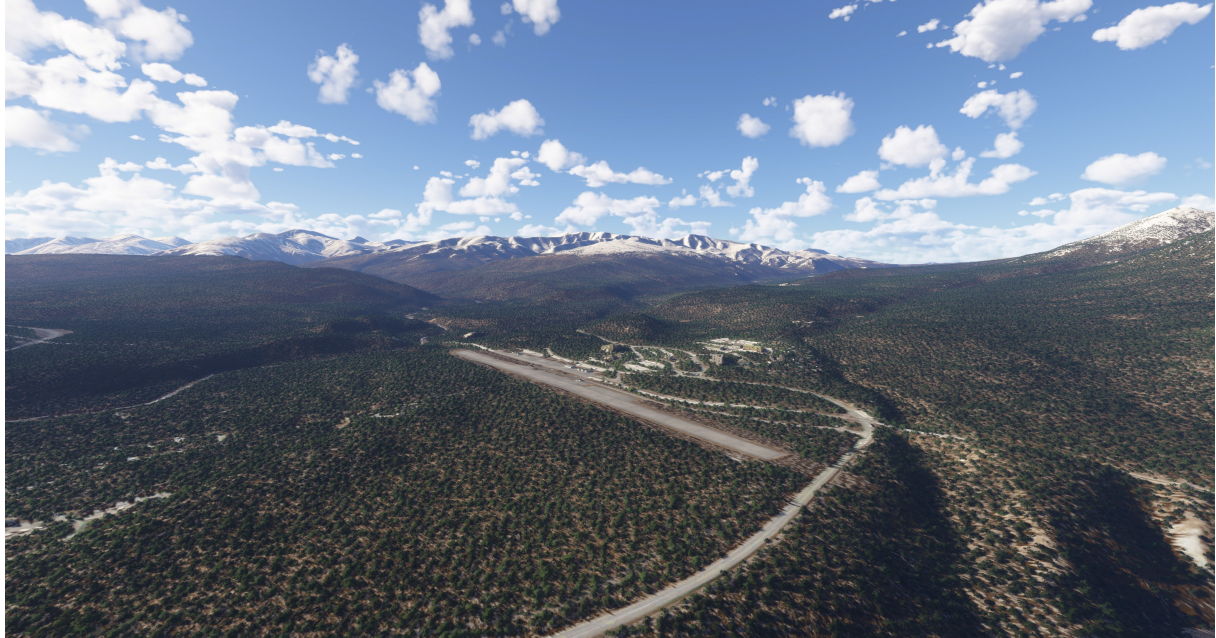
The Airport serves Talkeetna, a quirky village in the Matanuska Susitna Valley, a staging point for Denali climbers and a hub for flightseeing in the Alaska Range. Rooted in Dena'ina history and a 1910s railroad camp, it thrives on tourism and fishing today. Its rustic charm and riverfront perch make it a beloved Alaskan gem.

1.5 Leg 5: PATK - PAIN

Departure: Talkeetna (PATK)

Destination: Mckinley Natl Park (PAIN)

Distance: 100,2 nm



1.5.1 POI23-Talkeetna River

Distance: 1,9 nm

Dist. from Dept.: 1,9 nm

Dist. to Dest.: 98,3 nm

True Course: 5°

Magnetic Course: 350°

After takeoff, turn left to 350, following the Talkeetna River's winding path northwest.

Talkeetna River, a 85 mile tributary of the Susitna, carves through the Matanuska-Susitna Valley from Talkeetna Glacier. Its name from the Denaina 'K'dalkitnu,' meaning 'food is stored river.'

1.5.2 POI24-Denali State Park

Distance: 24,1 nm

Dist. from Dept.: 26,0 nm

Dist. to Dest.: 74,2 nm

True Course: 5°

Magnetic Course: 350°

From the Talkeetna River, adjust to a heading of 350, and follow the river's northern bank northward. .

