

FAQ: Alaska Long Trail vs Alaska Traverse

What is the Alaska Traverse (AKT)? A work-in-progress world-class trail system connecting 500+ miles of Alaska's iconic terrain and diverse communities from the Pacific to the Interior, embracing the many ways Alaskans recreate outdoors and attracting visitors from all over the world.

Wait - isn't this the same as the Alaska Long Trail? Yes! "The Alaska Long Trail" was the original working name of this concept.

Why did the name change? "The Alaska Long Trail" was a placeholder name that was never formally adopted. Throughout 2022 and 2023, Alaska Trails led a process to weigh options for making an official route name, deciding on the Alaska Traverse (AKT) in August 2023.

Who named the AKT? Alaska Trails and the coalition of organizations and individuals working on the concept and route, based on extensive input and feedback from stakeholders and the public.

Why is it called the Alaska Traverse (AKT)? Alaska Trails, coalition partners, and stakeholders created and weighed a series of criteria when it came to finalizing the name, taking into consideration the following factors:

- Ease and recognizability
- No conflicts with existing long trail names or concepts
- No conflicts with existing organizational names
- Broad support from stakeholders, partners, members, volunteers, and supporters
- A good acronym
- A name that built on existing and/or generated new excitement, both for stakeholders and coalition members, and general supporters
- Reflects the whole of Alaska and its diversity of history, culture and terrain

Ultimately, the Alaska Traverse (AKT) best met these criteria.

What other names did you consider?

The final four contenders were:

- Alaska Long Trail
- Alaska Trail
- Great Alaska Traverse
- The Alaska Traverse

Was an Indigenous/local name considered?

Yes, an Alaska Native name was considered. The trail passes through traditional territories of at least two distinct Alaska Native cultures and language groups - Sugpiaq and Dena'ina. Picking a name that would work in both languages was not feasible. As the trail is being developed, the Alaska Traverse Coalition will work with Alaska Native tribes along the route to name specific segments of the trail system in local languages.

Who is funding the AKT?

Alaska Trails receives operational support for the AKT project from Rasmuson Foundation, ConocoPhillips Alaska Foundation, Race Across Alaska Winter Challenge, and hundreds of individual donors. Individual donations for the AKT project can be made at the Alaska Trails website: [DONATE | Alaska Trails \(alaska-trails.org\)](#)

Trail construction and planning projects have been funded through state capital budget, federal appropriations, and federal grants (RTP, FLAP, TAP, etc).

Is the AKT finished?

No, but approximately 20% of the trail is already constructed in segments that will ultimately be connected by new routes.

Are portions of the route accessible?

Yes, the most complete section is in the Chugach National Forest, between Seward and Eagle River.

Where can I get more information about the AKT?

Visit the AKT page on Alaska Trails website: [ALASKA TRAVERSE \(AKT\) | Alaska Trails \(alaska-trails.org\)](#)

How can I get involved?

We'd love to hear from you. Contact Alaska Trails at [Contact | Alaska Trails \(alaska-trails.org\)](#)