

Skookum Volcano Trail

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

National Park Service
US Department of the Interior



Roadside access, spectacular scenery, intriguing geology, wildlife viewing, and alpine tundra make the Skookum Volcano Trail a rewarding adventure.

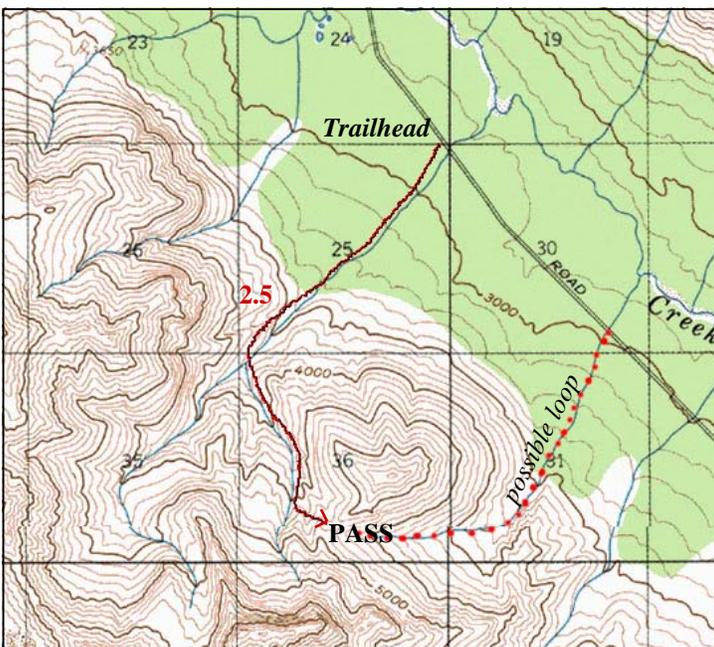


Maps: USGS Quadrangle Maps—Nabesna B-5, 1:63,360

Distance: The trail is 2.5 miles to a beautiful high pass. Although the trail doesn't continue, one could continue over the pass and complete a loop back to the parking area which adds another 3 miles. The return loop requires difficult walking through a steep, rocky streambed.

Highlights: Roadside access, wildlife, spectacular scenery, alpine plants, volcanic geology.

Access: The Skookum Volcano Trail leaves the Nabesna Road at mile 36.8. From the beginning elevation of 3,000', it rises to an elevation of 5,800'. This trail leads through an extinct, deeply eroded volcanic system and provides an opportunity to examine picturesque volcanic geology.



Erosion has exposed dramatic examples of rhyolite and dacite domes, andesite lava flows, vents, and many erosion-resistant dikes.



Volcanic features abound

Skookum Volcano to Rambler Mine

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Your feet may get wet



Search for Dall Sheep on the surrounding mountainsides



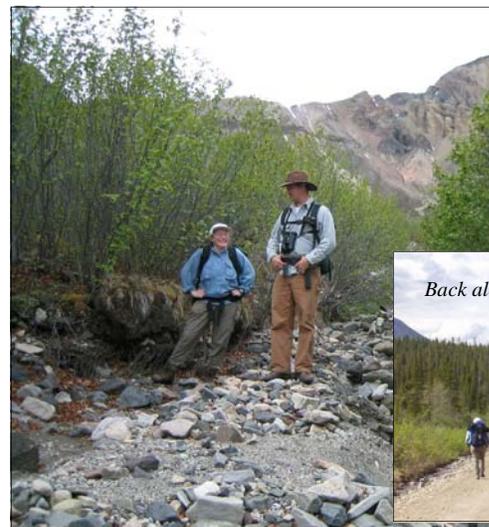
Route: From the trailhead, the trail leads up an alluvial fan, through white spruce forest and alder for approximately 0.8 mile. The trail surface is gravel/cobble and dry. From this point, the route enters a creek bed. Hikers should watch for rock cairns that indicate the correct route. Be aware that the level of the creek fluctuates dramatically, depending on seasonal rains, temperature, and time of year. Your feet will probably get wet. Appropriate footwear is necessary.

After one mile from the trailhead, the creek splits. Rock cairns lead along the left fork, which heads to the pass. Because of fragile alpine tundra plants, the last section of trail is not constructed or maintained. Hikers should spread out to distribute their impact and avoid forming trails.

Enjoy the panoramic views while searching for Dall sheep and arctic ground squirrels on surrounding hillsides. From the pass, hikers can explore the alpine tundra, retrace their route back to the trailhead, or follow an unmarked cobble creek bed (rough walking) to the south which eventually meets the Nabesna Road at a turnout at mile 38.3. Once back at the road, you are 1.4 miles from the main trailhead.



Alpine splendor



Very rough hiking in the cobble stream bed!



Back along the road