

Quarry Road Trail (American River Middle Fork)

Tuesday, February 28, 2024

DIFFICULTY: Moderate

HIKE DISTANCE: 6 1/2 miles round-trip (in and out, not a loop)

ELEVATION GAIN: Trailhead about 600 ft. With side trail about 400 ft. gain.

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

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

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. Return to Quarry Road Trail with interesting remnants of limestone-loading platform for rail cars. Continue up-river to turn around at scenic creek. There we retrace our steps to lunch back at the picnic tables along the river.

TRAVEL TIME/DISTANCE: 35 minutes each way—about 18 miles. Donation to driver \$3 + a portion of the \$10 parking fee. If you have a State Park Pass, please bring it. Expected return to SCLH about 2:30 pm.

HIKE LEADER/SWEEP: Gay Mackintosh/Debbie Knowles

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

RISKS: Some poison oak but easily avoided. Some mosquito

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 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.
- 4) Bring water, lunch, sunscreen. Trekking poles are useful for the side trails into the quarry area.

QUESTIONS: Gay Mackintosh,

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

MEETING TIME: 8:30 AM - leave at 8:45 AM

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 parking lot on the left side of road. There is a \$10 parking fee. Bring STATE PARK PASS if you have one.