DEWEY LAKE TRAIL SYSTEM

This trail system is easily accessible from downtown Skagway by following 2nd Ave. east past the railroad depot. The trailhead is located 400 feet north of 2nd Ave. along the railroad tracks. Ascending to Lower Lake takes approximately 45 minutes; from here, hikers can explore the trails around the lake, and from both the north and south ends of the lake. The extensive trail system offers hikers a variety of trails for short, full day, and overnight hiking.

LOWER DEWEY LAKE

Time: ............................................................1-2 hours roundtrip
Distance: ........................................0.9 miles (1.4 km) to lake and return
3.6 miles (5.8 km) around lake and return
Rating: .............................................................Moderate
Elevation Gain: ..........................................500 feet (150 meters)

Go east on 2nd Ave. past the railroad depot. Where the railroad tracks cross the road turn left and follow the tracks 400 feet north to the trailhead (beware of trains when crossing the tracks!). A short distance up the hill the trail branches off to the right (continuing straight up the hill is a steep power company maintenance road). Descend the wooden staircase, duck under the water pipe, and continue up the hill. The trail jogs left and crosses a short footbridge. Here the trail continues on a steep uphill for about 350 feet. There is a clearing and rock bench at the top of the incline with a view of town and the harbor. Continue up the steep switchback trail staying generally to the right at intersections. Notice where the trail appears to be going straight ahead but actually turns sharply right. Going straight here leads to a reservoir and trail to the north end of the lake. It is advised to take the sharp right to access the lake. Shortly ahead at the junction sign the terrain levels out. Turn right to walk along the west shore of the lake. Follow the rolling trail to the south end of the lake. Turn left here across the earthen levy and spillway to hike the rougher trail around the east side of the lake, where you will have to scramble over a few rocks before bearing left to rejoin the main trail and return to the trailhead.

ICY LAKE AND UPPER REID FALLS

Time: ............................................................3 hours roundtrip
Distance: ....................................................6 miles (9.7 km) roundtrip
Rating: .............................................................Moderate
Elevation Gain: ..........................................850 feet (260 meters)

At Lower Dewey Lake, turn left at the junction sign and follow the trail north. Cross several wooden footbridges, continuing north through spruce and hemlock forest, past the intersection with the trail to Upper Dewey Lake. Expect muddy places along the shore of Icy Lake, because the north end of the lake is filling with glacial silt. For the last 1/4 mile the trail parallels a pipe diverting water into Icy Lake from Reid Falls. At the falls, use extreme caution around the power company equipment shack and service catwalk. There is no safe way to descend from this point to Lower Reid Falls.

STURGILL’S LANDING

Time: ............................................................4 hours roundtrip
Distance: ....................................................7 miles (11.2 km) roundtrip
Rating: .............................................................Moderate
Elevation Gain: ..........................................500 feet (150 meters)

Climb to Lower Dewey Lake turning right at the junctions sign and follow the trail to the south end of the lake. Here follow the trail to the right (south) through a mixed stand of spruce, hemlock, and lodgepole pine. Just before reaching the stream, the trail splits. Follow the arrow sign to the right for great views and a rocky, but safer descent than the old trail that continues beyond the arrow sign. As you near the water, follow the trail to the right leading toward a picnic table and privy. From here, the trail continues south to the rocky beach. Remains of the sawmill can be seen across the creek.
From Lower Dewey Lake go left at the junction sign, follow the trail north across several wooden footbridges to the Upper Dewey Lake trail junction sign and turn right up the trail. The route climbs steeply through a series of switchbacks. About 800 feet above Lower Dewey Lake there is a view of town. Near the trail’s end, the climb eases, and the route follows Dewey Creek closely for a short way. It finally emerges from the trees into a muskeg meadow, where there are views of Mt. Harding and the inlet below. A primitive cabin sits by the lake and is open to the public. Overnight campers should carry a cooking stove and not cut any live wood.

From Upper Dewey Lake, follow the narrow footpath south from the primitive cabin up the alpine ridge to a spectacular overlook. Watch for rock cairns where the trail crosses boulder fields. Devil’s Punchbowl is a tarn nestled in a deep, rocky bowl, but it is not a recommended camping spot.

