



Visit our website  
for more info:  
[visitsitka.org](https://visitsitka.org)

## Sitka Hiking Guide

- 18 Sitka National Historical Park** **Easy** [1 hr | 1.5 mi/2.4 km round trip | Elev. gain: 20 ft/6 m] This area commemorates the site of the 1804 Battle of Sitka between the Russian traders and indigenous Tlingit. Traditional and historic totem poles line the trails throughout the park. In the late summer and early fall, visitors can view the salmon spawning along the Indian River portion of this trail.

- 20 Sitka's Cross Trail** **Easy** [1-5 hrs | 7.8 mi/12.5 km one way | Elev. gain: 200 ft/61 m] This is a wide, accessible, gravel-paved trail perfect for year-round walking and biking. There are multiple access points throughout the trail, connecting it with local neighborhoods and visitor destinations.

- 3 Starrigavan Estuary Life Trail** **Easy** [3 hrs | 2 mi/3.2 km round trip | Elev. gain: 150 ft/46 m] This is an ADA accessible boardwalk trail with a bird viewing platform and picturesque view of Upper Starrigavan Valley. This trail connects to the gravel-paved Ben Grussendorf Forest and Muskeg Trails and is close to the entrance of the Mosquito Cove Trail.

- 22 Indian River Trail** **Easy** [6 hrs | 9 mi/14.5 km round trip | Elev. gain: 1,000 ft/305 m] This trail offers a relaxing walk through the Northwest Coast rainforest, highlighting views of the Three Sisters Mountains. Rushing waterfalls, located at the end of the trail, complete this gradual ascent.

- 1 Mosquito Cove Trail** **Moderate** [1 hr | 1.5 mi/2.4 km round trip | Elev. gain: 281 ft/25 m] The Mosquito Cove Trail is made up of gravel-paved pathways and wooden stairs. This loop follows the beach and forest fringe along Mosquito Cove before curving back through the forested hillside.

- 25 Thimbleberry Lake/Heart Lake Trail** **Moderate** [2 hrs | 3.2 mi/5 km round trip | Elev. gain: 281 ft/25 m] With parking available at both ends of this trail, hikers can choose their favorite route to both Thimbleberry and Heart Lake.

- 28 Herring Cove / Beaver Lake Trail Loop** **Moderate** [2 hrs | 3.4 mi/5.5 km round trip | Elev. gain: 520 ft/159 m] This popular loop trail skirts Beaver Lake and is nestled among rugged mountains and muskeg ecosystems. The beginning and end of this trail are steep, but the hike is worth it as docks, picnic pads, and fishing platforms are ready for use at Beaver Lake.

- 24 Mount Verstovia Trail** **Difficult** [6 hrs | 5 mi/8 km round trip | Elev. gain: 1,550] This steep, challenging, and rugged hike comes with rewarding views of Sitka, Sitka Sound, and Mount Edgecumbe on clear days. The trail ends at the viewpoint of Picnic Rock, looking down from 2500 feet above sea level.

- 21 7 Gavan Hill Trail/Harbor Mountain Trail** **Difficult** [4-6 hrs | 12 mi/19.3 km round trip | Elev. gain: 3,300 ft/1,005 m] A great choice for a half-day, full-day, or overnight hike, this strenuous climb offers breathtaking sights of the surrounding mountains and islands. The Harbor-Gavan Hill Shelter is available for hikers on a first-come, first-served basis.

### OFF-MAP TRAILS

- 15 Fort Rousseau Causeway State Historical Site** **Easy** [2-3 hrs | 3 mi/4.8 km round trip] This unique park is only accessible by water. Visitors can take a short kayak or boat ride to discover Sitka's WWII history.

- 16 Kruzof Island** With something for everyone, this island offers multiple levels. [Mount Edgecumbe/Sea Lion Cove/Kruzof Multiuse Logging Roads](#),

- 17 Goddard Hot Springs** **Easy** Popular among area residents, Goddard Hot Springs is rich with history. This must-see destination is one of Alaska's oldest mineral springs.

