

DEWEY LAKE TRAIL SYSTEM

This trail system is easily accessible from downtown Skagway by following 2nd Ave. east past the railroad depot. The trailhead is located 400 feet north of 2nd Ave. along the railroad tracks. Ascending to Lower Lake takes approximately 45 minutes; from here, hikers can explore the trails around the lake, and from both the north and south ends of the lake. The extensive trail system offers hikers a variety of trails for short, full day, and overnight hiking.



LOWER DEWEY LAKE

Time:1- 2 hours roundtrip
Distance:0.9 miles (1.4 km) to lake and return roundtrip
3.6 miles (5.8 km) around lake and return
Rating:Moderate
Elevation Gain:.....500 feet (150 meters)

Go east on 2nd Ave. past the railroad depot. Where the railroad tracks cross the road turn left and follow the tracks 400 feet north to the trailhead (beware of trains when crossing the tracks!) A short distance up the hill the trail branches off to the right (continuing straight up the hill is a steep power company maintenance road). Descend the wooden staircase, duck under the water pipe, and continue up the hill. The trail jogs left and crosses a short footbridge. Here the trail continues on a steep uphill for about 350 feet. There is a clearing and rock bench at the top of this incline with a view of town and the harbor. Continue up the steep switchback trail staying generally to the right at intersections. Notice where the trail appears to be going straight ahead but actually turns sharply right. Going straight here leads to a reservoir and trail to the north end of the lake. It is advised to take the sharp right to access the lake. Shortly ahead at the junction sign the terrain levels out. Turn right to walk along the west shore of the lake. Follow the rolling trail to the south end of the lake. Turn left here across the earthen levy and spillway to hike the rougher trail around the east side of the lake, where you will have to scramble over a few rocks before bearing left to rejoin the main trail and return to the trailhead.



ICY LAKE AND UPPER REID FALLS

Time:3 hours roundtrip
Distance:6 miles (9.7 km) roundtrip
Rating:Moderate
Elevation Gain:.....850 feet (260 meters)

At Lower Dewey Lake, turn left at the junction sign and follow the trail north. Cross several wooden footbridges, continuing north through spruce and hemlock forest, past the intersection with the trail to Upper Dewey Lake. Expect muddy places along the shore of Icy Lake, because the north end of the lake is filling with glacial silt. For the last 1/4 mile the trail parallels a pipe diverting water into Icy Lake from Reid Falls. At the falls, use extreme caution around the power company equipment shack and service catwalk. There is no safe way to descend from this point to Lower Reid Falls.



STURGILL'S LANDING

Time:4 hours roundtrip
Distance:7 miles (11.2 km) roundtrip
Rating:Moderate
Elevation Gain:.....500 feet (152 meters)

Climb to Lower Dewey Lake turning right at the junctions sign and follow the trail to the south end of the lake. Here follow the trail to the right (south) through a mixed stand of spruce, hemlock, and lodgepole pine. Just before reaching the stream, the trail splits. Follow the arrow sign to the right for great views and a rocky, but safer descent than the old trail that continues beyond the arrow sign. As you near the water, follow the trail to the right leading toward a picnic table and privy. From here, the trail continues south to the rocky beach. Remains of the sawmill can be seen across the creek.



UPPER DEWEY LAKE

Time:All day
 Distance:6 miles (9.7 km) roundtrip
 Rating:Strenuous
 Elevation Gain:3,100 feet (945 meters)

From Lower Dewey Lake go left at the junction sign, follow the trail north across several wooden footbridges to the Upper Dewey Lake trail junction sign and turn right up the trail. The route climbs steeply through a series of switchbacks. About 800 feet above Lower Dewey Lake there is a view of town. Near the trail's end, the climb eases, and the route follows Dewey Creek closely for a short way. It finally emerges from the trees into a muskeg meadow, where there are views of Mt. Harding and the inlet below. A primitive cabin sits by the lake and is open to the public. Follow the trail to the left from this cabin across a spillway to a new cabin perched on the northwest end of the lake. This cabin is available for rent through the Skagway Recreation Center (907-983-2679, www.skagwayrecreation.org). Overnight campers should carry a cooking stove and not cut any live wood.



DEVIL'S PUNCHBOWL

Time:All Day
 2 hours roundtrip from Upper Dewey Lake
 Distance:8.5 miles (13.7 km)
 2.5 miles (4 km) round trip from Upper Dewey Lake
 Rating:Strenuous
 Elevation Gain:3,700 feet (1,130 meters)
 600 feet (180 meters) from Upper Dewey Lake

From Upper Dewey Lake, follow the narrow footpath south from the primitive cabin up the alpine ridge to a spectacular overlook. Watch for rock cairns where the trail crosses boulder fields. Devil's Punchbowl is a tarn nestled in a deep, rocky bowl, but it is not a recommended camping spot.



