

Chugach National Forest

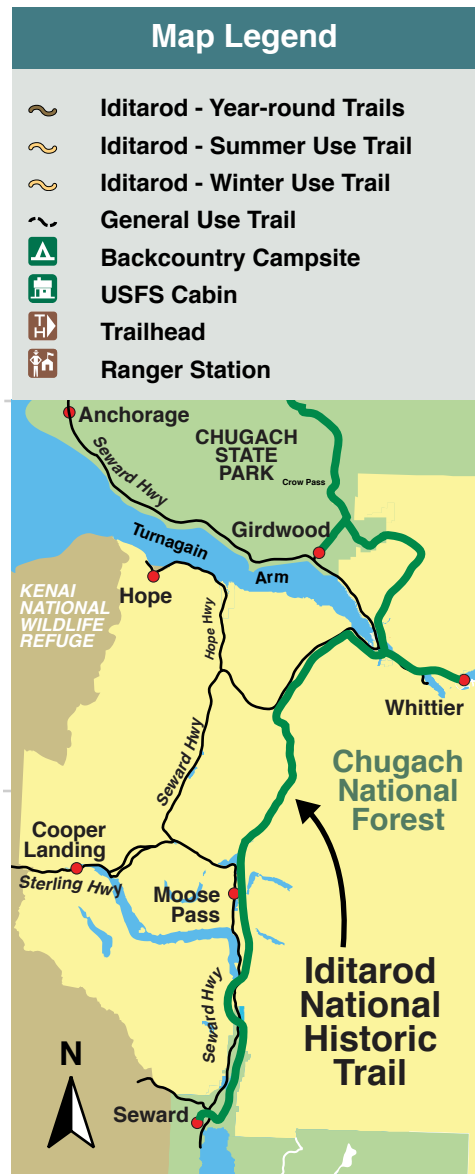
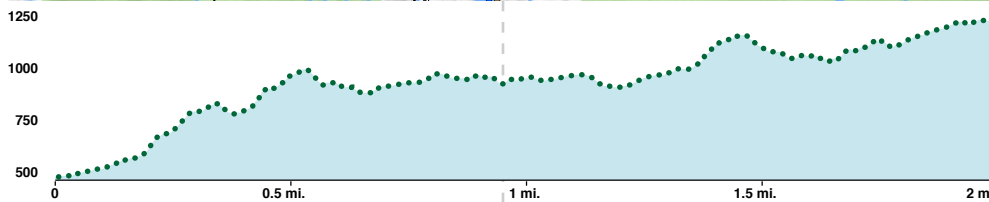
Victor Creek Trail

Iditarod National Historic Trail - Southern Trek



Seward Ranger District

- Difficulty:** More Difficult
- Length:** 2.5 miles (one way)
- Time:** 2 hours
- Elevation Gain:** 1100 feet
- Season:** May-October
- Public Use:** Low
- Grade:** Many steep up and down grades. Recommended for hiking only.
- Trail Condition:** Recommended only for hiking due to steep grades and exposed roots. Avalanche paths may cover trail into June. Winter travel is not recommended.
- Getting there:** Trailhead is north of Victor Creek Bridge on the east side of Seward Highway at mile 19.7. Parking is limited and difficult to access due to blind curves on the highway. Parking for access to the Iditarod Trail is at mile 18 of the Seward Highway. The trail is 300 yards beyond the yellow gate.



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.

Map Legend

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

TRAIL INFORMATION

Victor Creek Trail winds through dense spruce and hemlock forest for the first mile, then opens up to a narrow valley of alder brush and meadows, and a rewarding view of the surrounding mountains.

This trail provides access to Mother Goose Glacier and Andy Simons Mountain. Mining activity can be seen on the lower portion of the trail. Mining equipment belongs to private individuals and should not be disturbed.

The trail abruptly ends after 2.5 miles. There is no bridge over Victor Creek and trail users should not attempt to cross.

Mountain goats can be seen along the slopes at the upper end of the trail, and black and brown bears can sometimes be spotted in drainage areas. Spruce Grouse are common here, along with many other birds.

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



ICE FORMATIONS!

Winter travellers are likely to come across spectacular frozen “sculptures” as the dripping water from freezing creeks and waterfalls slowly builds over the winter, forming natural works of art.

Please use caution around bodies of water and ice.



DALL SHEEP

Known for their bright white coat, even in the summer months, these beautiful animals used to be found in the area by the thousands.

Their numbers have shrunk drastically over the years, partly due to pressure from hunting, but with a little luck and a keen eye you may spot one on the Victor Creek Trail.

JOHN VICKERY

Like thousands of others John Vickery came to Alaska in the early 1900s in search of gold and, like most of those thousands, he never struck it rich.

He did manage to leave his name on the creek that ran through his mining claim.

As time passed, his Vickery Creek became “Victory Creek,” and then finally to the current name: “Victor Creek.”



WHERE'S THE BRIDGE?

Busy Victor Creek Trail is short and its beauty and proximity to Seward contribute to its popularity.

The trail terminates after 2.5 miles at Victor Creek Gorge. A bridge is planned at this site, allowing the trail to continue.

The Forest Service and its partners are working on this and other short trails, rebuilding the original route of the Iditarod National Historic Trail.



KNOW Before you GO!

Winter travelers must evaluate travel hazards over ice, avalanche hazards, white-out conditions and disorienting fog.

Be prepared for rapid weather changes and wildlife such as bears and moose. Use bear canisters when camping and carry bear spray.

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 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

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Seward, AK 99664
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Chugach National Forest

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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