

RECREATION AND HIKING TRAILS

UPPER KERN CANYON

Many trails are available to explore on the Kern River Ranger District of the Sequoia National Forest. Pick a trail that matches your ability. Strenuous hikes should be undertaken only if you are in good physical shape and an experienced hiker. When hiking we suggest:

*Have proper clothing-weather can change rapidly.

*Wear good hiking boots, not sandals, and break in your boots before a long hike.

*Always carry plenty of water.

*Also carry a first-aid kit, map & food to suit your needs.

*REMEMBER TO PACK OUT WHAT YOU PACK IN!

During the spring and summer months, when hiking on trails from 3000 to 6000 feet in elevation, watch out for snakes. Pets are permitted on trails. They must be under the control of the owner so as not to disturb the wildlife and other hikers.

Wildfire is always a danger in the mountains of Southern California. Campfire permits are required in trail camps. Permits may be obtained from the Ranger Stations.

Please don't smoke while hiking. Take the time to sit down and clear a fire safe area of all flammable material 3 feet in diameter before smoking!

DRINKING WATER

Visitors should not drink from creeks, springs or the river without properly treating the water.

Recommended treatment is to bring clear water to a rolling boil for 5 minutes or use a filter/purifying system.

WHISKEY FLAT TRAIL (32E35)-starts at the north end of Burlando Rd. in Kernville, paralleling the Kern River, and ending at the Fairview footbridge. Along the trail are gradual elevation changes (still paralleling the river) with numerous short steep stretches in and out of side drainage to the Kern River. The area abounds with mixed chaparral brush species, with occasional gray pine and oak trees. There are lots of good fishing spots along this trail.

Short day hikes are recommended during summer starting from either trailhead. Trail provides little shade and is considered easy to moderate. **Please respect private property.**

CANNELL TRAIL (33E32)-begins at the horse corrals, 2 miles north of Kernville on Mtn 99. The trail starts out at a gradual climb, becoming steeper as you reach Pine Flat. The trail affords magnificent views of the Kern River Valley during the trip. As the trail climbs into higher elevations, it gets into a mixed pine and fir forest. At Pine Flat the trail parallels the south side of Forest Rd #24S12, and crosses Cannell Creek two different times before reaching Cannell Cabin, built between 1904 and 1909. The trail is considered moderate to strenuous in difficulty. It is very open and exposed and provides little shade.

RINCON TRAIL (33E23)-starts approximately 10 miles north of Kernville on Mtn 99 across from Ant Canyon, and proceeds north following the Rincon fault to the Forks of the Kern River. The trail ascends and descends in elevation, in and out of drainages, passing through flats of Jeffrey and gray pine, cedar and chaparral. Salmon, Brush and Durrwood Creeks are crossed offering good fishing and some nice undeveloped camping spots. This trail intersects with the trail to Packsaddle Cave and further north a tie-in section of trail connects this trail to the River Trail. It is considered moderate to strenuous in difficulty.

PACKSADDLE CAVE TRAIL (33E34)-begins 16 miles north of Kernville on Mtn 99. The trail is a moderate, occasionally steep incline to a cave that has long since been robbed of some of its stalactites and stalagmites, yet is still worth seeing. Bring a flashlight to explore the cave.

FLYNN TRAIL (32E33)-begins at the Fairview footbridge 16 miles north of Kernville on Mtn 99. Crossing over the bridge, the trail climbs up a small hill, then proceeds a moderate climb up Flynn Creek drainage. The last half-mile of trail is a very steep and strenuous hike up to Speas Ridge. At the ridge, you can tie into a 1-1/2 mile trail to Johnsondale #32E32 or tie into Forest Service Rd #23S33. Watch for poison oak!

TOBIAS TRAIL (32E34)-starts 1/2 mile up the same trailhead as Flynn Trail-forking off at the top of the hill, then descends a short way into Tobias Creek. Here the trail will follow Tobias Creek 1-1/2 to 2 miles. For the next 2-3 miles the trail climbs to the top of Speas Ridge. The trail is in close proximity to the creek bottom, though mixed chaparral and riparian habitat. The trail offers good fishing along the way. Like the Flynn Trail, during summer months, its quite hot and dusty going! Trail is considered moderate to strenuous in difficulty.

RIVER TRAIL (33E30)-begins 19 miles north of Kernville on the east side of the Johnsondale Bridge off Mtn 99. This trail follows the Kern River, proceeding north from the bridge eventually intersecting with the Rincon Trail. The trail climbs at a gentle to moderate grade over riverside bluffs, then descends to interspersed riverside terraces. Grey pine, live oak, incense cedar, manzanita and Jeffrey pine dot the areas as well as high boulders creating cave-like campsites. Parts of this trail may be submerged at the height of spring run-off. Good access for fishing on the North Fork of the Kern River. Trail suitable for day hikes or overnight backpack trips and is considerably easy to moderate in difficulty.

