

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEADS

1) From Border Inn Casino to Baker:

Turn left (west) on US 50, drive 2.9 miles;
Turn left on Cutoff Road, drive 2.8 miles;
Turn left on NV 487, drive 1.6 miles to Baker;
Turn right on NV 488 toward Great Basin National Park and follow the directions below.

a) To Lehman Caves/Visitor Center:

Drive 5.6 miles to the end of the road.

b) To Lehman Creek (lower trailhead):

Drive 4.8 miles, turn right on Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive and drive 2.8 miles;
Turn left and drive 0.3 mile to the end of the road.

c) To Summit (Wheeler Peak) trailhead:

Drive 4.8 miles, turn right on Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive and drive 11 miles;
Turn right into parking lot.

d) To Alpine Lakes trailhead:

Drive 4.8 miles, turn right on Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive and drive 11.7 miles.

e) To Pole Canyon trailhead & picnic area:

Drive 5.0 miles, turn left on Baker Creek Road;
Drive 1.5 miles, turn left toward Grey Cliffs CG, then left toward Pole Canyon TH (0.5 mile).

f) To Baker Lake/S Fork Baker Creek/Timber Creek trailheads:

Drive 5.0 miles, turn left on Baker Creek Road;
Drive 3.6 miles to trailheads at the end of the road.

2) To Snake Creek trailhead:

a) From Baker (for those staying in Baker or GBNP campgrounds):

Take NV 487 south 5.2 miles to Snake Creek Canyon Road;
Turn right onto Snake Creek Canyon Road, drive 12.2 miles to trailhead.

b) From Border Inn Casino (for those staying at Border Inn Casino):

Drive east on US 50, cross the Utah state line and turn right on UT 159;
Drive 8.2 miles south on UT 159 to Garrison;
Turn right on UT 21 toward Baker, then immediately turn left onto a dirt road (county road 42);
Follow this road 5.9 miles through a left turn then a right until it merges with Snake Creek Canyon Road;
Drive 7.1 miles from the merger to trailhead.

3) To Lexington Arch trailhead:

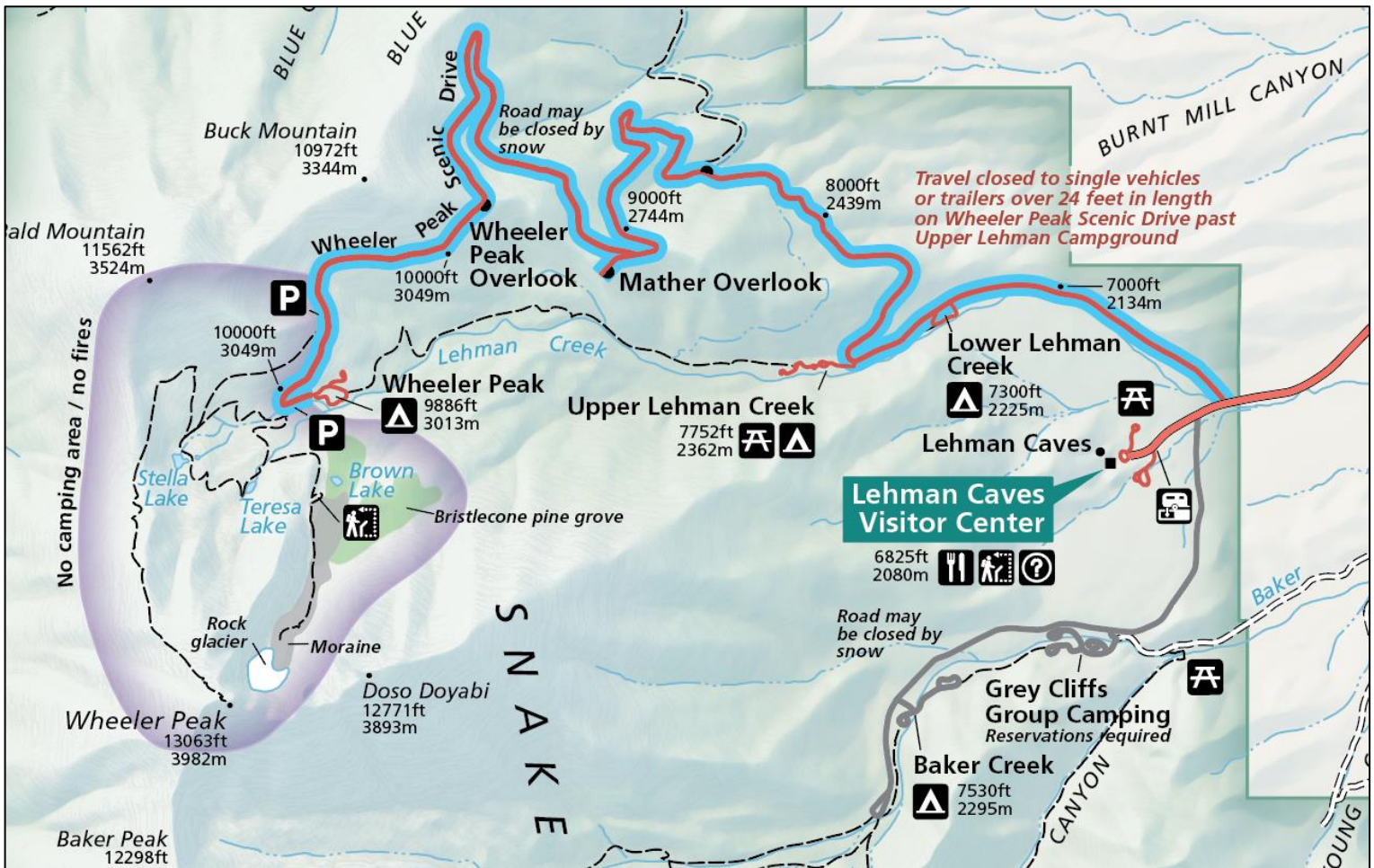
a) From Baker (for those staying in Baker or GBNP campgrounds):

