

Lower Dewey Lake



© Peg Bethany

Lower Dewey Lake

Time: 1-2 hours roundtrip
Rating: Moderate
Distance: 0.5 miles (0.72 km) to lake
2.7 miles (4.4 km) around lake
Elevation Gain: 500 ft (150 meters)

Access

From 2nd Ave. head east past the railroad depot. Continue past Spring St. towards the railroad tracks. Just before the tracks, look for the Dewey Lake Trail System signpost. Turn left onto the footpath which follows Pullen Creek. Continue along the creek 400 feet north and cross the footbridge and railroad tracks to the trailhead (be cautious of trains when crossing the tracks).

Trail Description

This trail switchbacks steeply for about 500 feet (0.5 mile) along the forested hillside. Not far up the trail there is a rock bench which provides a view of town and the harbor. The trail winds past a city reservoir and then continues on to the Lower Dewey Lake loop. A rolling trail along the west side of the lake leads to an earthen levee and spillway and continues on to the rougher and narrower east side of the loop.

Good views of the Twin Dewey Peaks (5,410 ft) may be had from all points of the lake. A number of picnic tables lay along the trail and sandy beach spots provide opportunities for swimming, fishing and non-motorized boating.

Northern Coastal Forest

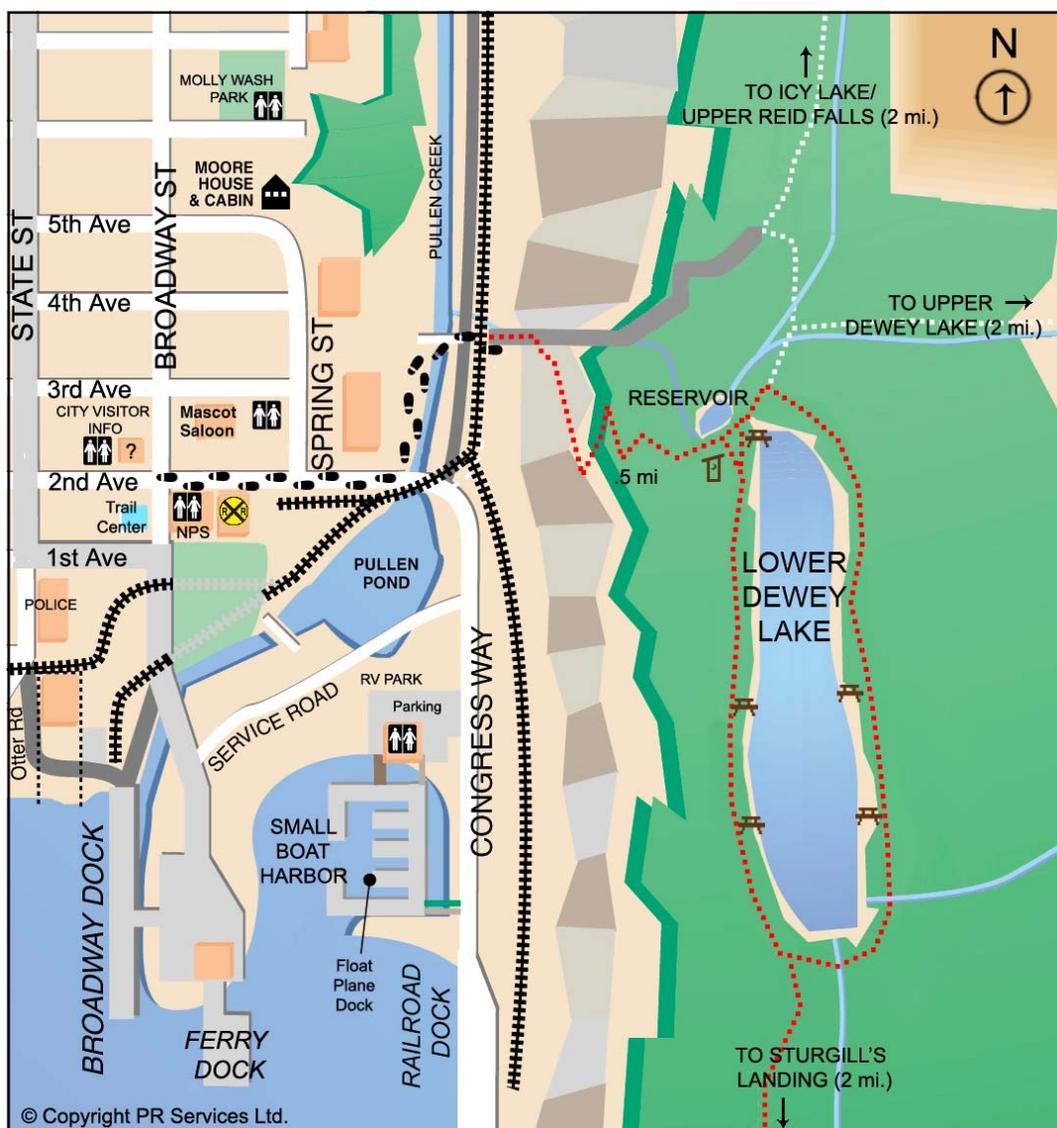
This hillside is covered with dense stands of alder, cottonwood, hemlock and Sitka spruce, most of which are second-growth. Understory plants such as mosses, ferns and devils club flourish in the mild marine climate.

