

Things to Do in an Hour or Two



Smith Rivers National Recreation Area Six Rivers National Forest

The 305,337 acres of the Smith River National Recreation Area offer visitors spectacular scenery, pristine wilderness areas, unique botanical areas, hundreds of back-country roads, more than 70 miles of trails, plus the Wild and Scenic Smith River and its clear jade green waters. We'd love for you to experience all that this national recreation area has to offer, but your time here may be limited. So here are suggestions for activities that can take under two hours, driving time included. We hope you enjoy your visit and will return again soon when you can stay longer.

Directions are given from the Visitor Center. See the "Hour or Two" display in the kiosk for photos of the locations described below.

In an hour or two you can:

#1

Watch Fish at Madrona River Access

One of 10 river access spots along Highway 199. Watch for fish in the winter, enjoy water activities in the summer. **Caution: no lifeguard; swim at your own risk.**

Directions: 4.75 miles east of the Visitor Center at milepost 19.2 on Highway 199, on south side of road.

#2

Stroll the Darlingtonia Interpretive Trail

(Easy .3 mile loop with six interpretive stops.) See a thriving community of California Pitcher Plants in their bog environment surrounded in azaleas and cedars. Trail surface is gravel; viewing platforms are barrier free.

Directions: 3.45 miles east of the Visitor Center at milepost 17.9 on Highway 199. On north side of road; watch for signs on highway.

#3

Hike Stony Creek Trail

(Moderate, 1 mile round trip.) Stony Creek Trail follows along the North Fork Smith River to the confluence of Stony Creek. Spring wildflower displays are awesome — California Ladyslipper, rhododendron, azalea, iris, darlingtonia and countless others.

Directions: Travel .1 mile west of Visitor Center on Hwy 199, turn right at Middle Fork Rd.; continue right at intersection with Gasquet Flat Rd; cross bridge and stay left past Azalea Lane (North Fork Rd). Stay left at Gasquet Toll Rd intersection and continue on .8 mile to Stony Creek Trail street sign; turn right at sign. Trailhead is on the right, .1 mile from corner. Parking available for several vehicles.

#4

Hike the Myrtle Creek Trail

(Easy, 2-mile round trip.) This interpretive trail follows an historic mining ditch and spotlights the mining, cultural, and geologic history of Myrtle Creek. See big redwoods, five-finger ferns, darlingtonia and many other plants in this unique Botanical Area.

Directions: 7.25 miles west of Visitor Center on Hwy 199, just past South Fork Road and the bridge over Myrtle Creek (milepost 7.2). Parking on south side of Hwy 199. Trailhead is on the north side of Hwy 199; **be extremely careful crossing the road.**



United States
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Forest Service
Pacific Southwest
Region

Six Rivers National Forest
Smith River National Recreation Area

#5

See “The Forks”

“The Forks” is the confluence of South and Middle Forks of Smith River and is probably the most-photographed piece of land and water in the Smith River National Recreation Area. Two short trails from the parking lot lead to two beautiful spots overlooking the river. From “The Point” (trail to right) you can see the beginning of the mainstem of Smith River.

Directions: 7.2 miles west of Visitor Center on Hwy 199; turn left on South Fork Road. Cross the bridge (“Slant Bridge”) and turn right at the boat launch area. Park near the restrooms.

#6

Visit the Panther Flat Picnic Area

Have a picnic and enjoy the sights and sounds of the Middle Fork Smith River.

Directions: 2.3 miles east of the Visitor Center at milepost 16.75 on Hwy 199 (Panther Flat Campground). Follow sign to picnic area.

#7

Enjoy the Patrick Creek Picnic Area

Check out the rock walls and walkways created by the CCC workmen from Camp Gasquet in the 1930s. Walk the barrier-free paved interpretive trail from the Picnic Area, under the bridge to Patrick Creek Lodge.

Directions: Milepost 22.0 on Hwy 199, about 7.45 miles east of the Visitor Center.

#8

Drive Gasquet Toll Road

If you drive a high clearance vehicle, consider driving the historic Gasquet Toll Road built in the 1880s as part of a route connecting Crescent City and Waldo,

Oregon. If you drive the road from west to east, you’ll have beautiful vistas of the Siskiyou Mountains and High Dome meadow. In either direction you may enjoy awesome views of the Smith River and the canyons and mountains through which it flows. The road is about 17 miles one way and will take about an hour to drive. It’s narrow, graveled, with sharp turns and occasional rocks on the roadbed so drive slowly, carefully and stop often to enjoy the sights.

Directions West to East: Travel .1 mile west of Visitor Center on Hwy 199, turn right at Middle Fork Rd; continue right at intersection with Gasquet Flat Rd; cross bridge and stay left past Azalea Lane (North Fork Rd). Turn right at Gasquet Toll Rd intersection. Stay right at intersection with FS 315; cross bridge over Patrick Creek; At intersections with Patrick Creek Road turn right on Patrick Creek Road and stay on this road until it ends at Highway 199 near the Patrick Creek Lodge. **Not recommended after a recent snowfall.**

#9

Drive the Smith River Scenic Byway

The Smith River Scenic Byway along Highway 199 (between the Redwoods near Crescent City and the Oregon border) passes through four miles of impressive redwood forests, winds 27 miles along the awesome river for which it’s named, and then continues into Oregon. The Byway presents spectacular views of rugged canyons, turbulent rapids, the confluence of the South and Middle Forks of the Smith River plus historic and picturesque recreation sites along the way. The many pull-offs along the way allow you to get off the road and enjoy the scenery.

For More Information please visit, call, or write one of the Forest Service offices below. Office hours at Smith River National Recreation Area are Monday — Friday, 8:00 a.m.– 4:30 p.m. All Forest Service offices are wheelchair accessible.

Smith River National Recreation Area
10600 Highway 199 North P.O. Box 228
Gasquet CA 95543
(707) 457-3131 (also TYY#)

Six Rivers National Forest Supervisor’s Office
1330 Bayshore Way
Eureka CA 95501
(707) 442-1721 (also TYY#)

02/2003 

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