

# Upper Kenai Trails Map

## The Upper Kenai Peninsula

- Highways
- Local Roads
- Dirt Roads
- Easy Trails
- Intermediate Trails
- Hard Trails
- Rivers
- Trail Marker
- Town
- Cooper Landing Visitor Center
- Water Bodies

**Chugach National Forest:**  
[www.fs.usda.gov/chugach](http://www.fs.usda.gov/chugach)

**Alaska State Parks:**  
[dnr.alaska.gov/parks/](http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/)

**Kenai National Wildlife Refuge:**  
[www.fws.gov/refuge/kenai/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/kenai/)



# Cooper Landing Trails

1

## Burney's

1 Mile

- Nice stroll through aspen and spruce forest. Perfect for bird watchers.
- Access: Skilak Lake Rd. MP 3.6 (Hidden Lake Campground)
- 200 foot elevation gain
- Distance one way 0.5 miles

Amenities:



Easy

2

## Hidden Creek

3 Miles

- Perfect hike for families with small children, going down to Hidden Creek (marsh) and Skilak Lake.
- Access: Skilak Lake Rd. MP 4.5
- 300 foot elevation gain
- Distance one way 1.5 miles

Amenities:



3

## Kenaitze Tribe Trail

1 Mile

- Winding interpretive paths highlighting Kenaitze Indian Tribe cultural and natural resources in the area. Trail is downstream of the campground.
- Access: Sterling Hwy. MP 52.6 & 52.3 (Across from Russian River Campground entrance near the K'beq' "Footprints" Interpretive site.)
- No elevation gain
- Distance one way 0.5 miles

Amenities:



4

## Lower Kenai River

4.6 Miles

- Accessible May to October. Hike down to Kenai River then either downstream to Skilak Lake (through marshland) with connection to Hidden Cr. Trail or upstream to Upper Kenai River Trail.
- Access: Skilak Lake Rd. MP 2.3
- 250 foot elevation gain
- Distance one way 2.3 miles

Amenities:



5

## Rainbow Lake

0.5 Miles

- Short, meandering trail through hemlock. Easy walk.
- Access: Sterling Hwy. MP 48 + Snug Harbor (dirt road) MP 11.5. Parking on left.
- No elevation gain
- Distance one way 0.25 miles

Amenities:



6

## Russian River Falls

4.8 Miles

- Wide, easily accessed family trail with beautiful view of Russian River Falls. Look for jumping salmon June-August.
- Access: Sterling Hwy. MP 52 (You must enter Russian River Campground)
- 400 foot elevation gain
- Distance one way 2.4 miles

Amenities:



7

## Seven Lakes

8.8 Miles

- Relatively flat, easy but often muddy trail through birch-lined tapestry of lakes.
- Access: Sterling Hwy. MP 68.1 OR Skilak Lake Rd. MP 9.6 (Engineer Lake Campground)
- 150 foot elevation gain
- Distance one way 4.4 miles

Amenities:



8

## Upper Kenai River

5.6 Miles

- See the river and angler action up close, with connection to Lower Kenai River Trail downstream.
- Access: Skilak Lake Rd. MP 0.6
- 260 foot elevation gain
- Distance one way 2.8 miles

Amenities:



9

## Bear Mountain

1.6 Miles

- This short but steep trail offers sweeping views similar to those of Skilak Lookout Trail.
- Access: Skilak Lake Loop Road
- Mile Point 6.9
- 400 foot elevation gain
- Distance one way 0.8 miles

Amenities:



Intermediate

10

## Crescent Creek

12.8 Miles

- Gain elevation gradually through birch forest to the grayling-rich lake. Snow may be present in early season.
- Access: Sterling Hwy. MP 45 to Quartz Creek Rd. MP 3.5
- 1,300 foot elevation gain
- Distance one way 6.4 miles

Amenities:



11

## Resurrection Pass

38.8 Miles

- From either end, this wilderness traverse climbs up through birch and conifer forests, past lakes and streams, to wide open, glacier-carved Alpine valleys. Snow can remain at higher elevations until mid-June. Public use cabins (*advanced reservations required*) and 19 campsites available along the way.
- Access: Sterling Hwy MP 53.2 OR Hope Hwy MP 16.2 + Left (S.) on Palmer Creek Rd. for 0.6 Mile; veer right onto Resurrection Creek Rd. to trailhead ~3.4 miles further.
- 2,100 foot elevation gain

Amenities:



12

## Russian Lakes

21.78 Miles

- This beautiful, spruce forest trail continues past the Russian River Falls to Lower and Upper Russian lakes to Cooper Lake and the Snug Harbor Rd. trailhead. Or vice versa. Enjoy great views of the Kenai Mountains and Skilak Glacier. Try fishing the Upper and Lower Russian lakes. There are numerous campsites along the way and public use cabins by advance reservation only. Note —bears frequently use this trail, too, so be "bear aware."
- Access: Sterling Hwy. MP 52 (You must enter Russian River Campground) OR Sterling Hwy. MP 48 +Snug Harbor (dirt road) MP 9 + Cooper Lake Road MP 3
- 1,100 foot elevation gain

Amenities:



13

## Skilak Lookout

4 Miles

- Gradual elevation gains. No water source. The panoramic view at the top is worth hiking to the end.
- Access: Skilak Lake Rd. MP 5.4
- 800 foot elevation gain
- Distance one way 2 miles

Amenities:



14

## Fuller Lakes

5.8 Miles

- Steep hike to 3 sub-alpine lakes. Good fishing.
- Access: Sterling Hwy. MP 56.9
- 1,400 foot elevation gain
- Distance one way 2.9 miles

Amenities:



15

## Skyline

2.6 Miles

- Rapid elevation rise. Be ready to sweat & bring plenty of water.
- Access: Sterling Hwy. MP 61.6
- 1,800 foot elevation gain
- Distance one way 1.3 miles

Amenities:



Difficult

# Hope Trails

## 16 Gull Rock 11.4 Miles

- This trail follows the south shore of Turnagain Arm to a rocky peninsula offering great views. There can be downed trees crossing the trail in spring. Be sure to bring water and snacks for a full day of hiking.
- Access: Seward Hwy MP 56.5 + Hope Hwy MP 17.8 Trail starts at the northwest end of the Porcupine Campground. (Closed to motorized vehicles May 1 - Nov 30.)
- 1,000 foot elevation gain
- Distance one way 5.7 miles

Amenities:



Intermediate

## 17 Hope Point 7 Miles

- Be sure to bring enough water and layers; it can be cool at top. The view of Turnagain Arm from the top is definitely worth the relentless elevation gain.
- Access: Seward MP 56.5 + Hope Highway MP 17.8 The trail starts on the left, just before the entrance to Porcupine Campground. When the trail splits ~1/8 mile in, stay left (right fork goes to Gull Rock Trail).
- 3,600 foot elevation gain
- Distance one way 3.5 miles

Amenities:



Difficult

# Moose Pass Trails

## 18 Ptarmigan Creek 14.2 Miles

- This short but sometimes steep family trail paralleling the river is 3.5 miles up to the beautiful turquoise, grayling filled Ptarmigan Lake. Trail continues another 3.6 miles along the shoreline.
- Access: Seward Hwy MP 23. Trailhead starts from the Ptarmigan Creek Campground.
- 450 foot elevation gain
- Distance one way 3.5 to 7.1 miles

Amenities:



Easy

## 23 Johnson Pass 23 Miles

- Part of the Historic Iditarod Trail, the forested trail opens to subalpine terrain at the top with beautiful mountain views along the way. Trail often overgrown by mid-summer, adding difficulty for bikers (and for bears to hear you coming so be sure to make noise as you travel).
- Access: Seward Hwy MP 32.5 OR Seward Hwy MP 64
- 1,000 foot elevation gain

Amenities:



## 19 Vagt Lake 3.26 Miles

- Easy, kid-friendly trail rambling through aspen forest to "secret" lake. Fun winter ice fishing, too.
- Access: Seward Hwy MP 25.4
- (Turn east, cross RR tracks, turn north; trail stars at South end of the lake.)
- 250 foot elevation gain
- Distance one way 1.63 miles

Amenities:



## 24 Lost Lake 14.6 Miles

- Gain 2000 ft. in the first four miles, then amble through the amazing Alpine vista another 3 to the lake. Campsites and public use cabin (by advance reservation only) available. Snow could still be present in May. For a 15-mile traverse, continue to Primrose Trailhead.
- Access: Seward Hwy MP 5+ Turn west on Scott Way, which turns into Samantha Way, then left on Heather Lee Lane. Take first right on Hayden Lane and follow to Lost Lake Trailhead.
- 1,820 foot elevation gain
- Distance one way 7.3 miles

Amenities:



## 20 Carter Lake 6.8 Miles

- Trail features wildflowers, excellent views and the promise of rainbow trout and grayling. Trail is short but steep and can be muddy. Hike 1 more mile to Crescent Lake or make a 17.7-mile traverse to the Crescent Lake trailhead.
- Access: Seward Hwy MP 34
- 1,000 foot elevation gain
- Distance one way 3.4 miles

Amenities:



## 25 Primrose 15 Miles

- Wander steadily up the forested hillside and, after a steep stretch, emerge into a vast Alpine wonderland. Walk along the shores of Lost Lake and, if you'd like to make the 15-mile traverse, continue down Lost Lake Trail to Seward.
- Access: Seward Hwy MP 17 + Primrose Campground Dr. MP 1.1 Park near lake; trailhead at south end of campground.
- 1,600 foot elevation gain
- Distance one way 7.5

Amenities:



## 21 Crown Point Mine 11.8 Miles

- This is a popular motorcycling trail, so you may need to share the trail and its spectacular views.
- Access: Seward Hwy ~MP 25 + Drive east 0.4 mile, turn left at sign for active mining claim. Drive a bit up on the rugged road then park and start hiking.
- 2,400 foot elevation gain
- Distance one way 5.9 miles

Amenities:



## 26 Victor Creek 5 Miles

- First mile is steep but then levels. Should only be traveled in summer due to avalanche dangers.
- Access: Seward Hwy MP 24.9
- 1,100 foot elevation gain
- Distance one way 2.5 miles

Amenities:



## 22 Devil's Creek (Pass) 20 Miles

- Moderate elevation gain through conifer forest becomes steeper midway, leveling out near end as vast tundra expanses are revealed. Intersects with Resurrection Pass Trail at mile 10 for through-hike options (27 miles to Cooper Landing or 32 miles to Hope.) Good for multiday backpacking or hardy bikers. Public Use cabins available by advance reservation only.
- Access: Seward Hwy MP 39
- 1,400 foot elevation gain
- Distance one way 10 miles

Amenities:



\*Note if you plan to fish along these trails, be sure to have your fishing license with you and know the current regulations. And always be "bear aware"