Take NV 487 south 7.2 miles to Garrison (NV 487 becomes UT 21);
Continue south on UT 21, 5 miles from Garrison to Lexington Arch Road;
Turn right and drive 11.1 miles (high ground-clearance 4WD required) to trailhead.

b) From Border Inn Casino (for those staying at Border Inn Casino):

Drive east on US 50, cross the Utah state line and turn right on UT 159;
Drive 8.2 miles south on UT 159 to Garrison;
Turn left on UT 21 toward Milford, drive 5 miles to Lexington Arch Road;
Turn right and drive 11.1 miles (high ground-clearance 4WD required) to trailhead.

SCENIC DRIVE TRAILS



LEHMAN CREEK TRAIL

Total Distance: 6.4 miles

Elevation Gain: 2,040 feet

Difficulty: Moderate/Strenuous

Time: 3 – 6 hours

Begin at: (Lower) Lehman Creek Trailhead in Upper Lehman Creek Campground

The Lehman Creek Trail takes visitors on a deceptively steep trip up from the Upper Lehman Creek Campground to the Wheeler Peak Campground and Bristlecone Trailhead. Following the creek, passing by meadows, and through dense aspen forest, this trail wows any who travel it year-round with fall colors, wildflower blooms, and the babbling of Lehman Creek.

Reaching an elevation of just under 10,000 feet, this trail provide both a respite from the summer heat of the Snake Valley, but also added dangers in the form of altitude sickness and afternoon thunderstorms. Be prepared with plenty of water and salty snacks, or to return to your vehicle if you become symptomatic of altitude sickness or see thunderclouds rolling in.

This hike starts at the Lehman Creek Trailhead in the Upper Lehman Creek Campground, three miles up the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive. Park at the trailhead in summer or at the pullout across from the campground in winter. Parking outside of designated spaces or along the road is prohibited.

Water

Potable water is not available along the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive. Pack sufficient water with you, about one gallon per person per day. Water is available year-round at the nearby Lehman Caves Visitor Center or seasonally at the dump station.

