

Kangaroo Lake

Easy, paved road, 2WD



Kangaroo Lake is a gem in a corner of the Klamath National Forest. It is the headwaters of Rail Creek, a tributary of the East Fork of the Scott River. Getting there from Trinity Center is a beautiful drive through the North Lake area and into the Scott Mountains.

You'll find tent and RV camping sites at the lake, but it is seldom crowded. A day trip to the lake makes for a nice drive in the forest and mountains, with a delightful picnic spot awaiting you. Facilities include ADA access, so the lake can be enjoyed by all.

Vehicle Notes

- ◆ 2wd if it's dry, 4wd if there's snow on the road.

1/2 Day Trip

- ◆ **Picnic at Kangaroo Lake**
 - Travel time about 1½ hours each way to and from the lake, and take your time exploring the lake shore and surrounding area. Picnic right at the lake!

Topo Maps for Rail Creek Road

- ◆ *Gazelle Mtn*
- ◆ *Scott Mountain*

Directions

Take Hwy 3 north from Trinity Center, over Scott Mountain approximately 32 miles to the intersection with the Gazelle-Callahan Road. Turn right towards Gazelle, and travel about 8.6 miles to Rail Creek Road. Turn right, and follow Rail Creek Road 6.9 miles to the Kangaroo Lake parking lot and campground.

Drive to Kangaroo Lake

The backdrop to the lake is a granite face on the south side, and forest on the north and west. A short hike to the lake's outlet dam provides spectacular views to the north.

The drive over from Trinity Center takes you north through the North Lake area, past the village of Coffee Creek, along the main stem of the Trinity River working its way out of the Scott Mountains, and eventually up the Scott Mountain grade. This windy road follows Scott Mountain Creek to the summit where the road crosses the Pacific Crest Trail.

You'll notice the change in climate as you pass the crest as it is much drier in Scott Valley. At the bottom of the grade on the north side of the pass, you come to a stop sign. This is where



Above Kangaroo Lake, looking northeast

you turn right onto Gazelle-Callahan Road. About 8½ miles northeast on this road brings you to Rail Creek Road. Here is where you head up into the mountains again to the lake.

Just before you reach Kangaroo Lake, about 6½ miles up Rail Creek Road, you'll see small Lilly Pad Lake. This cute little pond is the sign that you are approaching Kangaroo Lake.

At Kangaroo Lake you'll find ample parking, and beyond the parking lot is the campground. There are about 15 spots that will accommodate either RV or tent campers, and another 5 sites that will accommodate walk-in tent campers. Many of the sites are appropriate for ADA access. You will also find bathrooms (pit toilets) that are newer and generally kept very clean. There are potable water spigots in the campground.

Off to your right as you come into the parking area is the lake. You'll find a paved walkway down to the lake that is also ADA accessible, all the way to the water's edge! The small basin that holds the lake is beautiful, and at the right times of year, you'll see wildflowers in the area.

There is a path to the east along the water that takes you to the dam where the lake drains into Rail Creek. Along the lake's edge to the west is a rocky beach. If you're up to it, you can scramble in the rocks along the southeast edge of the basin.

You will find Kangaroo Lake a fun spot if you're in the mood for a drive to a very pleasant picnic spot!



Kangaroo Lake via Rail Creek Road

