



# CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST

**2016 VISITOR GUIDE**



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# Welcome to the Chugach National Forest!

The Chugach National Forest, one of two national forests in Alaska, serves as the “backyard” for over half of Alaska’s residents and is a destination for visitors. The lands that now make up the Chugach National Forest are home to the Alaska Native peoples including the Ahtna, Chugach, Dena’ina, and Eyak. The forest’s 5.4 million acres compares in size with the state of New Hampshire and comprises a landscape that includes portions of the Kenai Peninsula, Prince William Sound, and the Copper River Delta.

The Chugach National Forest:

- Is home to thousands of glaciers;
- Contains over 3,500 miles of shoreline;
- Includes the Copper River Delta, the largest contiguous wetlands complex on North America’s Pacific coast;
- Includes the Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area at almost a third of the forest acreage;
- Produces 66 million salmon a year (11% of Pacific salmon production) via stream and lake habitat for all five species of pacific salmon;
- Incorporates more than 180 miles of the Iditarod National Historic Trail known as the Southern Trek; and
- Provides world-class recreation and fishing experiences.

This visitor guide provides an overview of opportunities available to residents and visitors. These opportunities involve your own planning or could incorporate one of our outfitters and guides who are permitted to provide quality experiences within the forest (i.e. rafting, fishing, hunting, hiking).

We also provide U.S. Forest Service ranger-led interpretive programs at our Begich, Boggs Visitor Center and Crooked Creek Information Site as well as at other locations on and off the forest in partnership with tourism businesses such as:

- The Alaska Railroad Whistle Stop (Anchorage/Portage)
- Major Marine Tours and Phillips Cruises (Whittier)
- Portage Glacier Cruises (Portage Lake)

Whether it’s your first trip or your tenth, I hope you enjoy your national forest.

*Terri Marceron*  
 Terri Marceron  
 FOREST SUPERVISOR, CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST  
 ALASKA REGION



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## Chugach National Forest VISITOR GUIDE

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Cover: [top] Summit Lake on the Kenai Peninsula.  
 [bottom]: Kayakers in Chugach National Forest.  
 Photos courtesy of Chugach National Forest.

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## Get Out and Explore!

Hop on a train for a drive-free option into the Chugach National Forest, plan a multiple day trip to access remote primitive campsites, attend the famous Cordova Shorebird Festival, or visit the world-class interactive exhibits at Begich, Boggs Visitor Center. There is something for everyone on the Chugach. From the Kenai Peninsula to Prince William Sound, to the eastern shores of the Copper River Delta, the forest is full of special places.

People come from all over the world to experience the Chugach National Forest and Alaska’s wilderness. Not only do we welcome international visitors, but residents from across the state travel to recreate on Chugach National Forest lands. Whether you have an hour or several days there are options galore for exploring. We have listed just a few here to get you started.

### If you have a couple of hours:

#### Kenai Peninsula

Visit the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center

- One hour south of Anchorage
- World class exhibits and 20 minute film
- Hike Byron Glacier Trail to view a glacier
- View salmon spawning at Williwaw Fish Viewing Platform

#### Prince William Sound

Go flightseeing

- Experience the bounty of the sound in an afternoon
- See magnificent glaciers sculpt the landscape
- Breathtaking scenery

#### Copper River Delta

Hike the Eyak River Trail

- 2.9 mile trail begins along the Eyak River
- A wonderful variety of landscapes, forest, muskeg, alder, and dense grass
- Popular access site for anglers during the coho salmon runs

### If you have a couple of days:

#### Kenai Peninsula

Hike the Resurrection Pass Trail

- Designated a National Recreation Trail
- 40 mile trail with eight rental cabins and camping spots along the route
- Varied terrain from thick forest to alpine meadows

