

# State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources



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December 27, 2017

## First Day Hikes planned in Delta Junction, Homer, Sitka, Ketchikan, and Juneau

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 27, 2017

### First Day Hikes planned in Delta Junction, Homer, Sitka, Ketchikan, and Juneau

(Anchorage, AK) – Alaska State Parks encourages Alaskans to celebrate the New Year by enjoying the great outdoors in their local state parks. Local volunteer groups will host five hike/ski excursions in Delta Junction, Homer, Sitka, Ketchikan, and Juneau on New Year's Day. These free, guided events listed below are part of the national First Day Hikes initiative (<http://www.stateparks.org/initiatives-special-programs/first-day-hikes/>) sponsored by state park systems throughout the United States.

#### **1-mile roundtrip hike, ski or snowshoe in the Quartz Lake State Recreation Area, Delta Junction**

Date/time: Jan. 1, 12 p.m.

Location: Meet and sign in at the Quartz Lake cabin. The Quartz Lake State Recreation Area is ten miles north of Delta Junction and is reached by a three-mile road at mile 277.8 of the Richardson Hwy. Follow the signs to the boat ramp and park in the parking lot adjacent to the Glatfelder Trailhead. From there the group will ski, hike, or snowshoe to the historic Glatfelder log cabin.

Difficulty: Easy

Minimum age for children: All ages are welcome

Restrictions: well behaved dogs on leash are welcome

Bring: water, a snack to share afterward, snowshoes/skis/ warm hiking boots and appropriate clothing

Cancellation information: Northern Region State Parks Office 907-451-2698

#### **3-mile roundtrip hike, ski or snowshoe in the Eveline State Recreation Site, Homer**

Date/time: Jan. 1, 12 p.m.

Location: Meet at the Eveline State Recreation Area parking lot. Take East End Road for 13.8 miles past the McNeil Canyon School, take the left onto Alpine Meadow Drive and go .3 miles to the trailhead.

Difficulty: Easy

Minimum Age for Children: All ages are welcome

Restrictions: Please leave your dogs at home for this hike

Things to bring: Skis/Snowshoes/warm hiking boots (depending on conditions)

Cancellation Information: Willy 907-299-6226

**1.5 -3-mile loop hike on Mosquito Cove trail, in Old Sitka State Historical Park, Sitka**

Date/time: Jan. 1, 9:30 a.m.

Location: Meet at the Mosquito Cove trail head parking lot. Drive north out the road past the ferry terminal, five miles from town, stop at the sign that says **End** - as that is the end of the road. Just before that sign, take a left into the Bay Side campground take an immediate right and go half way around the loop and on their right the first parking space with a trail head sign is the beginning of the Mosquito Cove loop trail.

Difficulty: Moderate

Minimum Age for Children: All ages are welcome

Restrictions: None

Things to bring: Weather appropriate gear, water

Cancellation Information: Jeff 907-747-4821

**½ mile loop hike on Refuge Cove Beach Trail in the Refuge Cove State Recreation Site, Ketchikan**

Date/time: Jan. 1, 11 a.m.

Location: Meet at the parking area at Refuge Cove State Park

Difficulty: Easy

Minimum Age for Children: All ages are welcome

Restrictions: well behaved dogs on leash are welcome

Things to bring: Dress for weather. Bring binoculars if interested in birding – local bird expert will be there to answer questions.

Cancellation Information: Aaron 907-247-8574

**3-mile loop hike on Airport Dike Trail in the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge, Juneau**

Date/time: Jan. 1, 10:30 a.m.

Location: Meet at the Airport Dike Trailhead and parking lot.

Difficulty: Easy

Minimum Age for Children: All ages are welcome

Restrictions: well behaved dogs on leash are welcome

Things to bring: snacks, water, weather-appropriate clothing.

Cancellation Information: Christy 907-854-8766

**CONTACT:** Darcy Harris, 907-269-8699, [darcy.harris@alaska.gov](mailto:darcy.harris@alaska.gov)

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