

# Take a **HIKE** in your National Forest



## Byron Glacier Trail

Chugach National Forest  
Glacier Ranger District (907) 783-3242  
Begich, Boggs Visitor Center (907) 783-2326

USGS Map: Seward D5  
Trip Time (one way): 30 minutes  
Difficulty: Easy  
Condition: Excellent to Fair  
Public Use: Heavy  
Recommended Season:  
Mid June-October  
Length (one way): 1.4 mile  
Elevation Gain: 100 feet

### Recreational Opportunities

This trail offers an *easy walk* for all ages. It allows a close-up view of a glacier with rugged mountains in all directions. The whole family can enjoy this trail. The alder and cottonwood forest is lush with ferns for a serene beginning to the hike. Byron Creek is a cascading, whitewater, glacial creek.

**Wildlife** in the area include black bears, moose, marmots, eagles, and migrating waterfowl.

#### Safety

Walking on, near, or under glaciers and summer snow fields can be dangerous. If you plan to do so, be prepared with the proper training, equipment and experience. Even with the best preparation, exercising caution is advised.

### Trail Access

At mile 79, Seward Highway (49 miles south of Anchorage), turn onto Portage Glacier Road. Travel 5 miles, turn on Portage Lake Loop Road and follow the signs to the trailhead parking lot, located approximately 1 mile from the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center via the Byron Glacier Road.

### Trail Description

The trail has gentle ups and downs as it follows Byron Creek to its source. A viewing area at the base of the snowfields marks the end of the .9 mile-long gravel trail. The trail is well maintained and cleared of brush annually.

The best time to hike the trail is after the huge cornices that overhang the valley are gone, which is usually in late June or early July.

The trail continues as a more primitive route up a talus slope for another ½ mile. This section of trail is often under snow until late summer and is not maintained.

### Special Considerations

Trail is closed to motorized vehicles all year. The steep walls of Byron Valley, combined with high snowfall and wind make the area prone to avalanches. Winter travel is unsafe and not recommended.

Only experienced and properly equipped mountaineers should climb on the glacier and nearby rock faces. Climbing on ice caves and snow over Byron Creek is not recommended.

Be prepared for rapid weather changes. Use caution with all wildlife. Boil surface water for five 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 of  
Agriculture



Forest Service  
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