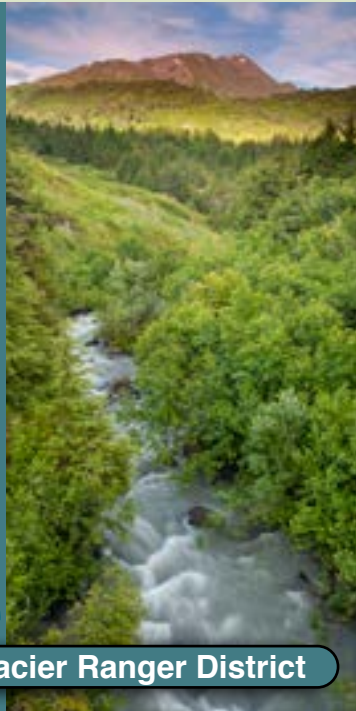


# Chugach National Forest

## Turnagain Pass Trail Iditarod National Historic Trail - Southern Trek



### Glacier Ranger District

**Difficulty:** More Difficult

**Length:** 6 miles in either direction (north or south) from Center Ridge Trailhead

**Time:** 6 hours (one way)

**Elevation Gain:** 800 feet

**Season:** Year round

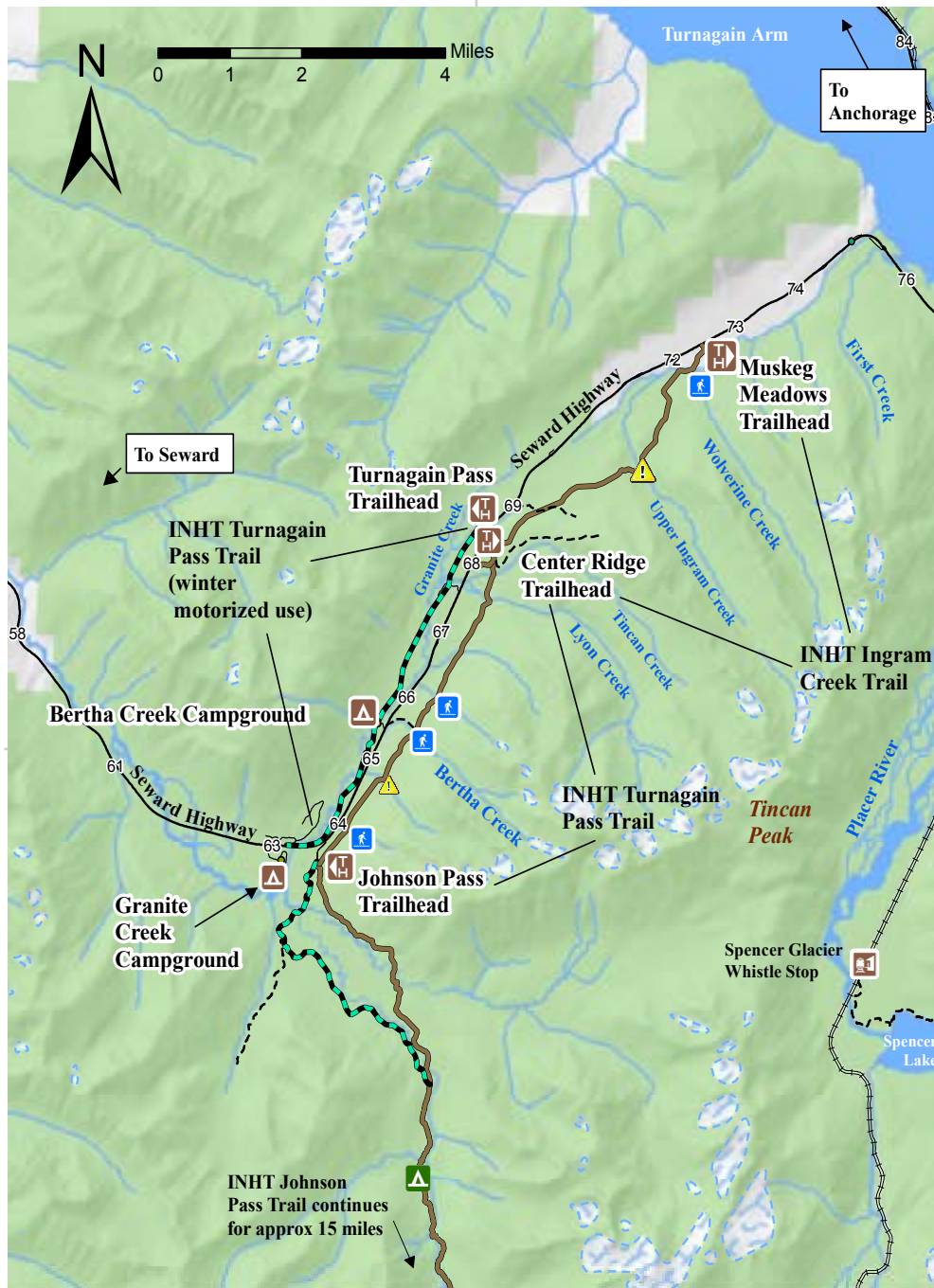
**Public Use:** Light

**Grade:** 5-10%

**Trail Condition:** Generally in good condition. May be overgrown in summer. Use caution when crossing rivers.

**Getting there:** Access from the Center Ridge Parking lot, the Johnson Pass North Trailhead or a pullout at mile 72.5 of the Seward Highway.

**Users:**



## Map Legend

- Iditarod - Year-round Trails
- Iditarod - Winter Use Trail
- General Use Trail
- Hazardous Crossing
- Trailhead
- Fording Site
- Campground
- Whistle Stop



## 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

The trail winds through spruce and hemlock forest at lower elevations, rising up to rolling subalpine terrain near the midpoint at the top of Turnagain Pass, around Center Ridge and Tincan Mountain.

This subalpine region has many off-trail opportunities and great camping spots. The south side of the trail crosses deep gorges at Bertha and Spokane Creeks, with impressive waterfalls nearby.

There are a number of hazardous stream crossings on the trail.

This trail connects to the 23-mile Johnson Pass Trail to the south.

Mountain bikers enjoy this wide and winding trail, especially from Center Ridge at the top of Turnagain Pass to the Muskeg Meadows Trailhead at milepost 72.5. It is common to shuttle vehicles to Muskeg Meadows Trailhead.

In the winter backcountry skiers and snowboarders enjoy access to the popular and snowy mountainsides. Nordic skiers and fat-tire 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.

Please use hardened campsites where available. These campsites have a bear box for food storage.



