

Black Butte Trail

Mt. Shasta & McCloud Ranger Stations - Shasta-Trinity National Forest



Scenic attractions

From the summit of Black Butte (6,325 feet), you will get a spectacular view of the surrounding area. Mt. Shasta towers to the east. The city of Mt. Shasta and the Sacramento River canyon are to the south. Mt. Eddy

and the Klamath Mountains are to the west. The town of Weed, the Shasta Valley and Mt. McLaughlin in Oregon are to the north.

History

Famed naturalist John Muir called it “Muir’s Peak” when he visited the Mt. Shasta area during the late 1800s. Since that time, it has been successively named Wintoon Butte, Cone Mountain and, finally... Black Butte.

The trail to the summit was originally built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the late 1930s. This trail provided access to a Forest Service lookout that was built at the summit. Pack animals were used to bring supplies to the lookout.

The original lookout was destroyed during the Columbus Day Storm of 1962. A new lookout was built in 1963 and operated until 1973. The building was moved by helicopter to a new location in 1975. The only remaining evidence of the lookout is the concrete foundation at the summit.

Geology

Black Butte is a steep, nearly treeless dome of hornblende andesite. It was formed about 10,000 years ago at about the same time as Shastina Crater on Mt. Shasta. A large crater first developed at the base of Mt. Shasta. Soon, very thick magma began to issue from the crater. Four successive eruptions

of material with the consistency of cookie dough were forced above the crater rim. As the flow cooled, internal stress caused the lava to break into chunks that rolled down the side of the dome. Remnants of the solid core can be seen as crags near the summit.

Route to the trailhead

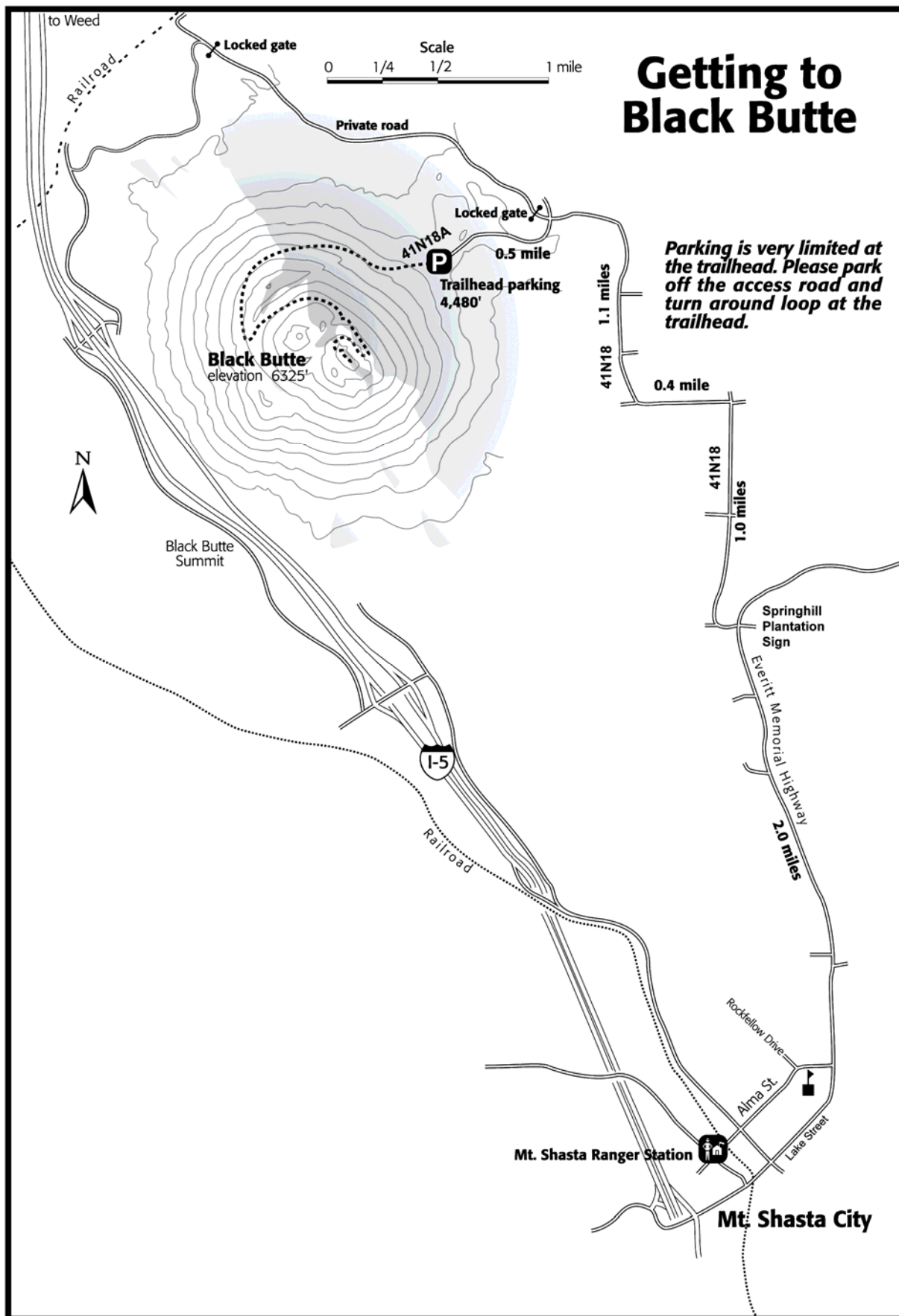
From the Ranger Station drive east on Alma Street to the stop sign at Rockfellow Drive. Turn right and go one block to the stop sign at Everitt Memorial Highway. Turn left and continue approximately 2 miles up the Everitt Memorial Highway to road 41N18, located on the left side of the highway, directly opposite the Springhill Plantation sign. Turn left and stay on the main gravel road for about 2.5 miles (see map). Where the road crosses under the overhead powerline, take the dirt road to the left. Go approximately 0.5 mile on this road to the trailhead. Parking at the trailhead is very limited. Please park off the access road and turn around loop. The route is not recommended for buses or vehicles pulling trailers.

Hiking the trail

The trail is about 2.56 miles from the trailhead to the summit. The trail is maintained annually, however, the trail surface is extremely rocky and steep in places. There is no water available along the trail. There are also few shady spots along the trail and heat can be a factor in having an enjoyable hike during mid-summer. The total vertical climb from the trailhead to the summit is 1,845 feet.

For more information, write:

USDA Forest Service
Mt. Shasta Ranger Station
204 West Alma
Mt. Shasta CA 96067
Call: (530) 926-4511 (voice)
(530) 926-4512 (TDD)



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