



## Lower Rock Creek Hike

**Hiking Distance / Elevation / GPS Coordinates:** This exquisite trail is about seven miles one way. The Parking and Picnic Area is 4,980 feet (1,515 meters) in elevation.

**Latitude:** N 37.480246; **Longitude:** W -118.603728.

**Difficulty:** Easy to Moderate. There is about 1,910 feet (582 meters) elevation gain from the bottom of the trail at the Parking and Picnic Area to the top where it ends at the Lower Rock Creek Road just below U.S. Highway 395.

**Land Managers:** U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Bishop Field Office & Inyo National Forest, White Mountain Ranger District.

**Views:** This hike includes scenic views of a narrow, incised canyon cut by Lower Rock Creek. The trail contains old growth Jeffrey pine, willows, and other riparian vegetation along the creek. Look for clusters of rhyolitic volcanic columns

similar structurally to those at Devil's Postpile. The trail crosses Lower Rock Creek Road twice about half-way up the trail creating additional access for hikers. This trail is popular with mountain bikers, anglers, and hikers.

There are several access points to the trail. This brochure describes accessing the trail from the bottom end where the parking, picnic area and information kiosk are located on Lower Rock Creek Road. The trail follows the creek the entire distance.

**Directions to Trailhead** (a.k.a. *the Bottom End of the Trail*): Take U.S. Highway 395 approximately ten miles north from Bishop Chamber of Commerce to the Pine Creek Road. Turn left onto Pine Creek Road. After a few hundred feet, turn right on Lower Rock Creek Road (Old Sherwin Grade Road). Drive five miles to a hairpin curve. Look for trailhead parking and picnic area on right side of road.

On foot, walk on road shoulder over the creek to the east side of the private residence and look for the trail sign. Follow the trail to your left heading north. The trail crosses the creek from the east to the west side. After a short distance, you will see a kiosk on your left. Follow the trail along the creek to the northern terminus at upper end of Lower Rock Creek Road. This is a popular fishing and mountain bike trail so watch for bikers on blind corners.



Photo by Joe Pollara



Photo by Joe Pollara



## Pleasant Valley Gorge Walk

**Hiking Distance / Elevation / GPS Coordinates:** About three miles one way. The parking area is 4,340 feet (1,323 meters) in elevation.

**Latitude:** N37.413116; **Longitude:** W -118.519712.

**Difficulty:** Easy, consisting of predominantly flat and gentle terrain.

**Land Manager:** City of Los Angeles, Department of Water and Power.

**Views:** This scenic gorge was deeply cut by the Owens River over hundreds of thousands of years. The City of Los Angeles built a dam in the 1950s to take advantage of the gorge's natural shape to serve as a water containment reservoir. It is very popular with anglers, walkers and bike cruisers. The trail itself is a paved road where vehicles are prohibited, leaving the road accessible to hikers, anglers, and bicyclists. This is also a pleasant route for easy mountain and road biking.

The canyon walls rise sharply several hundred feet above the canyon floor. These volcanic rock walls formed around 750,000 years ago from a series of massive pyroclastic explosions that deposited ash, cinder and particulate matter originating from the Crowley Lake area to the north.



Photo by Joe Pollara

**Directions to Trailhead:** Drive north from Bishop about 6-1/2 miles to the Pleasant Valley Reservoir Road. Turn right and follow the paved road 2-1/3 miles to the

barricade where all vehicles must park. Park your vehicle here and proceed on foot through the gate and up the paved road north towards the Pleasant Valley earthen dam. The road will climb above the dam and level off in the canyon itself where you get a view of the reservoir. The paved road terminates at a small power plant located a few miles north from the dam.

### And What About the Environment We All Want to Protect?

Responsible hikers, such as yourself, minimize their impacts to the outdoors. Act as effective stewards of your hiking opportunities and give the right of way to uphill hikers. When encountering anglers, respect them by walking quietly around them and keep your voices low so you don't scare any nearby fish. They will appreciate your consideration. Leave no trace of your presence while respecting the environment including gathering trash left by others. Scientists note that using trail systems approved by the land owner or manager and avoiding the desire to trek cross-country protects soils, plants, cultural resources, and scenery. Put hikers in a positive light and use approved trails or roads to protect natural areas for others.

