

Fact Sheet



Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation
January 2009

Title: Serenity Falls Public Use Hut

The Serenity Falls Public Use Hut is the Alaska State Park System's first multiple party public use hut that is managed on a reservation basis. Guests should expect to share the hut with respect and consideration for others. The purpose of this facility is to encourage understanding and cooperation among park users and user groups.

During summer months, access to the hut is by foot, bicycle, or ATV (ATV use is only permitted Sunday through Wednesday). Winter access is by ski or snowshoe. The use of snow vehicles is permitted seven days a week once the director has determined that there is sufficient snow coverage to protect underlying vegetation. The hut is remote and you should be prepared accordingly.

Smoking is prohibited within the hut or by the entrance.

Guests are asked to keep their gear, particularly cooking equipment, organized and out of the way of other guests. Storage lockers and space under the bunks is available. Guests are also asked to share in-housekeeping chores. Please do not leave donations of extra food or supplies, it attracts small unwanted critters and becomes unsanitary clutter. **PACK OUT, WHAT YOU PACK IN!**

How do I get to the hut from Eklutna Lake Trailhead?

The hut is located at Mile 12 of the Eklutna Lakeside Trail. After you have crossed the bridge over the East Fork of the Eklutna River and have passed the Kanchee Campground, near Mile 11, you will come to a large steel and wood bridge over the Eklutna River. Do not cross the bridge. Instead of turning right and crossing the bridge, go straight ahead on a trail going uphill. A brown and white sign marks the trail that will take you a few hundred yards to the hut. Only registered guests are allowed motorized vehicles beyond this point per the access information above. Please remember that, for most people, the 24-mile round trip to and from the hut is a long distance. Plan your trip based on the skills and abilities of the least experienced person in your party.

What is the cost and how do I make reservations?

Single Bunk - \$10 / night.
Double Bunk - \$15 / night.
Sleeping Bays - \$25 to \$45 / night.
Full Hut - \$115 / night.

Reservations can be made in person with cash, check, money order, travelers' checks, or credit card (MasterCard or Visa) at the DNR Public Information Center at 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1260, Anchorage, AK 99501. You may also fax in your reservation request using the cabin reservation request form located on line at www.dnr.alaska.gov/parks/cabins/cabinapp.pdf

Information on the availability of bunk space is not available through the State of Alaska DNR Parks website, but you may call 907-269-8400 (dial 0 after 10:00am to reach center staff) to check if a date is available.

Presently, bunks, bays and the entire hut can be rented. Rental restrictions may be imposed as the use of the hut increases or if privileges are abused.

Is my parking fee covered if I rent a bunk?

Yes. Parking permits are issued for individual renters. Groups will receive a number of parking permits depending on the size of the group.

One to three (1-3) receives 1 permit;
Four to six (4-6) receives 2 permits;
Seven to ten (7-10) receives 3 permits; and
Eleven to thirteen (11-13) receives 4 permits.

For added security, we recommend not using the parking permit, if your vehicle already has a current annual pass.

How many people will the hut accommodate?

The maximum capacity of the hut is 13 guests, with the three double bunks each accommodating two guests. Due to fire and safety concerns **no** additional guests are allowed. Tent camping is not allowed within ¼ mile of the hut. However, the Kanchee Campground is located 1 mile away at Mile 11 of the Lakeside Trail. Campsites at this small campground are free of charge.

What do I need to take with me and what is available at the hut?

Staying at the hut is similar to using a public use cabin. It is like backcountry camping without a tent. Wooden sleeping bunks are provided. You will need a sleeping pad and sleeping bag. A shared wood stove is available to keep the hut warm. For cooking, you will need to bring a camp stove, pots, plates, cups and all other utensils. Water can be obtained from the river or Serenity Falls Creek across the river from the hut. Bring a water filter or plan on boiling your water before drinking. A latrine is available for hut guests. We ask that you do not bring food that creates a strong odor, which can attract bears. It is a good idea to bring paper towels, which you can use to clean-up and then burn them in the wood stove. Sitting benches and tables area available in the front room. A stainless steel kitchen counter can accommodate up to two groups preparing food at one time. Plastic containers are available for you to store your cooking gear while other groups use the kitchen counter. A firepit and picnic tables are available outdoors.

What is there to do in the area?

Recreational activities in the area include wildlife viewing, hiking, biking, ATV riding (Sunday through Wednesday), and exploring the upper Eklutna Valley. Winter activities include cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, studying wildlife tracks, ice climbing and when open, snowmobiling.

What about the Glacier Traverse or hiking to the Glacier?

Making it to the Glacier is part of a long and technical traverse of the Eklutna/Whiteout Glacier system to and from Girdwood. Three other huts are located on this traverse and are available for public use free of charge. *This is highly technical multi-day trip and only people properly trained and equipped should attempt it.*

If I am not able to use the hut, will I get my money back or a credit issued to my credit card?

No. Cabin fees are not refundable. However, you may receive a one-time hut use credit that is good for one year from the date of your reservation change or cancellation if the change or cancellation is made 7 days in advance of your first nights stay. To receive a credit you must present your original reservation, in person or by mail, as long as it reaches the office seven days in advance of your reservation date. The hut credit may not be applied towards other State Park public use cabin rental.

There is a \$10 service charge for changing or canceling your reservation.

What time is check-in and checkout time and what are my responsibilities?

Hut reservations are from noon to noon. Hut guests are responsible for cleaning up after themselves. Keep your gear in your bunk, locker or in the plastic boxes under the kitchen counter. It is especially important to clean up as soon as possible after you cook and eat to make room for others to do the same. Please pack out all that you pack in. Grey water from cooking and personal hygiene shall be dumped in the toilet. Paper and cardboard may be burned in the wood stove. You must pack out all other refuse.

Is firewood provided?

Park staff may stockpile wood during the summer months, but there is no guarantee there will be enough for everyone over the winter. It is suggested people either bring their own or plan to collect dead and down wood. Please help us conserve fuel and be fire safe by keeping all fires small and under control at all times. Dead and down firewood or driftwood from the river may be gathered to help resupply the hut's firewood.

May I bring my dog inside the Hut?

No. The hut is shared by multiple parties who may have allergies to pet hair and may feel severe discomfort or health concerns. Unfamiliar dogs may not be compatible. Your pet may spoil another guest's experience, because not all people like pets.

Dogs must remain outside and be staked at least 10 feet away from the building. Dog food must be stored inside the hut. Dog food is not permitted to be spread on the ground or snow. You are responsible for cleaning the area, making sure that all dog waste and any trace of a dog's presence is disposed of properly.

Pets must be under physical control on a 9 foot leash, and may not create excessive noise in a developed facility; (11 AAC 12.130(a), \$50 fine)

Common Hut Rules include:

- Hut reservations required prior to stay.
- Use only dead and down wood (includes driftwood) for firewood.
- Do not leave extra food or gear.
- Smoking is prohibited.
- Clean up after yourself.
- No camping within ¼ mile of hut.
- Be courteous to fellow users.
- **Maximum capacity is 13 people.**