

# Chugach National Forest

## Primrose Trail Iditarod National Historic Trail - Southern Trek



### Seward Ranger District

**Difficulty:** More Difficult

**Length:** 7.5 miles (one way)

**Time:** 4-5 hours

**Elevation Gain:** 1600 feet

**Season:** Year-round

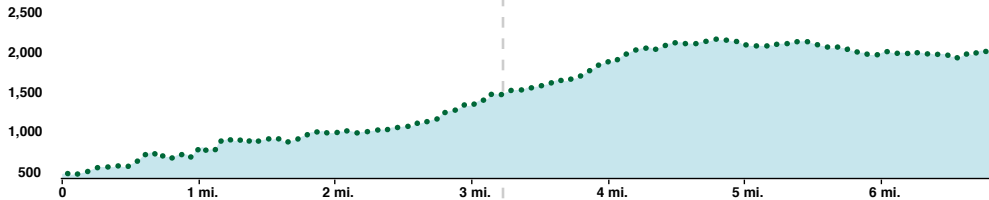
**Public Use:** Moderate

**Grade:** 10-20%

**Trail Condition:** Steep sections within the first five miles. Roots and rocky sections throughout.

**Getting there:** Turn west at milepost 17 and follow the road one mile to Primrose Campground.

**Users:**



## Map Legend

- Iditarod - Year-round Trails
- Iditarod - Summer Use Trail
- Iditarod - Winter Use Trail
- General Use Trail
- Backcountry Campsite
- USFS Cabin
- Trailhead
- Ranger Station



### PART OF THE IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

The Iditarod National Historic Trail - Southern Trek (INHT) is a 180 mile portion of the 1000 mile-long route. Winter travellers used it from the late 1800s to early 1900, though parts have been used for millenia by Alaska Native cultures. When you walk the INHT, you're walking in the footsteps of Alaska's indigenous people, and its gold miners, pioneers and dogsled mushers.

## TRAIL INFORMATION

Primrose Trail is an excellent multi-day trip for fishing at Lost Lake and enjoying spectacular scenery.

There are designated dispersed campsites at mile 5.4, 6.4, 7 and 7.5. The first five miles of trail are through dense hemlock forest with limited views.

At mile 0.5 the Iditarod-Meridian Lakes Trail branches off to Long Lake, which is stocked with rainbow trout.

At mile 2 an steep, unmarked and unmaintained spur trail leads to a view of Primrose Falls.

A working goldmine can be seen at Mile 3.7. Please do not disturb the equipment or interfere with mining operations.

At mile 5 the trail emerges from treeline with dramatic views of surrounding mountains and lakes. Mt. Ascension (5710 feet) forms the west border of Lost Lake. Combine this hike with the Lost Lake Trail for a longer 14.8 mile hike.

Wildlife includes moose, black bear, wolf, mountain goat, Dall sheep, ptarmigan, grouse, and marmot.

Fishing for rainbow trout in Lost Lake is allowed in season.

Please review **Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)** hunting and fishing regulations for more details.



### JOKULHLAUP PHENOMENA

Snow Glacier forms an ice dam high in Snow River drainage, creating a lake over the course of several years.

As the lake fills, the ice dam grows and cracks form at its base. Water pressure forces a tunnel to form and releases the dammed lake water into Snow River.

This *Jokulhlaup* (yo-kel-awp) typically floods Primrose Campground road and trailhead parking for several days.



### LOST LAKE

A perfect place to camp after a enjoyable day of hiking.

Lost Lake sits at the eastern foot of Mt. Ascension and may provide a rainbow trout to those with a knack for fishing. Bring your fishing gear!

It also has excellent berry picking in season.

### CHARLES G. HUBBARD CABIN AND MINE RUINS

Mr. Hubbard was one of the early pioneers on the Kenai Peninsula and lived in the area for years.

Hubbard bought a stake in the Primrose Mine in 1914 and lived nearby. His cabin and the mine can still be seen along the trail.

Please do not disturb the cabin or other historic features along the trail.



### ALPINE WILDFLOWERS

Bring your flower identification guide!

Towards the upper section of the Primrose Trail, unique and colorful wildflowers, like the mountain aven (*Dryas octopetala*) pictured below, are abundant.



## KNOW Before you GO!

Bring a portable stove for heating water and food. Dead and down firewood is very difficult to find, regulations prohibit cutting standing trees.

Winter hazards can include thin ice, white-out conditions and avalanches.

## PLAN AHEAD

You are responsible for your own safety. Proper equipment and good judgment are essential for safe travel while on the Chugach National Forest.

Filter or boil water for five minutes before drinking to avoid giardia.

All creeks present hazards that can be dangerous. Cross creeks at low water levels. During winter use extreme caution when crossing bodies of water. Remember you cross at your own risk.

Winter travel can be hazardous and trails can cross through avalanche-prone slopes. Visit [www.cnfaic.org](http://www.cnfaic.org) for the latest avalanche conditions.

Let someone know your travel plans. Be Bear Aware and keep your distance from wildlife.

Contact a USDA Forest Service office for specific trail safety precautions.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION...

### Seward Ranger District

33599 Ranger Station Spur (mile post 23.5)  
Seward, AK 99664  
(907) 288-3178

### Chugach National Forest

161 East 1st Ave., Door 8  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 743-9500

[www.fs.usda.gov/chugach](http://www.fs.usda.gov/chugach)



- Plan Ahead & Prepare
- Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors