

WMC Accommodation Policies and Information

Nightly Rates:

The Bungalow - \$75/night

Root Glacier Cabin - \$125/night

Kennicott Glacier Cabin - \$125/night

Cancellation Policy:

Full refund for cancellations up to 30 days before check-in. If booked fewer than 30 days before check-in, full refund for cancellations made within 48 hours of booking and at least 14 days before check-in. After that, 50% refund up to 7 days before check-in. No refund after that.

Check in/out Time:

3pm Check In

1pm Check Out

2 Night Minimum Rental Over Weekends

Pets:

We have a No Pet Policy. However, we will reasonably accommodate service animals, as we are able.

Events:

Please, no parties or events

Smoking:

Please no smoking or vaping inside the cabins. We have a non-smoking campus. Please ask our staff for directions to designated smoking areas.

Meals and Kitchen Use:

Guests will not have access to our kitchen. However, they will have access to coffee, water and tea throughout the day. Guests connected to WMC programs that include our home-cooked, buffet style meals are invited to join us in the shared dining area. Inquire for details. Otherwise, guests should plan to be self-sufficient for meals. Cabins do not have kitchens, but you are welcome to bring a camp stove for cooking or enjoy one of the 3 restaurants in the area.

Trash/Recycling

The nearest landfill is more than 100 miles away, so we go to great lengths to minimize our waste stream to reduce time between long-haul dump runs. We ask that you please take your trash and recycling with you. Please keep all food and food waste inside your cabin. Coolers stashed outside will attract bears.

Bedding:

Guests will be provided with polyester/cotton-blend mattress covers, pillows and pillowcases and wool throws, however **we require that you provide your personal bedding**. We suggest a zero degree sleeping bag and a top sheet.

Guest Interaction:

We are a nonprofit, mission-driven Center hosting art, science and community events on a weekly basis. This is a great opportunity to integrate into our programs and get to know our summer community of staff and volunteers who operate the WMC. All of our staff and visitors/guests have rooms and tents in close proximity. Although we are in a remote town, you will not feel remote on our property.

Please Take Note:

Our primitive guest housing provides visitors with a low impact, affordable housing option centrally situated in the Kennicott-McCarthy valley. Our guest housing is significantly less expensive than other local lodging, but please note that the WMC has limited resources, and we seek to run a minimalist and sustainable campus, as much as possible. The best way to reduce one's footprint is simply to use less, so staying at our guest housing facilities is an effective exercise in sustainable travel lodging.

Because this is a primitive lodging situation, please take note of the following:

-There is no electricity or running water in the room. The long summer daylight minimizes the need for supplemental light, although you could consider bringing a battery-operated light. Please now candles or lamps with an open flame.

-There are no conventional shower/bathing facilities (although you are welcome to use our outdoor bucket shower).

-We use outhouses, so there are no conventional flush toilets.

-We have a good solar system that generates plenty of solar-generated power for laptops, phones and other small personal electronics. Charging devices is no problem in the main building, but please note that you will not have an outlet in your room.

-We also ask that you bring your own sheets/bedding to save on our resource use and support our efforts at a minimal footprint. We do not have the resource capacity (water and electricity) to do laundry at our facilities, so please bring a sheet and bedding/sleeping bag or whatever linens you need to feel comfortable. We will provide plastic/cotton blend mattress covers, pillow cases and wool throws.

Also note that **it is your responsibility to navigate to the Wrangell Mountains Center in downtown McCarthy**. This can take some doing, and we are happy to provide tips and advice, but ultimately it is your responsibility to navigate to our facility and adequately prepare for the challenges of this remote area of Alaska. For example, there is no vehicle traffic in the town of

McCarthy and all vehicle traffic ends at the Kennicott River, which is a 1 mile walk (or shuttle ride) from the Wrangell Mountains Center. In order to make the most of your time in this exceptional area, we recommend that you take a little extra time to research the area. Please contact us if you have questions about transportation and parking.

This is an ideal housing situation for someone who shares our commitment to sustainability and is interested in supporting our educational programs, our vision of sustainability and our mission of connecting people with wildlands

Getting Here:

You can drive your own car or rental vehicle on the highway to the town of Chitina where the final 60 miles of gravel road begins, known as the McCarthy Road. There are also several van shuttle companies that provide service to McCarthy. Driving or riding in a van shuttle in Alaska is usually incredibly picturesque so plan some extra time for scenic stops along the way!

How far is it to...?

