EAGLE RIVER NATURE CENTER
Chugach State Park, Alaska
Trail Map

Ridak Trail: 75 mile. Easy to moderate. Allow 45 minutes to 1 hour to hike. Accessible by stroller and wheelchair. Short hiking loop trail offering interpretive signs, as well as a beaver viewing deck and salmon viewing deck. Groomed for cross-country skiing in the winter.

Albert Loop Trail: 3 miles. Easy to moderate. Allow 1 to 2 hours to hike. Our most popular hiking trail meanders through a boreal forest landscape, over beaver ponds and along side Eagle River. A published Geology Guide that follows the Albert Loop is available for sale in the Nature Center Store. Trail closed in August-November to allow bears to fish for salmon (inquire at front desk). Groomed for cross-country skiing in winter.

Dew Mound Trail: 6.0 miles or shorter. Moderately strenuous. Allow 4 to 5 hours to complete the 6 mile loop (out to Echo Bend and back). Our longest loop trail, with the option to take four shorter routes. Moderate elevation gain throughout the trail, meanders through a forested boreal landscape and takes you to Dew Mound and Dew Lake. Groomed for cross-country skiing in the winter only on the Iditarod Trail section out to Rapids Camp.

Historic Iditarod Trail or Crow Pass Trail: 23 miles from Nature Center to Girdwood. Moderately strenuous to difficult. First 3 miles out to Echo Bend are easy-moderate. Allow 2 to 3 days to complete entire trail. Incredibly beautiful trail, takes you through Eagle River Valley up and over Crow Pass and down into Girdwood. You must ford Eagle River at the midpoint of the trail (inquire at front desk for water crossing updates). Total elevation gain from Eagle River is 3100 feet. Best time to hike the entire traverse is June through mid-September. Trail is not passable in the winter due to extremely high avalanche danger. Trail groomed for cross-country skiing from the Nature Center to Rapids Camp in the winter.

The following books offer more detailed trail descriptions:

Hiking Alaska by Dean Littlepage
55 Ways to the Wilderness by Helen Nienhuesser & John Wolfe, Jr.
50 Hikes in Alaska's Chugach State Park by Shane Shepherd & Owen Wozniak

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