From the trailhead on Dyea Road, the route follows the ridgeline through spruce and hemlock forest to the base of AB Mountain. About 30 minutes into the hike, a good view of Skagway can be seen from a large rock just off the trail to the right. Beyond the stream crossing, the trail may not be clearly visible because of thick brush. Be sure to note landmarks for your return. Above tree line, some rock cairns mark the way, but the trail is easily lost on steep rocky slopes, switchbacks, and heavy brush and vegetation. Do not cross patches of ice-go around them. When you reach alpine meadows, the panoramic views are spectacular. WARNING: This trail is dangerous above tree line. Do not attempt it when weather may obscure the summit.
FLAGSTOP TRAILS

The Denver and Laughton Glacier trails are located out of town 5.8 and 14 miles up the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad. The railroad offers daily flagstop service May-September; purchase tickets in advance (at depot on 2nd Ave., 1-800-343-7373, or www.wpyr.com). The U.S. Forest Service (www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass) maintains cabins on both trails. To reserve call 1-877-444-6777 or visit or www.reserveusa.com.

*These trails are used for commercially guided day hikes.

LAUGHTON GLACIER

Time: .........................All day, or reserve USFS cabin
Distance: ...3-5 miles (5-8 km) round trip from railroad flag stop
Rating: ......................Moderate (difficult beyond trail end)
Elevation Gain: ..................200-600 feet (60-185 meters)

The trail begins from the flag stop at mile 5.8 on the WP&YR railroad. The trail leaves the tracks at the caboose and parallels the east fork of the Skagway River, climbing slowly for 1.5 miles through an immature birch and hemlock forest. You will eventually reach the lookout. From here the trail climbs more steeply for another 1.5 miles, eventually giving way to a large stand of old growth spruce and hemlocks until it turns right and heads up to Lower Elway Falls. From the lower falls you leave the old growth and climb steeply south up the valley through more immature forest that gives way to thick alder. The upper 2.5 miles of the trail receives little use and is often overgrown with alder and fern. The trail dead ends at the end of a box canyon with spectacular views of the hanging seracs of the Denver Glacier and Upper Elway Falls.

YAKUTANIA POINT

Time: .........................1 hour roundtrip
Distance: ...................1.6 miles (2.6 km) roundtrip
Rating: ..............................Easy
Elevation Gain: ......................20 feet (6 meters)

Walk west along 1st Ave., turn left at Main St. and travel south two blocks. Follow the sidewalk west past the airport terminal. Cross the Skagway River on the footbridge and turn left, following the trail through alders and past the exercise stations. Past exercise station #4 the footpath narrows and ascends rock steps. Continue along past the privy and down more rock steps, past the picnic shelter where rock outcroppings provide a view looking down the Lynn Canal toward the Chilkat Mountains. There is a covered picnic shelter and privy at this site.
Follow the Yakutania Point route to the rocky plateau just before the privy, and look for a trail leading off to the right. This trail goes through mixed coastal forest to a grassy tidal inlet with the legendary name of “Smuggler’s Cove.” There is a picnic shelter and a privy at this peaceful site. Return to Skagway by the route back through the forest or walk up the grassy slope to the dirt road. Turning left where the dirt road splits will take you to the Dyea Road, turning right will return you to exercise station #4 on the Yakutania Point Trail.

Follow Main St. or Alaska St. north to 23rd Ave. and the railroad yards. Cross over 23rd Ave. and follow the gravel road around and behind the railroad yards. Continue to follow the road across the railroad tracks. The cemetery is located in the woods just past the parking area. A short forest trail behind the cemetery leads to spectacular Lower Reid Falls. Beware of vehicles and trains when walking to the cemetery! There is a privy located in the parking area.

**SMUGGLER’S COVE**
- **Time:** 1-2 hours roundtrip
- **Distance:** 2 miles (3.2 km) roundtrip
- **Rating:** Moderate
- **Elevation Gain:** 100 feet (30 meters)

**GOLD RUSH CEMETERY AND LOWER REID FALLS**
- **Time:** 2 hours roundtrip
- **Distance:** 4 miles (6.4 km) roundtrip
- **Rating:** Easy
- **Elevation Gain:** 50 feet (15 meters)

Overnight camping is permissible on all trails. Permits are required for the Chilkoot Trail and can be obtained at the Trail Center on Broadway. A free permit must be obtained at the Skagway City Police station located at 1st and State St. for camping at Yakutania Point, Smuggler’s Cove, AB Mountain, in Dyea, and along the Dewey Lake Trail System.

Build fires only in designated fire pits and never leave a fire burning. Do not cut live trees for fires.

You are in bear country! Stay alert, make noise, do not approach or feed bears, keep food and smells away from bears. If you do encounter a bear, stay calm, talk calmly and firmly, back away slowly and never run.

Please pack out all garbage and leave nothing behind.