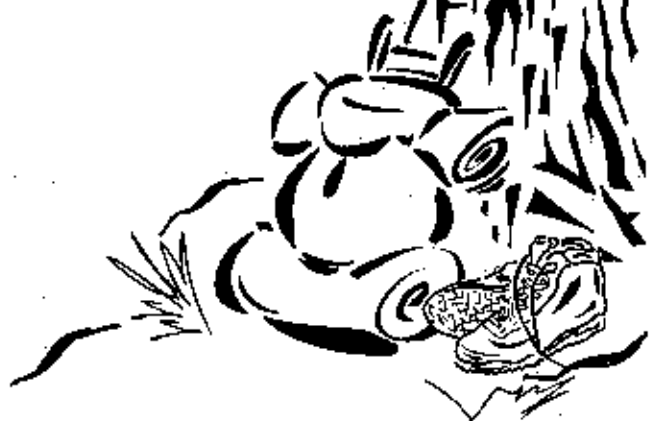

Hiking Guide



A guide to selected trails
in Plumas County
California

Plumas County Visitors Bureau

Almanor Basin

Lake Almanor Recreation Trail

Length: 9.75 miles

Effort: Easy

Hike Time: About 3 hours (one-way)

This paved, barrier-free, non-motorized trail follows the west shore of the lake, offering numerous scenic vistas and interpretive sites. The southern trailhead is at the Rocky Point PG&E campground, off Highway 89. To reach the northern access, turn northeast on the unpaved road opposite Humbug Road turnoff on Highway 89. The trailhead is less than a quarter mile down, before the archery range. This trail also is open to bicyclists and cross-country skiers.



Humbug Summit to Humboldt Peak

Length: 6 miles

Effort: Easy

Hike Time: About 2 hours (one-way)

The trailhead for this slightly uphill hike is located about 19 miles off Highway 89 (west shore) on Humbug Road. After leaving the highway, continue straight (do not turn) at the intersections to stay on Humbug Road. The road is a bit rough, but passable in a two-wheel drive vehicle. Parking and the trailhead is past Humbug Summit at Cold Spring, a fresh water spring. This leg of the Pacific Crest Trail has spectacular views.

Juniper Lake/Mt. Harkness Trail

Length: 5.5 miles

Effort: Difficult

Hike Time: 3.5 hours (round-trip)

This loop trail lies just inside Lassen Volcanic National Park. Follow Feather River Drive northwest of Chester and take the right fork 11 miles to the Juniper Lake campground. The trail climbs to 8,000 feet and offers dramatic views of remote park beauty. For more information on this trail and others within the park, call (530) 595-4444.

Domingo Springs Trail

Length: 7 miles

Effort: Moderate

Hike Time: Over 2 hours (one-way)

The trailhead is located off of Feather River Drive northwest of Chester just past Domingo Springs Campground. Ice cold water is available from a faucet at the springs, which are surrounded by lush ferns and watercress. The hike goes into Lassen Volcanic National Park:

Willow Lake to Terminal Geyser

Length: 3 miles

Effort: Easy

Hike Time: 1 hour (one-way)

This popular hike begins at Willow Lake, northwest of Chester. Follow Forest Service roads off Feather River Drive. Turn right at the sign to Willow Creek. The trailhead with parking and restrooms is located on the east side of the lake and continues to an active volcanic thermal area.

Quincy/Feather River Canyon

Cascades Trail

Length: 1 mile

Effort: Moderate

Hike Time: About one-half hour (one-way)

This popular trail follows Spanish Creek to a set of five small but impressive falls. Take Highway 70 northwest from the Visitors Center in Quincy for 5.1 miles to the second highway sign marked "Old Highway." Turn right and follow the paved road .7 of a mile east past several homes. Turn left onto a rough dirt road and follow it .4 of a mile to a rocky parking area. The creek is on the left and the trailhead is just in front and slightly to the right. The trail is mostly wide, smooth and level, but narrows in some steep spots and can be slippery. There is also a small narrow bridge across a steep area with only one handhold, but the bridge is strong. The trail offers some nice scenery and swimming holes and is especially enjoyable during fall foliage season. It was originally built to transport water for hydraulic mining and was used as a supply road for the Western Pacific Railroad.



Yellow Creek Trail

Length: 1.5 miles

Effort: Easy

Hike Time: About 1 hour (one-way)

Take Highway 70 about 28 miles west of Quincy to the Eby Stamp Mill rest area opposite Belden. Trailhead is just to the right of the stamp mill. The trail runs about 100 feet above and along the creek and ends at a box canyon and a modern miner's camp. Live oak and Douglas fir are predominant and there are colorful pools in the stream.

