

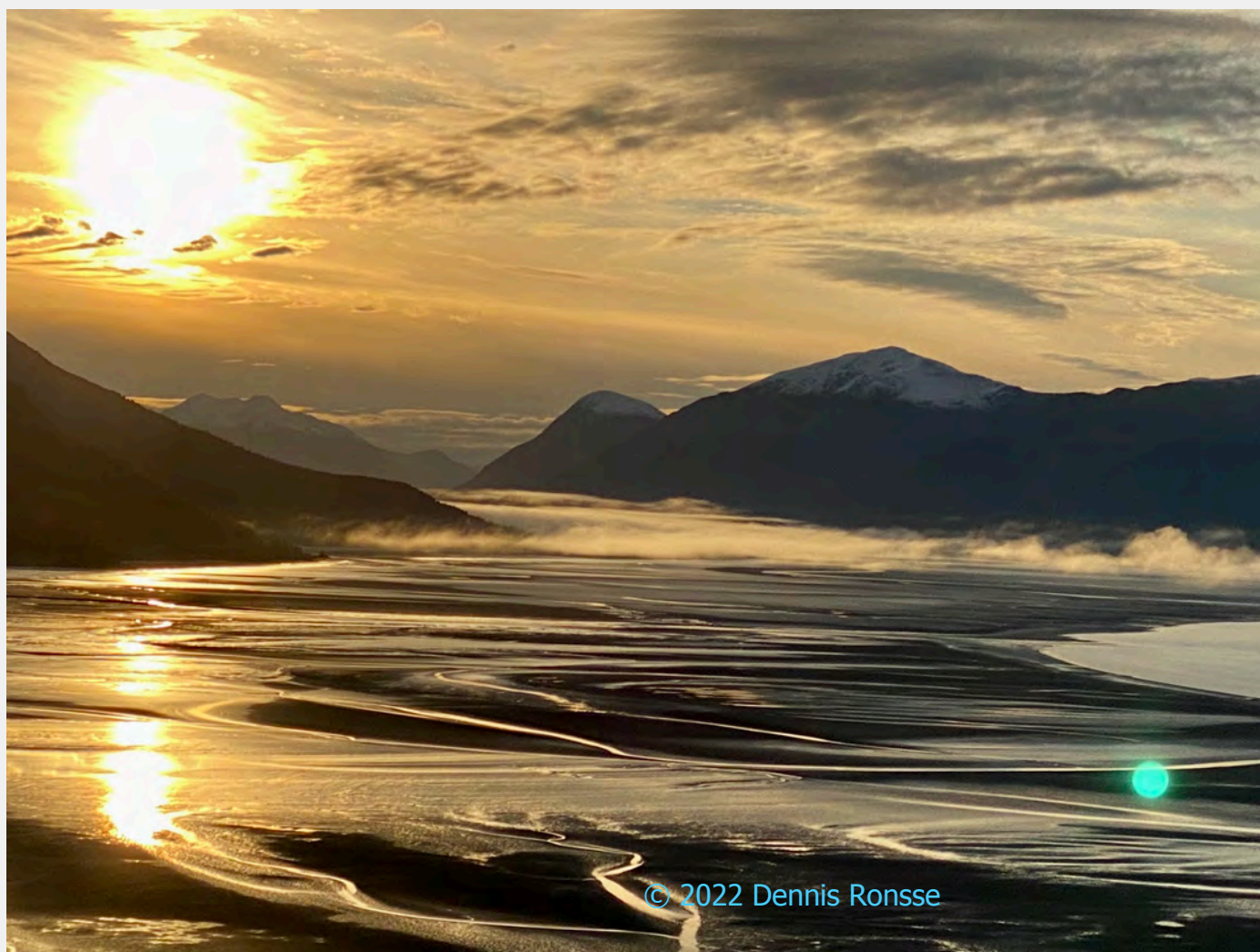
# Indianhouse Mountain

This booklet of general information is formatted to fit on a phone as companion with two other documents on the Alaska Native Plant Society website: <https://aknps.org>. The other two are a complete checklist of flora (names only), and a booklet of wildflower photos and notes to assist field ID of some plants along the route to Indianhouse Mountain.

