

PCT No. of Squaw Valley to Tinkers Knob - Squaw Valley Area

Truckee Ranger District - Tahoe National Forest



General Information

Mileage: 7.0 miles one way

Elevation: 6240-8760 feet

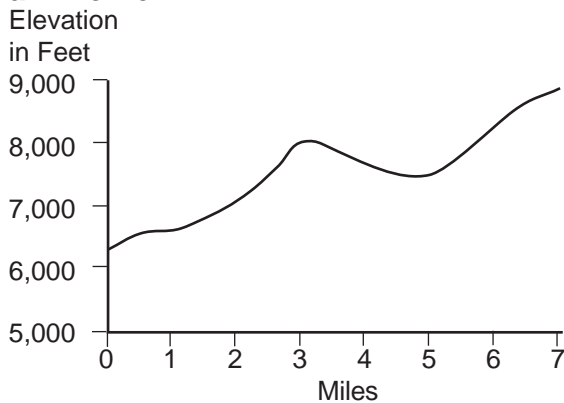
Difficulty: (Difficult)

Use Level: Light

Season: July-October

Topographic Map: Tahoe City & Granite Chief

Trail Profile



Special Note about the PCT:

Congress established the Pacific Crest Trail on October 2, 1968 with passage of the National Trail System Act. The P.C.T. runs for 2,500 miles generally following mountain divides from Mexico to Canada, through California, Oregon and Washington.



Mechanized and Motorized equipment is prohibited, this includes motorcycles and bicycles.

Access

From Interstate 80 west of Truckee, take the South Lake Tahoe exit and follow Highway 89 south for 8.5 miles to the Squaw Valley junction. (If you are coming from Lake Tahoe, take Highway 89 north from Tahoe City for 5 miles.) Turn west on Squaw Valley Road and drive 2.2 miles to the Squaw Valley Fire Station. Hikers must use the large parking area in front of the ski lift buildings and under no condition use any of the parking spaces around the fire station. The trailhead is located on the east (right) side of the fire station and is clearly marked.

Trail Description

Take the Granite Chief Trail from Squaw Valley to where it connects with the PCT. From that junction to Tinker Knob, it is 3.5 miles. The trail winds around and makes some switchbacks along the crest of the mountains. At 1.5 miles it passes the Painted Rock Trail and continues on its way to pass by the headwater of the North Fork of the American River. Between there and the switchbacks up to the Tinker Knob Saddle there are two springs which usually have water flowing from them. It is just a short climb from the saddle up to the top of Tinker Knob which is 8950 feet above sea level. An impressive 360 degree panoramic view is the reward for this hike. Hikers with ambition and who can arrange transportation may want to extend their hike by taking either the Cold Stream Trail down to its trailhead (3.5 miles) or hike the PCT to Donner Pass on the old Highway 40 (7.0 miles).

Note

Water is often not available along the route. Only water from developed systems at recreation sites is maintained safe to drink. Open water sources are easily contaminated by human or animal waste. Water from springs, lakes, pond, and streams should be properly treated before drinking. You may wish to carry water with you. Another method of treatment is to use a backpackers water filter.

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