Chambers Creek Trail

Length: 4.5 miles

Effort: Difficult

Hike Time: About 5 hours (one-way)

This trail begins off Highway 70 across from the Indian Jim Campground 6.5 miles south of Belden. It starts on an abandoned PG&E maintenance road and fords Granite Creek. The trail leaves the road about a half-mile from the start. It's a steady ascent up the mountain, with lots of wildflowers and flowering shrubs. Watch out for poison oak. At the steel bridge (2-3 hours) is a great view of the stream. The trail becomes steeper and rougher past the bridge. From here you can hike toward Chambers Peak or go ahead to the off-road-vehicle road and Ben Lomond Peak and various small lakes in the High Lakes region.

Mill Creek Trail (Bucks Wilderness)

Length: 9.5 miles

Effort: Moderate

Hike Time: About 6 hours (one-way)

This is a pleasant, relatively flat hike with beautiful meadows and tall trees. There are three trailheads: Mill Creek Campground; along Mill Creek Road; and the more popular trailhead at Bucks Creek on the Quincy-Bucks Lake Road, a half mile west of Whitehorse Campground. From the latter trailhead, the first 4 miles amble along the northeast shore of Bucks Lake. Cross Mill Creek and pass Mill Creek Campground trailhead. Head north 1.5 miles and intersect Mill Creek Road. After this intersection in less than a mile you intersect the Mill Creek Trailhead access on the creek's west side. A sign here indicates the Pacific Crest Trail intersection is 3 miles and Three Lakes is 4 miles.

Silver Lake-Gold Lake Trail (Bucks Wilderness)

Length: 1.5 miles

Effort: Moderate

Hike Time: About 1 hour (one-way)

This trail provides access to the 21,000-acre Bucks Wilderness and the Pacific Crest Trail. Reach the trailhead by going west about nine miles from Quincy on Bucks Lake Road, then turn right at the signed intersection and proceed 6.5 miles on the gravel Silver Lake Road to parking near the dam where there are campsites and toilets. Once at Silver Lake, go east (left), past the old dock until you see the trailhead sign to Gold Lake. The well-maintained trail leaves Silver Lake and proceeds along a brushy ridge and an easy grade. Along the way you'll intersect the Granite Gap trail, a tie-trail to the Pacific Crest Trail. The last section of the trail is a scramble before it drops to Gold Lake. There is not much shade along the trail, but at this higher elevation, temperatures do not get too hot except in mid-summer.

Indian Valley

Antelope Lake-Taylor Lake Trail

Length: 10 miles

Effort: Easy to Moderate

Time: 4 to 5 hours (one-way)

This hiking/equestrian trail takes you through forest, meadows and across several creeks. Evidence of past logging practices and recent wildfire can be seen throughout. The trailhead is located right before the dam at Antelope Lake on the Genesee-Antelope Lake Road. The trail connects with Middle Creek and Cold Stream trails, which are shorter streamside hikes originating at Genesee Road. Numerous road crossings with trail markers make it possible to hike just sections of the main trail although a detailed map is needed. The route ascends through fir, pine and riparian areas, offering panoramic views. The trail eventually leads to the shores of Taylor Lake, an alpine jewel at the base of Kettle Rock. This hike also can be taken in reverse order, starting at Taylor Lake and descending to Antelope Lake.



Round Valley Lake Trail

Length: 1 mile

Effort: Easy

Time: About 1 hour (round-trip)

From Greenville, take Greenville-Round Valley Road. In 3 miles you will come to the lake, the dam will be to your right. Parking is available at the trailhead on the left. The walk is about a one-mile loop with approximately a 500-foot incline. There are a number of interpretive signs along the way. At the summit you will find picnic tables. The return trip is a bit steeper, but there are several benches on which you can rest.

Indian Falls Trail

Length: Quarter mile

Effort: Moderate

Hike Time: About 15 minutes (round-trip)

This is a quick, but moderately steep trail that takes you to a beautiful waterfall on Indian Creek south of Greenville. The falls have significant mythological importance to the local Maidu Indian tribe. A parking area for the trail is located on the east side of Highway 89, just north of Indian Falls Road, which is about two miles north of the intersection of Highways 89 and 70. The trail drops quickly to the creek, a favorite local summertime swimming hole.

Eastern Plumas/Lakes Basin Recreation Area

Frazier Falls Trail

Length: Half mile

Effort: Easy

Hike Time: Half hour (round-trip)

A gentle paved trail into a scenic fenced overlook of the 250-foot falls. The trailhead is located on Old Gold Lake Road, about six miles from the Highway 89/Gold Lake Road intersection. About 1 3/4 miles up the present Gold Lake Road, take the signed, narrow paved access road on the left for about four miles to the trailhead. This is a great picnic site with restrooms.



