



Chena River State Recreation Area

Angel Rocks to Chena Hot Springs

Hiking Trail

Difficulty: Moderate / Strenuous

Total Elevation Gain: Approx. 2000 ft.

Special Features: Granite outcrops, rock climbing area for experienced and equipped climbers. It also offers excellent views of the Alaska Range, Granite Tors, Chena Dome and Far Mountain.

Trail Description:

An 8.3 mile trail leads to large granite outcroppings near the north boundary of the recreation area, then on to the Chena Hot Springs

Trail Guide:

Trailhead – The Angel Rocks to Chena Hot Springs Trail shares the trailhead with the Angel Rocks Trail, located at MP 48.9 Chena Hot Springs Road.

0-0.8 Trail leaves Parking area (Angel Rocks Trailhead) and parallels the Chena River through mixed spruce and birch.

0.8-1.2 At mile 0.8 the junction between the upper and lower loop trail is met. This trail description follows the Angel Rocks Upper Loop Trail (the trail to the right). The trail begins to ascend along a small creek to the first rock outcrop.

1.2-1.7 Overlook views of the Chena River, Angel Creek Lodge, and the Angel Creek drainage can be seen to the west.

1.7-2.2 The junction of Angel Rocks Lower Loop trail and Angel Rocks to Chena Hot Springs trail. The trail follows the ridge through open small birch and alder to the upper rock outcrop.

2.2-3.0 The trail climbs through thick alder and talus slope before reaching a sub-alpine ridge of open spruce. It then continues along a ridge and gradually gives away to tundra and views of the Alaska Range and views of Granite Tors to the south, Chena Dome to the west, and Far Mountain to the east.

3.0-4.2 The trail follows the ridge, above the tree line, and is marked by rock cairns.

4.2-5.0 The trail gradually descends below the tree line and passes through two small saddles before dropping down into a third saddle where a shelter cabin is located.

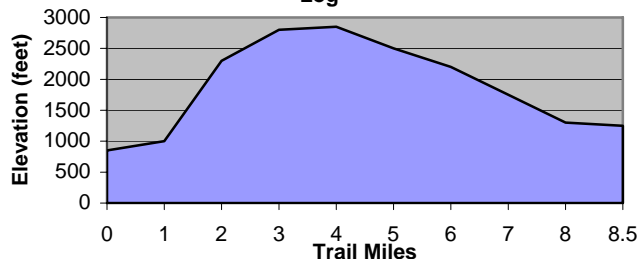
5.0-6.1 The trail descends through a spruce forest. At mile 5.4 a small spring bubbles up on the trail (NOTE: this spring is not a reliable source of water). The trail passes a rock outcrop which offers a nice view of the surrounding hills. The trail splits into the Upper trail (goes left), and the Lower trail (goes right).

Upper Trail

6.1-6.7 The Upper trail begins ascent through spruce forest to the Bear Paw Butte trail junction.

6.7-8.7 A one-half mile upper spur trail leads to the summit of Bear Paw Butte. The main upper trail follows the ridge, which offers views of the surrounding hills, then descends through spruce to Chena Hot Springs. The last 0.2 miles of the trail is quite wide and well maintained.

Angel Rocks to Chena Hot Springs Trail Elevation
Log



Lower Trail

6.1-8.3 The lower trail descends along the side of a valley while passing through stands of spruce, birch and aspen. There are a few boggy areas along this route. At mile 7.5, the junction with the intermediate ski loop is encountered. Take the left trail. The right trail is very wet. At mile 8.1 the Upper and Lower trails join. The last 0.2 miles of the trail is quite wide and well maintained.

Cautions and Rules:

- Always let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Portions of the trail are steep and rocky, and can be treacherous. Wear suitable footwear.
- Weather can change rapidly; carry raingear warm clothes, and be prepared.
- Water sources may be unreliable and unsafe. Carry at least one day's supply of water.
- Mosquitoes and gnats are abundant in summer; carry insect repellent.
- Fires must be confined to designated fire pits or gravel bars, except in case of emergency. Use a portable stove for heat and cooking in the backcountry.
- Vehicles including mountain bikes are prohibited.
- Minimize your impact on the area; camp away from the trail, pack out what you pack in, and bury human waste away from the trail.
- Shortcutting of switchbacks accelerates erosion and kills fragile vegetation. Please stay on the trail.
- Target practice is not allowed in the Recreation Area except at the mile 36.5 shooting range. The discharge of weapons is allowed only for the lawful taking of game.
- Disturbing or gathering natural materials is prohibited in the Recreation Area, except for berries, mushrooms, and similar edibles for personal use.
- Stay alert and cautious of any trapping activities in the area, traps and bait may be located near trails. Children and pets should be monitored closely.





Angel Rocks Trail

