

Mammoth Pass—Red Cones

Inyo National Forest

Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center



The Mammoth Pass trail leads west from Horseshoe Lake, in the Mammoth Lakes Basin, connecting to Red's Meadow after 4 miles of down hill hiking. The trail first heads west to McLeod Lake. From this junction at McLeod Lake the trail will head right to the saddle between Mammoth Crest and Mammoth Mountain, known as Mammoth Pass. Steeply heading down from the saddle, the Mammoth Pass trail crosses through Lodgepole Pine and Red Fir forests. You will be passing through a large burn area, a remnant of the Rainbow Fire of 1992. At trail's end, you will come upon the horse corrals at Red's Meadow Resort.

Historical Influences

The Mammoth Pass trail follows the general route of the historic Fresno Flats Toil Trail, where in past times travel crossed the Sierra Nevada bringing passengers and supplies to Mammoth Mines from Oakhurst, California (Fresno Area).

Red Cones Trail

The trail from Horseshoe Lake branches at McLeod Lake. If you head left towards the John Muir Trail, you will find yourself at a second junction, at this point, turn right. Then you will find yourself amongst Red Cones. The Red Cones are small volcanic cinder cones, composed of reddish-brown porous lava cinders, which were blown out of an inactive vent. Crater Meadow is a spectacular area where wildflowers bloom all summer. There, the trail will swing left towards the direction of Upper Crater Meadow—where you will find the junction back to Mammoth Pass.

Cautions and Concerns

The trail first enters forests of stumps and dead trees due to the excess amount of CO₂ (carbon dioxide) gas emission in the area. Although you will see these dead and dying trees along your way, it is still safe to hike here. See the Mammoth Visitor Center for information on carbon dioxide emissions. An aspect of this trail that increases its level of difficulty is that much of the trail consists of loose pumice. As with any hike, carry a topographical map and compass. Be prepared for adverse weather conditions, and carry plenty of water.

Return Options/Mammoth Pass Trail

Once you have reached the Red's Meadow valley, you have two options for return travel. Of course, you can turn around and hike the 4 uphill miles back to Horseshoe Lake; or you may choose to take the shuttle bus out of the valley to the Mammoth Mountain Main Lodge area. If you decide to take the shuttle bus out of Red's Meadow, you will have to pay a user fee, and there is a shuttle available at Main Lodge to take you back to your car at Horseshoe Lake. Ask the Mammoth Lakes Visitor Center for information and prices for the Red's Meadow Shuttle Bus.

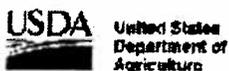
Red Cones Loop Distance — 5.3 miles

Elevation:

Mammoth Pass—9300 feet

Red Cones—9000 feet

Crater Meadow—8800 feet



**Forest
Service**

**Mammoth/Mono Lake
Ranger Districts**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, Write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

