

PATHFINDER HIKE PROGRAM

PINNACLES

National Park Service

Paicenes, CA

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Trail Length: 11 miles

Average Elevation: 1,774'

Elevation Change: 1,607'



Overview

This is a very popular area for hiking, so you'll likely encounter other people while exploring. The trail is open year-round and is beautiful to visit anytime. Dogs aren't allowed on this trail. This loop explores the peaks, cliffs, and rocky corridors Pinnacles is famous for. There are plenty of spots along the way with panoramic views. Some sections of rocky and steep, so wearing good hiking footwear is necessary. It is recommended to get an early start during the late spring through early fall when the temperatures are high.

How To Get There

East Side: Take Highway 101 south to Gilroy. Just south of Gilroy, turn left on Highway 25 through Hollister and continue south on Highway 25 for 30 miles to the turnoff to Pinnacles National Monument on Highway 146.

Entrance to privately owned Pinnacles Campground is at 4 miles, National Monument entrance at 5 miles.

West Bay: Take Highway 101 south to Soledad. At Soledad, take Highway 146 east for 14 miles to small campground in the Monument. Note: there is no road connection through the Monument.

[Google Maps Driving Directions](#)

The Hike

Round trip from the Visitor Center, across the High Peaks Trail and side trip through Bear Gulch Caves. Longer trips are possible. See the discussion. A well-constructed, spectacular trail with some exposure. Cubs and younger Scouts should be closely supervised on the High Peaks Trail and in the caves. Flashlights for each hiker are required in the caves. Water must be carried as there is no water en route. Not recommended for summer as it gets extremely hot.

