



Rainbow Lake Trail

Seward Ranger District, Chugach National Forest
(907) 224-3374



Recommended Uses
Difficulty Easy
Public Use Low
Length (one way) 0.3 miles

USGS Map Seward B8
Trip Time (one way) 15 minutes
Recommended Season May-October
Elevation Gain 50 feet

Trail Access

At mile 48, Sterling Highway, in the town of Cooper Landing turn onto Snug Harbor Road; travel 9 miles to Cooper Lake Road, 2.5 miles further to parking. Cooper Lake Road is not plowed in winter. Snug Harbor Road may be icy in winter. Parking area capacity is three vehicles, and currently the parking area is too small for motor homes.

Trail is closed to saddle/pack stock April 1 – June 30 and motorized vehicles from May 1-November 30.

Trail Grade/Condition

Level 5' wide gravel trail, without much grade for easier accessibility. Travels through sub-alpine and hemlock terrain.

Recreational Opportunities

This trail provides easy access to Rainbow Lake that offers Rainbow Trout fishing and is an easy hike for small children. A hardened campsite offers tent camping opportunities at the end of the trail. Daisies, cinquefoil, lady's tresses and flowering dogwood are common wildflowers. This trail offers access to the Lost Lake area in winter. Wildlife includes brown and black bear, moose, spruce grouse, wolf, and wolverine. [Review Alaska Department of Fish and Game \(ADF&G\) hunting and fishing regulations.](#)

Special Considerations

Use caution with bear and moose. Giardia (a microscopic parasite that can infect warm-blooded animals and humans) could be present in all open water sources, filter surface water before drinking. Winter travel may be hazardous due to avalanches, thin lake ice, and white out conditions above tree line. Winter travelers need to be able to evaluate avalanche and over-ice travel hazards. Be prepared for rapid weather changes. Remember to pack out your trash. You can contact a U.S. Forest Service office to receive more detailed information on safety precautions and Leave No Trace outdoor skills and ethics.



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Not to scale

A Designated Campsite

Mile 0.5 from trailhead

LEGEND

- Rainbow Lake Trail
- P** Trailhead Parking
- A** Designated Campsite