Restrooms

The nearest restrooms are pit toilets with no running water in the Upper Lehman Creek Campground

WHEELER PEAK

Total Distance: 8.6 miles

Elevation Gain: 3,100 feet

Difficulty: Strenuous

Time: 4 – 10 hours

Begin at: Summit Trailhead

Wheeler Peak stands as the second tallest point in Nevada, and the tallest to have its flanks entirely within the state. This rocky and windy trail is considered one of the hardest in the park, and finishes with the steepest section of trail in the park. Once standing on it's top, Wheeler Peak strikes awe, allowing sight of more than 100 miles on a clear day. Hikers should be prepared for a steep and exposed hike where thunderstorms and high winds are common. During the summer, snow still may be on the trail at the higher elevations.

After reaching the saddle between Wheeler and Bald Mt, about 2.5 miles up the trail, hikers get above treeline and become the most prominent features on the hillsides. This means extreme danger when thunderstorms approach. The trail is best done starting around dawn so well prepared and altitude adjusted hikers can return by the late morning or early afternoon.

Beginning at an elevation of about 10,000 feet, these trails provide both a respite from the summer heat of the Snake Valley, but also added dangers in the form of altitude sickness and afternoon thunderstorms. Be prepared with plenty of water and salty snacks, or to return to your vehicle if you become symptomatic of altitude sickness or see thunderclouds rolling in.

This hike starts at the Summit Trailhead near the top of the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive, 2/3 of a mile short of the Bristlecone Trailhead at the end of the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive. Parking outside of designated spaces or along the road is prohibited.

Water

Potable water is not available along the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive. Pack sufficient water with you, about one gallon per person per day. Water is available year-round at the nearby Lehman Caves Visitor Center or seasonally at the dump station.

Restrooms

The nearest restrooms are pit toilets with no running water at the Bristlecone Trailhead.

ALPINE LAKES LOOP

Total Distance: 2.7 miles / 4.4 kilometers

Elevation Gain: 440 feet / 134 meters

Difficulty: Easy

Time: 1.5 – 3 hours

Begin at: Bristlecone Trailhead/End of the Scenic Drive

One of the most popular trails in Great Basin National Park, the Alpine Lakes Loop allows folks to get away from the road but not straining too hard. Just under three miles, this loop hike passes by two alpine lakes, Teresa and Stella lakes, all while going through alpine meadows and coniferous forests. Passing in the shadow of the highest peaks of the Snake Range, Wheeler Peak and Doso Doyabi are visible on this trail providing sweeping views of the sheer cliffs and flanks of these mountains. Wildflowers and wildlife are regularly visible during the summer months, and a night hike rewards many with a vast night sky. The Bristlecone Trail also overlaps the early sections of this trail and can be linked together for a total combined distance of 4.1 miles / 6.6 kilometers. See the trail map below (unavailable on NPS app) for clarification on the overlapping sections.

Beginning at an elevation of just under 10,000 feet, these trails provide both a respite from the summer heat of the Snake Valley, but also added dangers in the form of altitude sickness and afternoon thunderstorms. Be prepared with plenty of water and salty snacks, or to return to your vehicle if you become symptomatic of altitude sickness or see thunderclouds rolling in. This hike starts at the Bristlecone Trailhead at the end of the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive. Parking outside of designated spaces or along the road is prohibited.

Water

Potable water is not available along the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive. Pack sufficient water with you, about one gallon per person per day. Water is available year-round at the nearby Lehman Caves Visitor Center or seasonally at the dump station.

Restrooms

The nearest restrooms are pit toilets with no running water at the Bristlecone Trailhead.

BRISTLECONE GROVE & GLACIER TRAILS

Total Distance: 4.8 miles

Elevation Gain: 1,040 feet

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 2 – 4 hours

Begin at: Bristlecone Trailhead/End of the Scenic Drive

Great Basin National Park is unique for many reasons, but one rare sight in the deserts of the southwest are glaciers. The Wheeler Peak Glacier is the last surviving glacier in Nevada and getting smaller by the year due to the effects of human caused climate change. Nowadays referred to as a "Rock Glacier," The Wheeler Glacier is an amalgamation of rock and ice, slowly drifting down the sides of the Wheeler Cirque, once solid but slowly carved out by glaciers like the surviving one. Follow the trail past the Bristlecone Pine grove to see the glacial remnants and read interpretive signs about this park's long history of glacial formation.

The Bristlecone Trail overlaps the first 1.4 miles of this trail and the total distance above includes the Bristlecone Trail in its calculations. See the trail map below (unavailable on NPS app) for clarification on the overlapping sections.

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This hike starts at the Bristlecone Trailhead at the end of the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive. Parking outside of designated spaces or along the road is prohibited.

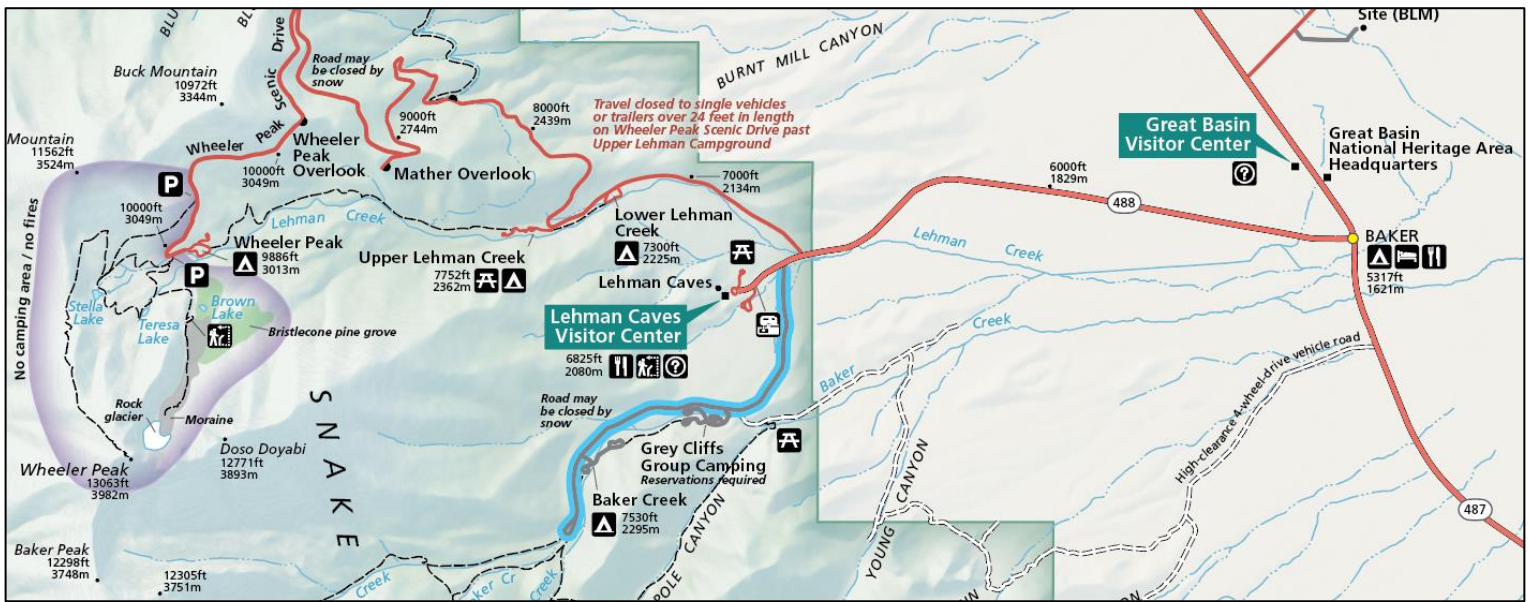
Water

Potable water is not available along the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive. Pack sufficient water with you, about one gallon per person per day. Water is available year-round at the nearby Lehman Caves Visitor Center or seasonally at the dump station.

Restrooms

The nearest restrooms are pit toilets with no running water at the Bristlecone Trailhead.

BAKER CREEK TRAILS



BAKER LAKE & JOHNSON LAKE LOOP

Total Distance: 11.7 miles

Elevation Gain: 3,280 feet

Difficulty: Strenuous

Time: 6 – 12 hours

Begin at: Baker Creek Trailhead (map next page)

A challenging day hike to Baker Lake rewards visitors with the sight of Baker Lake which few have seen. One of the largest lakes in the park and nestled in a glacial cirque, bristlecone pines dot these mountains and reward the inquisitive and attentive travelers. While making for a challenging day hike, Baker Lake is fairly easy by backpacking standards if done as an overnight trip, but come prepared. Snow often lingers throughout the year on this beautiful lake's rocky banks. Johnson Lake is located deep in the backcountry of Great Basin National Park. Near this mountain lake there are historic buildings and mining equipment, please to not enter or disturb any historic sites.

The [Johnson Lake Mining District](#) is a remnant of early 20th century mining efforts. Today a historic landscape in Great Basin National Park, Johnson Lake Mine's story actually begins in the early part of the 1900s, when the mineral tungsten was first discovered in the southern Snake Range. At Johnson Lake Mine tungsten was extracted and milled onsite and then transported a great distance to be refined and then used to make alloy steel. Alloy steel was used to create things like weapons, tanks, and transmitter radios during World War I. Many of the historic cabins still standing have remained through avalanche, blizzard, rockfall, and time for around a century. Efforts have been made to preserve the cultural significance of these structures. Please do not disturb these sites in respect for their cultural value.

Spring time ushers in a bevy of wildflowers of many colors, some years blooming well into the summer. Find yourself surrounded by pine, fir, and aspen trees as you hike through the forest and gain elevation. Johnson Lake remains high throughout the year, partially freezing in the winter time.

This hike starts at the Baker Creek Trailhead at the end of Baker Creek Road. Parking outside of designated spaces or along the road is prohibited.

Water

Potable water is not available along Baker Creek Road. Pack sufficient water with you, about one gallon per person per day. Water is available year-round at the nearby Lehman Caves Visitor Center or seasonally at the dump station.

Restrooms

The nearest restrooms are pit toilets with no running water at the Baker Creek Trailhead.



BAKER LAKE TRAIL

Total Distance: 10.4 miles

Elevation Gain: 2,610 feet

Difficulty: Strenuous

Time: 5 – 10 hours

Begin at: Baker Creek Trailhead (map next page)

A challenging day hike to Baker Lake rewards visitors with the sight of Baker Lake which few have seen. One of the largest lakes in the park and nestled in a glacial cirque, bristlecone pines dot these mountains and reward the inquisitive and attentive travelers. While making for a challenging day hike, Baker Lake is fairly easy by backpacking standards if done as an overnight trip, but come prepared. Snow often lingers throughout the year on the rocky banks of this beautiful lake.

