

## **Empire Mine Historic State Park Hike**

### **Tuesday June 3, 2025**

**GENERAL LOCATION:** Outskirts of Grass Valley

**DIFFICULTY:** Easy/Moderate

**ELEVATION:** 479' gain. Start point around 2,600 feet.

**HIKE DISTANCE:** Approximately 4.4 miles

**PACE:** Moderate

**DESCRIPTION:** We will hike the Hardrock, Osborne Hills Loop, Empire Street Loop located in Empire Mine Park. This mine was once the most profitable gold mine in California during the gold rush. We will start at the Visitor's Center and traverse the surrounding trails lined with conifers, pine, and oak trees. The trails are mostly flat and lined with leaves and pine needles, however there are a few areas with a steady uphill climb as well as a couple of rocky areas. Our hike will end at the picnic tables by the main parking lot. After lunch, those interested can view the exhibits in the Visitor's Center and/or pay the minimal \$5 charge to enter the historic site. The tours, led by park volunteers, are very interesting. The estate tour (11:30 am) walks through and around the beautiful stone Empire Cottage and grounds, and the Mine tour (12:30) takes you part way down a mine shaft as well as into many of the workshops and offices associated with running the mine. Both tours require a significant amount of standing. These tours depend on park volunteer availability. We will check in late May to assure they are going to happen on our hike day. Here is a link to the [Park Brochure](#).

**TRAVEL TIME/DISTANCE:** About 50–55-minute drive and 36 miles one way. Return time to Lincoln will depend on whether you explore the area after lunch, or not. If lunch without exploring, return time to Lincoln would be approximately 1:00 pm. If staying to explore, ride in a car where everyone plans to stay for the tour, the return time would be approximately 2:30pm. There is a \$5 entrance fee into the to the Center and grounds if you stay to explore. There is no fee for parking. A donation of \$8 is suggested for all riders. Driving directions --- see attached **and please print before coming to the hike, if driving.**

**HIKE LEADER:** Vern Rogers   **SWEEP:** Marilyn McCullough

#### **SPECIAL NOTES:**

**FACILITIES:** Bathrooms near the Visitor's Center and picnic tables at lunchtime. The Visitor Center opens at 10:00am and the bathroom facilities are open at 9:00am.

**PREPARATION FOR HIKE:**

1. Bring a copy of your ID (Driver's License), health card, and an emergency contact name and phone number with you when you hike.
2. If you have any health issues, please consider your condition before hiking.
3. Always bring 2 pairs of shoes along with a plastic bag to store your muddy/dusty boots after the hike.
4. Bring lunch and water.
5. Trekking poles are not required for this hike, but may help with some of the rocky and uphill areas.

**RISKS:** Some poison oak but it can be avoided.

**QUESTIONS:** Call Vern Rogers 707-329-5005.

**MEETING TIME:** Meet 7:45am at far right rear of Orchard Creek Parking Lot rows 12-14. LEAVE Parking lot for hike: 8:00am

**Driving Directions:****Orchard Creek Lodge**

965 Orchard Creek Ln, Lincoln, CA 95648

- > Take Stoneridge Blvd, Twelve Bridges Dr, English Colony Way and Taylor Rd to CA-193 E

19 min (10.0 mi)

- > Follow I-80 E and CA-174 W to E Empire St in Nevada County

36 min (30.9 mi)

- > Continue on E Empire St to your destination

1 min (0.2 mi)

**39.2069800, -121.0450490**