#### Prince William Sound

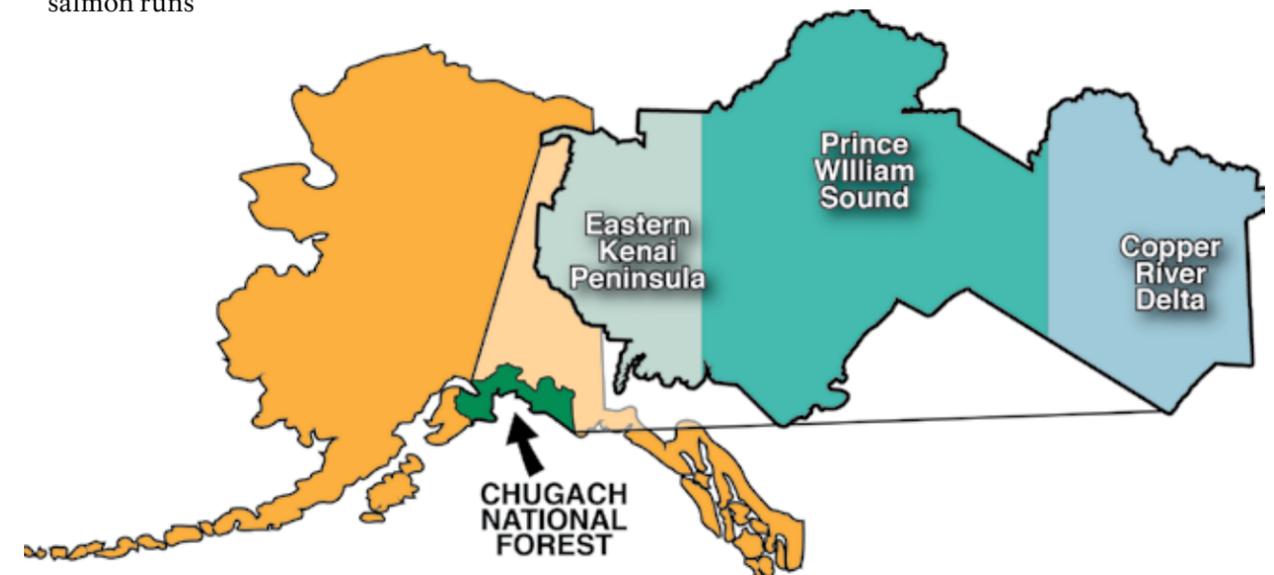
Take a Kayak Trip in Prince William Sound

- Practice your kayaking skills
- Explore busy bird rookeries
- View sea-life up close
- Rent a primitive cabin

#### Copper River Delta

Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival

- Birder’s paradise
- Millions of shorebirds
- Community events, workshops, and educational opportunities





# Eastern Kenai Peninsula

The Eastern Kenai Peninsula in the Chugach National Forest is best known for its spectacular recreational opportunities. Its forested lands, mountains, and rivers are just minutes south of Anchorage, the largest city in Alaska. The peninsula is a haven for visitors and residents alike. A hiker's paradise, it boasts hundreds of miles of maintained trails. For the fisherman, numerous opportunities exist to reel in "the big one." The Eastern Kenai Peninsula truly holds some of the forest's most accessible treasures.

## Camping

Numerous camping opportunities exist along the Seward Highway, a nationally designated All-American Road and National Scenic Byway. Trail River Campground, south of Moose Pass, is located strategically between Seward and Cooper Landing for visitors who want to access recreational opportunities in both areas. The campground can accommodate modern recreational vehicles and has a day use area along the scenic shore of Kenai Lake. A large group site, available by reservation, has a volleyball area, horseshoe area, covered pavilion with fire grates, and playground equipment. Nearby are Ptarmigan Creek Trail, Victor Creek Trail, and Carter Lake Trail that access the spectacular backcountry and offer fishing opportunities in both lakes and streams.

## Chugach Whistle Stop

The Chugach Whistle Stop is a partnership between the Chugach National Forest and the Alaska Railroad Corporation. Through this partnership, visitors have a distinctive travel and recreation experience found nowhere else in the United States. The Glacier Discovery Train takes passengers off the road system and into the backcountry of the Chugach National Forest. The Spencer and Grandview Whistle Stop stations are ready for you to enjoy. At Spencer a trail leads to a spectacular view of Spencer Glacier or you can continue to the edge of the glacier. (See page 11 for mileage details.) For those looking to overnight,

camping options including a group campsite, dispersed camping outside the developed recreation area, and the Spencer Bench Cabin. (Reservations required for group site and cabin.) At Grandview there is a short interpretive trail where passengers can stretch their legs. Grandview is the end of the line for the Glacier Discovery Train and returns back to Portage and Anchorage after this stop. In the future, the Chugach Whistle Stops will be connected by 30 miles of trails with the potential for a multi-day excursion into the rugged Kenai Mountains. So climb aboard and experience the Alaskan backcountry where only the Alaska Railroad and the Chugach National Forest can take you.

