

MOUNT RIPINSKY TRAIL

Breathtaking views of Lynn Canal await as you make your way to the north peak at 3920 feet.

How do I find the trailhead?

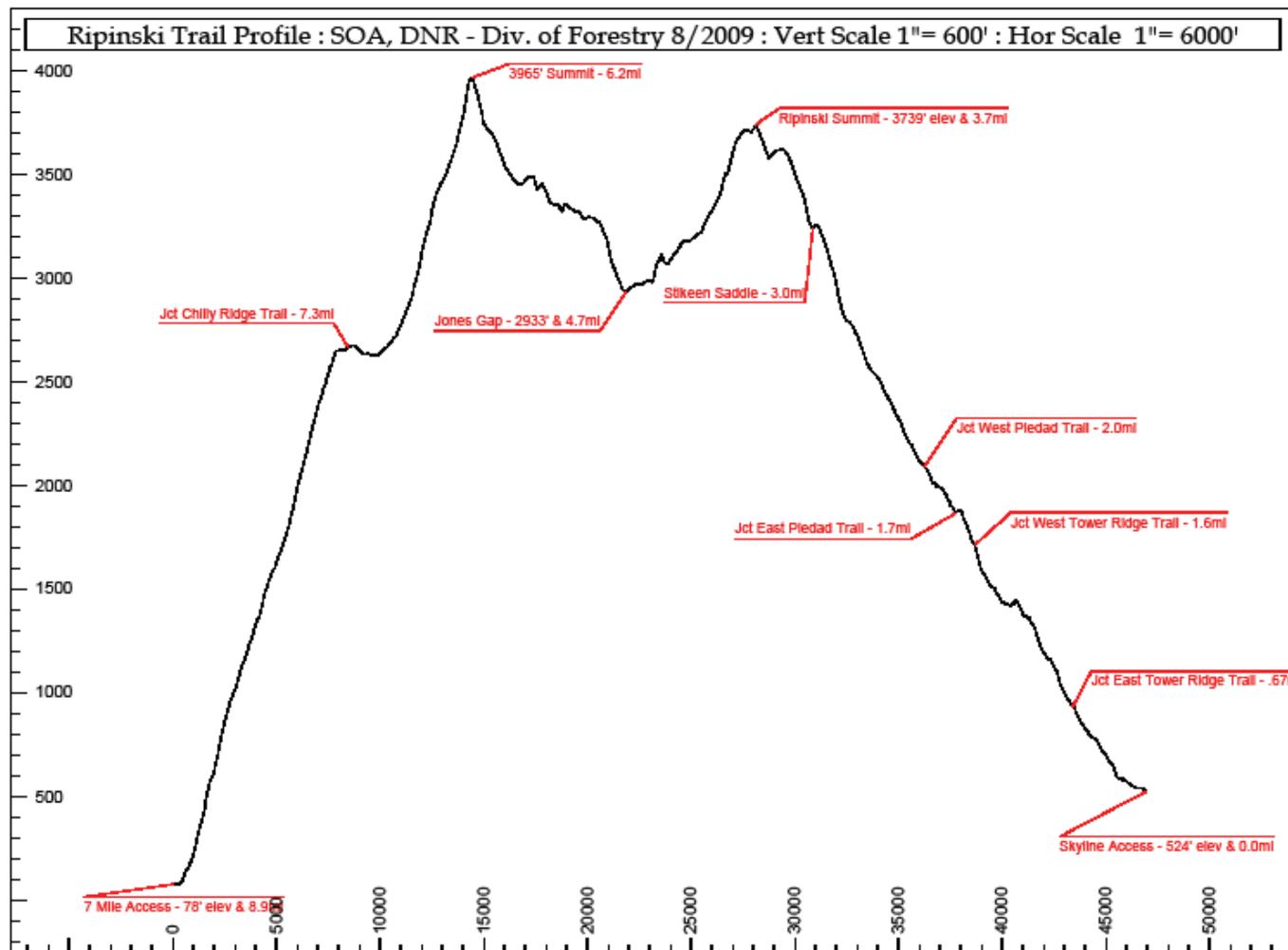
There are three trailheads to take you up the mountain.

1. Closest to town is the trailhead that begins at the end of Skyline Road, which is located off Young Road/Second Avenue.

There's a small area for parking on the right hand side of the road. A dirt path leads to the trailhead on your left.

2. Another trailhead is located at the end of Piedad Road about 1.5 miles on the Haines Highway north of town. This is the most direct trail, which means few switchbacks and a challenging vertical climb. Many locals enjoy snowshoeing this trail in the winter.

3. Another approach is located at 7-mile Haines Highway or what locals refer to as the 7-mile Saddle trailhead. Most people park along the highway near the trail marker. The trail begins with a boardwalk which takes you across the muskeg then climbs by series of switchbacks with lodgepole pines and thickets of local flora and blueberry bushes eventually opening into brush and mountain hemlock at about 2000 feet. Good water is available in the forest and there is a tiny seasonal spring just before you reach the 7-mile saddle. The saddle is a great place to camp. From here, the climb is steep to the summit of Peak 3920 where you'll experience stunning views. Most people allow 4 to 5 hours to reach this point. The ridge running east connects with Ripinsky and drops to about 2800 feet. In early summer, snowmelt water may still be found along the ridge. In bad weather and spring snows, following the trail onto the north peak of Ripinsky can be tricky. It winds onto the northwest side of the summit and can also be hard to locate from the peak going west. This is where a map and compass come in handy. This hike is about 10 miles from the 7-mile trailhead to Main Street and takes in a traverse of peak 3920 and Mt. Ripinsky. *If you plan to do the entire trail, allow 8 to 10 hours.*



How challenging is the trail?

Very challenging! For experienced hikers, getting to the summit takes about 3 to 5 hours. Families usually plan to make it an all-day adventure. If you're worried about your knees, hiking poles are recommended. Don't forget to check the weather forecast and plan appropriately. The trail can get quite muddy so a sturdy pair of hiking boots is recommended. It never hurts to carry rain gear, especially if you're planning on taking more than one day to hike the trail.