Denali State Park, a 325,000 acre wilderness jewel, buffers Denali National Park with its forests and tundra, established in 1970 to preserve Alaska's natural splendor. Dena'ina hunters roamed its trails long before highways arrived, and it now offers hikers views of 20,310 foot Denali. Its untouched slopes teem with moose and bears, a gateway to the high country.

1.5.3 POI25-Eldridge Glacier

Distance: 15,0 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 41,0 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 59,3 nm
True Course: 355°
Magnetic Course: 340°

Leaving Denali State Park, maintain a heading of 340 and follow the Chulitna River's eastern bank northward. Eldridge Glacier appears ahead, a sprawling icefield spilling from the Alaska Range's 12,000 foot peaks, its crevassed expanse a dazzling marker.

Eldridge Glacier, a frozen giant in the Alaska Range, flows into the Chulitna River, named for aviator Gordon Eldridge who mapped it in the 1930s. Part of Denali State Park's high country, it's a testament to Alaska's glacial past, feeding streams vital to wildlife below. Its icy beauty lures climbers and pilots seeking the range's raw edge.

1.5.4 POI26-Summit Lake

Distance: 30,2 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 71,2 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 29,1 nm
True Course: 52°
Magnetic Course: 37°

From Eldridge Glacier, turn to a heading of 035 and follow the glacier's eastern edge northeast, keeping the ice on your left. .

Summit Lake, perched near the Alaska Range's eastern flank, marks a high pass along the Parks Highway, its name reflecting its 3,300 foot elevation amid rugged terrain. A stop for Dena'ina travelers and later railroad builders, it's now a serene spot for fishing and flightseeing. Its tranquil waters mirror the wild peaks towering nearby.

1.5.5 POI27-Nenana River

Distance: 17,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 88,5 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 11,8 nm
True Course: 32°
Magnetic Course: 17°

Adjust to a heading of 015, and follow the Parks Highway's northern stretch northeast towards Nenana River, a wide, braided stream flowing north from the range.

Nenana River, a 140 mile artery from the Alaska Range to the Tanana, carries glacial silt through the Interior, its name from the Athabaskan 'Neenano,' meaning 'a good place to camp.' A lifeline for native trade and gold rush ferries in the 1900s, it now powers rafting and fishing. Its wild flow cuts a path through Alaska's vast wilderness.

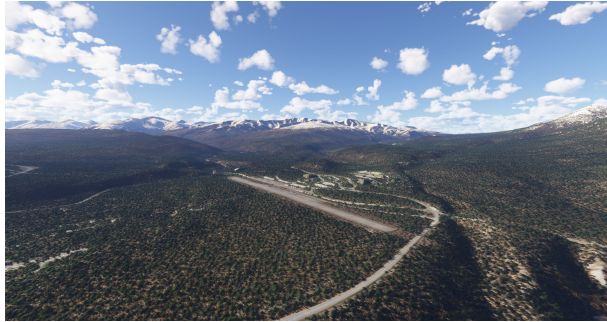
1.5.6 POI28-McKinley Park

Distance: 5,5 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 93,9 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 6,3 nm
True Course: 4°
Magnetic Course: 348°

From the Nenana River, maintain a heading of 350 and follow the river's eastern bank northeast. After 5 nautical miles you will reach McKinley Park, a small settlement along the Parks Highway near Denali National Park's entrance.

McKinley Park, now Denali Park, serves as the gateway to Denali National Park, a hub born from the Alaska Railroad in the 1920s, its name honoring Mount McKinley (now Denali). Catering to climbers and tourists, it thrives on the park's draw, offering a taste of frontier life. Its perch near the Nenana blends history with Alaska's wild allure.

1.5.7PAIN-Mckinley Natl Park



Distance:	6,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	100,2 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	0,0 nm
True Course:	333°
Magnetic Course:	317°

Turn left to a heading of 320 and follow the Nenana River's northern bank eastward. Land at Healy River Airport

The Airport serves Healy, a small coal town of 1,000 near Denali National Park. Its runway a lifeline for bush pilots and park access in the Alaska Range foothills.

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