



Iditarod Trail – Meridian Lake

Seward Ranger District, Chugach National Forest
(907) 288-3178

Recommended Uses

Difficulty

Public Use

Length (one way)



Easy

Low

8.3 miles

USGS Map

Trip Time (one way)

Recommended Season

Elevation Gain

Seward B7 SE

4 hours

June-October

700 feet

Trail Access

The south end is at Mile 12 Seward Highway ski area. Keep following ski trails, staying right. The north end meets Primrose Trail 0.5 miles from the trailhead at Primrose Campground, mile 17 Seward Highway. This section of the Iditarod Trail can also be accessed via Grayling Lake Trail at mile 13.2 Seward Highway. This 1 mile access trail meets the Iditarod Trail between Grayling and Meridian Lakes.

Trail is closed to saddle/pack stock from April 1-June 30 and motorized vehicles year round.

Trail Grade/Condition

This trail has many up and down grades. Snow can remain until early June. Due to dense tree canopy cover this trail is recommended only for snowshoes in the winter.

Recreational Opportunities

The trail travels through dense spruce/hemlock forest with occasional open muskeg crossings. It passes by the following lakes from south to north: Leech Lake (1.5 miles), Grayling Lake (2.2 miles), Meridian Lake (3 miles), and Long Lake (5.4 miles). Meridian and Long Lakes are stocked with rainbow trout.

[Review Alaska Department of Fish and Game \(ADF&G\) hunting and fishing regulations.](#) Wildlife includes moose, wolves, black and brown bears, wolverines and grouse. Blueberry and high bush cranberry can be found along the trail in August and September. There are designated campsites at Meridian Lake (mile 3) and the south end of Long Lake (mile 5.4). Combine with Bear Lake section of the Iditarod Trail (see trail sheet for Iditarod Trail – Bear Lake) for a 15.8 mile trip.

Special Considerations

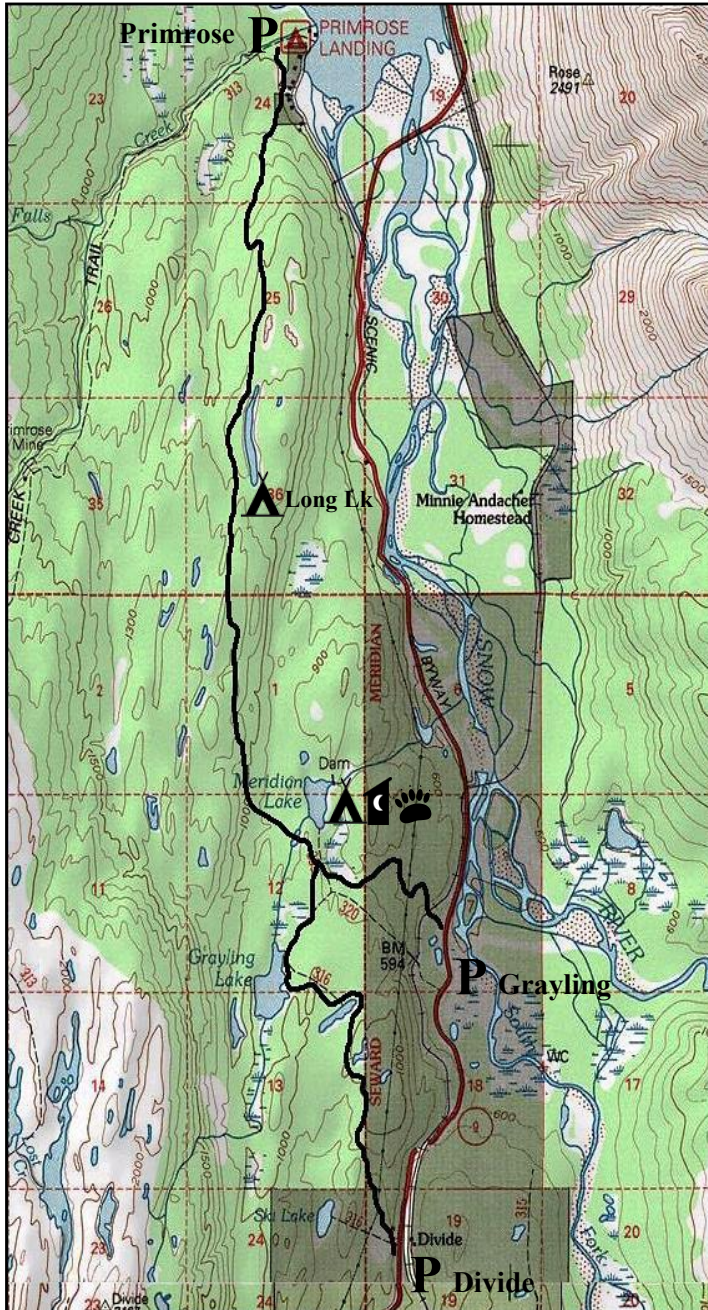
Use caution with bear and moose. Giardia (a microscopic parasite that can infect warm-blooded animals and humans) could be present in all open water sources, filter surface water before drinking. Winter travelers need to be able to evaluate over-ice travel hazards. Be prepared for rapid weather changes. Remember to pack out your trash. You can contact a U.S. Forest Service office to receive more detailed information on safety precautions and Leave No Trace outdoor skill and ethics.



Iditarod Trail

MERIDIAN LAKES SECTION

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Map not to Scale






Designated Campsites (Distance from Mi 12)

Mile 3.25 - Meridian Lake (take trail to right at Lake)
N60° 17'05.7" W149° 21'54.4"
Mile 5.4 - Long Lake - N60° 18'28.8" W149° 22'35.9"

Trail Distances From Mile 12 Parking

Leech Lake – 1.5 miles	Grayling T.H. - 3.8 miles
Grayling Lake – 2.2 miles	Primrose T.H. – 8.3 miles
Meridian Lake - 3 miles	
Long Lake – 5.4 miles	

LEGEND

-  Iditarod Trail
-  Trailhead Parking: mile 12 at Divide, mile 13.2 Grayling and Primrose T.H.
-  Campsites
-  Bear Box (food storage)
-  Backcountry Toilet