Trails to Hike

Welcome to the Mountaintop!

Hiking is one of the most fulfilling ways to experience the beauty and tranquility of the San Bernardino National Forest. It provides access to parts of the forest that are removed from the sights, smells and sounds of the city, and allows for wildlife viewing, relaxation and connection with our beautiful mountain surroundings.

The trails within the Arrowhead area of the Mountaintop Ranger District offer a variety of hiking experiences, from gentle strolls to lengthy expeditions. Whether you’re a beginning outdoor enthusiast or a seasoned veteran, always make sure you’re prepared for the hike ahead. Remember to allot adequate time, prepare all necessary equipment, be aware of weather conditions and tell a family member or friend before beginning your hike.

An Adventure Pass is required to park at many trailheads in the San Bernardino National Forest. It can be purchased at the Heaps Peaks Arboretum Information Booth and a number of local retailers. Camping is available at trail and group campgrounds by advance reservation.

The mission of the Rim of the World Interpretive Association (ROWIA) is to raise public awareness of and inspire active interest in the San Bernardino Mountains through nature-focused educational activities. ROWIA’s vision emphasizes caring for the National Forest, including area treasures such as Heaps Peak Arboretum.

www.hpabaroretum.com

Copyright © 2020 ~ Rim of the World Interpretive Association

Editor/photography: Tim Wilcox
across switchbacks mars the landscape and hastens trail erosion.

- Wildflowers. Picking wildflowers is prohibited by law. Removing plant material affects the ecosystem and may prevent wildflowers from returning in future years.
- Sanitation and Waste Disposal. Human and animal waste must be disposed of properly, as it can spread disease. Please dispose of human waste and tissue in a hole 6 - 8 inches deep (use a trowel) and cover with a layer of soil. Make sure the hole is at least 200 feet from the nearest water trail or campsite. Animal waste should be picked up in a bag and disposed in a trash receptacle.

**TRAILS TO Hike**

**PLEASE NOTE:** All distances are one-way, except as noted in the trail description.

1. **Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail PC2000**  
90+ miles, moderately difficult

   - The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) extends 2600 miles from Canada to Mexico. Although a few hikers have gone the entire length in one trip, most take the trail in segments over a series of years. The PCT traverses about 93 miles of the San Bernardino National Forest and Ranger District. The trail is open to foot and horse traffic only; however, due to regular slides and unpredictable trail conditions, pack animals are not recommended. All motorized and bicycle use is prohibited. Some of the highlights in the Arrowhead area include:
     - FS Road 3N16 to Crab Flats Trail 2W08 (3 miles)
     - This section of the PCT meanders across Holcomb Creek and passes by two past campgrounds.
     - Crab Flats Trail 2W06 to Splinter’s Cabin (3 miles)
     - Along this portion of the PCT, you’ll have spectacular views toward the Lake Arrowhead area.
     - Splinter’s Cabin to Devils Hole (3 miles)
     - This popular stretch of the PCT follows Deep Creek to its confluence with Holcomb Creek, terminating at one of the largest natural riparian areas in Southern California. The meadow is home to several endangered species and should be treated with care.
     - Devils Hole to Hot Springs (6 miles)
     - This stretch of the PCT follows Deep Creek past a variety of beautiful spots, including warm hot springs.
     - Hot Springs to Mojave Dam (6 miles)
     - The final portion of the PCT within the Mountaintop Ranger District crosses Deep Creek on a high bridge and passes some favorite local swimming holes.

2. **Crafts Peak**  
2 miles, moderate

   - This trail begins on FS Road 2N13, behind Green Valley Campground.
   - From Green Valley Lake Rd., follow FS Road 2N13 1 mile to FS Road 2N16A. Turn right onto FS Road 2N16A and follow Crab Creek, keeping left at the intersection with FS Road 2N19B.

3. **Little Green Valley Trail 2W10**  
1.5 miles, difficult

   - This trail begins on the north side of Hwy. 18, across from Snow Valley Mountain Resort. It’s between the ski area’s west and east gates where the Keller Hut sign is located. Turn onto a narrow asphalt road and bear left to find the trailhead’s parking area. The trail itself ascends steeply north through a shaded conifer forest and ultimately intersects FS Road 2N19B.

4. **Camp Creek Trail 1W09**  
2 miles, very difficult

   - This trail starts on FS Road 2N97, which is accessed 0.4 mile east of Snow Mountain Ranger Station. Follow FS Road 2N97 for 0.3 mile and look for a trail heading to the right (south). The trailhead is slightly off the main road. The trail descends 2000 feet over 2 miles to Bear Creek, providing fantastic views of the surrounding valley. From Bear Creek, you can continue toward Big Bear Trail on 1W04.

5. **Children’s Forest Trail 2W09**  
0.5 mile loop, easy walk

   - This paved trail begins off Keller Peak Rd., 4 miles up from Hwy. 18. The trail was designed and is maintained by youth volunteers from the National Children’s Forest. The trail accommodates the needs of the visually and physically impaired. It’s wheelchair accessible.

6. **Children’s Forest Exploration Trail**  
4.5 miles, moderately difficult

   - This trail can be accessed either at the bottom or the top of Keller Peak Rd. The lower trailhead is located near the first bend in Keller Peak Rd., at Dry Creek; the upper trailhead is 4 miles up Keller Peak Rd. The Exploration Trail leads through a variety of ecosystems.

