

Lost Creek Trail

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve



Access: Road access via the Nabesna Road. Trailhead is at mile 31.2, just past where Lost Creek flows across the road. There is a small parking area for your car.

Distance: The maintained trail is about 7 miles one-way. Up to the pass (and the start of Trail Creek) is about 10 miles one-way.

Time: 8-10 hours to go all the way up to the pass and back. Hikers can choose any distance that they want, to make a shorter hike.

Maps: USGS Maps-Nabesna (C-5) 1:63,360; Nabesna 1:250,000

Difficulty: Easy to moderately difficult, due to walking in a rocky creek bed and climbing tundra hills.

Highlights: Road access, spectacular scenery, alpine tundra, flowers, wildlife. Keep your eyes out for sheep, as this is a favorite area for them.

Route: Start in the Lost Creek trailhead parking area at mile 31.2 and follow the trail that goes through the woods, then continue onto the wide creek bed where the trail peters out. The creek bed is very wide and easy to travel, though you will need to cross the creek a few times. When the valley starts to narrow you want to start looking for a good place to hike up the west side of the valley, as an impassable ravine is coming shortly. As you go up the valley, there is no trail and route finding is a necessity, especially as you get closer to the pass. It is easiest to stay on the creek bed after the ravines. As you get closer to the pass there are nice tundra benches which lead up to the pass. There are many opportunities for exploration in side valleys and drainages.

Hazards: On warm summer days, the creek may be low in the early morning but rise several feet during the day. An easy morning ford may be impassable by the late afternoon. Also, the creek level can rise suddenly during and after rain storms. The lower 5-6 miles of Lost Creek is very rocky and can be a test of ankles & feet! Be prepared for areas of scrambling on scree slopes. Bears ARE present in this area.

Notes: There are two creeks on the Nabesna road to drive across, Trail Creek and Lost Creek. Check current road conditions before starting out. This is a popular hunting destination, especially in August. Please be aware that ATV use is permitted on this trail.

This hike can be extended into a 2-3 day backpacking loop route from the Lost Creek drainage to the Trail Creek drainage. Please see a park ranger for more details.



Lost Creek Drainage

