



Kanaka Peak Trail

Length: 3.5 miles one way if you start at the trailhead; 4.5 miles one way if you start at the campground

Difficulty level: Difficult; approximately 1100 feet elevation gain

Trailhead directions:

Starting at the Whiskeytown Visitor Center, drive south on Kennedy Memorial Drive towards Whiskeytown Dam. The road forks; take the left fork which becomes Paige Bar Road. Do not take the right fork over the dam. Turn right on Peltier Valley Road across from the Mt. Shasta Mine parking area. The Kanaka Peak trailhead is located approximately 1.1 miles from Peltier Bridge Campground. The road is open from late spring through late fall, depending on weather. It is unpaved and crosses a shallow stream. A high-clearance or four-wheel-drive vehicle is recommended. When the road is closed, park at the campground and hike up the road for one mile to the trailhead.

Trail Description:

Starting at the trailhead sign, immediately cross Paige Boulder Creek. At one mile from the trailhead, you will pass the junction of the Peltier Trail on the right. Do not turn right; continue straight ahead. At 1.6 miles from the trailhead, you will pass the junction of the Kanaka Cutoff Trail on the left. Do not turn left; continue straight ahead.

The trail continues another 1.9 miles up Kanaka Peak with two very steep ascents, especially near the summit. It passes through an open black oak and mixed conifer forest. Much of the area burned in wildfires in 1990 and 2008 is now an open forest where wildlife may be spotted. Black tailed mule deer, black bear, or even a Pacific fisher may be seen if you are quiet. Squirrels and songbirds are ever present. Wildfire opened many areas that now have prolific wildflowers. April is the peak wildflower season, but flowers can be found many months of the year.

During the ascent, look back and see Whiskeytown Lake. From the top of Kanaka Peak, the Trinity Alps can be seen to the northwest, Redding and the Lassen Range to the east. The grassy hills of Igo and Ono are to the south, with the Yolla Bolly Mountains beyond. Clear Creek Canyon is located to the south. Mount Shasta is to the north, white with snow in the winter.

Hiking back down the same way that you came up, notice that the lower forest is different from the forest near the summit. This is a denser canopy forest with more moisture in the summer. Douglas fir becomes more dominant. Tan oak and Pacific madrone may also be seen.

At 1.9 miles from the peak, pass the junction of the Kanaka Cutoff trail. Approximately .25 mile later the trail crosses a small creek. The creek flows down slick bedrock creating beautiful rock formations and small waterfalls. This is a great area to explore for a few minutes or stop for a snack. Watch out for slippery rocks.

The trail descends gradually, passing the Peltier Trail on the left at 2.5 miles from the peak. At 3.5 miles from the peak, cross Paige Boulder Creek to return back to the trailhead.

R E C R E A T I O N

(WHISKEYTOWN UNIT)

Monarch Mtn
2550 x

Peltier Bridge
Campground

Water Tank

32

33

Paige

Horsetail Canyon

Paige Bar

CLEAR

Boulder

x 1673

Logging Camp

NEED Camp
BR 92

Peltier Trail

Ridge Trail

x 1545

Creek

Paige Boulder Creek
Martha's Ditch

2400

5

Kanaka Cutoff

4

Kanaka Peak
Trail

2800

Kanaka Peak

2676

Kanaka

0.25 0 0.25 0.5 Miles