Parking for the hike is a small unmarked pullout at milepost 104.5 on the Seward Highway, southbound from Anchorage. AKNPS field trips have visited a low band of south-facing cliffs just 600 feet up from the Seward Highway for the early spring flowers and great views. Farther up the trail becomes more challenging and less traveled, as it traverses and ascends steeply to the summit, 4,435 feet above Turnagain Arm. In the upper part wilderness character with few visitors remains though close to Anchorage. High meadows and upper cliffs have resident Dall sheep, occasional grizzly bears, and rarely mountain goats.

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Early spring light at sunrise is often golden colored, as seen here from about 800 feet above Turnagain Arm.



Indianhouse Mountain

White Violets (*Viola renifolia*) are fairly common in woodlands along Turnagain Arm where the route to Indianhouse Mountain begins, but not found in most parts of Alaska.



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Indianhouse Mountain

Coastal Paintbrush (*Castilleja unalaschcensis*) is abundant in meadows not far above Turnagain Arm.



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Indianhouse Mountain



About .5 mile from the parking area, hikers traverse a steep south-facing slope which has an abundance of wildflowers in early summer.



Indianhouse Mountain

The route to Indianhouse Mountain is not frequently traveled, but offers great views of Turnagain Arm, especially at low tide.



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Indianhouse Mountain

The route ascends a sunny south-facing slope with large patches of Kinnikinnik (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), which flowers in early spring, often while flocks of geese are in migration above Turnagain Arm.



Indianhouse Mountain



In early summer the trail is one of the best along Turnagain Arm for views and wildflowers.



Indianhouse Mountain



Pygmy-flower rock-jasmine (*Androsace septentrionalis*) shows up early with delicate inconspicuous white / pink flowers on long flowering stalks. It is abundant on portions of the route with thin soil over south-facing rocks.



Indianhouse Mountain

In summer Dall sheep ewes are often found in the high alpine part of Indianhouse Mountain.



Indianhouse Mountain



All through winter into early spring large Dall Sheep rams are often seen on Indianhouse Mountain. In summer they move into more distant parts of the Chugach with less human activity.