   - Near the top it provides spectacular views of the Inland Empire and greater Los Angeles areas.

7. **Crab Creek Trail 2W07**  
2 miles, moderately difficult

   - This trail begins on FS Road 3N34, 0.2 mile past Tent Peg Group Campground. The trail descends through a recently burned area and crosses the Little Bear Creek, providing access to Fisher- man’s Group Campground. Camping is available at Fisherman’s Campground by reservation. Please note: attempting to cross Deep Creek when it’s running high during winter and spring and during summer thunderstorms is prohibited.

8. **Crab Flats Trail 2W08**  
1.4 miles, moderately difficult

   - This trail begins 0.2 mile past Tent Peg Group Campground on FS Road 3N34 and descends to the junction with area that has recently burned, and connects with the Pacific Crest Trail 0.5 mile west of Bench Camp Group Campground.

9. **Haines Peak Trail 2W03/2W14**  
4.5 miles, moderate

   - This trail begins by following Crab Flats Trail 2W08 from FS Road 3N34 to the Pacific Crest Trail. Follow the PCT east 0.3 mile to 2W03 and go north 3 miles to the junction with 2W14. Here you have the option of following a side trail to Muddy Buttes, but it’s advised due to fallen trees. Continue 1.5 miles north of 2W14 to the trailhead, at the junction with 3N14.

10. **North Shore Trail 3W12**  
1.7 miles, difficult

    - This trail begins just behind the North Shore Campground on Hospit al Rd. off of Hwy. 173. The trail descends along seasonal Little Bear Creek to FS Road 2N5, intersecting the road about 1 mile after the Splinter’s Cabin trailhead.

11. **Hawks Peak Arbourtem Trail 3W05**  
0.08 mile loop, easy walk

    - This easy trail begins at Hawks Peak Arboretum, located 2 miles east of the Skytop Overlook Campground on Hwy. 18. The trail takes you through a self-guided tour with 25 points of interest about native plants and wildlife. The site has an Information Booth that’s normally staffed by volunteers from Rim of the World Interpreting Association volunteers.

12. **Enchanted Loop Trail 3W18**  
0.3 mile loop, easy

    - This trail is located within Dogwood Campground, beginning near the amphitheater parking area. The trail winds through dense cedars and eventually joins the Dogwood Trail.

13. **Dogwood Trail 3W04**  
0.75 mile, moderate

    - This trail is located within Dogwood Campground, beginning near the amphitheater parking area. The trail descends through groves of huge dogwood trees, offering stunning views of Lake Arrowhead.

14. **Tunnel II Trail 3W19**  
1 mile, easy

    - This trail begins at FS Road 2N34. From Hwy. 189, take Grass Valley Rd. 0.4 mile to Clubhouse Dr. Follow Clubhouse Dr. 0.1 mile to Fairway Dr. Turn right on Fairway Dr. and follow 0.4 mile to Brentwood Dr. Turn right on Brentwood Dr. and follow for 0.8 mile to Sonoma Dr. Turn left on Sonoma Dr. and follow 0.1 mile to FS Road 2N34 (across from Sutter St.). Follow FS Road 2N24 for 0.4 mile to the trailhead, staying to the right at any rock in the road.

15. **Indian Rock Trail 3W15**  
0.5 mile, easy walk

    - This trail begins behind Rock Camp Fire Station on Hwy. 173, across the highway from the Metate Trailhead parking area. The trail leads to a number of bedrock mortars that were used by Serrano Indians to make acorns and to make flour. Please be respectful of these cultural artifacts when you’re examining them along the trail.

16. **Pilot Rock**  
3 miles, moderate

    - This trail begins at Hwy. 173 at the Metate Trailhead parking area, across the highway from Rock Camp Fire Station. Park here and fol low Pilot Rock Rd., which becomes FS Road 2N33. Follow FS Road 2N33 for 1.4 miles, until you’re directly below Pilot Rock. Then take the trail to the left to ascend the rock.

17. **Pinnacles Trail 3W16**  
1.8 miles, difficult

    - This trail begins at the entrance to the Rifle Range on Hwy. 173, 0.7 mile north of the White Range exit. The trail ascends through rocky ridges and ends at the top of the Pinnacles peak, providing spectacular views of the surrounding area. Please note: near the top the trail requires some scrambling over boulders.

18. **Heart Rock Trail 4W07**  
1 mile, easy walk

    - This easy hike follows Seeley Creek to a well-known formation called Heart Rock. The trail begins on FS Road 2N30, a narrow paved road that skirts Camp Seeley. From Hwy. 138, turn left onto FS Road 2N30 (adjacent to Camp Seeley’s prominent sign) and continue 0.3 mile past the camp’s fenced entrance. The trailhead parking area is marked with an iron post that displays the trail number.

19. **Pound Rock**  
0.5 mile loop, easy

    - This trail is located across from Pine Crest Center along Hwy. 189. It’s easy hike through scenic forests with a spur trail to a vista point.

20. **Will Aerial Memorial Trail 2**  
2 miles, moderate

    - This trail is located at Arrowhead Ridge on Grass Valley Rd. It ascends and descends the ridge through one of Arrowhead’s most impressive forests.

21. **Jim and Katherine Simms Trail**  
2 miles, moderate

    - Parking is located at the Hootman Senior Center with the trailhead at the far end of the ballfield. This hike is steep in the beginning and leads to a large rock summit with a 360-degree view of the surrounding forest and valley below.