

Stuart Lake

Activity: Hiking

Region: Leavenworth District - Wenatchee NF, Washington

Difficulty: Difficult

Round Trip Mileage: 9

Round Trip Time: 6 hours

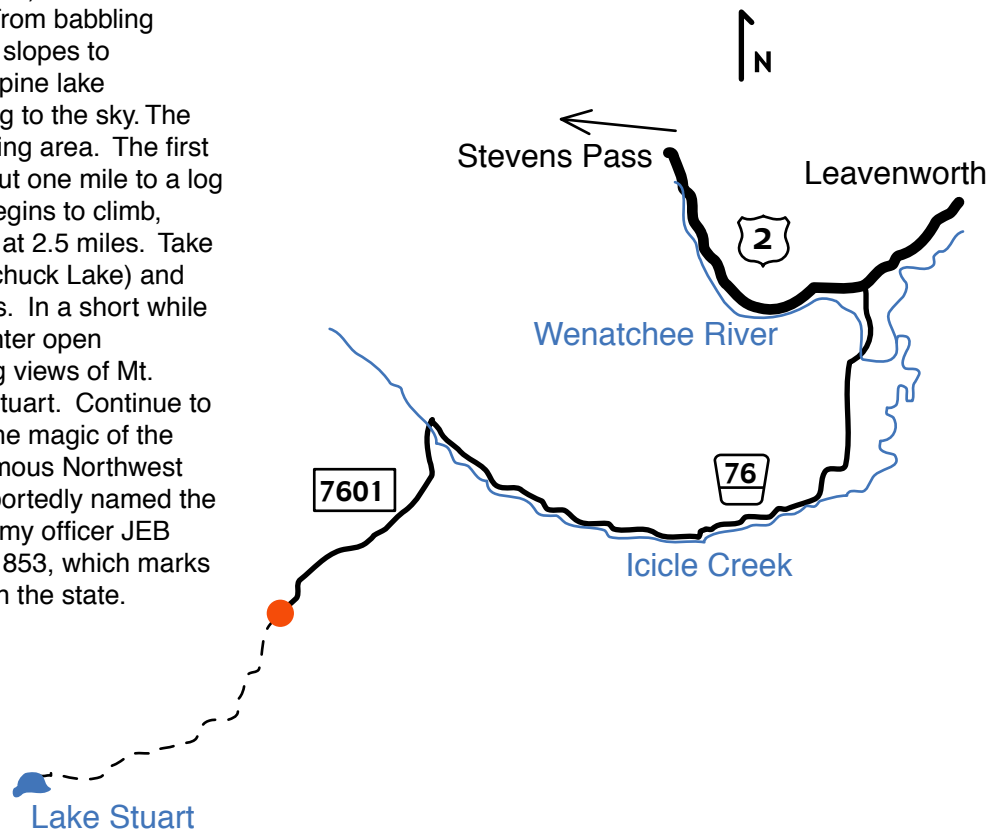
Suitable For: Adults and Hearty Teens

Seasons Open: Summer - Early Fall

Permits Necessary: USFS Trail Park Pass

Trail Description

Get ready for one of the prettiest hikes in the Leavenworth Area (if not the entire state). This trail is like a field course in alpine geology. From babbling brooks to lowland forests to dry scree slopes to wildflower speckled meadows to an alpine lake surrounded by granite peaks stretching to the sky. The trailhead is easily found from the parking area. The first part of the trail follows a creek for about one mile to a log footbridge. After the bridge the trail begins to climb, switchbacking its way up to a junction at 2.5 miles. Take the right trail (the left trail goes to Colchuck Lake) and continue climbing to spectacular views. In a short while the trail begins to flatten out as you enter open wildflower meadows with jaw-dropping views of Mt. Stuart. At 4.5 miles you reach Lake Stuart. Continue to explore, take a dip in the lake, enjoy the magic of the area! Mt. Stuart was named by the famous Northwest explorer George B. McClellan. He reportedly named the mountain after his friend and fellow army officer JEB Stuart. The mountain was named in 1853, which marks it as one of the earliest place names in the state.



Driving Directions

Follow US Highway 2 West through Leavenworth and turn left at the end of town on Icicle Road (follow signs to the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery, there is a large gas station at the corner). If you are coming from the East on Highway 2 over Stevens Pass go right on Icicle Road when you first enter Leavenworth. Follow Icicle Road for 8.5 miles and turn left onto Road #7601 (signs to Colchuck Lake). Follow this road for four miles until it dead-ends at the trailhead.

Backcountry travel is inherently hazardous; please check with the local ranger district for current information (Leavenworth 509-548-6977, Lake Wenatchee 509-763-3103). Every attempt has been made to assure that these trail descriptions are current and accurate. However, the Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce and its sub-contractors disclaim and are in no way responsible or liable for the consequences of using this information.