

# PCT to Three Lakes Hike

August 5, 2025

**GENERAL LOCATION:** Donner Summit

**DIFFICULTY (Rating):** Moderate/Strenuous due to trail conditions in some areas.

**HIKE DISTANCE:** 5.5 miles, part in/out, part loop

**ELEVATION:** Start 6970' / Max 7300' / approx 800' total gain

**PACE:** Moderate

**TRAIL CONDITIONS:** Mostly dirt trails with some roots and rocks. Some parts: overgrown, switchbacks, a few short areas with rock trail w/ steep drop-off, some big uneven stone steps, off trail to get around high lake and to get back to PCT.

**Description:** Beautiful walk through the Tahoe area forest! Vistas of far off peaks, trail-side wildflowers, cool breezes, interesting rock formations, and lovely lakes. Lunch lakeside. Swimming is an option. Bring a snack since lunch is 3/4 into the hike

**Facilities:** Pit toilets at Cisco Grove exit. 11 miles before trailhead. Badly maintained porta potty at trailhead.  
Post-hike, consider Donner Ski Lodge if you want to purchase a snack or drink along with your potty stop.

**Drive Time/Miles:** 1 hour, 30 minutes, 75 miles

**Donation:** \$16

**Hike Leader/Sweep:** Tanya Blansett, [tblansett@mac.com](mailto:tblansett@mac.com) / TBD

**Meetup/Leave Time:** Meet 7:15 / Leave 7:30 am, Meet at far right end of Orchard Creek Parking Lot, rows 12-14

## Preparation for Hike:

- Being prepared physically as well as having the right equipment makes for a better experience, not only for you, but for your fellow hikers.
- **If you have any health issues, please consider your condition before hiking at high altitude or at a fast pace.**

## What to Bring:

- **PLENTY OF WATER!** Recommend 50 oz. /1.5 liters minimum for 5-mile hike – more if longer. Electrolytes suggested. Higher altitudes are dehydrating even when cool.
- Hiking boots/shoes, hat, sun protection, insect repellent, small first aid kit. Wind/rain jacket always advisable in the mountains. Trekking poles recommended.
- ID (driver's license), health insurance card, and emergency contact / phone number.
- Extra pair of shoes to change into after hike and a plastic bag for muddy/dusty hiking boots to keep your driver's car clean.

**Hike Route:** <https://www.alltrails.com/explore/map/azalea-flora-and-angela-lakes-via-pct-and-donner-summit-lakes-trail-95e1533>

**Driving Directions:** Coordinates: 39.31678° N, 120.32601° W

Navigate to: 19216 Donner Pass Rd, Norden, CA 96161

For toilets, stop at: Exit Cisco Grove, go back over the freeway and make an immediate right turn into Gould Park.

Driving Directions from Lincoln:

Take your favorite way to I-80E

In Soda Springs, take exit 174 towards Soda Springs, Norden

Turn Right on Donner Pass Rd.

Pass Donner Ski Ranch lodge on the left.

Destination is a parking lot on the right with the trailhead across the street.