LONGER AND MORE CHALLENGING TRAILS

CHILKOOT TRAIL

Time:3 to 5 days
 Distance:33 miles (53 km) Dyea to Lake Bennett
 Rating:Strenuous
 Elevation Gain:3,739 feet (1,140 meters)

Skagway's most famous trail, the 33 mile Chilkoot Trail follows the route that thousands of stampedeers traversed over one-hundred years ago during the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898. Huge tent cities mushroomed on the trail as stampedeers struggled to get their goods over the pass. Many items from the trail have been preserved by the National Park Service. Artifacts, including large objects such as boat skeletons and telegraph cables can be seen along the trail. The route of the stampedeers, from salt water at Skagway and Dyea through the coastal mountains to the Canadian interior, is one of unsurpassed beauty.



Plan this trip well in advance and take the following information into consideration. The Chilkoot Trail is administered jointly by the National Park Service and by Parks Canada who issue the required permits.

Reservations are required for the Chilkoot Trail. For detailed information, maps, current trail conditions and to obtain a trail permit visit the National Park Service Trail Center in Skagway at 2nd and Broadway (907-983-9234, June-Sept), call Parks Canada Reservations (1-800-661-0486) or visit www.nps.gov/klgo and www.pc.gc.ca/chilkoot.

The WP&YR railroad offers a Chilkoot trail hiker's service from Lake Bennett. Purchase a ticket from the WP&YR (at depot on 2nd Ave., 1-800-343-7373, or www.wpyr.com).



A.B. MOUNTAIN

Time:All day
 Distance: ..10 miles (16 km) roundtrip from trailhead on Dyea Road
 Rating:Difficult / Strenuous
 Elevation Gain:4,900 feet (1,500) meters

From the trailhead on Dyea Road, the route follows the ridgeline through spruce and hemlock forest to the base of AB Mountain. About 30 minutes into the hike, a good view of Skagway can be seen from a large rock just off the trail to the right. Beyond the stream crossing, the trail may not be clearly visible because of thick brush. Be sure to note landmarks for your return. Above tree line, some rock cairns mark the way, but the trail is easily lost on steep rocky slopes, switchbacks, and heavy brush and vegetation. Do not cross patches of ice-go around them. When you reach alpine meadows, the panoramic views are spectacular. WARNING: This trail is dangerous above tree line. Do not attempt it when weather may obscure the summit.



FLAGSTOP TRAILS

The Denver and Laughton Glacier trails are located out of town 5.8 and 14 miles up the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad. The railroad offers daily flagstop service May-September; purchase tickets in advance (at depot on 2nd Ave., 1-800-343-7373, or www.wpyr.com). The U.S. Forest Service (www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass) maintains cabins on both trails. To reserve call 1-877-444-6777 or visit or www.reserveusa.com.

*These trails are used for commercially guided day hikes.



LAUGHTON GLACIER

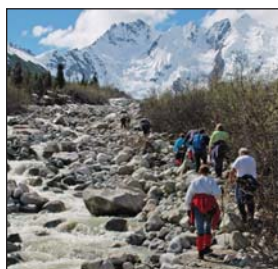
Time:All day, or reserve USFS cabin

Distance:3-5 miles (5-8 km) round trip from railroad flag stop

Rating:Moderate (difficult beyond trail end)

Elevation Gain:200-600 feet (60-185 meters)

The trail begins from the flag stop at mile 14 of the WP&YR railroad. The trail heads east along Skagway River toward the Warm Pass valley. The trail meanders along the river and through a subalpine forest for 2 miles, gaining 500 feet in elevation as you head towards the cabin. Prior to reaching the cabin there is a fork in the trail on the right that heads south up to the lookout (if not using the cabin, please take this route to minimize impact to cabin users). As you head up to the lookout, there is a fork in the trail that goes to the right; this is the access to the lateral moraine. Stay left to reach the lookout and the first views of the glacier. From here the trail leads through alder to the riverbed. The trail fades as you continue up the riverbed until it takes a right turn back into the alder. Continue climbing until the alder fades away and you reach the base of the glacier. The trail disappears here, but you can access the ice by picking your way up the talus field on the right. This area is always changing so exercise extreme caution when traveling through the talus field. Once on the glacier, travel gets easier but remains rocky. Use extreme caution in venturing out on the glacier, especially during spring and summer thaws and fresh snow that may conceal crevasses.



