

Lake Clementine Trail with Optional Add On Confluence Trail

Thursday, Dec 11, 2025

Note there is a planned road closure on Highway 49 starting Dec 1
See driving directions on page 3 for detour details.

GENERAL LOCATION: Auburn

DIFFICULTY: Moderate

HIKE DISTANCE: 4.3 – 6.5 miles.

ELEVATION GAIN: 680' – 980'

PACE: Moderate

HIKE DISTANCE: Approximately 4.3 – 6.5 miles out & back.

Trail Conditions:

The trail varies from smooth soil, to narrow/rocky stretches with some paved road. There is a gradual incline both to Lake Clementine and the Confluence trail. Hike to the dam and back up again is somewhat steep.

Description:

The first part of the hike is an out and back to Lake Clementine which is about 4.3 miles. At the end of the hike we will stop for lunch at a picnic bench at the start of the Confluence Trail (across the street from the Lake Clementine Trail). For those who would like a little more hiking, we will continue along the American River on the Confluence trail for another 2-3 miles out and back

The hike to Lake Clementine will be a leisurely hike up the east side of the north fork, American River. At ½ mile, we will pass under the Foresthill Bridge, the highest bridge in California and third tallest in the US. It was originally built to provide a road to Foresthill after the Auburn Dam was built and flooded the area. At ¾ of a mile, Clark's Hole will be on the left. It is a slow moving, deep pool which has been a popular swimming hole for over 100 years.

Facilities:

Pit toilet at trailhead and lunch stop

Drive Time/Miles:

40 minutes / 25 miles due to detour – see driving directions

Driver Reimbursement

Suggested reimbursement to drivers: \$5

Hike Leader/Sweep:

Pam Miller / TBD

Meetup/Leave Time:

Meet 8:30 am / Leave 8:45 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/custom-routes/lake-clementine-with-add-on-confluence-trail-d5ab646>

Driving Directions

Note there is a planned road closure on Highway 49 starting Dec 1 for the installation of the new roundabout.

Detour: Use your favorite route to highway 80 East. Pass the usual Auburn exit and exit on Foresthill Road (exit 121) and turn right (South) and go across the bridge.

Continue for about 2-2.5 miles and turn right at Old Foresthill road and continue to the Auburn State Park Kiosk on the right just over the bridge and before highway 49. There is parking on the street across from the kiosk. If needed there is additional parking in a small lot on the left just before the bridge.

Meet at the kiosk.

Driver donation: \$5 plus a share of the \$10 parking fee (or a Poppy Pass)

View of the 2 parking areas – you will approach this area heading north from the bottom of the map when using the detour for the closed road. Kiosk is at the top of the map.

