

## QUARRY ROAD TRAIL (AUBURN AREA – CONFLUENCE) THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026

**GENERAL LOCATION:** South side of Middle Fork of the American River, near the Confluence off Highway 49

**DIFFICULTY:** Easy/Moderate

**HIKE DISTANCE:** 6 miles – (shorter if skip optional climb to rock wall views) in and out

**ELEVATION GAIN:** Trailhead about 600 ft. Optional quarry view about 400 ft. gain.

**PACE:** Relaxed/Moderate

**TRAIL CONDITIONS:** Mostly wide dirt/gravel road with gradual ups and downs. Side trail to quarry view has some steep sections but not rocky. Be prepared for mud.

**DESCRIPTION:** Walk along Quarry Road Trail with fine river views towards Mammoth Bar. A ½ mile side trail overlooks Cave Canyon, boasting cliffside caves and a rock amphitheater in the abandoned quarry popular with climbers. Return to Quarry Road Trail with interesting remnants of limestone-loading platforms for rail cars. Peak into Hawver Cave where 12,000-year-old fossils of great ground sloths, dire wolves, and saber-toothed cats were discovered by high school students. Continue up river to turn-around at scenic creek. There we retrace our steps to lunch back at the picnic tables along the river.

**Planned Hike Route:** [Quarry Road Trail Map](#)

**FACILITIES:** Porta-potties at trailhead and picnic area.

**DRIVE TIME/MILES:** 35 minutes each way—about 18 miles. Donation to driver \$3 + a portion of the \$10 parking fee (free with State Parks Pass)

**HIKE LEADER/SWEEP:** Gay Mackintosh/Debbie Knowles

**MEETUP/LEAVE TIME:** Meet 8:30 AM/Leave 8:45 AM

Meet at far right rear of Orchard creek Parking Lot, Rows 12-14

**RISKS:** Some poison oak but easily avoided.

### PREPARATION FOR HIKE:

- 1) If you have any health issues please consider your condition before hiking.
- 2) Bring a copy of your ID (drivers license), health insurance card, and name and phone number of emergency contact.
- 3) BRING PLENTY OF WATER! 50 oz/1½ liters recommended for 5-mile hike—more if longer. Bring lunch, sunscreen, insect repellent. Trekking poles are useful for the side trails into the quarry area.
- 4) Bring another pair of shoes with your hiking boots, along with a bag to store your dirty

gear. Please be considerate of your driver's car and wear clean shoes home.

**QUESTIONS:** Gay Mackintosh [mackintoshbg@msn.com](mailto:mackintoshbg@msn.com) or 916-209-3628

Rain on hike day will cancel hike. Rain day before may prevent access to side trails but we will proceed with shortened hike.

**HIKE ROUTE:**

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:** Take I-80 East to Auburn. Take Elm Avenue Exit 119C (49 South, to Placerville), turn left onto Elm Avenue, then left again at the light (High Street), and right onto 49 South. Wind down about 3 miles to the American River Confluence. Turn right over the bridge to stay on 49 (toward Cool). After crossing the river, *look sharp* for the gravel parking lot on the left side of road. There is a \$10 parking fee (free with STATE PARKS PASS).

Or with Google Maps Navigate to Quarry Trail Parking Lot