### TIN CAN BRIDGE

This bridge, near Center Ridge Trailhead, traverses Tincan Creek, which was mined for gold during the Turnagain Arm Rush of 1898.

There are bridges planned for a number of gorge and river crossings on this trail. These crossings are shown by a symbol on the map indicating that some segments are difficult or even inaccessible.



### AMANITA MUSCARIA

A favorite fungus to see along the trail, the colorful but poisonous *Amanita muscaria* mushroom is just one of dozens of varieties you can see on the Turnagain Pass Trail.

Some mushrooms are edible, but many (like the *Amanita muscaria*) are poisonous.

Make sure to bring your mushroom identification guide.

## GOLD MINING

Gold brought thousands of people over what is now part of the Iditarod National Historic Trail. Travel peaked in 1896 as a full-fledged gold rush came to the Kenai Peninsula.

Mining claims still exist along the creeks crossed by the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

Please respect claims. Do not disturb mining equipment.



## BERRY PICKING

Keep an eye out for berry patches along the trail, especially near boggy sections.

The Turnagain Pass Trail is rich in salmonberries and blueberries. There are nearly a dozen edible berry varieties waiting to be picked. Others include watermelon berries, highbush cranberries and raspberries.



## KNOW Before you GO!

The trail crosses several avalanche-prone slopes, particularly on the north side.

This trail is closed to motorized vehicles year round.

## 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...

### Glacier Ranger District

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

### Chugach National Forest

161 East 1st Ave., Door 8  
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[www.fs.usda.gov/chugach](http://www.fs.usda.gov/chugach)



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## The 7 Principles

- 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