

Three Chimneys Crosscountry

This hike is a somewhat difficult scramble up to the ridge just east of the geological formation known as Three Chimneys. This formation can be seen in the center of Figure 1. It is visible on Highway 108 near Cold Springs but not from Pinecrest.



Figure 1: Three Chimneys.

The hike is shown on the map in Figure 2. It is short but steep; the hike is only one mile each way, but one climbs 1400 feet in that mile. Before describing the route, we will give directions on how to get to the starting point of the hike.

In Figure 3, the road from Highway 108 to Martin's Cow Camp in Eagle Meadow is shown. The turnoff on Highway 108 is about two miles east of Mill Creek Campground and is marked with a sign that says "Eagle Meadow." There are several intersections along this road and some are not marked. But if some care is taken to follow the map, one will eventually make it to Eagle Meadow. After crossing Eagle Creek, one proceeds about two miles to Long Valley Creek (see Figure 2). Just after crossing Long Valley Creek, one should turn right and head up Long Valley about two miles. While traveling up this valley, Three Chimneys will be seen to the south.

One should attempt to get to the position from which the picture in Figure 1 was taken. Note that this is to the east of the long volcanic ridge coming north from Three Chimneys (this ridge can be seen on the map in Figure 2). The hike proceeds from this position up the granite seen in Figure 1, and continues to the saddle in the volcanic ridge behind the granite, just to the left of Three Chimneys.

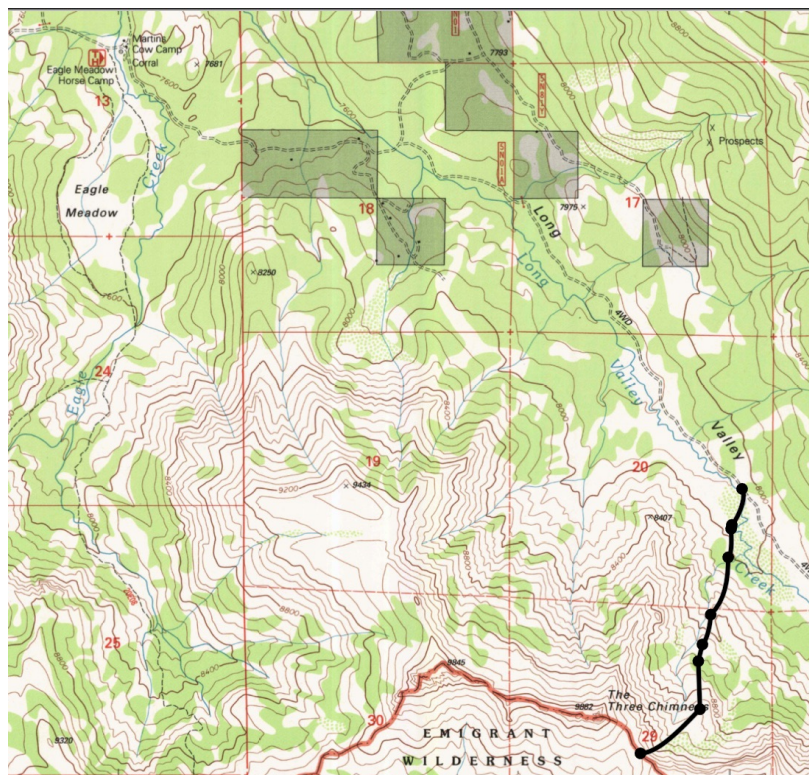


Figure 2: Three Chimneys Hike.

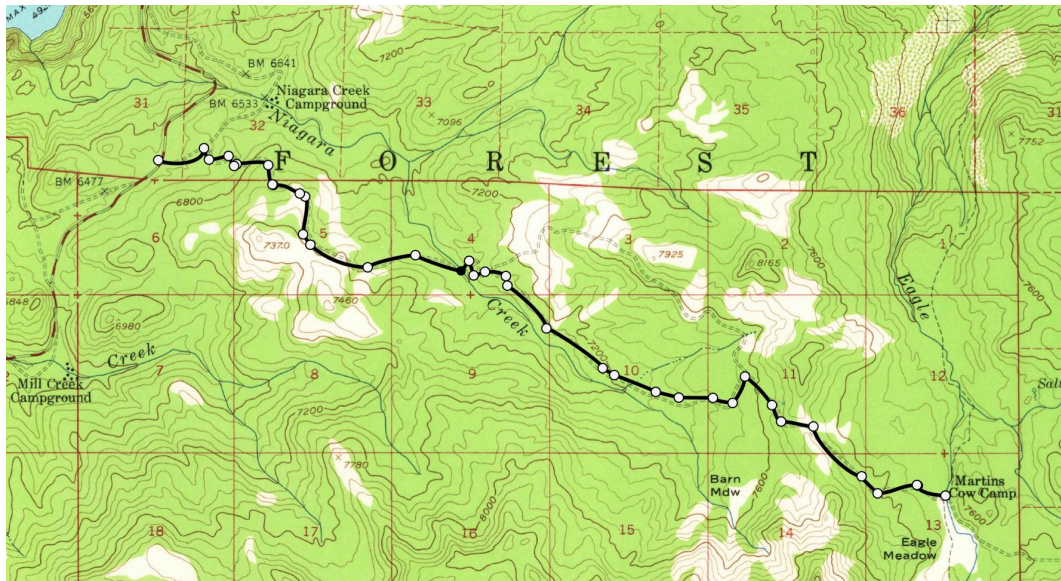


Figure 3: Road to Eagle Meadow.

The hike begins with a crossing of Long Valley Creek. This should present no problems, as this creek rarely has much water in it. One proceeds to the base of the granite seen in Figure 1, and then one starts scrambling up the granite (see Figure 4). In Figure 5, one can see the endpoint of the hike; it is the low point on the ridge, to the left of Three Chimneys.



Figure 4: Fun!



Figure 5: The Goal in Sight.

The photo in Figure 6 was taken near the top of the hike. The highest point on the horizon is Leavitt Peak. To the left of this peak, one sees two other high peaks. The one peaking above the closer ridge at the left-hand side of the photo is Stanislaus Peak and the one that is about halfway between Stanislaus Peak and Leavitt Peak is Sonora Peak. All three of these mountains are above 11000 feet in elevation.



Figure 6: Looking North.

Figure 7 shows a beautiful formation in the granite.



Figure 7: Granite formation.

Figure 8 shows the view looking south from the saddle. Burst Rock is the right-most highpoint on the horizon.



Figure 8: Looking South.