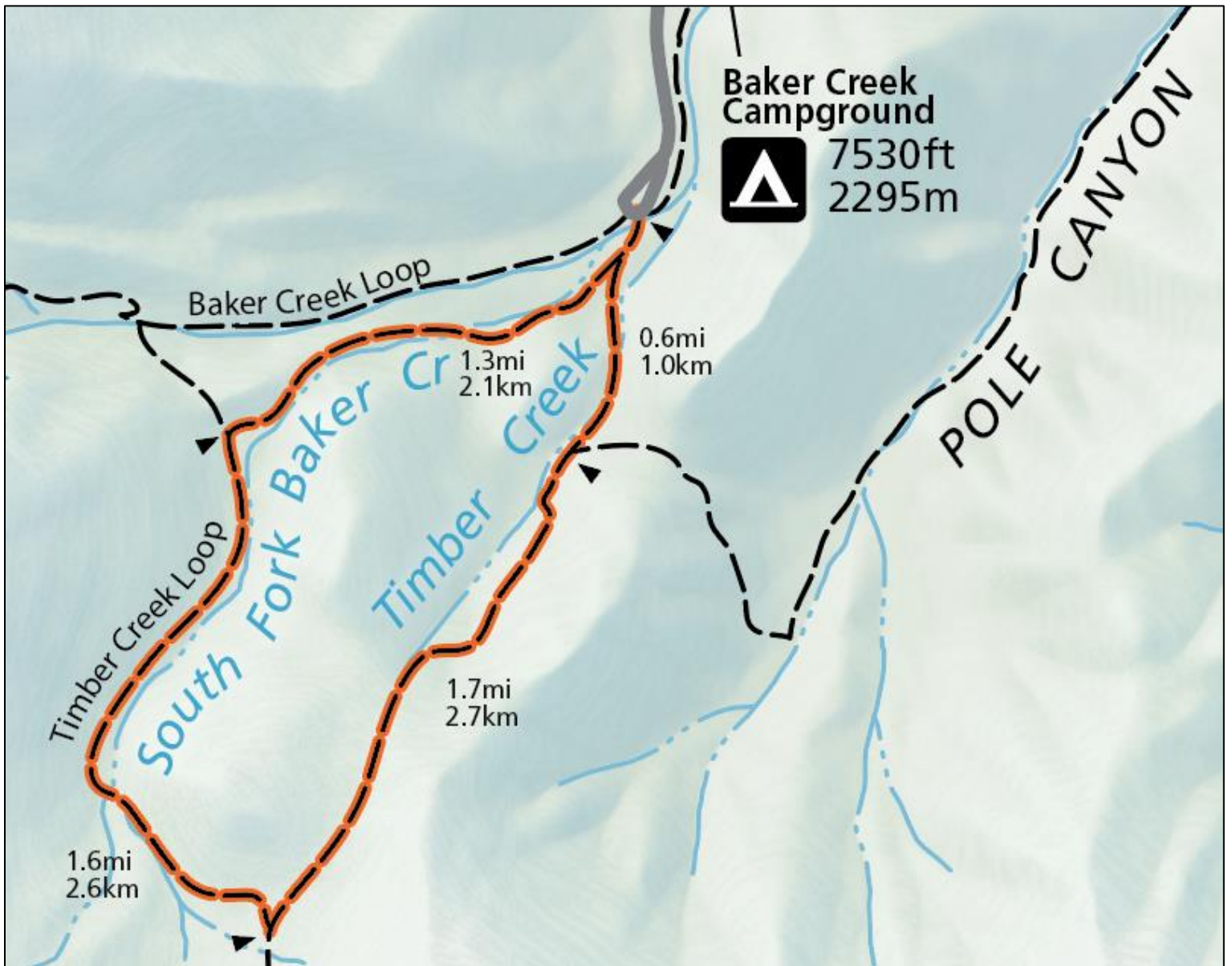
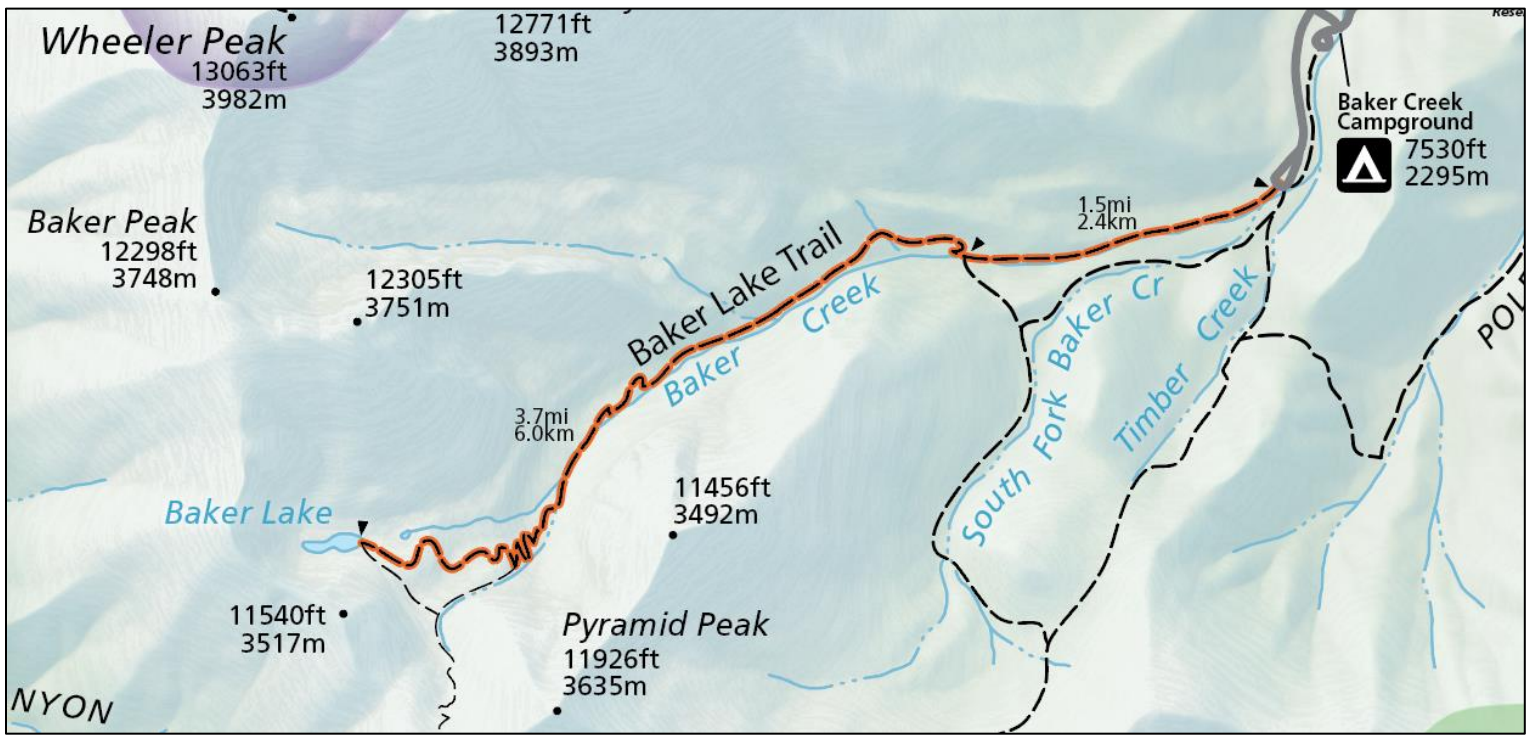
This hike starts at the Baker Creek Trailhead at the end of Baker Creek Road. Parking outside of designated spaces or along the road is prohibited.

