



Exploring Exit Glacier

1-2 hours round-trip

Short trails lead to panoramic and close-up views of Exit Glacier, the architect of this landscape. This is a wild place. Observe all warning signs and use good judgment. The glacier shifts and cracks, wildlife roams freely, and outwash streams change course, flooding regularly. Less than 100 years ago this entire trail system was under ice. Look for “date signs” marking Exit Glacier’s terminus in past years as you walk through the forest that has sprung up in the wake of the glacier.

No Feeding Wildlife

No Pets

No Bikes

EXIT GLACIER

Harding Icefield Trail

Edge of the Glacier

Toe of the Glacier

OUTWASH PLAIN

Glacier View

Edge of the Glacier



A moderately strenuous hike leads over newly de-glaciated bedrock to the edge of Exit Glacier. Here you can feel the chilly winds off the glacier, gaze up at walls of blue ice and hear the sounds of this active glacier as it grinds downhill.

Outwash Plain to the Toe



Once at the edge of the outwash plain there is no “trail” to the toe of Exit Glacier. If water levels are low, you can explore the rocky outwash plain and make your way towards the Glacier. Be prepared to get your feet wet. Don’t try to cross deep or fast moving channels.

AVOID OVERHANGING ICE
Ice can fall at any time. Don’t approach the glacier where the ice is over your head.

Glacier View



A one-mile accessible loop leads through the cottonwood forest to a panoramic view of the Exit Glacier valley. From here you can see Exit Glacier spilling down from the Harding Icefield to its terminus at the outwash plain.

PREPARE FOR THE TRAIL

Take a moment to be sure you are dressed appropriately and have adequate supplies for your hike. Use the facilities before you start your hike. There are no restrooms on the trails.

DRESS IN LAYERS

It gets colder the closer you get to the glacier, and the weather can change quickly. You are in a temperate rain forest after all!

BRING WATER

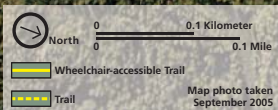
Some of the trails are moderately strenuous, and water from streams is not safe to drink unless you purify it.

WEAR STURDY SHOES

Most of the trails are unpaved. Wear shoes that will keep your feet dry and give you traction in steep or rocky areas.

Nature Center

You Are Here



Map photo taken September 2005