



Matanuska Peak Area Trails



0 1,250 2,500 3,750 5,000
Feet

Date: June, 2016 Data Sources: MSB, GINA, USGS

MATANUSKA PEAK



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AT A GLANCE

- TRAILHEAD** → Smith Road
- USE** → Hiking, running, snowshoeing, backpacking
- DISTANCE** → 4.1 miles to peak
- LEVEL** → Easy to Difficult
- ELEV. GAIN** → 5,670 feet

DESCRIPTION

The trail passes through forest to alpine to talus field to pinnacle. The view atop Matanuska Peak is spectacular, especially since grandeur lays at your feet. You stand on rock overlooking countless snowy ridges of the Chugach Mountain Range. The tallest of them 39 miles in the distance, 13,176 foot Mount Marcus Baker, is one of the top 75 peaks in the world. Cook Inlet and the Knik and Matanuska rivers are visible below. The climb is steep. In the fall, the ground covering of kinnikinnick carpets the sides of the trail in red before the grassy incline hardens into a steep slope of rock debris, which you must scramble up to reach the top. Gloves are a good idea to protect the hands of hikers. Be careful of dislodging loose large rock.

The trail climbs 5,670 feet in just over 4 miles. The hike can be done in a long day. Some prefer to camp overnight. This is a strenuous trail. Bring enough food, water, and clothing, and know your limits.

MAT-SU BOROUGH TRAIL



Stefan Hinman



Patty Sullivan

HOW TO GET THERE

From Palmer, drive east on the Old Glenn Highway. At 3.5 miles take a left on Smith Road. Drive 1.5 miles to the end of the road, where there is a small parking lot. Not long after you begin walking the trail, the Matanuska Peak Trail begins by taking a left into the woods at the base of a steep gravel road.



Patty Sullivan

TAKE NOTE

Sharp rocks and black lichen can cut dog paws. Please keep your dog on a leash. A light rain jacket and warm layer are important for quick-changing weather. Be prepared for a potential encounter with bears and moose. This is a non-motorized trail.