## DON'T MISS...

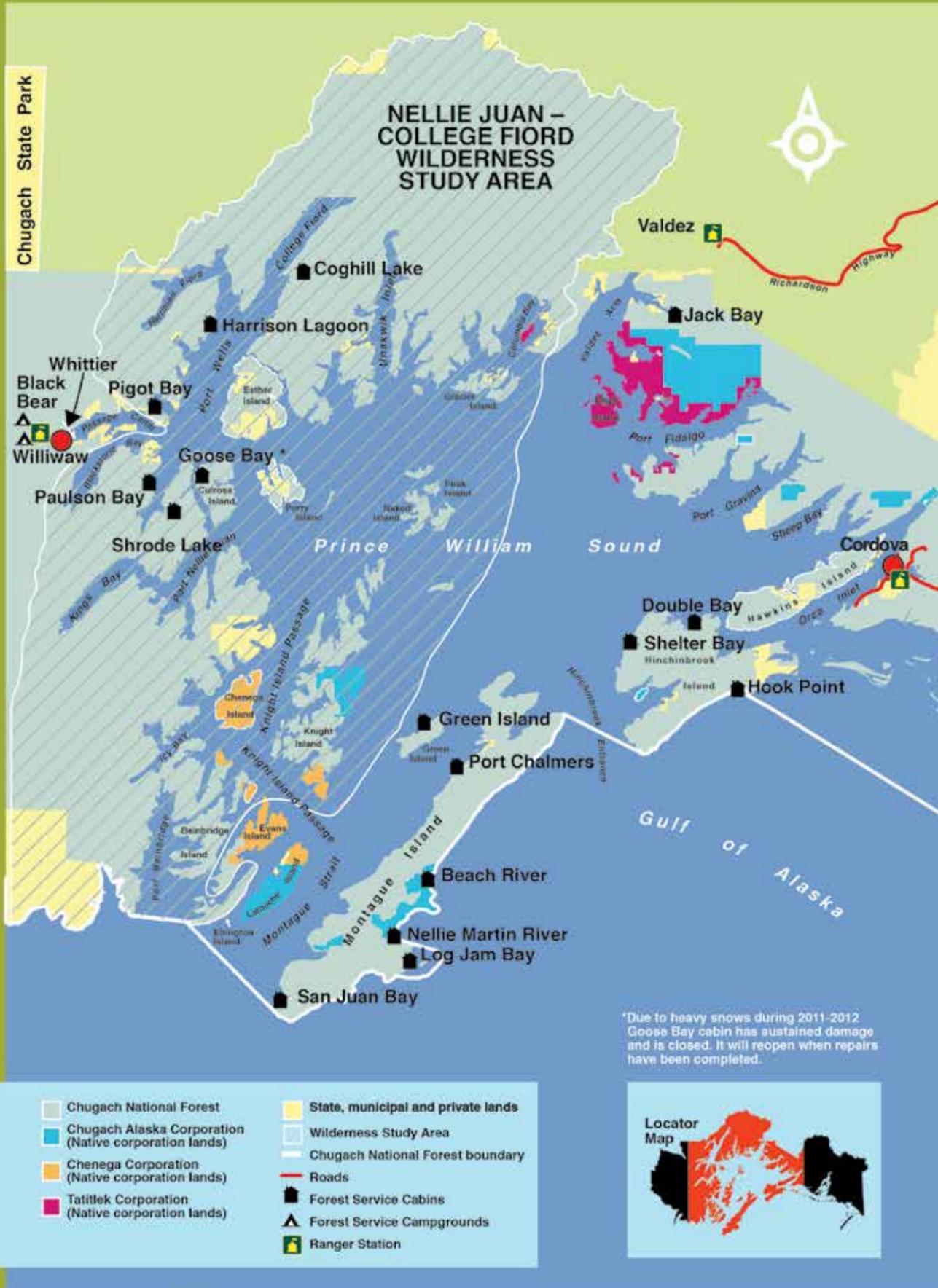
Iditarod National Historic Trail  
—Southern Trek



The Chugach National Forest has restored and developed 65 miles of the Southern Trek of the Iditarod National Historic Trail, connecting the communities of Seward and Girdwood. Additionally, there has been an installation of seven major bridges and numerous minor bridges, construction of one new trailhead, and restoration of one historic cabin. The trail represents a national heritage, recreation, and education resource that inspires and draws Iditarod enthusiasts, history buffs, students, and outdoor adventurers from around the world. Located less than an hour from Anchorage, the Southern Trek provides year-round opportunities to experience the spirit of the historic Iditarod.



# Prince William Sound



The forest meets the sea in Prince William Sound, where lush rainforest borders 3,500 miles of intricate coastline. Glaciers are a prime attraction in Prince William Sound with hundreds of glaciers spilling from high peaks, some flowing all the way to the ocean and calving into remote fiords. As our climate changes, the ice is retreating in many areas, providing a glimpse of unique geology and post-glacial reforestation.

### Keeping it Wild

In 1980, Congress designated roughly two million acres along western Prince William Sound as the Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area (WSA). This recognized the area's exceptional beauty and remoteness and its possible future designation as federal Wilderness. The Forest Service maintains the area's wilderness character to provide the public outstanding opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation, and inspiration in an undeveloped setting. Fishing, hunting, hiking, kayaking, skiing, camping, birding, and many other non-motorized activities are encouraged. The WSA only pertains to Chugach National Forest lands and does not affect motorized or other uses on marine waters.

### Recreating in the Sound

Unplug from daily life! Enjoy kayaking, boating, glacier and marine life viewing, and ample wilderness. Established trails are few but the hiking is beautiful and short treks reach alpine areas and great views. For overnight stays, spend days exploring the alpine slopes, berry-picking, fishing, hunting, or skiing in winter, and evenings at a beach campsite. Always practice Leave No Trace principles (visit [Int.org](http://Int.org)), and note restrictions in the wilderness study area.

