

Hiking Trails

Sequoia National Forest

Upper Kern Canyon



Many trails are available to explore on the Kern River Ranger District of the Sequoia National Forest. The chart below lists several trails within the Upper Kern Canyon Recreation Area. Following the chart is a brief description of each trail.

Advice:

Pick a trail that matches your ability. Strenuous hikes should be undertaken only if you are in good physical shape and an experienced hiker. When hiking we suggest...

- Having the proper clothing - weather can change rapidly.
- Wear good hiking boots, not sandals, and break in your boots before a long hike.
- Always carry plenty of water.
- Also carry a first-aid kit, map & food to suit your needs.
- REMEMBER TO PACK OUT WHAT YOU PACK IN!
- During the spring and summer months, when hiking on trails from 3000 to 6000 feet in elevation watch out for snakes.
- Pets are permitted on trails. They must be under the control of the owner so as not to disturb the wildlife and other hikers.

Fire Safety:

Wildfire is always a danger in the mountains of Southern California. Campfire permits are required in trail camps. Permits may be obtained from the Ranger Stations or online at .



Please don't smoke while hiking. Take the time to sit down and clear a fire safe area of all flammable material 3 feet in diameter before smoking!

Drinking Water:

Visitors should not drink from creeks, springs or the river without properly treating the water. Recommended treatment is to bring clear water to a rolling boil for 5 minutes or use a filter/purifying system.



Upper Kern Canyon Hiking Trails

Name	Number	Miles	Low Elevation (ft)	High Elevation (ft)
Whiskey Flat	32E35	14.5	2,800	3,600
Cannell	33E32	12.0	2,800	7,520
Rincon	33E23	19.5	3,680	4,640
Packsaddle	33E34	2.3	3,600	4,500
Flynn Canyon	32E33	3.9	3,600	6,000
Tobias	32E34	4.6	3,600	6,400
River Trail	33E30	5.2	3,760	4,000

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Whiskey Flat Trail (32E35) - starts at the north end of Burlando Road in Kernville, paralleling the Kern River, and ending at the Fairview footbridge. Along the trail are gradual elevation changes (still paralleling the river) with numerous short steep stretches in and out of side drainages to the Kern River. The area abounds with mixed chaparral brush species, with occasional gray pine and oak trees. There are lots of good fishing spots along this trail. Short day hikes are recommended during summer starting from either trailhead. Trail provides little shade and is considered easy to moderate in difficulty. **Please respect private property.**

Cannell Trail (33E32) - begins at the horse corrals, 2 miles north of Kernville on Mtn. 99. The trail starts out at a gradual climb, becoming steeper as you reach Pine Flat. The trail affords magnificent views of the Kern River Valley during the trip. As the trail climbs into higher elevations, it gets into a mixed pine and fir forest. At Pine Flat the trail parallels the south side of Forest Road #24S12, and crosses Cannell Creek two different times before reaching the Cannell Cabin, built between 1904 and 1909. The trail is considered moderate to strenuous in difficulty. It is very open and exposed and provides little shade.

Rincon Trail (33E23) - starts approximately 10 miles north of Kernville on Mtn. 99 across from Ant Canyon, and proceeds north following the Rincon fault to the Forks of the Kern River. The trail ascends and descends in elevation, in and out of drainages, passing through flats of Jeffrey and gray pine, cedar and chaparral. Salmon, Brush and Durrwood Creeks are crossed offering good fishing and some nice undeveloped camping spots. This trail intersects with the trail to Packsaddle Cave and further north a tie-in section of trail connects this trail to the River Trail. It is considered moderate to strenuous in difficulty.

Thank you for your help in making forest visits enjoyable and safe! Plan ahead by obtaining a National Forest map at one of the following offices:

Kern River Ranger District

P.O. Box 9

Kernville, CA 93238

[760-376-3781](tel:760-376-3781)

Forest Supervisor's Office

1839 S. Newcomb Street

Porterville, CA 93257

[559-784-1500](tel:559-784-1500)



Packsaddle Cave Trail (33E34) - begins 16 miles north of Kernville on Mtn. 99. The trail is a moderate, occasionally steep incline to a cave that has long since been robbed of some of its stalactites and stalagmites, yet is still worth seeing. Bring a flashlight to explore the cave.

Flynn Trail (32E33) - begins at the Fairview footbridge, 16 miles north of Kernville on Mtn. 99. Crossing over the bridge, the trail climbs up a small hill, then proceeds a moderate climb up Flynn Creek drainage. The last half-mile of trail is a very steep and strenuous hike up to Speas Ridge. At the ridge, you can tie into a 1-1/2 mile trail to Johnsondale #32E32 or tie into Forest Service Road #23S33. Watch for poison oak!

Tobias Trail (32E34) - starts 1/2 mile up the same trailhead as Flynn Trail - forking off at the top of the hill, then descends a short way into Tobias Creek. Here the trail will follow Tobias Creek 1-1/2 to 2 miles. For the next 2-3 miles the trail climbs to the top of Speas Ridge. The trail is in close proximity to the creek bottom, through mixed chaparral and riparian habitat. The trail offers good fishing along the way. Like the Flynn Trail, during summer months, it's quite hot and dusty going! Trail is considered moderate to strenuous in difficulty.

River Trail (33E30) - begins 19 miles north of Kernville on the east side of the Johnsondale Bridge off Mtn. 99. This trail follows the Kern River, proceeding north from the bridge eventually intersecting with the Rincon Trail. The trail climbs at a gentle to moderate grade over riverside bluffs, then descends to interspersed riverside terraces. Grey pine, live oak, incense cedar, manzanita and Jeffrey pine dot the areas as well as high boulders creating cave-like campsites. Parts of this trail may be submerged at the height of spring run-off. Good access for fishing on the North Fork of the Kern River. Trail suitable for day hikes or overnight backpack trips and is considered easy to moderate in difficulty.

Practice a Leave No Trace! Ethic.

When you leave your campsite,
Take all garbage, large and small.

PACK IT IN!

PACK IT OUT!