

Know Before You Go

Wildlife Encounters

Bears, moose, and other wildlife live around Haines, and it is always possible to encounter them when hiking. To avoid dangerous wildlife encounters follow these guidelines:

- Hike with others, never alone
- Make Noise (talk, sing, etc... so you don't surprise any wildlife)
- Carry bear spray and know how to use it
- Never approach or feed wildlife, keep any food you have on your person.
- If you encounter a bear, never run. Walk away slowly, facing it, using a calm voice to let it know you're human.
- If you encounter a moose, walk away slowly, and find an object (rock or tree) to hide behind if it charges.

Hiking Essentials

Hiking in Alaska is inherently more dangerous than elsewhere due to the remoteness, climate, wildlife, and other factors. It's advised you always travel with the following essentials:

- Bear Spray
- Navigation (phone and/or map)
- Hydration
- Food/Nutrition
- First Aid Kit
- Sun Protection
- Rain Gear and Insulation
- Headlamp

Land Stewardship

These trails are on the unceded land and traditional territories of Lingít peoples, who have been stewarding these places since time immemorial. We request that you please honor, recognize, and respect the Jiḻkáat K'wáan and Ḻk'oot K'wáan (Chilkat and Chilkoot peoples) for their traditions, knowledges, and ways of being that have sustained this land for over 10,000 years. Please leave no trace of your visit, and do your best not to disturb any of the flora and fauna who call this place home.



Battery Point Trailhead

Battery Point Time: 1.5-3 Hours
Distance: 3.6 Miles Round Trip to Battery Point
Elevation Gain: 400 Ft
Difficulty: Easy
Other Info: This trailhead provides access to the East Riley Trail if you're looking to add some summit views to your hike or through hike to the West Riley Trailhead.

What to Expect: The Battery Point Trail meanders through gorgeous spruce and hemlock forest before eventually leading down to the beach before Kelgaya Point. From here, you'll enjoy stunning views of the Lynn Canal.

East Riley Time: 4-6 Hours
Distance: 7.4 Miles Round Trip to Mt. Riley
Elevation Gain: 1,800 Ft
Difficulty: Moderate

West Riley Trail

Time: 3-4 Hours
Distance: 5.1 Miles Round Trip to Mt. Riley
Elevation Gain: 1,519 Ft
Difficulty: Moderate (Recommended Route)

What to Expect: 360 degree views from the highest point on the Haines Peninsula. From this point, you can see Dyea (near Skagway), the Chilkat River Valley, numerous glaciers and mountain ranges.

Lily Lake Trail

Time: 2-4 Hours
Distance: 3.8 Miles Round Trip to Lily Lake
Elevation Gain: 530 Ft
Difficulty: Easy/Moderate
What to Expect: Stop along the way to enjoy views of the Chilkat River Delta and Pyramid Island before continuing on to the lake.



Mt. Ripinski Trail System

What to Expect: The Ripinski Trail System boasts some of the most incredible views in Alaska. There are three trailheads, each of which vary in terms of difficulty and offerings. All three trails begin in the lush temperate rainforest, where moss-draped trees and an abundance of plant life create a serene green canopy. Once you reach treeline around 2,000ft, expansive views of the Chilkat River Delta, Lynn Canal, Haines Peninsula, and the surrounding mountain ranges prevail. Snow may persist at upper elevations on the trails through mid-July, so be prepared for muddy and snowy sections. There are numerous spots for dispersed camping above treeline if you're looking to make a multi-day adventure out of your hike. Keep your distance from all wildlife to prevent disturbance.

Skyline Trailhead

Time: 5-7 Hours
Distance: 7.9 Miles Round Trip to Ripinski
Elevation Gain: 3,241 Ft
Difficulty: Hard (Recommended Route)
Other Info: The Skyline Trailhead provides the easiest access to Mount Ripinski.

Piedad Trailhead

Time: 4-7 Hours
Distance: 5 Miles Round Trip to Ripinski
Elevation Gain: 3,370 Ft
Difficulty: Very Hard (Steep)
Other Info: The Piedad Trail is extremely steep. However, it's the shortest way up to Ripinski.

7-Mile Trailhead

Time: 5-7 Hours Round Trip to Shakuseyi, 7-10 Round Trip to Ripinski,
Distance: 6 Miles Round Trip to Shakuseyi, 11.2 Miles Round Trip to Ripinski
Elevation Gain: 3,900 Ft
Difficulty: Very Hard (Steep)
Other Info: The 7-Mile Trail starts out steep, but allows for quick access into the alpine. From the 7-Mile Saddle (1.9m into the trail), you can continue towards Shakuseyi and Mount Ripinski, or choose to turn left towards Tukgahgo Mountain. Be advised that the Tukgahgo Route and 7-Mile trail are both unmarked and minimally maintained. The Tukga Hut, a public-use cabin built by Haines Huts and Trails, sits 0.4 miles into the Tukgahgo Route. Visit haineshuts.org to reserve the cabin or learn more.

Ayiklutu Trail

Time: 8-12 Hours Round Trip
Distance: 12.8 Miles Round Trip to Ayiklutu
Elevation Gain: 1,900 Ft
Difficulty: Easy then Moderate
Other Info: The first 4 miles from the trailhead to David's Cove are well maintained and easy to follow. Beyond that, the route becomes more rugged, with no marked trail as it continues along the beach and rocky coastline. We recommend using a GPS mapping app like AllTrails or Gaia and travelling at low tides. The trail features striking views of the Davidson Glacier and the Chilkat Inlet, with opportunities to see marine mammals, moose, bears, and a variety of birds.

