

Skyline Trail

Round Trip: 2.0 miles
Difficulty: Strenuous
Hiking Time: 3 to 5 hours

U.S.G.S Maps: Kenai C1
Elevation Gain: 1,800 feet
High Point: 2,300 feet



Trailhead: Skyline trailhead is located at mile 61.0 on the Sterling Highway. The parking area is on the south side of the road and the trailhead begins on the north side to the left of the guardrail.

DESCRIPTION: Skyline Trail is a very strenuous route, which provides quick access to mountains in the Mystery Creek Unit of the Kenai Wilderness. The trail begins in forest and emerges above treeline in about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile; it gradually disappears about $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the trailhead in a beautiful alpine area. Hikes to the tops of several nearby peaks are possible, but the area is steep and rocky. This hike is short, but difficult, and recommended only for hearty hikers. Sturdy hiking boots are recommended.

SCENIC VIEWS: Spectacular views of the Kenai Mountains, the Kenai Peninsula lowlands and Cook Inlet are available above timberline. Mt. McKinley (Denali) is visible to the north from the mountains on clear days.

CAMPING: There are no established campsites along the trail, but a number of suitable camping areas can be found. Above timberline no firewood is available and backpacking stoves are a necessity. After snow melts, little or no water is available.

FISHING: There are no fishing opportunities along this trail.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: Berry picking above timberline can be good during late summer. During mid-summer wildflowers are abundant along the trail. Dall sheep, moose, and brown bear sightings are possible on this hike.

WINTER ACTIVITIES: The trail is too steep for skiing and presents challenging snowshoeing. Winter travel in the area is not recommended due to possible avalanche hazard.



Each square = 1 mile