



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

LAKE THOMAS A. EDISON

High Sierra Ranger District

Lake Thomas A. Edison was created in the 1950's as a part of Southern California Edison's hydroelectric system. The lake flooded Vermillion Valley (named for the color of the soil) hence the name of the resort.

ACCESS

Lake Thomas A. Edison, located at 7,643 feet elevation is a 3 hour drive east of Fresno via Highway 168 to Huntington Lake then east on Kaiser Pass Rd. The Kaiser Pass Rd is a narrow, winding, steep, one-lane road which climbs over Kaiser Pass, elevation 9,175 feet. Trailers, large motor homes, and busses are not recommended. The main summer season is from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The area is remote and there is no public phone service. During the winter the road is closed.

CAMPGROUND

Vermillion Campground has 31 sites designed for tent camping, although some sites are accessible for camp trailers and RVs. There are no hookups. The campground sites have tables and fire rings. Reservations can be made by calling the National Recreation Reservation Service at 1-877-444-6777 or at www.ReserveUSA.com.

FERRY SERVICE

The ferry runs twice daily, leaving Vermillion Valley Resort at 9:00am and 4:00pm. It stops at the northeast end of the lake near the Mono Creek trail entrance to the John Muir Wilderness. There is a fee for the ferry service.

BOAT LAUNCH

Lake Edison has a free public boat launch. Boats are limited to 15 M.P.H on the lake.

RESORT

Vermillion Valley Resort is under a Special Use Permit with the USDA Forest Service. The general store carries items for fishing and limited food items. There is a small restaurant and lodge. Boat rentals are available by the day and half-day. The resort operates the ferry service. For information: Vermillion Valley Resort, P.O. Box 258, Lakeshore, CA 93634. Phone 559-259-4000 or www.vvr@edisonlake.com.

HIGH SIERRA PACK STATION

The High Sierra Pack Station schedules full-service trips, spot trips, and day rides into the Bear Creek, Mono Creek, Cold Creek, and Fish Creek drainages in the John Muir Wilderness. To contact the pack station write to John or Janise Cunningham, P.O. Box 1166, Clovis CA 93612 or phone 559-299-8297.

TRAILS

From Edison Lake you can enter the John Muir and Ansel Adams Wilderness areas. For overnight use of the Wilderness you must have a Wilderness permit. These permits may be obtained at the High Sierra Visitor Center or other Forest Service offices. During the quota season (May 1 through November 1) it is advisable to make reservations through the High Sierra Ranger District as trailhead quotas do fill up rapidly. Day use of the Wilderness areas does not require a permit. The following is a listing of the major trailheads in the area.



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- **Mono Creek:** Mono Creek Trailhead provides easy access to the Pacific Crest Trail. You may ferry across or choose to hike along the lake. The hike is fairly level and gives a good view of the lake and surrounding meadow and forested area. Mono Creek Trailhead also accesses the Recess Area.
- **Graveyard:** The Graveyard Trail leads you into the Graveyard Lakes area below the Silver Divide. There are stops available in Lower and Upper Graveyard Meadows. It also connects with the Pacific Crest Trail through Goodale Pass. The trail is steep with many switchbacks.
- **Margaret Lakes:** This trail takes off from the Onion Springs OHV Route. It is approximately a 7 1/2 mile hike into Big Margaret Lakes. This hike is steep with many switchbacks.
- **Devils Bathtub:** Devil's Bathtub is a popular day hike of 5 miles one way. The trail dead-ends at Devil's Bathtub Lake. The last 1.5 miles of this trail is steep with many switchbacks. Enjoy the beautiful views of the crystal clear alpine lake and the surrounding peaks.
- **Onion Springs:** This trail takes off from the Onion Springs OHV route and enters the Ansel Adams Wilderness. The trail intersects with other trails in the area and is very steep for approximately the first 2.5 miles with many switchbacks.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

High Sierra Ranger District
P.O. Box 559
Prather, CA 93651
559-855-5355

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