### Commit to the Bishop Chamber of Commerce's Pledge to:

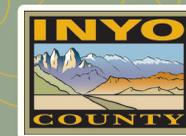
- **Protect** our public lands like those who came before us;
- **Preserve** our public lands for those who will come after us;
- **Participate** in taking good care of our public lands for all of us to enjoy right now; and
- **Perpetuate** these benefits by committing yourself to these stewardship behaviors.



# Bishop Area Winter Hiking & Walking Trails



Photo by Joe Pollara





## Tinemaha Wildlife & Scenic Overlook Hike

**Hiking Distance / Elevation / GPS Coordinates:** About 1.5 miles round trip. The parking area is 3,890 feet (1,186 meters) in elevation.

**Latitude:** N 37.053090; **Longitude:** W -118.230111.

**Difficulty:** Easy to Moderate. This hike is on a well graded, seldom used double wide dirt road traversing 3/4 mile one-way. It climbs from the eastern edge of the Poverty Hills ascending about 250 feet (76 meters) to the overlook on top of a knoll at 4,137 feet (1,261 meters) in elevation. One can drive to the overlook parking area although it requires a high-clearance vehicle.

**Land Manager:** Bureau of Land Management, Bishop Field Office.

**Views:** This area provides unique views of the central Owens Valley from a high point in the Poverty Hills. Local miners and merchants who went broke trying to eke out an existence from limited mineral



Photo by Joe Pollini

availability aptly named them. Tinemaha Reservoir, managed by the City of Los Angeles Department of Water & Power, dominates the eastern landscape nestled by lava flows and volcanic cinder cones dubbed the Big Pine Volcanic Field. Numerous bird species use the reservoir for nesting, hunting, and foraging. To the west, lie the Sierra Nevada's fourteeners – an insurmountable high elevation mountainscape with few established hiking trails.

**Directions to Trailhead:** Drive south from the Bishop Chamber of Commerce on U.S. Highway 395 proceeding through Big Pine for 24 miles to Elna Road. Elna Road will appear on your left as you wind your way through a low range of small hills known as the Poverty Hills. Turn left at Elna Road and proceed east on the paved road for about 1/4 mile. Make a sharp left on the doublewide graded dirt road heading north. You will see a wildlife viewpoint directional sign at this location. Park along the edge of the road a few feet after the turn. This road is seldom used. It requires a high clearance vehicle to access the overlook parking area at the end of the road. Park on the disturbed road, not on the adjacent desert plants. Your hike begins here.



Photo by Joe Pollini

At about a 1/4 mile up the road, you will encounter two lower turnoffs with viewpoints to the right. Both provide spectacular reservoir views with the Inyo Mountains' steep, eroded slopes flanking the reservoir. The remaining 1/2 mile on the main road takes you to the overlook parking area and a rock walkway leading to interpretive signs describing the area's natural features. Walk a few yards further beyond the signs to a knoll for a splendid view before the road drops down the hill requiring a four wheel drive.



## Bishop Creek Canal Walk

**Hiking Distance / Elevation / GPS Coordinates:** About three miles round trip. The parking area is 4,134 feet (1,260 meters) in elevation.

**Latitude:** N 37.361389; **Longitude:** W -118.385956.

**Difficulty:** Easy. This is a flat graded dirt road used by walkers, runners, mountain bikers, and fishermen. Vehicles use it occasionally.



Photo by Joe Pollini

This walk parallels the Bishop Creek Canal located at the outskirts of Bishop and is most suitable in fall, winter and spring and early mornings and evenings during summer.

**Land Manager:** City of Los Angeles, Department of Water and Power.

**Views:** The walk lies on Owens Valley bottom wetland and alkali meadow habitat. It parallels canals, ditches and waterways. Majestic Sierra Nevada viewscape along with the White Mountains adorn the area.

During fall, rabbitbrush displays brilliant yellow flowers while cottonwoods and other deciduous

trees reveal exquisite crimson, gold, and orange colors creating a colorful landscape palette. Marvel at stunning panoramic views of Mt. Tom, Basin Mountain, Mt. Humphreys, and Mt. Emerson during your adventure.

**Directions to Trailhead:** From the Bishop Chamber of Commerce, proceed south on U.S. Highway 395 about 1/2 mile to Line Street. Turn east or left onto East Line Street and continue about 1/2 mile passing First Street on your right. Drive a few hundred feet past First Street crossing over the canal to the gate/parking area on your right. Turn immediately right into the vehicle parking area where you see a wide gate that is usually closed. Park here and leave room to allow vehicles to pass through the gate. Proceed through the pedestrian gate to begin your trek.

