

(Slate Creek/Summit continued)

Access: From the Visitor's Center, go across the bridge and turn right towards the Campfire Center. Follow the Old Tree/Slate Creek trailhead on the left. Follow signs for Slate Creek for 1.3 miles until the junction with Summit Trail - turn right on Summit. Turn right again on the service road to go back to the campground.

Coyote Ridge & Slate Creek/Summit (5 mile loop)

Description: This is a combination of two moderate hikes. Longer hikes can be found in the pink "Strenuous Hikes" brochure. Trails are as described in their respective sections.

Why you will enjoy this hike: This loop climbs two ridges and allows the hiker to study the differences between two summits of similar elevations. There are wildlife viewing opportunities, especially in the morning, and a variety of plant communities. Bring plenty of water.

Access: From Madrone Picnic Area, take Iverson Trail to its intersection with the service road and Coyote Ridge Trail. Follow Coyote Ridge, bearing right at the intersection with Upper Coyote Ridge Trail. After a mile descent, cross the main park road and take the Upper Escape Road to Slate Creek Trail. Slate Creek climbs again; at the summit, turn right on Summit Trail. Bear right at the service road to go back to the campground.



Poison Oak

Hike Smart!

Please keep the following tips in mind while enjoying the trails:

- Always carry water and a map, even if you don't expect to be gone long. These hikes are part of a large trail system spanning many miles of parks and open space preserves.
- The weather can change quickly. Be prepared with proper layers. Keep in mind that cotton will keep you cold if it gets wet from sweat or rain, but wool and synthetic fabrics will help you retain body heat wet or dry.
- It is safest to hike with others, especially at dawn and dusk. If you hike by yourself, make sure someone knows where you are going and when to expect you back.
- Mountain lions inhabit the area around Portola Redwoods State Park. In the rare case that you encounter one, back away slowly while facing the animal and making yourself look big. Do not run.
- Footbridges across Pescadero Creek are removed for the winter. Do not attempt to ford a creek if the water comes above your shins.
- Be aware of poison oak. Its leaves may be red or green.
- All natural resources within the park are protected by the State of California. Please do not collect plants or fungi and respect the wildlife that makes this forest its home.

Thank you for visiting!



Hiking Guide to Portola Redwoods State Park



Easy & Moderate Hikes 1/4 mile to 5 miles

It is recommended that you use the \$2 Portola Redwoods State Park Map along with this guide.

Sequoia Nature Trail (3/4 mile round trip)

Description: This short trail takes you down to the beach at Pescadero Creek. In the summer you can take a bridge across the creek and continue the trail through redwood groves. The loop continues close to the creek and past the Shell Tree - once one of the largest trees in the park.

Why you will enjoy this hike: There is a free, self-guided interpretive brochure available in the Visitor's Center that corresponds with markers on this trail. This popular walk offers cool, streamside shade and old-growth redwoods. Interesting plant life includes riparian species such as ferns, azaleas, box elder, and leopard lilies.

Access: Behind the Visitor's Center, follow the trail and numbered posts down to the creek. Cross the creek on the bridge. Follow the creek downstream; the trail will turn left into the forest. You may follow the signs taking you towards the right to complete the loop by the Shell Tree or bear left and connect to the Iverson Trail. *Bridge is removed in the fall.*

Upper and Lower Escape Road (1 mile round trip)

Description: This dog-friendly service road follows Peter's Creek and loops back to the campground.

(Upper and Lower Escape Road, continued)

Why you will enjoy this hike: This is the ONLY trail where dogs are allowed! It is an easy, shady walk close to the campground. The sounds of the creek provide a peaceful backdrop to a morning or evening stroll - the best times to see wildlife. This trail offers a comparison of riparian (streamside) habitat and up-slope mixed conifer forest.

Access: From the Visitor's Center, walk across the bridge and into the campground. The west loop of the campground goes to the Lower Escape Road and the east loop goes to the Upper Escape Road. You may connect this hike with the Coyote Ridge Loop.