Permits are not required for general camping and all campsites are primitive. Contain camping activities to beach gravel surfaces and clean up bits of garbage, dismantle fire rings, and replace moved rocks or materials. Four campsites in Blackstone Bay and Culross

Passage provide durable gravel camping surfaces. Bear cans and portable toilets are loaned free at the Glacier Ranger District. For details visit Begich, Boggs Visitor Center in Portage Valley, Glacier Ranger Station in Girdwood, or Crooked Creek Information Site in Valdez.

### Sightseeing

If you don't have a lot of time, a day cruise or flightseeing trip is an excellent way to see Prince William Sound. Catch a boat from Whittier or Valdez. Cruises range from four hours to several days and you can tailor the trip to meet your schedule. Flightseeing allows for a birds-eye view of the sound—flying over 15,000 square miles of fiords, inlets, glaciers, and mountain peaks. Both choices allow for great wildlife viewing and sightseeing.

## DON'T MISS...

### A Kayak Trip in Prince William Sound

Experience profound silence and calm as you ply the waters of Prince William Sound. Kayaking is a wonderful way to be out on the water and explore busy bird rookeries, sealife, and breathtaking scenery. Plan a multiple day trip to access remote campsites and cabins around the Sound. Cabins can be reserved 180 days in advance.

Be prepared! Help can be hours away. Review tide, bear, and water safety information before heading out, as communications may be non-existent. If you are not comfortable heading out on your own, check out local tour operators that can provide guided kayak adventures in the Sound.



# Copper River Delta



The 700,000 acre Copper River Delta, the largest contiguous wetlands along the Pacific coast of North America, is named for its abundant copper deposits. It's woven from six glacial river systems and renowned for its vast wetland habitats, mountains, and glaciers—with Miles and Childs Glaciers calving directly into the river. Unconnected by roads, you must take a boat, ferry, or plane to Cordova to access the area.

variety of sedges, grasses, and forbs bordered by shrub communities dominated by sweet gale. Willows, alder, and ponds dot the landscape and pockets of Sitka spruce harbor common terrestrial species of the area. The best time to catch wildflowers in bloom is from June to July along the boardwalk and road.

### Cabins

Scattered around eastern Prince William Sound and the Copper River Delta are 16 cabins where you can get away from it all. Take a short flight from Cordova and find yourself nestled on the beach in one of our beautiful cabins. The cabins do not have electricity or running water, but if roughing it doesn't bother you, check them out. Try your hand at beachcombing for glass balls, wild berry picking, digging razor clams, or fishing.

It is obvious the delta is managed for the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats. Bear, moose, bald eagles, and mountain goats are frequently sighted, making wildlife viewing very popular. More than two million salmon spawn in the river each year traveling almost 300 miles to return to spawning grounds. The high concentrations of omega-3 fatty acids the fish require for the journey make them a favorite of cooks and chefs the world over.

### Birding

The delta is for the birds—literally. Swans, geese, ducks, shorebirds, and bald eagles are all temporary or permanent inhabitants of the area. Birds flock here to take advantage of lands set aside as nesting grounds and as a refueling and resting stop on their way through the North American flyway. The delta is an integral part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, which brings together organizations to recognize and protect critical shorebird habitat.

### Alaganik Slough

Alaganik Slough is a unique wildflower viewing area situated on the expansive Copper River Delta. The three-mile road accessing Alaganik Slough from the Copper River Highway winds through species-rich wetlands and ponds. At the end of the road you will find a developed site with a wheel chair accessible 900-foot-long boardwalk that parallels the slough. This area supports both aquatic and terrestrial plants. The wetlands here are dominated by a

## DON'T MISS...

**Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival**  
 The most inviting small town in Alaska just may be Cordova, a fishing community and birder's paradise. Each year during the first weekend in May, the community welcomes millions of shorebirds to the Copper River Delta. Community events, workshops, and educational opportunities are offered throughout the week. Travel to Cordova from Anchorage by air or if you have time for a more leisurely trip, the ferry leaves from Whittier, 60 miles southeast of Anchorage, and crosses scenic Prince William Sound ([www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs](http://www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs)). More information is available from the Cordova Chamber of Commerce ([www.cordovachamber.com](http://www.cordovachamber.com))

# Camping in the Chugach

## Cabins

There are 42 primitive (no electricity or running water) cabins located throughout the Chugach National Forest.

**COST:** \$30-\$85 a night.

**STAY LIMIT:** 3-7 nights summer; 7 nights winter.

**GET THERE:** Hike, paddle, charter a plane or boat.

**HEAT:** Woodstove and/or oil stove. Check before you go: A few cabins have no stove and others require you to bring your own fuel.