Begin heading south along the Bishop Creek Canal on your right for about 1/3 mile where you pass a steel guard rail on your left perched several feet above a deep water ditch.

Immediately past the guardrail, there are two roads on your left. Turn sharply left on either road following the ditch. Both roads merge together within a few hundred feet. After the roads combine back to one main track, continue heading southeast alongside the ditch. Proceed for one mile where you cross a steel cattle guard embedded in the road. After



Photo by Joe Pollini

the cattle guard, a 4-way road intersection appears. Turn right leaving the ditch and heading west toward the Sierra Nevada. Continue on this road segment for about 3/4 mile where you reconnect with the Bishop Creek Canal.

Immediately before the bridge that crosses over the canal, turn sharply right heading north along the east side of the canal. The canal will be on your left. Do not cross over the bridge. Continue north for a mile marveling at the rural countryside until you arrive at the parking area.



## The Druid Stones Hike

**Hiking Distance / Elevation / GPS Coordinates:** This trail is about three miles one way. The Bir Road Parking Area is 4,870 feet (1,484 meters) in elevation.

**Latitude:** N 37.321260; **Longitude:** W -118.445493.

**Difficulty:** Moderate to strenuous with mostly uphill hiking and some scrambling. Approximately 2,000 feet (610 meters) elevation gain from the trailhead.

**Land Manager:** Inyo National Forest, White Mountain Ranger District.

**Views:** Your hike includes outstanding and expansive views overlooking the northern Owens Valley including White Mountain Peak (the third highest in California), the Volcanic Tableland, the Owens River, and the White Mountains. The intriguing Druid Stones lie about two thousand feet above Bishop in the foothills of the Sierra, just southwest of town.

This hike is along a well-worn trail leading to the Druid Stones Bouldering Area where large granite rock pinnacle formations lace the locale at the edge of a steep escarpment with spectacular views both up and back. The Druids sit on the crest of a ridge. The boulders appear silhouetted on the immediate horizon as you approach the crest from below. The area projects a more remote and primitive like experience due to the approach to the Druids which reduces people seeking out the location. It provides increased solitude for those desiring to escape the masses.

Short and stubby Pinyon pine trees grace the area enriching local scenery. Did you know that pinyon pine nuts were a primary food staple harvested by local Native Americans who lived in the valley below? And to this day, local Native Americans continue to collect and harvest pine nuts throughout the region as part of their culture's traditions. To actually grind some pinyon nuts the old fashioned way on an original metate or grinding stone, check out the **Paiute-Shoshone Cultural Center** on West Line Street. Discover how the original locals thrived in the Eastern Sierra. Look for the facility on your way to the trailhead parking.

**Directions to Trailhead:** From the Bishop Chamber of Commerce, head south about 1/2 mile on Main Street or U.S. Highway 395 to Line Street. Turn right or west toward the Sierra Nevada Mountains. After a mile or so, turn left or south at the Barlow Lane stoplight onto Barlow Lane. Drive about 1-1/2 miles past the subdivision and veer right onto Bir Road. The road curves west at this point. Drive about 1-3/4 miles and after the second gray steel powerline, look for a dirt road that goes to the left. Park along the shoulder of Bir Road.

Walk on the rough dirt road south about 1/4 mile heading toward the base of the mountains, then turn right toward the trailhead when you encounter another dirt road. Follow it to its end. Take the obvious trail as it goes back into the wash then switchbacks left up around the hillside. After a strenuous hike up, the trail splits. Take the left branch across the drainage and up a steep incline. The trail flattens out on the crest, then look for the boulders on your left. There is a side trail into the boulders off the main trail marked by a small rock 'V' at the fork (please use this trail).

The trail continues beyond the Druid Bouldering Area into adjoining Coyote Country for longer hiking opportunities.

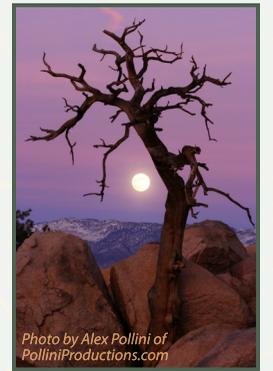


Photo by Alex Pollini of PolliniProductions.com