

# Hiking Trails in Juneau

## A Visitor's Introduction

- Summer temperatures average in the low 60's.
- Hikers should be prepared for Juneau's frequently wet and cool weather.
- Waterproof hiking boots are recommended.
- If you plan to hike alone, let someone know your plans and when you expect to return.
- Avoid getting lost and help protect sensitive ecosystems by hiking only on the trails.
- While encounters with bears are rare, it helps to be aware and prepared.

## Downtown Area

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### **Mt Roberts Trail** (4.5 miles to summit, 8 hours, 3,800' elevation gain)

This moderately difficult trail begins above downtown Juneau on Basin Road, just beyond the wooden trestle bridge. The trail climbs steadily from beginning to end. An overlook with great views of Juneau is 20 minutes in. The first 2 miles of the trail are forested. The Mt. Roberts tramway operates during the summer and intersects the trail at 1,800 feet. Beyond the tram, hikers are rewarded with spectacular views as the forest gives way to alpine tundra.

### **Flume Trail** (1.5 miles boardwalk, 30 minutes)

The start of the flume trail is opposite the Mount Roberts Trailhead, on the other side of the road. This flat, wooden bridged trail winds through the tree line and ends at a small residential neighborhood.

### **Perseverance Trails** (3 miles one way, 3-4 hours, 700' elevation gain)

Continue following Basin Road until the road ends at a cul-de-sac, where Perseverance Trail begins. This trail gently slopes upward into Silverbow Basin, the location of the historic Perseverance mine. Ebner Falls is about one mile from the trailhead.

Perseverance Trail branches off to the more challenging **Granite Creek Trail** (7 miles roundtrip, 3-4 hours) and the steep and strenuous **Mount Juneau Trail** (12 miles round trip, 10 hours).

## Douglas Island

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### **Dan Moller Trail** (3 miles one way, 3-5 hours, 1,800' elevation gain)

The trailhead is located a short distance from downtown Juneau by bus, approximately three blocks from the closest bus stop at Cordova & Foster streets on Douglas Island. Turn left onto Pioneer Avenue and you'll see the trail sign by the 5th and 6th house on the right. Boards and planking along the trail are slippery when wet. This moderate hike affords good views and wildflowers in season and ends at the Dan Moller Forest Service cabin.

### **Treadwell Historic Trail**

Located along Sandy Beach, this self-exploratory trail is primarily flat and very interesting. It is .51 miles to the Glory Hole and .57 miles to the cave-in cove. A map that describes mining ruins along the trail is available at the City Museum (\$1.00). It is very important to stay on the trail. The entire area is honeycombed with tunnels, pits and remains from mining days.

## Mendenhall Glacier

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### **East Glacier Trail** (3.5 mile loop, 2-3 hours, 400' elevation gain)

This looped trail branches off the Trail of Time behind the Glacier Visitor Center and winds through dense vegetation, gaining views of the glacier along the way.

**Steep Creek, Nugget Falls, Trail of Time** and other milder walks are all accessible from the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center. *See the Mendenhall Glacier handout for additional information.*

# Auke Bay/"Out the Road"

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## **Spaulding Trail** (3 miles one way, 5.5 hours, 1,800' elevation gain)

The trailhead is located on Glacier Highway, approximately 12.5 miles from downtown and 1/2 mile from the nearest bus stop - near DeHart's Store at Auke Bay. Beautiful views of ocean and subalpine and muskeg meadows reward the hiker of this moderately difficult hike.

## **Auk Nu / John Muir Trail** (3 miles one way, 5.5 hours, 1,552' elevation gain)

This trail branches off at .8 miles of the Spaulding Trail and ends at the John Muir Forest Service cabin. The trail is great for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing in the winter. A map or local guide is highly recommended in the meadows.

# Easily Accessible Strolls & Hikes

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## **Channel Drive Waterfront Access**

Located about 4 miles north of downtown by DIPAC and stretching along the Gastineau Channel; this is a great place to learn about sea life and the life cycle of salmon. Accessible public docks and walkways make it a fun location to explore and watch for birds and sea critters.

## **Mendenhall Glacier**

Many trails and viewing areas, as well as the Visitor Center, are easily accessed.

*See the Mendenhall Glacier handout for additional information.*

## **Twin Lakes Recreation Area**

Located about 3 miles north of downtown on Glacier Highway, this paved trail skirts grassy hillsides and two small lakes.

## **Airport Dike Trail** (1.2 miles one-way, 1-2 hours, minimal elevation gain)

This wheelchair and stroller accessible trail through Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge has outstanding bird watching. Paved and very well maintained, Airport Dike Trail is a local favorite for dog walkers, cyclists, joggers, and parents with young children.

## **Auke Lake Trail** (1.1 miles one way, minimal elevation gain)

Located along the shore of Auke Lake at 12 mi. Glacier Hwy, the trail is constructed of compacted gravel. It is generally flat except for about 500' of 6% grade at the trailhead. People in wheelchairs may need assistance for this portion.

## **Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei (Mendenhall River Trail)** (2 miles one way, 1-2 hours, minimal elevation gain)

Located at approx. 10 mi. Glacier Hwy., just past the Brotherhood Bridge, the well paved pathway runs along the Mendenhall River. This heavily used trail provides access to fishing holes, wildflowers, and occasional small mammal sightings.

## **Rainforest Trail** (.8 miles one way, 30-45 minutes, minimal elevation gain)

Located on North Douglas, the trail cuts through the lush rainforest and is newly graded for wheelchairs adapted for gravel/heavier terrain.

# Further Information

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**Juneau Parks and Recreation** (907.586.0428) organizes free guided hikes on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

**Gastineau Guiding** (907.586.8231), **Adventure Flow** (855.610.9724) and **Above & Beyond Alaska** (907.364.2333) are local companies that specialize in guided hiking tours.

**Juneau Trails** by Alaska Natural History Association and the USDA Forest Service

**90 Short Walks Around Juneau** by Mary Lou King with Taku Conservation Society and Trail Mix

**Outdoor Safety and Trail Etiquette** by Trail Mix

**Alaska's Inside Passage | Wildlife Viewing Guide** by Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game and USDA Forest Service

*Trail books and maps are available at the US Forest Service (907-586-8800), the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center, and at local bookstores. |*

*Interactive maps can be located at: [www.fs.usda.gov/r10](http://www.fs.usda.gov/r10)*