**BRING:** Sleeping bags and pads, cook stove and gear, first aid, water, food, insect repellent, extra food, and clothing.

**EMERGENCY:** No phones, no radios, and cell phone coverage is not guaranteed. Be prepared.

## Campgrounds

Campgrounds are generally open from mid-May through September. The stay limit is 14 days except for the Russian River Campground, which has a 3-day limit from June 10 through August 20. Most campgrounds have a few sites for large RVs. Quartz Creek and Williwaw are able to handle 60-foot RVs. Backcountry camping is permitted but is limited to 14 days in one area.

### Campground Location # Sites

#### KENAI PENINSULA

Cooper Creek	26
Crescent Creek	9
Porcupine	34
Primrose	7
Ptarmigan Creek	16
Quartz Creek	45
Russian River	84
Tenderfoot Creek	35
Trail River	91

#### PORTAGE/TURNAGAIN PASS

Bertha	12
Black Bear	12
Granite Creek	19
Williwaw	60

#### COPPER RIVER DELTA

Childs Glacier campground cannot be accessed via the Copper River Highway due to a bridge closure. Contact the Cordova Chamber of Commerce for a list of companies that provide access to the area.

## CAMPGROUND REGULATIONS

**Store** all foods, beverages, garbage, pet food, cooking or food storage equipment in a vehicle, food locker, or camper.

**Fires** are allowed only in established grates. Cutting live vegetation or standing deadwood is prohibited.

**Pets** must be on a leash at all times. Please dispose of feces in garbage cans. Secure pet food inside a vehicle.

**Do not feed** any wild animal, even birds.

## Reservations

For cabins and campground reservations call (877) 444-6777 or visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). To reserve the Spencer Bench Cabin in the summer season, mid June-mid Sept., call the Alaska Railroad 1-800-544-0552.

Nightly camping fees range from free for remote sites to \$30 depending on campground, and \$150 for a large group site.

Campgrounds on the Kenai Peninsula and the Portage/Turnagain Pass area are operated by Alaska Recreation Management under permit from the Forest Service. Childs Glacier Campground is operated by the Forest Service.

# Trail Guide

## Hiking Highlights

A variety of trails exist in the Chugach National Forest, from short, easy day hikes to more strenuous, multiday adventures.

**Lost Lake Trail:** This popular 73-mile trail leads to the beautiful alpine Lost Lake and neighboring small lakes and ponds that populate the hills to the east. Mount Ascension is aptly named as it towers more than 3,000 feet in the west. A favorite backcountry run takes place here every summer. The area is still snow-covered into late June. The trail is steep and difficult, but the views and open cross-country walking make it worth the effort.

**Heney Ridge Trail:** This local favorite will have you waxing lyrical about its merits. The fact that the trail is a mere 6 miles out of the town of Cordova belies the beauty of Heney Ridge. As you make your way through the old-growth forest with massive moss-covered Sitka spruce, you cross the oldest split log bridge in the area and begin your way through a series of switchbacks. The views from the switchbacks tantalize you as they come in and out of focus. Two and a half miles sees you at the top knoll with great views of Orca Inlet. If you are still feeling strong, continue another mile and a half to the top and reward yourself with a knockout view of the Gulf of Alaska and Kayak Island.

**Trail of Blue Ice:** A walk in the woods that is fun for the whole family is waiting for you in Portage Valley. The wide trail allows for side-by-side strolling and has an accessible, smooth surface of gravel, pavement, or wood decking. The views are spectacular as you walk along the creek and through glacial valleys. You can hike or bike the round-trip from Williwaw Fish Viewing Platform to Moose Flats, or customize your trip with a 3-mile loop that begins and ends at Portage Lake.

The trail is always open, but check-in at the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center for a map of the area and suggestions on customizing your walk. The Visitor Center is open from 9am to 6pm, 7 days a week, Memorial Day to mid-September with great exhibits, an award-winning film, and a bookstore.



For more trail and camping information visit [www.fs.usda.gov/chugach](http://www.fs.usda.gov/chugach)

## Kenai Peninsula Trails

Carter Lake	3.4 miles
Crescent Creek	6.2 miles
Crescent Lake Trail	8.1 miles
Devil's Pass	10 miles
Falls Creek	3.9 miles
Grayling Lake Trail	1.5 miles
Gull Rock	5.7 miles
Iditarod-Bear Lake	7.5 miles
Idit.-Meridian Lakes	8.3 miles
Johnson Pass	23 miles
Lost Lake	7.3 miles
Primrose	7.5 miles
Ptarmigan Creek	3.5 miles
Ptarmigan Lake	3.6 miles
Rainbow Lake	0.3 miles
Resurrection Pass	38.4 miles
Resurrection River	16.3 miles
Russian Lakes	21.8 miles
Victor Creek	2.25 miles

