

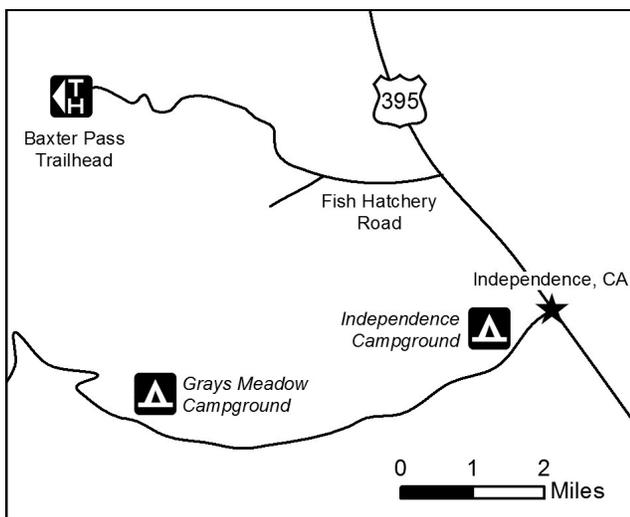


# Baxter Pass Trail

Baxter Pass Trail climbs over 6,000 vertical feet from the desert to the crest of the Sierra Nevada. Beginning at an elevation of 6,000 feet, it ascends to 12,300 foot Baxter Pass in 7.2 miles. At the top of the pass, the trail enters Kings Canyon National Park.

Due to its challenging nature, Baxter Pass Trail is visited relatively infrequently. It is steep, rugged and infrequently maintained. The first 3.5 miles of the trail pass through an old burn area. In this area, the trail is occasionally blocked or obscured by fallen trees or brush.

Baxter Pass Trail is not recommended for stock.



## Trailhead Facilities:

Water: No

Camping Options: Nearest developed campground is Independence Creek Campground, located 1 mile west of Independence, CA, on Market Street.

## On The Trail:

Food Storage: Food, trash and scented items must be stored in bear-resistant containers or counter-balanced 15 feet above the ground and 10 feet horizontally from a tree trunk. Suitable trees are not available in most locations, so bear-resistant containers are strongly recommended.

Camping: Use existing campsites. Camping is prohibited within 25 feet of the trail and within 100 feet of water.

Human Waste: Bury human waste 6"-8" deep in soil, at least 100 ft from campsites, trails, and water.

Campfires: Campfires are prohibited above 10,400 ft. elevation.

Pets: Pets must be under control at all times.

Additional Regulations: Information about Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park regulations is available at [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki) or at Inyo National Forest visitor centers.

## Permit & Quota Information:

Permits are required for overnight trips. Obtain permits at any Inyo National Forest ranger station or visitor center.

Between May 1 and Nov 1, overnight use is limited to 8 people per day. Permit may be reserved up to 6 months in advance at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

## Access:

From Highway 395, 2 miles north of Independence, CA:

- Turn west onto Fish Hatchery Rd.
- After 1.2 miles, turn right at fork in road.

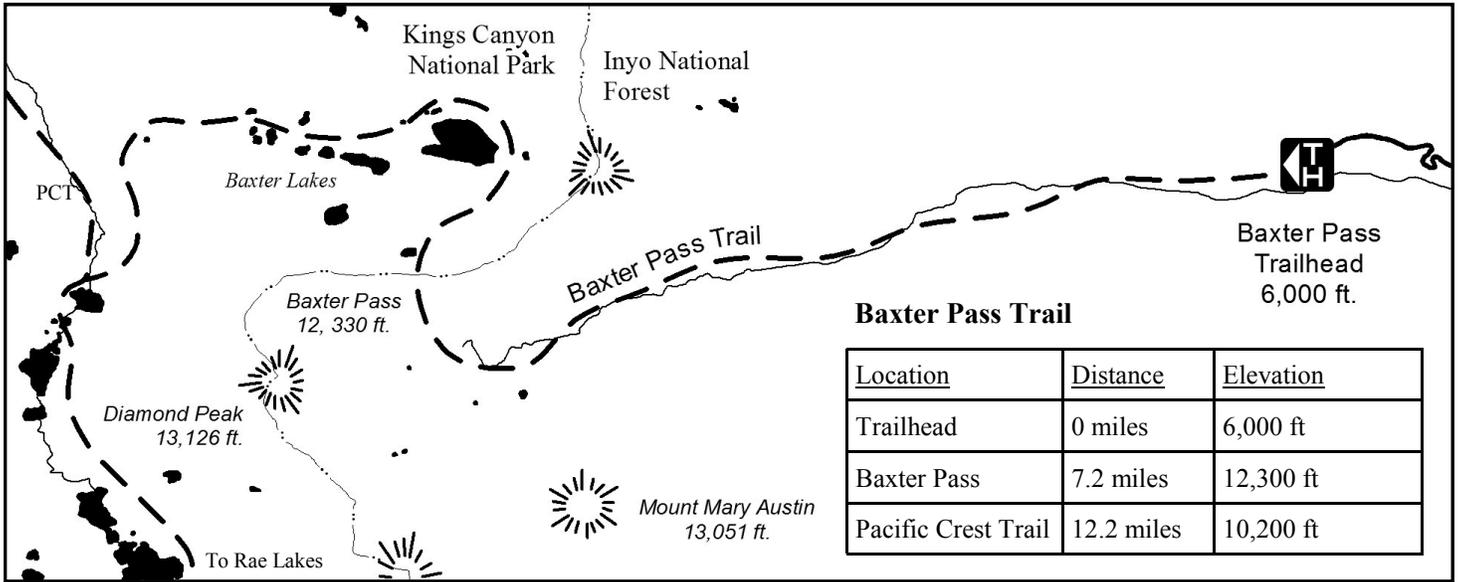
Baxter Pass trailhead is located at the end of the road, approximately 5 miles west of Highway 395. The last 3.5 miles of the road are unpaved. Normally the road is suitable for standard passenger vehicles.

## Season:

Baxter Pass Trail is relatively snow free from approximately June through October. The rest of the year, ice or snow may cover some or all of the trail.

The road to the trailhead is not maintained in winter. The trailhead is usually accessible, but road conditions are occasionally poor.





**Maps:**

USDA Forest Service: A Guide to the John Muir Wilderness and Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness

USGS Quad: Kearsarge Peak; Mount Clarence King

National Geographic: Sequoia Kings Canyon

Tom Harrison: Kearsarge Pass Rae Lakes Loop; Kings Canyon High Country



**Leave No Trace Principles**

1. Plan ahead and prepare.
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
3. Dispose of waste properly.
4. Minimize use and impact of fires.
5. Respect wildlife.
6. Leave what you find.
7. Be considerate of other visitors.

**Need more information?**

**On the web at:**  
[www.fs.usda.gov/inyo](http://www.fs.usda.gov/inyo)

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