Water

Potable water is not available along Baker Creek Road. Pack sufficient water with you, about one gallon per person per day. Water is available year-round at the nearby Lehman Caves Visitor Center or seasonally at the dump station.

Restrooms

The nearest restrooms are pit toilets with no running water at the Baker Creek Trailhead.



SOUTH FORK BAKER CREEK/TIMBER CREEK LOOP

Total Distance: 5.1 miles

Elevation Gain: 1,610 feet

Difficulty: Strenuous

Time: 3 – 6 hours

Begin at: Baker Creek Trailhead (map previous page)

The hike along the Timber Creek trail is a steep hike in a pine forest that opens up to sweeping views over large meadows. With the largest meadow offering great views of Pyramid Peak seen half way through the hike. This hike starts at the Baker Creek Trailhead at the end of Baker Creek Road. Parking outside of designated spaces or along the road is prohibited.

Water

Potable water is not available along Baker Creek Road. Pack sufficient water with you, about one gallon per person per day. Water is available year-round at the nearby Lehman Caves Visitor Center or seasonally at the dump station.

Restrooms

The nearest restrooms are pit toilets with no running water at the Baker Creek Trailhead.

JOHNSON LAKE VIA TIMBER CREEK

Distance: 9.8 miles

Elevation Gain: 2,740 feet

Difficulty: Strenuous

Time: 5 – 8 hours

Begin at: Baker Creek Trailhead (map next page)

Johnson Lake is located deep in the backcountry of Great Basin National Park. Near this mountain lake there are historic buildings and mining equipment, please to not enter or disturb any historic sites.

The [Johnson Lake Mining District](#) is a remnant of early 20th century mining efforts. Today a historic landscape in Great Basin National Park, Johnson Lake Mine's story actually begins in the early part of the 1900s, when the mineral tungsten was first discovered in the southern Snake Range. At Johnson Lake Mine tungsten was extracted and milled onsite and then transported a great distance to be refined and then used to make alloy steel. Alloy steel was used to create things like weapons, tanks, and transmitter radios during World War I. Many of the historic cabins still standing have remained through avalanche, blizzard, rockfall, and time for around a century. Efforts have been made to preserve the cultural significance of these structures. Please do not disturb these sites in respect for their cultural value.

Spring time ushers in a bevy of wildflowers of many colors, some years blooming well into the summer. Find yourself surrounded by pine, fir, and aspen trees as you hike through the forest and gain elevation. Johnson Lake remains high throughout the year, partially freezing in the winter time.