## Whistle Stop Trails

Grandview Vista	0.2 miles
Spencer Viewpoint	1.3 miles
Spencer Glacier	3 miles
Spencer Bench Cabin	5.4 miles

## Girdwood/Portage Trails

Byron Glacier	0.8 miles
Crow Pass	4 miles
Gary Williams Moraine	0.2 miles
Portage Pass	2 miles
Trail of Blue Ice	5 miles
Upper Winner Creek	9 miles
Williwaw Nature	1.25 miles
Winner Creek	3.5 miles

## Copper River Delta Trails

Alaganik Boardwalk	0.2 miles
Alaganik Slough	0.4 miles
Alice Smith Intertie	6.6 miles
Copper River	0.6 miles
Crater Lake	2.4 miles
Eyak River	3.3 miles
Haystack	0.8 miles
Heney Ridge	3.7 miles
Lake Elsner	6 miles
McKinley Lake	2.4 miles
Muskeg Meander	3 miles
Pipeline Lakes	1.8 miles
Power Creek	4.2 miles
Saddlebag Glacier	3.1 miles
Sheridan Mountain	2.9 miles

Mileage provided are one-way distances.

# Watchable Wildlife

## EASTERN KENAI

### Tern Lake

Located at the intersection of the Seward and Sterling highways at Milepost 37. This area hosts a myriad of animals, birds, fish, and unique plants. Common loons, bald eagles, and arctic terns share the area with a variety of songbirds and shorebirds like the northern water thrush, golden-crowned sparrow, and the greater yellowlegs. Beavers, river otters, muskrats, and salmon ply the cold, clear waters of Tern Lake. Moose, Dall sheep, and mountain goats can be seen on the surrounding mountains. Best viewing seasons: spring, summer, and fall.



### Moose Flats Day-Use Site

Located at Mile 1.0 on the Portage Highway. This site has a short boardwalk trail along several ponds. It is a good site for observing waterfowl that nest and rear their young in the ponds and river channels. Moose are also frequent visitors to the area and the boardwalk makes a nice observation post. Best viewing seasons: spring, summer and fall.

### Williwaw Fish Viewing Platform

Located at Mile 4 of the Portage Highway. Spawning sockeye, chum, and coho salmon arrive in late July and remain throughout early fall. In addition to salmon, visitors may see a variety of local songbirds, bald eagles, and black and brown bears. Best viewing seasons: spring, summer, and fall.

## PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

### Crooked Creek Information Site

Located on the outskirts of Valdez at Mile 0.5 of the Richardson Highway. Pink and chum salmon return to this clear water stream each summer to spawn. Occasionally, black bears can be observed feasting on the returning fish. Best viewing seasons: summer and fall.

## COPPER RIVER DELTA

### Hartney Bay

Located at the end of Whitshed Road, approximately 5 miles south of Cordova (not on Forest Service land). From mid-April to mid-May, visitors have the opportunity to view whirling flocks of tens of thousands of shorebirds as they rest and refuel during their long journey northward. The rest of the year brings a wide variety of songbirds and marine mammals such as harbor seals, Steller's sea lions, and sea otters. In late summer, pink and chum salmon return to Hartney Creek to spawn. Best viewing seasons: spring and fall.

### Alaganik Slough

Located at Mile 17 of the Copper River Highway. An accessible boardwalk leads visitors to stunning views of both the expansive wetlands of the Copper River Delta and the surrounding mountains. A wide variety of wetland animals including trumpeter swans, moose, brown bear, and shorebirds can be seen in the area. Best viewing seasons: spring and fall.

## VIEWING SAFETY

### KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

If an animal alters its behavior because of your presence, you are too close. Responsible visitors use binoculars and telephoto lenses to observe an animal's normal behavior.

### RESPECT THE ANIMALS

Animals often respond to repeated interference by abandoning homes, nesting sites, and even their young. Remember that we are the visitors.

### NEVER FEED WILDLIFE

Animals that become accustomed to human food become problem animals that need to be removed from the area. Don't leave backpacks, trash, or food where an animal might find it.

### DRIVE SAFELY

When you see wildlife, stop to view it from a safe pullout, not from the roadway. Please do not follow an animal at close distance in your vehicle. Be alert for animals crossing the road, especially at dawn, dusk, and at night.

## Don't Have a Bad Bear Day!

The Chugach National Forest is bear country. It is your responsibility to **BE BEAR AWARE!**

- Watch for signs of bears such as tracks and scat.
- Make noise to avoid surprising bears in the area.
- Travel in groups. Groups are noisier and easier for bears to detect and avoid.
- Never approach a bear. This aggressive behavior on your part forces a bear to react. Harassing bears is illegal and very dangerous.
- Dogs can increase your risk of a serious bear encounter. Consider leaving them at home, or keep on a leash.
- Store food, trash, and personal hygiene products in provided bear-proof lockers or in your vehicle in the frontcountry. Use a bear-resistant food canister in the backcountry. Never store them in your tent.
- Cook and store food at least 100 yards from your tent.
- Bear spray has been found to be an effective deterrent in bear country. Become familiar with the deterrent you carry before going outdoors.



