



Iditarod Trail

BEAR LAKE SECTION

Seward Ranger District, Chugach National Forest (907) 288-3178



Map not to Scale

Trail Distances

Bear Lake T.H. to Divide T.H. – 7.5 miles

LEGEND

— Iditarod Trail
P Trailhead Parking



Iditarod Trail – Bear Lake

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Recommended Uses

Difficulty

Public Use

Length (one way)



Moderate

Low

7.5 miles

USGS Map

Trip Time (one way)

Recommended Season

Elevation Gain

Seward A7 NE

4 hours

June-October

700 feet

Trail Access

The south access point is at the end of Bear Lake Road. Turn east at mile 6 Seward Highway. The north end is at mile 12 Seward Highway on the east side just north of the railroad overpass.

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

Trail Grade/Condition

This trail has many steep up and down grades and is recommended for hiking, biking, or snowshoe only. Due to dense tree canopy cover, steep grades and sharp turns, this trail is difficult to travel in winter. In perfect conditions, this trail provides snow machine access to Snow River in the winter at mile 5.9 (winter travel is across frozen Bear Lake).

Recreational Opportunities

The trail travels through dense spruce/hemlock forest with occasional open muskeg crossings. The first 2.3 miles on the south end travels along the wooded shore of Bear Lake. Troop Lake is stocked for fishing and can be accessed via a primitive spur trail at mile 6.3. [Review Alaska Department of Fish and Game \(ADF&G\) hunting and fishing regulations.](#) Wildlife includes moose, wolves, black and brown bears, wolverines and grouse. Blueberry and high bush cranberry can be found along the trail in August and September. Combine with Meridian Lake (Mile 12 Divide T.H.) section of the Iditarod Trail (see trail sheet for Iditarod Trail - Meridian Lake) for a 15.8 mile trip that ends in the Primrose Campground. To access the Meridian Lake section, cross the highway, travel down the highway heading south for 800' to access the next section of Trail.

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. Winter travelers need to be able to evaluate 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 skill and ethics.

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