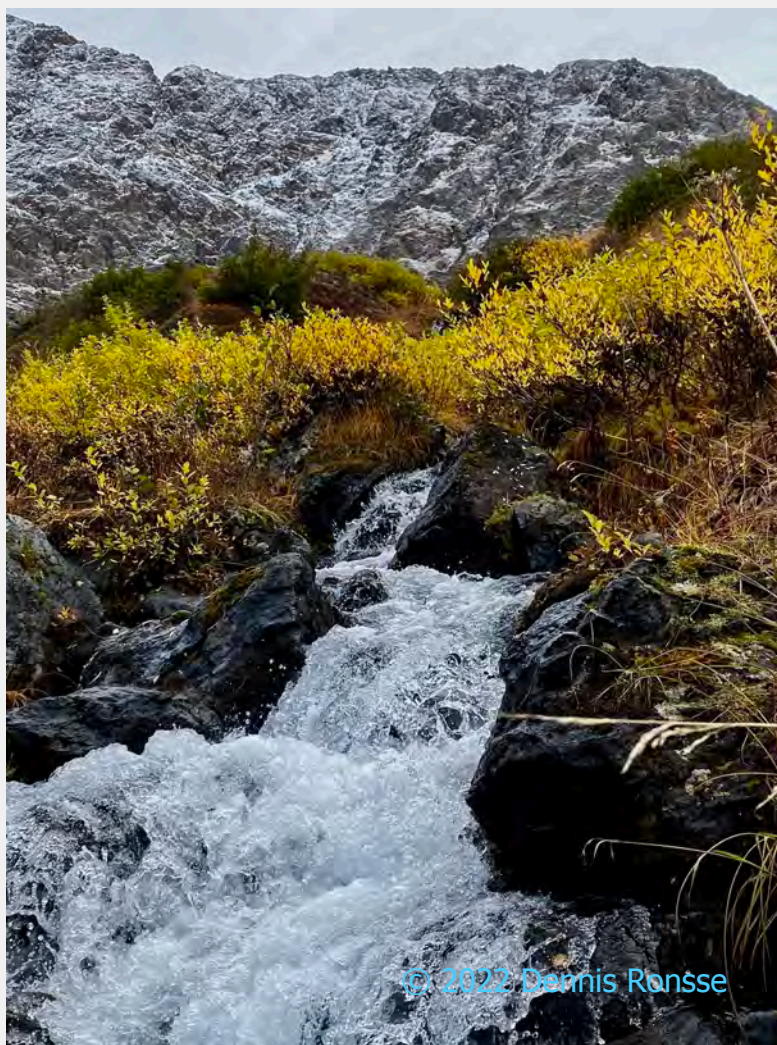


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Indianhouse Mountain

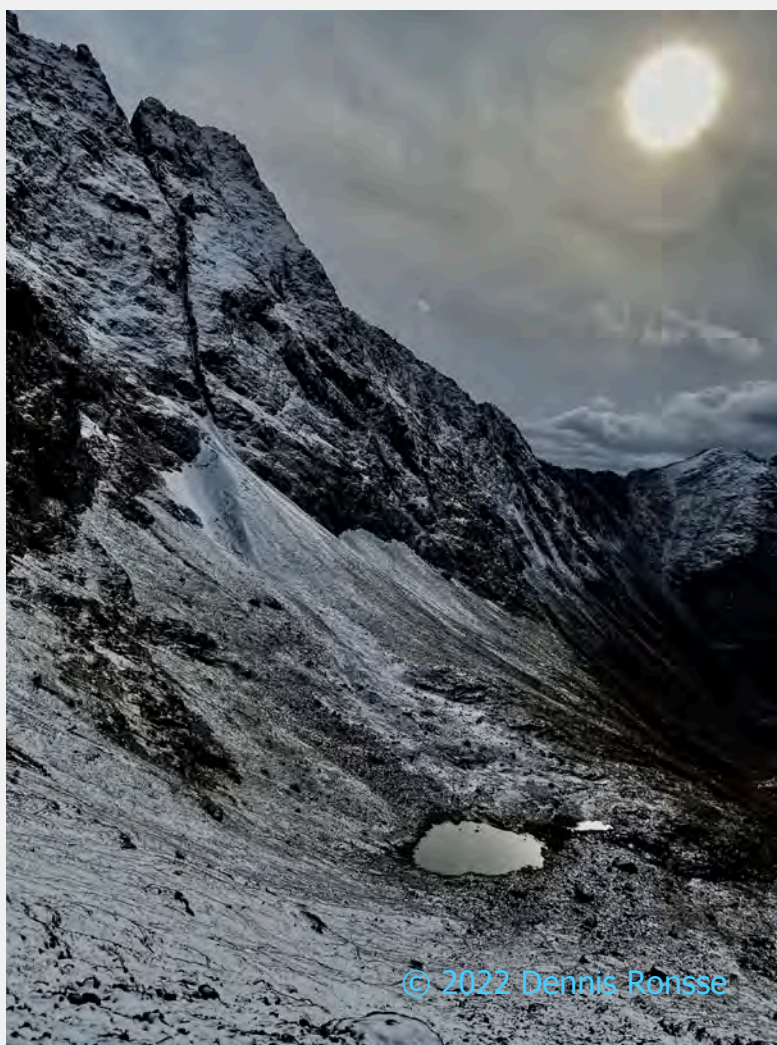


Ascent of Indianhouse, up the west side from Falls Creek, follows a powerful little stream much of the way, but it is more difficult in the upper part, and lacks scenic meadows of wildflowers.



Indianhouse Mountain

Ascent of Indianhouse, up the west side from Falls Creek, follows a powerful little stream much of the way, but it is more difficult in the upper part, and lacks scenic meadows of wildflowers.



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Indianhouse Mountain



Above the low elevation bands of cliffs a good trail ascends through alpine tundra.