Learn more about bears and bear safety. Pick up a copy of *Bear Facts* at any Forest Service office.

## FISHING IN BEAR COUNTRY

### Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Be knowledgeable about bear behavior and the area where you will be fishing.
- Avoid fishing during low light conditions when visibility is decreased.

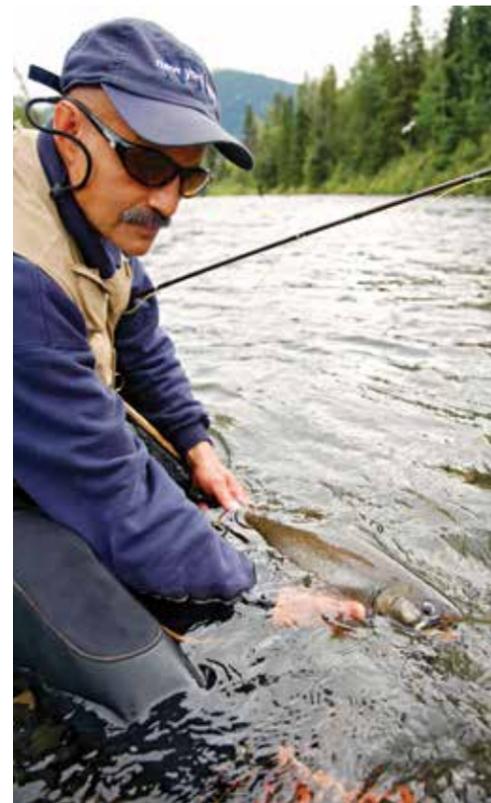
### Stay Alert While Fishing

- Keep stringers and belongings with you at all times.
- Splashing fish attract bears. If a bear is close enough to notice splashing—stop fishing.
- Do not let a bear get a hooked fish. Cut the line.

### Handle Your Catch Properly

- Bleed your fish into the water immediately.
- Cut carcasses into small pieces that can easily be carried by the current.
- Toss all fish waste into deep, fast-moving water.
- Procedures for handling catch differ for the Russian River (see below)

**Attention Anglers at the Russian River!** When fishing along the banks of the Russian River or hiking along the Russian River Anglers Trail ALL possessions must be within 3 feet, all retained fish within 12 feet. Do not clean fish on the river beyond a gut and gill. Take fish out whole to clean and dispose of the waste responsibly elsewhere. Pick up a copy of the Russian River Guide at the Russian River Campground entrance station for more information.



# Backcountry Guide

**BE PREPARED:** Carry extra food, water, insect repellent, a map, compass, a pocketknife, waterproof matches, and emergency supplies with you.

**DON'T** take scented, spiced or smoked foods with you as they attract bears. Don't drink untreated water—*Giardia* occurs in the forest. Boil all water or use a filter.

**PACK OUT:** Toilet paper, used pads, tampons, and garbage.

**PLAN AHEAD:** Always let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return. Have a backup plan and a flexible schedule.

**TAKE A FRIEND:** Traveling alone increases your risk dramatically. Traveling in groups is recommended.

**DRESS PROPERLY:** Leave your cotton at home; synthetic pile or wool are best. Rain gear is a necessity. Bring a hat and gloves—even in the summer.

**STAY BACK:** Icebergs are unstable and can roll over at any time. Stay away from the face of tidewater glaciers to avoid large, unexpected waves caused by falling ice.

## FIRE SAFETY

- Build campfires away from overhanging branches, steep slopes, rotten stumps, dry grass, or leaves
- Pile extra firewood away from the fire
- Keep plenty of water on hand
- Have a shovel handy for shoveling dirt on an out of control fire
- Keep your campfire small
- Be sure any matches you use are out; break them into pieces
- Never leave a campfire unattended
- Extinguish fires completely
- Never bury a fire as the fire will continue to smolder and could catch roots on fire that will eventually get to the surface and start a wildfire
- Fires in Prince William Sound should be built in the intertidal zone, below the high tide.
- If you see a fire burning out of control call 911

# Planning Your Trip

Visit the Alaska Geographic bookstores at the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center in Portage Valley, the Crooked Creek Information Site in Valdez, or the Ranger District Offices in Girdwood and Cordova to find books, maps, films, and gifts related to the natural and cultural history of the Chugach National Forest.



