

Penner Lake/Grouse Ridge

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

GENERAL LOCATION: Emigrant Gap

HIKE DISTANCE: About 7 miles, out and back

DIFFICULTY: Moderate/Strenuous.

ELEVATION GAIN: Start at 6,700', Max 6,970' – appx 800' total gain

PACE: Moderate

TRAIL CONDITIONS: The trail is a combination of ups downs and flat with some switch backs to get up to Penner Lake (our highest point). There are sections of flat dirt, some rocks to negotiate and the last section with steep drop-offs and lots of rocks to negotiate up the hill. We will walk over several small streams. There are both shade sections and sun exposed sections, especially on the way up the hill to Penner. Make sure to have bug spray.

Poles with rubber tips highly recommended due to rocky areas.

DESCRIPTION: This is a very scenic trail that will hike by several beautiful granite lined sparkling lakes on the way to Penner (Carr, Feeley, Delany, Island, Crooked Lakes and unnamed smaller lakes). We will also pass a pond becoming a meadow. There will be shaded forest walking and a short challenge up an incline of 300 feet. Penner lake will have shade, sun and the option of a quick swim if you are so inclined.

Facilities: There are chemical port-a-potties at the trailhead and traditional pit toilets near the beginning of the trail.

Travel Time/Distance: The drive will be about 1 3/4 hours and 75 miles (last 3 miles are on fairly smooth but dusty dirt and gravel roads). \$16 suggested donation to driver.

Meeting/Leave Time: Meet at 7:15 AM, far right rear of Orchard Creek parking lot, Rows 12-13. Leave at 7:30 AM. We are leaving early to avoid the heat. We will have an early lunch, time to relax and expect to be back about 4:00 depending on construction.

Hike Leader/Sweep: Leader: Maureen Bauman, bauman50@sbcglobal.net Sweep: Debbie Knowles

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.

Link to AllTrails Map [Penner Lake](#)

DIRECTIONS TO Carr-Feeley Lake Campground and Trailhead:

Navigate to: Carr-Feeley Lake Campground and Trailhead, Nevada City, CA 95959

Note: Due to bridge construction on Highway 20 the westbound entrance to Highway 20 was closed on the prehike. You may have to go east one exit further, get back on the freeway and proceed home. It is also possible the Highway 20 exit will be closed on the way there, again just go up one exit and turn around. We will watch for signs to determine the construction for that day.

Take your favorite route to Highway 80 East

If Highway 20 Exit is still closed:

Proceed on Highway 80 for 50.4 miles and take exit 164 for Eagle Lakes Rd

Turn left onto Eagle Lakes Rd

Turn left to merge onto I-80 W toward Sacramento

Take exit 161 for CA-20 W toward Nevada City/Grass Valley

Slight right onto CA-20 W (signs for California 20 W/Nevada City/Grass Valley)

Proceed on Hwy 20 W for 4.2 miles to Bowman Lake Rd

Turn right onto Bowman Lake Rd

Follow the signs to Carr-Feeley Lake.

Proceed on Bowman Lake Rd To Forest Road 17 (Approx 8.6 miles).

Right on Forest Rd. 17 (unpaved) to Carr Lake Campground/Trailhead (approx. 2.7 Miles).

When in doubt, bear right

Maureen Bauman,

916.218.8713 1 3/4 hours and

75 miles

\$16 suggested donation to drivers.