Indianhouse Mountain



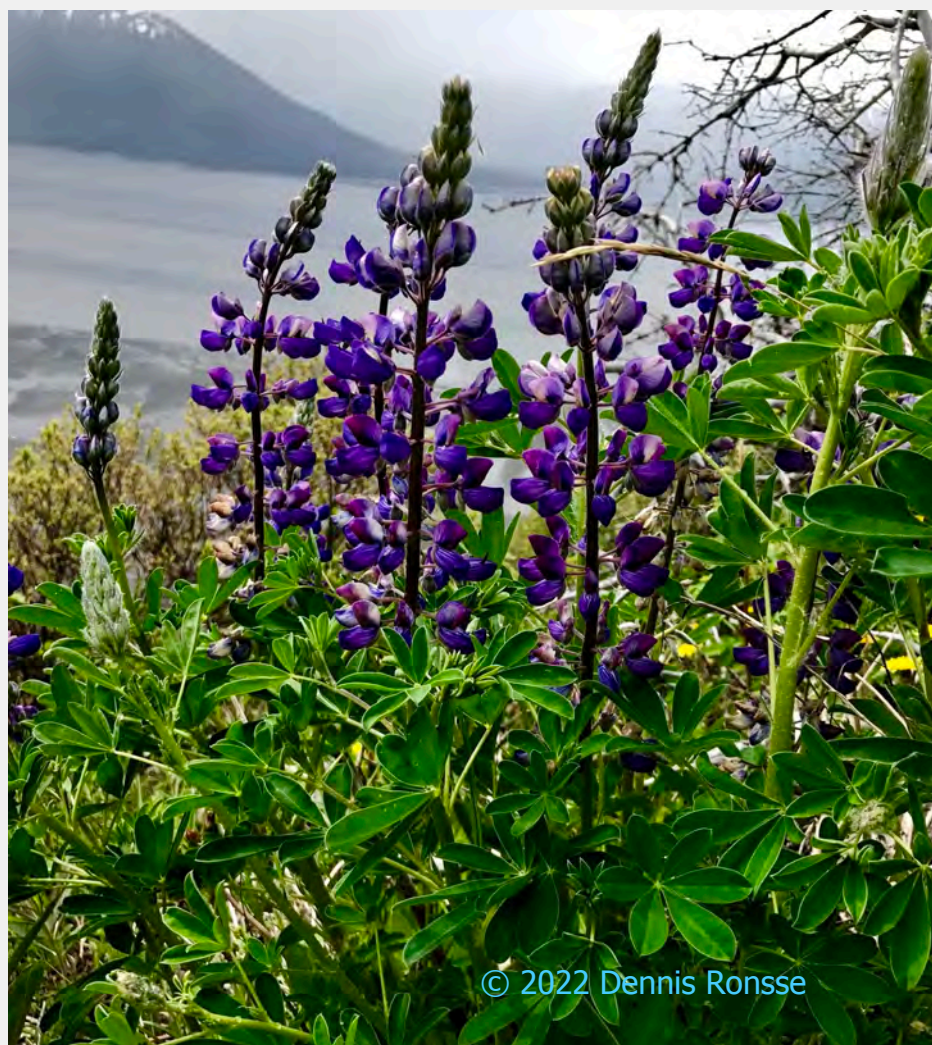
Alpine meadows with great views from the ridge about half way up.



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Indianhouse Mountain

Nootka Lupine (*Lupinus nootkatensis*) is the most common Lupine in Southcentral Alaska, and common along the route to Indianhouse Mountain.



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Indianhouse Mountain

Wind shaped Mountain Hemlock along the trail before the uppermost rocky zone.



Indianhouse Mountain



Near the summit there is a risk of rock fall from hikers above, helmets advised.



Indianhouse Mountain

in upper parts of the route lichens cover wind and sun exposed rocks. Blood Spot Lichen (Ophioparma) is common the arctic & mountains of AK, a pale gray lichen dotted w/ red spots the color of garnets.



Indianhouse Mountain



Mountain goats often reside about 10 miles farther east from Indianhouse, but have been seen in this area also.



Indianhouse Mountain



Gullies with high avalanche risk remain into early summer, and slick rocks limit access. However, when snow-pack is firm, there is good access with crampons.



Indianhouse Mountain

The summit of Indianhouse is a challenge of route-finding the correct gully, and care with falling rocks for others below.



Indianhouse Mountain