Red Fir Nature Trail

Length: Quarter mile

Effort: Easy

Hike Time: Fifteen minutes (round-trip)

This is an easy trail that leads past informative signs that interpret the changes occurring in a red fir stand. The trailhead is located on the dirt road leading to Mills Peak Lookout. Look for a sign to Mills Peak located on the east side of Gold Lake Road just south of Gold Lake. Continue your drive to the lookout for a fantastic view of the Mohawk Valley.

Long Lake Trail

Length: Three-quarters to 2.75 miles

Effort: Moderate

Hike Time: Half hour to 1.5 hours

This trail takes off from either the road leading past Lakes Basin Campground or the road to Gray Eagle Lodge, both located off Gold Lake Road south of Graeagle. The Lakes Basin Campground is off Gold Lake Road about 6.5 miles from Highway 89, with a paved road leading to the trailheads. Head straight ahead (avoid the side trails) on the easy, but boulder-strewn and well-worn pathway which has typical high elevation lodgepole, white pine, Jeffrey pine and white fir cover. Long Lake is the second largest and one of the prettiest lakes in the Lakes Basin. The Gray Eagle Lodge turnoff is about 5 miles up Gold Lake Road from Highway 89; turn right and continue a bit over a quarter mile to the signed trailhead turnoff just west of Gray Eagle Creek. The trail climbs gradually nearly 3 miles past the Lily Lake Trail and Grassy Lake Trail intersection and Long Lake to the Mount Elwell and Mud Lake Trails. There are several loops and alternative paths along the way, each taking you to cool mountain lakes and eventually to the Pacific Crest Trail.

Round Lake/Bear Lakes Loop Trail

Length: 3.75 miles

Effort: Moderate

Hike Time: About 3 hours (round-trip)

This is the most favored day hike in the region because it overlooks or touches nine mountain lakes. It encompasses varied terrain at an average elevation of 6,600 feet and offers access to the Long Lake Trail. The most scenic overlook is at Silver Lake, a good spot to stop for a picnic lunch. The trailhead parking lot is above Gold Lake Lodge off Gold Lake Road. Take Highway 89 just south of Graeagle to Gold Lake Road and travel south 7.5 miles to the Gold Lake Lodge turnoff.

Eastern Plumas/Plumas-Eureka State Park

Grass Lake/Little Jamison Creek Trail

Length: 3.8 miles

Effort: Moderate

Hike Time: About 3 hours (one-way)

The trailhead to these wonderful little lakes is at the Jamison Mine where there are several picturesque old structures left over from the 19th century. Travel up Johnsville Road (A-14) west off Highway 89 in Graeagle approximately 4.5 miles to the unimproved Jamison Mine Road. Look for a sign on the left that reads Jamison Mine/Grass Lake Trail. Continue 1.5 miles to the trailhead and parking area. The trail climbs steadily 3.8 miles to the Pacific Crest Trail past Smith Lake, Grass Lake, Jamison Lake and Rock Lake trail junctions. The first half mile is steep and rough. Continuing up Little Jamison Creek you will leave the park, passing a waterfall and the east shore of Grass Lake, elevation 5,842 feet. After leaving Grass Lake the trail makes a slight ascent through quaking aspen and wildflowers. After crossing Jamison Creek, there are intersections to other trails, but it's best to carry a Lakes Basin or Forest Service map to know where you're going. Dogs are allowed with leash.



Eureka Peak Loop Trail

Length: 3 miles

Effort: Difficult

Hike Time: About 3 hours (round-trip)

Follow the dirt road from the Eureka Bowl ski area parking lot (top of Johnsville Road). The road ends at Eureka Lake about 1.5 miles up. The trailhead is located at the dam next to the parking area which has restrooms. The trail divides to make a loop. Staying left, the trail winds to an ascent to the crest of the saddle between the false peak (left) and Eureka Peak (right). The false peak offers great views. From Eureka Peak there is a 360-degree view taking in almost every major peak in the county. Follow the trail/road to the park boundary signs and steeply down to the north to intersect the original trail above the lake. Dogs are not allowed on the trail.

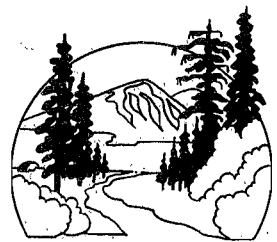
Madora Lake Nature Walk

Length: 1.5 miles

Effort: Easy

Hike Time: About 1 hour (round-trip)

A great family stroll with a number of interesting things to see. The trailhead is located off Johnsville Road (County Road A-14) about 3.5 miles west of Highway 89 at Graeagle. There is a signed turnoff into a paved parking area with picnic tables and restrooms. This trail is particularly nice in the spring when masses of ferns and other plant life are lush and green. The trail makes a loop along the lake, connecting at the Lundy Ditch footbridge. No dogs allowed on the trail.



800-326-2247

This trail information was excerpted from U.S. Forest Service publications and from "Trails of the Feather River Region," written by Scott Lawson. Reprinted 2007.