

Trail and Lake Information

Trinity Alps Wilderness • Weaverville & Big Bar Ranger Stations
Shasta-Trinity National Forest



Day Hikes

Hobo Gulch to Backbone Creek and to Rattlesnake

Creek: The easy ¾-mile hike to Backbone creek begins level, climbs up, and then drops down to the creek. Another 4¼ miles of easy walking brings you to Rattlesnake Creek. The trail runs through a mixed forest of giant Madrone and Douglas fir. Oaks and dogwood are also prevalent, making this a beautiful hike in the fall. Overnight hikers will find plenty of excellent campsites along the trail. (R11W - T36N - S6)

East Weaver Lake: A moderate 1½-mile hike up and over a ridge leads you to this small lake surrounded by granite and forests. (R9W - T35N - S15)

Big Lake and Little Boulder Lake: It is an easy 2-mile hike into these lakes, which sit 1 mile apart. Little Boulder has steep granite walls and deep water. Big Boulder is a large, shallow lake with lily pads and is surrounded by forest and back dropped by granite ridges. (R8W - T38N - S16)

Adams Lake: A small lake reached after a stiff 2½-mile hike through steep forest. Good chances for solitude. (R9W - T38N - S30)

Stoddard and McDonald Lakes: A comfortable 3½-mile hike through meadows and thick forest leads you to these large, deep, blue lakes surrounded by conifer forest. Billy's Peak towers over both. The trail is accessible from Highway 3 via the Eagle Creek Loop and then onto the dirt road that climbs the ridge above Ripple Creek and Eagle Creek. The turnoff to the Eagle Creek Loop is 3 miles past Coffee Creek. The last half mile of the road is too steep for horse trailers. These lakes can also be accessed by way of the East Fork of Coffee Creek Trail. (R7W - T39N - S18)

Tangle Blue Lake: An easy to moderate 4-mile hike into this lake, which features meadows, forests and large camps. An ideal family camping lake. (R7W - T39N - S20)

Lake Eleanor and Shimmy Lake: Lake Eleanor is reached easily within ½ mile of the trailhead. You continue 3⅔ miles past this picturesque mountain lake until you reach Shimmy Lake, which is surrounded by meadows and forests. The trip is relatively easy and can be enjoyed by the less experienced hiker. (R7W - T37N - S9)

Granite Peak: This is a very steep hike, and only those in good physical condition should attempt it. At the end of this 4⅔-mile climb, you will find yourself on top of a peak with magnificent views of the Trinity Alps, Trinity Lake, and the Trinity Divide. (R8W - T36N - S14)

Longer Hikes

Bear Lakes: This isolated group of lakes offers moderate seclusion and spectacular views. The 5-mile trail to Big Bear Lake is steep and exposed. A cross-country day hike to Little and Wee Bear Lakes takes the easterly ridge leading away from the outlet of Big Bear, then contours around to the basin that holds these lakes. (R7W - T39N - S34)

Sugar Pine Lake: A tough 5½-mile hike following Sugar Pine Creek will take you to this pretty lake surrounded by granite peaks and ridges. There are day hiking possibilities to Union, Foster, Conway and Lion Lakes. (R8W - T38N - S32)

Canyon Creek Lakes: A moderate 7-mile hike along Canyon Creek will take you past meadows and waterfalls until you reach these two lakes that lay below towering granite peaks. Day hikes are possible to the Boulder Creek Lakes and to L Lake. (R10W - T36N - S17)

Long Canyon and Bowerman Meadows: This steep trail forks two miles in. The left-hand fork crosses the creek and leads you to Bowerman Meadows. The north, or right-hand fork, leads you up Long Canyon. Both trails take you through high country meadows, surrounded by rugged peaks and ridges. The wildflowers in these meadows are spectacular. Both trails are for the strong hiker. (R9W - T36N - S6)

Union Lake: Union is a long, shallow, lake reached by an easy to moderate 6-mile hike up the Union Creek Trail. The trail wanders through beautiful mixed conifer forests and beautiful meadows. Union Creek is never far away. There are lots of day hiking possibilities from this area... especially to Landers Lake, Foster Lake, and the Parker Divide. (R8W - T38N - S34)