Anchorage – 307mi – 8-9hrs

Fairbanks – 371mi – 8hrs

Valdez – 180mi – 5hrs

Glennallen – 127mi – 3.5hrs

Chitina – 62mi – 2-3hrs

THE MCCARTHY ROAD

The last 62mi of the drive is the infamous McCarthy Road! Put down right ovetop of the old CRNW Railroad, this twisty road follows the Chitina River Valley into the center of Wrangell – St. Elias National Park. Most vehicles have no problem on this road, however, 4-wheel drive and/or higher clearance can help you travel more comfortably and safely over potholes and frost heaves, and through mud and loose gravel. The McCarthy Road gets graded a few times a summer, but potholes reappear after rainy periods. Very occasionally delays may be caused by flooding or mudslides and it's not uncommon to pop a tire (there are still railroad spikes from one hundred years ago)! If you drive the McCarthy Road you do so at your own risk and you should be prepared to change your own tire with both the skills and equipment to do so. Check out the National Park Service's Road Guide and consider downloading it or printing it out to have with you for the drive. Above all, **please drive slowly and carefully**. Driving over 30 mph will put you and local residents at risk. Be particularly watchful of on-coming vehicles on blind corners.

RENTAL CARS

Be aware that most rental car companies will not cover their vehicles on the McCarthy Road! Try contacting GoNorth Rentals, Midnight Sun Rentals, or Alaska 4x4 – these local companies allow their vehicles to be driven on gravel roads without restriction. Budget and Enterprise may also have some vehicles they will allow to drive the McCarthy Road – check with them for details. Turo has also become a popular option for those wanting to drive here!

All rentals should be allowed to the town of Chitina. There are daily transport options available, van shuttle and bush plane, to McCarthy from here and a place to leave your vehicle.

LEAVE VEHICLE AT THE FOOTBRIDGE

The McCarthy Road ends when it hits the Kennicott River. You'll see a narrow steel bridge across the river – this is “the Footbridge” that everyone refers to. You'll need to park your vehicle on the West side of the river and leave it there for the duration of your stay – no outside vehicles are permitted in McCarthy-Kennecott. McCarthy River Tours (and their “As The Glacier Melts” ice cream shop) is a short walk to the Footbridge (see below) and provides parking at \$5 per night. Base Camp Kennicott is a large campground/parking lot at the end of the road at the river bank near to the Footbridge with parking costs of \$10 per night.

The East, or McCarthy side of the Footbridge (with the green lean-to) is the pick-up spot for shuttles going from the bridge to the center of town and up to Kennicott. FYI: It is a little over a half-mile from the Footbridge into town and a pleasant walk.

VAN SHUTTLES

The [Kennicott Shuttle](#) offers daily van service from Glennallen to McCarthy in the morning and back in the late afternoon with stops along the way in both directions. Their site also has good information about connecting services to and from Anchorage and other destinations.

[Copper Spike Transport](#) offers prompt and reliable service between Anchorage, McCarthy, and Valdez during the summer. This is a great option especially if you're spending more than a few days in the area and don't want to leave a rental vehicle sitting.

[Overflow Transit](#) offers a scheduled service between Anchorage and McCarthy during the summer. Checkout their website for their up-to-date schedule and pricing. This is a great option for solo travelers, since there is no minimum passenger requirement to book!

Activities:

Hiking and Walks (Hike to the nearby Toe of the Kennicott Glacier, up to Kennicott, and beyond to get to the Root Glacier)

Guided Hikes, backcountry trips, fly-outs and overnights with [St.Elias Alpine Guides](#), or [Kennicott Wilderness Guides](#)

Guided Kennecott Mill tour with [St.Elias Alpine Guides](#)

River rafting and Pack rafting with [McCarthy River Tours](#)

Flightseeing in bush planes with [Wrangell Mountain Air](#)

Exploring historic Kennecott, including the National Park Service Visitor Center

McCarthy-Kennicott Museum in downtown McCarthy

The Old Hardware Store on the WMC campus also has a small library as well as an art room, and these are available for your use on a rainy day or a mellow morning.

Socializing w/ locals at McCarthy restaurants like The Potato and The Golden Saloon, which are located a short walk from the WMC.

Concerts and other local events

Friday night community softball near to downtown McCarthy and WMC

There is also a local swimming hole about a half mile from the WMC

In addition to all of the above, there is a steady stream of activities hosted by the WMC: author readings, arts and science-oriented workshops, small living room concerts, and a storytelling festival, to name a few.