### Chugach National Forest *Legacy of Land, Sea and Sky*

In the backyard of Alaska's largest city, the Chugach National Forest is a treasure for all to enjoy. Let author Andromeda Romano-Lax lead you through its riches to discover cultural traditions, abundant wildlife, recreational opportunities, and the Forest Service's 100-year legacy of celebrating these treasures.

Item #12293001 Softcover \$17.95  
Item #12293001 Hardcover \$21.95



### Discover Alaska Collection *Pins, patches, magnets, hats*

Show your support for Chugach National Forest with these collectable designs: Portage Valley, Prince William Sound, Copper River Delta, Kenai Peninsula. Exclusively from Alaska Geographic.



### Chugach National Forest Map U.S. Forest Service

This overview map of the entire 5.4-million-acre Chugach National Forest indicates land ownership, public-use cabins, campgrounds, hiking trails, and includes information on the area's human and natural history.

Item #35025002 \$10.00

Also available online at [alaskageographic.org](http://alaskageographic.org)

# Begich, Boggs Visitor Center

The Begich, Boggs Visitor Center is a world-class facility with interactive, multi-sensory exhibits, the Portage Valley Learning Center, the Alaska Geographic bookstore, and a 200-seat theater that shows the film *Retreat and Renewal*. Knowledgeable Forest Service interpreters provide programs on the natural and cultural wonders of the Chugach National Forest. During your visit, be sure to take a cruise on the *MV Ptarmigan* for a spectacular view of Portage Glacier.



### Hours

9 am to 6 pm daily  
**Summer**  
(Closed in winter)

### Activities

Information, award-winning film, exhibits, ranger-led programs and guided hikes, and Alaska Geographic bookstore.

### Fees

\$5.00 for adults, children 15 and younger are free!  
Fee includes admission to movie and exhibits.

### Contact us

Begich, Boggs Visitor Center  
800 Portage Lake Loop  
Portage Valley, AK 99587  
(907) 783-2326

# Crooked Creek Information Site

The Crooked Creek Information Site near Valdez perches between Prince William Sound and the forested mainland. The site is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day and is a popular place to watch wildlife and spawning salmon. There is an underwater salmon camera at the site that can be viewed on YouTube in the summer.



### Hours

9 am to 6 pm  
Tuesday-Sunday,  
closed Monday  
**Summer**  
(Closed in winter)

### Activities

Information, viewing platform, exhibits, ranger-led programs, and Alaska Geographic bookstore.

### Contact us

Crooked Creek Information Site  
Mile 0.5 Richardson Highway  
Valdez, AK 99686  
(907) 835-4680

# Forest Partners

Not only is the Chugach National Forest known for its recreation opportunities, but also for its innovative youth programs. Engaging youth across the forest in varied disciplines enables us to provide meaningful outdoor career experience and create public stewards for the future.

**Chugach Children's Forest** is a unique partnership between Alaska Geographic and the Chugach National Forest; it empowers and enables Alaskan youth to explore and care for their public lands.

We work with the **Student Conservation Association and Environment of the Americas** to engage youth and young adult interns in forest-wide projects to gain leadership skills, hands-on work experience, and real-world job skills.

**Chugachmiut Tribal Consortium** works with us to identify opportunities for Alaska Native youth to work with fuels and fire suppression and on recreation sites and trails across the forest.

As the primary nonprofit education partner of the Chugach National Forest, **Alaska Geographic** connects people to Alaska's magnificent wildlands through experiential education, award-winning books and maps, and by directly supporting the state's parks, forests, and refuges. To find out more, become a member, or browse the wide selection of Alaska books, maps, and films, stop by any Alaska Geographic bookstore or visit the website at [www.alaskageographic.org](http://www.alaskageographic.org).



## Contact Information

Chugach National Forest  
161 East First Avenue, Door 8  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 743-9500  
[www.fs.usda.gov/chugach](http://www.fs.usda.gov/chugach)  
Parking is at the east end  
of the building only.

Cordova Ranger District  
P.O. Box 280  
612 Second Street  
Cordova, AK 99574  
(907) 424-7661

Glacier Ranger District  
P.O. Box 129  
145 Forest Station Road  
Girdwood, AK 99587  
(907) 783-3242

Seward Ranger District  
P.O. Box 390  
334 Fourth Avenue  
Seward, AK 99664  
(907) 224-3374  
This office will be closed effective July 1.

Alaska Public Lands  
Information Center  
605 W. Fourth Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 644-3661  
[www.alaskacenters.gov](http://www.alaskacenters.gov)

## Visitor Centers Summer Only

Begich, Boggs Visitor Center  
800 Portage Lake Loop  
Portage Valley  
(907) 783-2326

Crooked Creek  
Information Site  
Mile 0.5 Richardson Highway  
Valdez  
(907) 835-4680

## Other Contacts in Southcentral Alaska

Chugach State Park  
(907) 269-8400

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge  
(907) 262-7021

Kenai Fjords National Park  
(907) 224-2132