Old Tree Trail

(1/2 mile round trip)

Description: This slight incline takes you through the redwood forest to an old-growth, 12' diameter, 297' tall redwood.

Why you will enjoy this hike: This popular, easy trail is close to the campground and offers a view of one of the largest trees in the park. Interpretive signs posted along the trail provide information about redwood ecology. Big logs are habitats for banana slugs and showcase the role of decomposition in the forest.

Access: From the Visitor's Center go across the bridge towards the campground and take the first right turn towards the Campfire Center. A sign on the left marks the Old Tree Trail and Slate Creek Trail. For longer hikes, this trail is the way to access the eastern side of the park.

Tip Toe Falls/Iverson Trail

(1 1/4 miles round trip or longer)

Description: This trail offers habitat diversity (riparian, redwood forest, and swamp) and access to a year-round 6' waterfall with a wading pool.

Why you will enjoy this hike: See above; you will get a glimpse of the diversity within Portola Redwoods State Park.

Access: Begin at the Sequoia Nature Trail behind the Visitor's Center. Cross the creek (summer only) and bear left on the Iverson Trail. Continue on the Iverson Trail until you see an old sign pointing right to Tip Toe Falls. From the falls you may backtrack to the Visitor's Center *or* lengthen the hike by continuing on the Iverson Trail to the Iverson Cabin Site. Bear left when you arrive at the service road; the cabin site is on the right after a few hundred feet. You may follow the service road back to the campground or take the trail that parallels the road on the left. It is best to hike this trail with a map since there are several spurs that could unexpectedly lengthen your trip.

Iverson Trail Loop

(1 mile round trip or longer)

Description: This combines the Sequoia Nature Trail with some moderate climbs and creek crossings.

Why you will enjoy this hike: This loop crosses Pescadero Creek twice and offers places to cool off and study riparian life.

Access: Start behind the Visitor's Center and follow the Sequoia Trail across the creek (summer only). Turn left on the spur that leads to the Iverson Trail. Turn right at the junction with Iverson. Follow Iverson back to the campground. To lengthen this hike you may start behind the Campfire Center. Bear left and take the Summit Trail to the Service Road back to Iverson to include the Iverson Cabin Site and Tiptoe Falls, *or* bear right to include a creek crossing without a bridge. It is best to hike this trail with a map since there are several spurs that could unexpectedly lengthen your trip.

Coyote Ridge Loop

(2.6 mile loop)

Description: Coyote Ridge Trail follows Peter's Creek before climbing up to a warmer, drier oak woodland and dropping back down into cool redwoods.

Why you will enjoy this hike: This trail climbs 600 feet and allows the hiker to examine the relationship between topography and habitat. The trail travels through open, mixed hardwood-evergreen forest. In the morning and evening Coyote Ridge offers good wildlife viewing. It is likely to be warmer on the ridge than in the campground so bring plenty of water.

Access: From the Visitor's Center, walk north towards Madrone Day Use Area and take the Iverson trailhead on the left. After .1 mile there will be a junction with a service road; stay straight to pick up Coyote Ridge Trail. After one mile bear right to stay on Coyote Ridge Trail (Upper Coyote Ridge connects with the Tarwater Loop in Pescadero Creek County Park and will lengthen your trip substantially). You may turn right at the junction with the main road and take it back to the Visitor's Center or cross the road and walk down either Upper or Lower Escape Road directly to the campground.

Slate Creek/Summit Trail

(2.7 mile loop)

Description: This loop travels through redwood forest and climbs 600' to a drier hardwood forest before descending back to the redwoods.

Why you will enjoy this hike: This is a great option for winter months when bridge removal makes it difficult to access trails on the south side of Pescadero Creek. A variety of fungi inhabit the forest and you can spot many species fruiting from September to May. The Summit Trail section includes a beautiful oak-madrone grove.