Stuarts Fork of the Trinity River: This hike starts from Bridge Camp Campground. The trail does not vary much in elevation, and good fishing is found along the river. The trail is well maintained and continues for 15 miles, finally ending at Sapphire Lake. The trail is heavily forested, with rushing mountain streams and beautiful views of the "White Trinities" along the way. (R9W - T36N - S20)



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Swift Creek: This trail passes through mixed conifer forests, meadows, and along the Swift Creek Gorge. Four miles in, at Parker Creek, the serpentine peaks surrounding the upper end of Swift Creek and Bear Basin come into view. This trail also accesses Landers, Ward, and Horseshoe Lakes. The Granite Lake Trail splits off the Swift Creek Trail, one mile from the trailhead. It crosses Swift Creek and, in 5 miles, takes the hiker to a beautiful lake surrounded by towering granite peaks. (R8W - T37N - S21)

Hobo Gulch to Grizzly Lake: A long 19-mile hike from the trailhead at Hobo Gulch will get you to this large alpine lake which sits at the base of Thompson Peak, the tallest peak in the Trinity Alps. The trail is beautiful, wandering through magnificent mixed conifer forests with views of the surrounding peaks. Evidence of Gold Rush mining activity lies all along the trail. Grizzly Lake features a spectacular 70-foot waterfall at its outlet. Day hikes are possible to Lois Lake (the highest lake in the Trinity Alps) and Thompson Peak. (R11W - T36N - S6)

Recommended Loops

- Swift Creek, Granite Lake, 7-Up Peak, Bear Basin, and out Swift Creek. This is a moderate 4-, to 5-day hike.
- Swift Creek, Parker Meadow, Mumford Meadow, Landers Lake, Union Creek, Parker Creek, and out Swift Creek. This is an easy to moderate 5-, to 6-day hike.
- East Fork New River, Pony Creek, Mullane Corral, High Prairie, Limestone Ridge, Blue Ridge, and out East Fork New River. A moderate to difficult 5-, to 6-day hike.
- East Fork Coffee Creek, Stoddard Meadows, Doe Lake, Granite Lake, and out North Fork Coffee Creek. A moderate 5-, to 6-day hike.
- Long Canyon, Deer Lake, Four Lakes Trail, and out Long Canyon. A difficult 4-, to 5-day hike.
- Long Canyon, Four Lakes Trail, Deer Creek, Morris Meadows, and out Stuarts Fork. This trip requires a 15-mile car shuttle and is a moderate to difficult 6-, to 7-day hike.
- New River, Slide Creek, Eagle Creek, Battle Creek, Old Denny, Slide Creek, and out New River. A moderate to difficult 4-, to 6-day hike.

Easy Hikes for people in fair hiking or backpacking condition

- Big Lake and Little Boulder Lake
- East Fork New River (first 4 miles)
- New River (first 3 miles)
- Union Creek to Union Lake
- Pacific Crest Trail
- Stuarts Fork
- Slide Creek (first 2 miles)
- Stoddard Lake from Highway 3
- Tangle Blue Lake
- North Fork Trinity River (first 10 miles out of Hobo Gulch)

Moderate Hikes for people in good hiking or backpacking condition

- Boulder Creek Lakes trail (Canyon Creek)
- Canyon Creek Trail
- Caribou Lakes Trail
- Eagle Creek Trail
- New River Area
- East Fork Coffee Creek Trail
- North Fork Coffee Creek Trail
- Salmon Summit
- South Fork Coffee Creek Trail
- Swift Creek
- French Creek
- Deer Creek Basin and Four Lakes Loop entered from Long Canyon, Stuarts Fork or Stoney Ridge Trails

Difficult Hikes for people in excellent hiking or backpacking condition

- Alpine Lake Trail
- Bear Lake Trail
- Foster & Lion Lakes area
- Granite Peak Trail
- Rush Creek Lakes Trail
- Sugar Pine Lake Trail
- Green Mountain Trail
- Sawtooth Ridge Trail from Stuarts Fork into Caribou Lakes
- Any trail where a stream crossing is required during spring melt