BADGER GAP TRAIL begins 1 mile north of Oak Flat Lookout Rd on Rancheria Rd. The trail descends Greenhorn Mtn crossing several seasonal drainages

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on moderate grades before a steep descent into Delonegha Creek. Just above Hwy 178, the trail connects with Kern River Trail. The trail traverses oak woodlands and mixed brush, and provides some fine views of the Lower Kern Canyon.

BRIGHT STAR TRAIL starts in the Piute Mountains on Rd 28S27 near Inspiration Point. This is an historic route, is not maintained for horses or motorcycles due to loose talus slopes. The route may be difficult to follow in places and a topographic map is recommended. The lower ½ mile is on private land terminating at the end of Erskine Creek Rd. Historic evidence of mining can be seen along this route.

BULL RUN TRAIL starts at the end of the Cow Creek Rd, 1-1/4 miles north of Greenhorn Summit on Forest Hwy 90. 4WD is required for the last ½ mile of the road. The trail descends Cow Creek and to Bull Run Creek, turns upstream and climbs gently 1-1/2 miles into Bull Run Basin. Pine and oak line the creek with brushy slopes above. There is trout fishing in the creek, but it is not stocked.

CLEAR CREEK TRAIL begins 1 mile north of the Forest Service Havilah Station. The first 2 miles are on private land; please stay on the trail and close fence gates. The trail ends in Brown Meadow after climbing Piute Mountain through grass, oaks and brush to Clear Creek, then making numerous fords of the creek on a moderate climb through oak woodland and pine forest. Spring wildflowers are abundant in the lower and middle elevations.

DRY MEADOW TRAIL starts at the end of the Steve Spring Rd (28S27B) in the Piute Mountains. The trail descends in mixed conifer forest to open pine stands at Woolstalf Meadow, turns north and climbs through pine/oak woodland before descending along a small stream to Dry Meadows.

EAST KERN CANYON TRAIL begins at Hwy 178 and Delonegha Rd. There are gradual elevation changes as the trail parallels the river through open hillsides of grass and oak. The trail ends at Keyesville. There can be excellent wildflower displays along this trail from mid-March to late April.

HOBO FISHING TRAIL begins at Hobo Campground and follows the Kern River to Sandy Flat Campground. Gentle slopes and good fishing are accessible along the trail.

KERN RIVER TRAIL begins at Hwy 178 and Delonegha Rd. There are gradual elevation changes as the trail parallels the river through open hillsides of grass and oak. The trail ends beyond China Garden. There can be excellent wildflower displays along this trail from mid-March to late April.

MILL CREEK TRAIL starts 1-1/2 miles east of Hwy 178 on Old Kern Canyon Rd. The trail climbs

gradually along Mill Creek for 2 miles, crossing the creek several times. Open oak/grass and riparian woodlands are found here, with fine spring wildflowers. Leaving the creek, one climbs moderate to steep grades through brush fields to mixed conifer forest. The trail ends at a small spur road just north of Squirrel Meadow on Brekenridge Mountain.

PACIFIC CREST TRAIL crosses Piute Mountain Rd 1-1/2 miles east of Landers Meadow as well as at the west end of meadow. This segment has moderate grades as it traverses the southeast corner of the Piute Mountains in Pinyon/Juniper, Ponderosa Pine and mixed conifer forest. Mountain bikes are not allowed.

PATCH CORNER starts .4 miles east of Democrat Station on Hwy 178 and parallels the Kern River, coming in at China Gardens. Provides access to beach areas along the river, as well as good springtime flower displays.

PORTUGESE begins on Forest Hwy 90, just south of the Girl Scout Camp and follows a series of small meadows to a ridge and then back to Forest Hwy 90 on Greenhorn Mtn. Views of the Kern River Valley and Sierras are possible.

REMINGTON RIDGE TRAIL starts 1-3/4 miles west of the Hobo Campground on Old Kern Canyon Rd. The climb is moderate to steep and passes from open oak/grass woodland with spring wildflowers, through brush fields, to pine/oak forest at the O'Brien Spring Rd. Views of Isabella Lake, Kern Canyon, and Kern Plateau can be seen in the higher portion of the trail.

SUNDAY PEAK TRAIL begins at the Girl Scout Camp parking area on Forest Hwy 90 and climbs through mixed conifer forest on a moderate grade to the summit of Sunday Peak. Excellent views of the Kern Valley, the Plateau and high Sierra peaks may be seen on clear days. This trail is a good day hike for families, with a nice lunch spot at the summit.

UNAL TRAIL loops along Greenhorn Summit beginning at the Summit Station. Interpretive brochure with stops highlights early Native American use of the area. Moderate climbing and good views.

TREAD LIGHTLY- please stay on the trails and do not short cut switchbacks. Lower elevations are usually snow free but may be too muddy for winter travel. Wet conditions may also leave trails subject to erosion. Motorized vehicles are prohibited on the Pacific Crest Trail and the Unal trail. No trails listed are suitable for ATVs.

*All information obtained from the US Department of Agriculture and the US Forest Service.

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