

Bench Lake Property Comments

This is an opportunity to own a very secluded piece of the Alaskan wilderness on a small lake in the Matanuska Valley. Bench Lake is located just a few air miles from the scenic Matanuska Glacier. The views from the front of the cabin include the beautiful lake with the Talkeetna Mountains across the river valley. From the rear of the cabin, the Chugach Mountains provide a spectacular backdrop. Access is primarily by floatplane, but there is also snowmachine access in the winter after the river freezes. The lake usually opens up around the third week of May and can remain ice-free until mid-October.

The primary cabin construction was completed in 2005. The machine milled spruce log kit came from Alaska Quality Log Homes in Sterling, Alaska, but the logs actually came from the Nenana area. The logs and much of the building material was sling loaded in by a local helicopter operator. The foundation is treated wood posts set on concrete bases. It is very solid. The windows are vinyl and the roof is brick red metal. There is a nice deck on the front of the cabin with Trex decking and a CableRail railing system to optimize the view of the lake. There is also a small deck off the loft in the rear of the cabin to enjoy the Chugach view.

The interior ceiling is a beautiful tongue and groove pine. The main floor is a light colored laminate and the loft floor is an unfinished tongue and groove dimensional lumber. The main floor includes the kitchen, main living area, bedroom and bathroom (shower and sink, but no toilet). The upper level loft has ample storage space in the pony walls. A 35-gallon water tank with a solar charged 12 volt RV style pump system is located in the loft. Lake water is pumped into the tank for use in the shower and other non-cooking purposes.

A soap stone Hearthstone wood stove provides primary heating. There is a small propane heater in the main floor bedroom to take the chill off in that room. A portable kerosene heater is also part of the package if a quicker warm up is needed.

There are several customized artistic features on the property including the "Goddess Tree" that greets you as you arrive by the lakeshore. The upper loft rail and stair railing are twisted black spruce from the property. The loft bed has a custom made headboard from painted canvas fabric. The main living area has a large iron candle chandelier to provide a rustic glow in the fall evenings. And finally, the outhouse has a display of mosaic tiles to brighten your day.

Outbuildings include a 12' X 12' shed to store tools, material, and a four-wheeler with a trailer. There is a woodshed, a small generator enclosure and the outhouse. There is ample surplus lumber stored under the cabin to erect other structures if desired. The 12' X 12' dock is a floating style that can be left in the lake over the winter.

Wildlife will be your neighbor at Bench Lake. There are ducks, swans, wolves, coyotes, bears, moose, lynx, grouse, and other critters as well. The lake is teeming with beautiful rainbow trout and it is rare when you don't have the entire lake to yourself while fishing. The ADF&G has been stocking the lake every odd year for many years. To make fishing more enjoyable, there is a canoe and small trolling motor included in the sale.