

Caribou Creek Trail

Wrangell-St.Elias National Park and Preserve

National Park Service
US Department of the Interior



Location: Trailhead located at Mile 19.5 on the north side of the Nabesna Road. Parking for Caribou Creek is located at mile 19.25 on the north side of the road.

Maps: Trails Illustrated, Nabesna 1:63,360 (C-5)

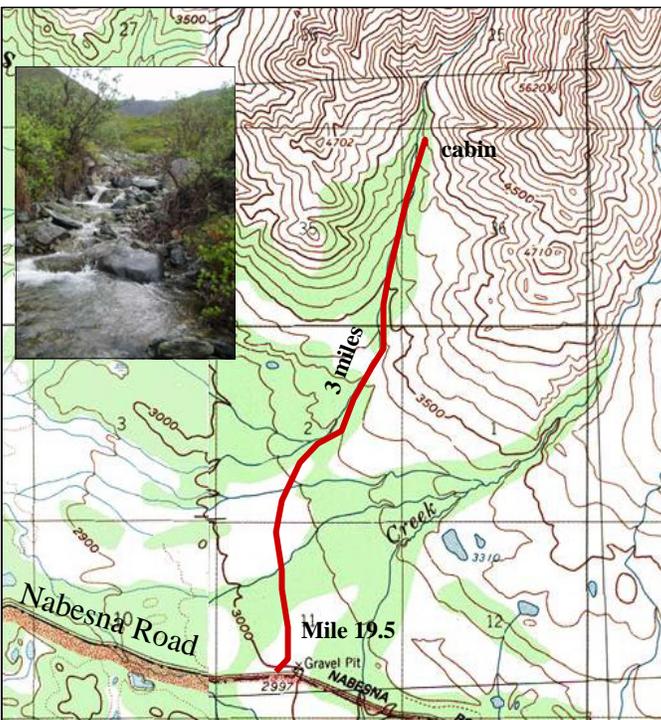
Distance: Total round-trip is approximately six miles. Allow three hours for the round-trip and more time to do some exploring.

Highlights: Easy roadside access, easy trail, spectacular scenery, solitude, wildlife.

Route:

The trail proceeds in a northeast direction towards the hills. Total elevation gain is only 800' over 4 miles. The trail is an ATV route, but easy to walk. The beginning of the trail goes through the valley bottom with low tundra vegetation. Views are great. As the trail continues the forest surrounds the trail with spruce, alder, and willow. After two miles, Caribou Creek first crosses the trail and then will cross the trail 3-4 more times. None of these crossings are difficult, though the level of the water changes with the season and persons crossing should use caution.

At the end of the ATV trail there is a rickety plywood shack which people can use on a first-come, first-served basis. The shack is small and very rustic, but has bunks inside for three people. At the cabin, game trails continue into the surrounding hills and provide opportunity for exploring the area and enjoying the scenery.



Features: There are a wide variety of wildflowers that grow along the trail. Look for blue bells, prickly rose, and Alaska cottongrass. This area is also very rich in wildlife. Look for abundant sign of moose, caribou, brown and black bear, wolves, and porcupine.



A "rustic" cabin

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