

Take a **Hike** *in your National Forest*

Turnagain Pass Trail

Chugach National Forest

Glacier Ranger District (907) 783-3242

Begich, Boggs Visitor Center (907) 783-2326



USGS Map: Seward D6, Seward C7, Seward C6

Trip Time (one way): 6 hours

Difficulty: More Difficult

Condition: Fair

Public Use: Light

Recommended Season: Year round

Elevation Gain: 800 feet

Length (one way): 12 miles (one way)

Recreational Opportunities

This trail makes a long *day hike* or *multi-day trip*, travelling the length of Turnagain Pass. This trail is part of the Iditarod National Historic Trail (INHT).

The trail connects to the 23 mile *Johnson Pass Trail*, which can be used to extend your trip.

Mountain bikers will enjoy riding this wide and flowy trail, especially the portion from Center Ridge at the top of Turnagain Pass to the trailhead at milepost 72.5 – consider setting up a car shuttle for a mostly downhill ride.

In the winter backcountry *skiers and snowboarders* can use this trail to access popular downhill terrain above the trail. *Nordic skiers* and *fat bikers* will find the trail to be a fun backcountry experience. The southern segment between Johnson North Trailhead and Center Ridge is particularly suited for a great cross-country winter trip.

Trail Access

There are three access points for the Turnagain Pass Trail. At a pullout at Mile 72.5 of the Seward Highway; at the large Center Ridge parking lot and rest area at the top of Turnagain Pass (east side of the highway at milepost 68.5); and approximately 400' down the north end of Johnson Pass Trail, accessed from the Johnson North Trailhead at mile 64 of the Seward Highway.

Trail Description

At the lower elevations to the south and north the trail winds through mixed spruce and hemlock forest as it gains elevation. The trail eventually rises above the alders to rolling subalpine terrain around the trail's midpoint around Center Ridge and Tincan Mountain, at the top of Turnagain Pass. This subalpine region has plenty of opportunities for off-trail travel and primitive camping.

On its south side the trail crosses deep gorges at Bertha and Spokane Creeks, with impressive waterfalls nearby. In all the trail crosses five streams where bridges have not yet been constructed. If your timing is right and you have the proper experience and take the necessary precautions these creeks can all be forded, although it can take a bit of effort and presents serious hazards.

Special Considerations

Only attempt to ford creeks at low water levels, and do so at your own risk. Bertha and Spokane Creeks require down climbing to reach creek level, and Lower Ingram Creek can be especially fast moving. All creeks present hazards that can be extremely dangerous, and crossing them should only be done by those with backcountry stream crossing experience.

Winter travel can be hazardous due to potential avalanche concerns. The trail crosses several avalanche prone slopes, particularly on the north side. Visit www.cnfaic.org for the latest avalanche conditions. Hazard recognition, the proper equipment, and good judgment are essential for safe winter travel.

This trail is closed to motorized vehicles year round.

Bears and moose are can seen along this trail. Filter or boil surface water for 5 minutes before drinking. Remember, pack it in pack it out! You can contact a U.S. Forest Service office to receive more detailed information on safety precautions.



United States
Department
Agriculture



Forest Service
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Chugach National Forest

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