- 29 Medvejie Lake Trail** **Moderate** [2 hrs | 1.5 mi/2.4 km round trip | Elev. gain: 519 ft] Set between sheer mountainsides, an unmarked trailhead begins the rugged trek from Medvejie Hatchery to a crystal clear lake. [3.25 Green Lake Rd.](#)

- 30 Salmon Lake Trail** **Moderate** [2-4 hrs | 3.5 mi/5.6 km to cabin | 5.8 mi/9.3 km to Redoubt Lake | Elev. gain: Minimal] Known for its fishing and bear sightings, this area offers hikes, lake access, and a cabin for visitors. There is good fishing at Salmon Lake. Bears are common in the area.

- 31 Lake Eva Trail** **Moderate** [2 hrs | 3.5 mi/5.6 km round trip to lake | Elev. gain: 106 ft] Accessed by water taxi, the scenic hike to Lake Eva begins at Hanus Bay. The cabin is located on the far side of the lake. You will need a packraft or fly in to access the cabin. There is an accessible slough for those with limited mobility.

= Water Taxi = Float Plane = Access by Kayak

VISIT  
Sitka

## SITKA HIKING GUIDE

## Welcome to our backyard.

Our island home has all the amenities & services you need for your adventure. From local tips to equipment & gear rental, Sitka has you covered.

## Sitka Trail Works

Sitka is ready for you to explore. Thanks to years of planning and development by the nonprofit Sitka Trail Works, our trail systems offer whatever you seek, from challenging hikes to leisurely strolls. For trail maps, descriptions and more, visit:

[SitkaTrailWorks.org](https://SitkaTrailWorks.org)

## Plan for Safety

Hikers in Sitka are encouraged to carry basic survival gear, navigation aids and an emergency communication device. Be sure to let someone know where you are hiking and when you expect to return. As an added precaution, submit your trip plans to the Search and Rescue team at the Sitka Fire Department, noted on the map as . You can also borrow a Marine VHF-radio from the Fire Department for the length of your trip.

**Sitka Fire Department | (907) 747-3233**

Beaver Lake Trail  
 Lee House



Harbor Mountain Trail

## Essential Hiking Tips

Our weather can change quickly and unexpectedly. Even if you are only taking a short hike, we recommend you are well prepared with the following items.

### What to bring:

- Map** – a paper map to supplement any digital map
- Hydration** – bring more than you think you need
- Nutrition** – bring high protein snacks for energy
- Clothing** – pack layers & a water-pool layer
- Firestarter** – lighter or waterproof matches
- First aid kit**
- Knife**
- Light source** – bring a flashlight to supplement cell phone lights
- Sun protection** – even on a cloudy day the sun's rays can be strong
- Shelter** – pack an emergency thermal blanket, tent, or tarp for unexpected weather protection
- Bear spray**

### Be a good trail neighbor:

- Take only photos and leave only footprints.
- Carry out what you bring in.
- Respect wildlife.
- Be considerate of others.
- Keep dogs on-leash & pick-up their poop.

## BEAR AWARE



**Carry bear spray. Know how to use it. Be alert. Make noise. Hike in groups. Don't run.**

Sitka is located on Baranof Island where the brown bear population is about one bear per 1.5 square miles. Bear activity is highest between spring and fall, but bears are present year-round. While trekking through bear country, remember the following:

- Share your hiking plans with someone else
- Make noise to announce your presence
- Hike in groups, and keep dogs on leashes
- Carry bear spray in an accessible area and know how to use it beforehand
- Stay alert and approach blind corners with caution
- Pack it in. Pack it out. Throw trash away in bear-resistant dumpsters

**If you encounter a bear, DO NOT RUN. Back away slowly while facing the bear. Make noise and try to look large. Use bear spray if necessary.**