Wildflowers: A multitude of dazzling wildflowers can be seen including Bunchberry, Claspings Twisted-Stalk and Starry Cassiope.

Animals: Keep an eye out for American Dippers, Varied Thrushes (known for the various pitched whistles sounding in the forest), Tree Swallow and Spruce Grouse.

Additional Information

- Overnight camping is permissible around Lower Dewey Lake. Permits are not required.
- Build fires only in designated fire pits and never leave a fire.
- You are in bear country! Stay alert, make noise and do not approach or feed bears. Try to keep food smells away from bears. If you do encounter a bear, stay calm, talk calmly and firmly, back away slowly and never run.



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Yakutania Point & Smuggler's Cove



Yakutania Point

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Time: 1-2 hours roundtrip
Rating: Easy to Moderate
Distance: 0.8 miles (1.3 km) to Yakutania Point
 1.0 miles (1.6 km) to Smuggler's Cove
Elevation Gain: 20 ft (6 meters) to Yakutania Point
 100 ft (30 meters) to Smuggler's Cove

Access

From 1st Ave. head west to Main St. Turn left at the airport fence and continue south for two blocks. Turn right and continue west past the airport terminal. Cross the Skagway River on the footbridge and follow the trail signs to Yakutania Point. To continue to Smuggler's Cove follow the trail to the right just before the privy.

Trail Description

Following the coast line, this trail passes through patches of alder, cottonwood, hemlock and Sitka spruce. A short distance in the trail narrows to a footpath with ascending and descending rock steps. Winding past the privy, the trail leads to a picnic shelter and continues on to rock outcroppings which provide an excellent view down the Lynn Canal towards the Chilkat Mountains. The trail to Smuggler's Cove continues from the privy along the west side of the point, crossing through mixed coastal forest and opening out into a grassy tidal inlet with the legendary name "Smuggler's Cove". There is a picnic shelter and privy at this peaceful site.



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Smuggler's Cove



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Northern Coastal Forest

The coastal rainforests of Southeast Alaska are characterized by plentiful moisture and lush vegetation. Here, dense stands of alder, cottonwood, hemlock and Sitka spruce as well as understory plants such as mosses, ferns and devils club flourish in the mild marine climate.

Wildflowers: A multitude of dazzling colored wildflowers can be seen along the coast including Beach Pea, Western Columbine, Single Delight and Villous Cinquefoil.

Animals: Be sure to look for Bald Eagles, terns and various ducks. Harbor seals and river otters are sometimes seen swimming just offshore. Whales, sea lions and bears are also occasionally spotted in this area.

Additional Information

- Overnight camping is not permitted at Yakutania Point or Smuggler's Cove.
- Build fires only in designated fire pits and never leave a fire.