Lakes of the Trinity Alps

Lake (Location*)	Elevation	Mileage	Use	Trail Difficulty	Acreage	Depth
Alpine (R10W - T36N - S35)	6150	8	M/H	M/D	14	26
Big Bear (R7W - T39N - S31)	6500	5	M	M	28	73
Boulder (R8W - T37N - S20)	6100	2	H	E	8	27
Boulder, East (R8W - T39N - S21)	6700	7	H	E	32	60
Boulder, Little (R8W - T37N - S20)	6350	2	H	E	4.5	19
Boulder, Upper (R8W - T39N - S21)	6850	7	L/M	E/M	7	11
Boulder Creek (R10W - T36N - S29)	5750	7.5	H	E/M	5	17
Canyon Creek, Lower (R10W - T36N - S16)	5600	7.5	H	E/M	14	56
Canyon Creek, Upper (R10W - T36N - S16)	5690	8	H	E/M	25	86
Caribou (R10W - T37N - S35)	6850	10	H	M/D	72	72
Deer (R9W - T36N - S28)	7150	8/14	M	M	4.5	19
Diamond (R9W - T37N - S28)	7250	9.5/16.5	M	M	2.5	13
Doe (R8W - T38N - S8)	7300	7	L	D	4.5	15
East Weaver (R10W - T34N - S10)	6350	1.5	M	E/M	1	12
Eleanor (R8W - T36N - S10)	4950	.12	H	E	3	10
Emerald (R10W - T36N - S3)	5500	14	H	E/M	21	68
Foster (R9W - T37N - S23)	7250	8/10	L/M	M/D	5.5	20
Granite (Swift Creek) (R9W - T36N - S26)	6000	5	H	E/M	18	64
Granite (Coffee Creek) (R8W - T38N - S6)	6400	9	L/M	E/M	6.3	12
Grizzly (R10W - T36N - S6)	7100	6/19	H	D	42	173
Horseshoe (R9W - T36N - S9)	6850	9	M	E/M	6	22
L (R10W - T36N - S16)	6350	8.5	L/M	M/D	2	29
Landers (R9W - T37N - S27)	7100	7/9	M	E/M	6	17
Lilypad (R8W - T37N - S32)	6300	4	L	M	2	8
Lion (R9W - T37N - S24)	7000	8/6.5	L/M	M/D	3	37
Long Gulch (R9W - T39N - S32)	6450	2/6	L/M	E/M	14	21
Luella (R9W - T36N - S28)	6950	10.5/16	M	M	2.5	13
Papoose (R11W - T36N - S24)	6600	14	M	D	28	70
Rush Creek Lakes (R10W - T34N - S2)	6200	6.5	L	D	.75/2	12-14
Sapphire (R10W - T36N - S9)	6100	15	H	E/M	43	200
Shimmy (R8W - T36N - S5)	6400	4.5	L/M	M	1.5	10
Smith (R10W - T36N - S22)	6950	10	H	D	24	167
Snowslide (R10W - T37N - S35)	6700	9	H	M/D	10	42
Stoddard (R8W - T38N - S14)	5900	6/3.5	H	E/M	25	84
Sugar Pine (R9W - T37N - S14)	6600	5.5	L	D	9	43
Summit (R9W - T36N - S33)	7350	16/9	M	M	13	34
Tangle Blue (R8W - T39N - S26)	5800	4	M/H	E/M	12	17
Trail Gulch (R9W - T38N - S6)	6400	3.5/5	L/M	E/M	10	47
Union (R9W - T37N - S22)	6080	9	M	E/M	3.5	14
Ward (R9W - T36N - S4)	7100	9.5/6	M	M	5.5	12

Mileage: indicates mileage from nearest trailheads

Use: L = low use, M = moderate use, H = High use

Trail Difficulty: E = Easy, M = Moderate, D = Difficult

(Location*) Township and Range numbers are found in the margins of the Trinity Alps Topographical Wilderness Map, available for purchase from the USDA Forest Service.