



United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service



PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

Restoring, Enhancing and Sustaining Forests in California, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands

Sierra National Forest

DUSY-ERSHIM OHV ROUTE

High Sierra Ranger District

DIFFICULTY RATING: MOST DIFFICULT
Recommended for advanced drivers. A route requiring a high degree of skill and challenge to travel. Not recommended for full-sized pickups, long wheel base vehicles or for traveling alone.

DIRECTION TO THE DUSY-ERSHIM ROUTE

Take Dinkey Creek Rd. from Hwy 168. Then take Mckinley Grove Rd. to Courtright Rd. and turn left to Courtright Reservoir. Cross the dam on the east side of the lake and stay on the road to the Dusy-Ershim OHV Route sign.

The route begins at 8,400 feet elevation, with many open rocky areas. Be aware that portions of the trail cross large granite slabs and are marked with rocks. Elevation rises to 10,000 feet at Thompson Lake, remaining at the 9,000 to 10,000 foot range for the rest of the route.

THE DUSY-ERSHIM ROUTE

The first mile of the route is shared with foot and horse traffic. Please be considerate of other users and allow them safe passage.

Voyager Rock Campground has fire grates and tables, and is a popular camping area for fishing Courtright Reservoir. Leaving the campground, keep to the left as the “fun” begins at Chicken Rock, a definite attention getter. The panoramic view of the Le Conte Divide from the top is breath taking. The route wanders on the Dusy Creek where 4WD enthusiasts built the crossing over the creek.

Note: John Muir and Dinkey Wilderness boundaries begin on each side of the Dusy-Ershim OHV Route, which is 300 feet from the center line of the route, or 600 feet wide or as posted by signs. Wilderness permits are required for overnight camping in wilderness areas. No vehicles are allowed in the wilderness areas.

Three hours ahead, is the very challenging stretch of road known as “Thompson Hill”. Vehicles should have a body lift, running fairly cool and hitting on all cylinders. Even tires with aggressive tire tread will benefit with reduced air pressure. Even with all of this preparation, several stops may be necessary to throw a few rocks in the right places for traction. Access into Thompson Lake is closed at the wilderness boundary. A camping site with room for a few vehicles and tents is available here. The walk to the lake is short and easy.

The next stop is East Lake, which is not visible from the route making it easy to miss. It’s only a short walk to good fishing and an excellent photo spot with picturesque Dogtooth Peak in the background.

Ershim Lake is next with lots of space for camping and parking. Follow the signs to campsites. The route from the top of Thompson Hill to Ershim Lake is fairly tame. However, the scenery becomes more interesting than the challenge of the route. This will soon change.

It will take about three hours to cover the four miles to Lakecamp Lake. Rainbow Trout make Lakecamp unique as the other lakes along the route have Brook Trout. Another fishing spot, Mallard Lake, is an easy 20 minute walk beyond Lakecamp.



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The next four difficult miles to Whitebark Vista will test driving skills, but the panoramic views make it worth the effort. The route ends at Whitebark Vista. Many people prefer using Whitebark Vista as a starting point. Huntington Lake is 30 minutes away.

CAMPING TIPS:

No camping within 100 feet from lakes, streams, trails and meadows. Campfire permits are free and available at your local Forest Service office. A campfire permit is required for wood fires, charcoal fires, or portable gas stoves.

Campsites	Miles to Site	Time to Drive
Voyager Rock	3 miles	1.5 hour
Thompson Lake	11 miles	6 hours
East Lake	17 miles	10 hours
Ershim Lake	22 miles	13 hours
Kaiser Pass	31 miles	2 to 3 days

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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