The lateral moraine trail leaves the main trail on the right as you head to the lookout. This trail is difficult and climbs high above the glacier with no access to the ice. This is only recommended for people with extensive hiking experience! The trail climbs through a large talus field thick with alder growth, eventually giving way to a narrow trail atop the moraine that fades into the alpine tundra. It is important to note that the moraine is very narrow, very steep, unstable in places, and has a lot of exposure on both sides!

DENVER GLACIER

Time:All day, or reserve USFS caboose cabin

Distance:4-6 miles (6-10 km) roundtrip from railroad flag stop

Rating:Moderate (difficult beyond trail end)

Elevation Gain:1,200 feet (360 meters)

The trail begins from the flag stop at mile 5.8 on the WP&YR railroad. The trail leaves the tracks at the caboose and parallels the east fork of the Skagway River, climbing slowly for 1.5 miles through an immature birch and hemlock forest until you reach a nice view of the Skagway River and the Sawtooth range. From here, the trail begins to climb more steeply for another 1.5 miles, eventually giving way to a large stand of old growth spruce and hemlocks until it turns right and heads up to Lower Elway Falls. From the lower falls you leave the old growth and climb steeply south up the valley through more immature forest that gives way to thick alder. The upper 2.5 miles of the trail receives little use and is often overgrown with alder and fern. The trail dead ends at the end of a box canyon with spectacular views of the hanging seracs of the Denver Glacier and Upper Elway Falls.



NEAR TOWN TRAILS

YAKUTANIA POINT

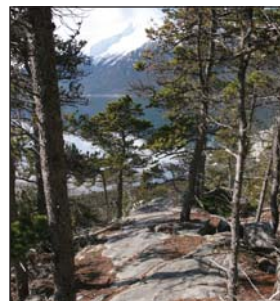
Time:1 hour roundtrip

Distance:1.6 miles (2.6 km) roundtrip

Rating:Easy

Elevation Gain:20 feet (6 meters)

Walk west along 1st Ave., turn left at Main St. and travel south two blocks. Follow the sidewalk west past the airport terminal. Cross the Skagway River on the footbridge and turn left, following the trail through alders and past the exercise stations. Past exercise station #4 the footpath narrows and ascends rock steps. Continue along past the privy and down more rock steps, past the picnic shelter where rock outcroppings provide a view looking down the Lynn Canal toward the Chilkat Mountains. There is a covered picnic shelter and privy at this site.



SMUGGLER'S COVE

Time:1-2 hours roundtrip
 Distance:2 miles (3.2 km) roundtrip
 Rating:Moderate
 Elevation Gain:.....100 feet (30 meters)

Follow the Yakutania Point route to the rocky plateau just before the privy, and look for a trail leading off to the right. This trail goes through mixed coastal forest to a grassy tidal inlet with the legendary name of "Smuggler's Cove."



There is a picnic shelter and a privy at this peaceful site. Return to Skagway by the route back through the forest or walk up the grassy slope to the dirt road. Turning left where the dirt road splits will take you to the Dyea Road, turning right will return you to exercise station #4 on the Yakutania Point Trail.



GOLD RUSH CEMETERY AND LOWER REID FALLS

Time:2 hours roundtrip
 Distance:4 miles (6.4 km) roundtrip
 Rating:Easy
 Elevation Gain:.....50 feet (15 meters)

Follow Main St. or Alaska St. north to 23rd Ave. and the railroad yards. Cross over 23rd Ave. and follow the gravel road around and behind the railroad yards. Continue to follow the road across the railroad tracks. The cemetery is located in the woods just past the parking area. A short forest trail behind the cemetery leads to spectacular Lower Reid Falls. Beware of vehicles and trains when walking to the cemetery! There is a privy located in the parking area.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Overnight camping is permissible on all trails. Permits are required for the Chilkoot Trail and can be obtained at the Trail Center on Broadway. A free permit must be obtained at the Skagway City Police station located at 1st and State St. for camping at Yakutania Point, Smuggler's Cove, AB Mountain, in Dyea, and along the Dewey Lake Trail System.

Build fires only in designated fire pits and never leave a fire burning. Do not cut live trees for fires.

You are in bear country! Stay alert, make noise, do not approach or feed bears, keep food and smells away from bears. If you do encounter a bear, stay calm, talk calmly and firmly, back away slowly and never run.

Please pack out all garbage and leave nothing behind.

