

Icicle Gorge

Activity: Hiking

Region: Leavenworth District - Wenatchee NF, Washington

Difficulty: Easy

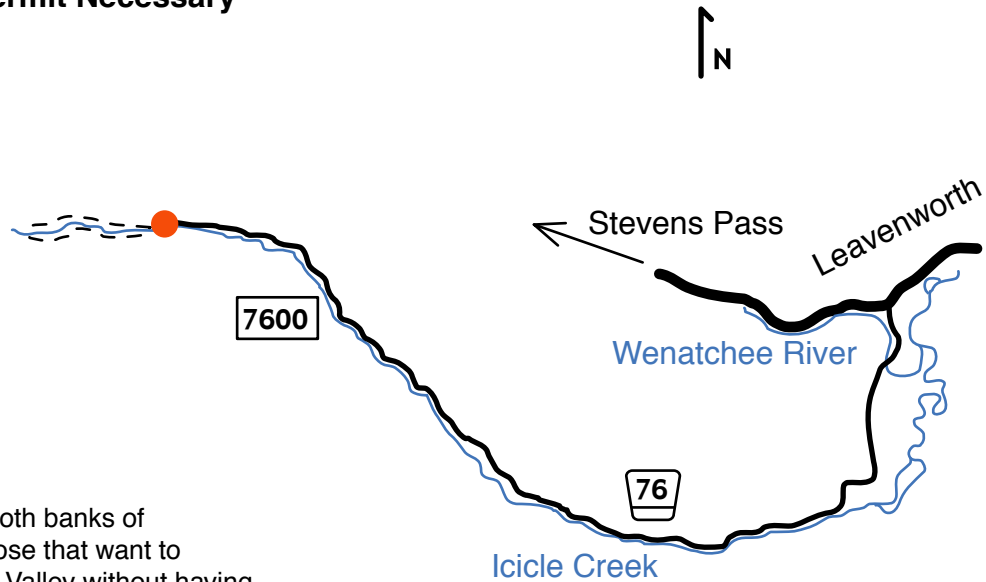
Round Trip Mileage: 3.5

Round Trip Time: 2 hours

Suitable For: Kids Trail / Dogs OK

Seasons Open: Late Spring - Late Fall

Permits Necessary: No Permit Necessary



Trail Description

A gentle loop trail that traverses both banks of the Icicle River. A great trail for those that want to experience the magic of the Icicle Valley without having to grunt up and down significant elevation gains. One side of the river is dry and sparsely vegetated while the other is a canopied forest. Guess which one is South facing and getting the most sun? Mid-way through the hike you will cross a bridge over roaring waters. Take a minute to relax here and enjoy the cool breeze generated by this roaring, surprisingly powerful creek. This is the only trail in the Icicle Valley that does not require a trailhead permit. The native name for Icicle Creek was Nasikelt. As pronounced this name sounds very similar to Icicle. Legend has it that early pioneers mistook the proper native name and interpreted it as Icicle. The name Icicle was established by USGS maps in the early 1900s.

Driving Directions

Follow US Highway 2 West through the town of Leavenworth and go 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 about 9 miles to Chatter Creek Campground. 3/4 of a mile past Chatter Creek Campground turn left into the large parking lot (you will see a well marked sign for the Icicle Gorge Trail).

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.