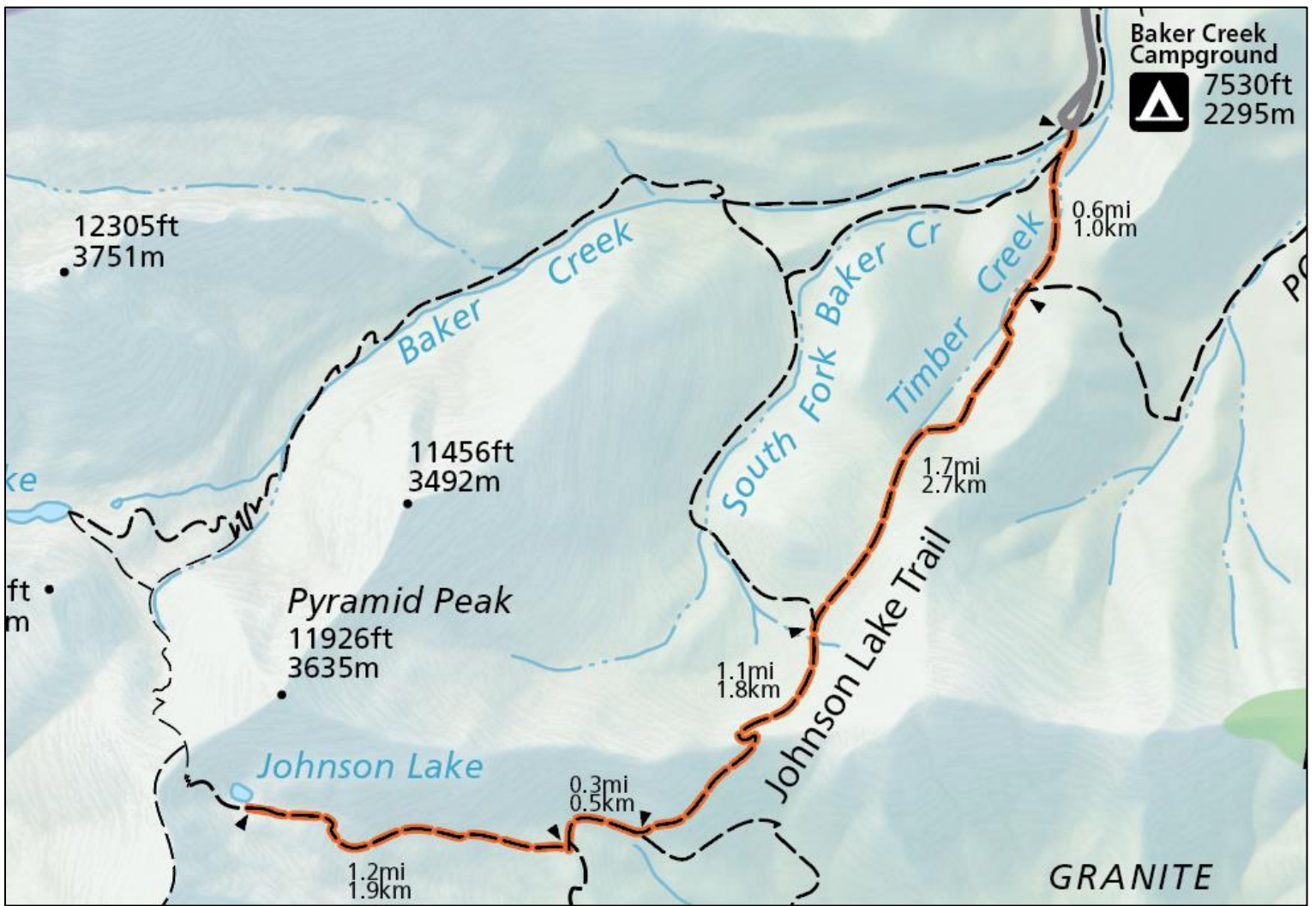
This hike starts at the Baker Creek Trailhead at the end of Baker Creek Road. Parking outside of designated spaces or along the road is prohibited.

Water

Potable water is not available along Baker Creek Road. Pack sufficient water with you, about one gallon per person per day. Water is available year-round at the nearby Lehman Caves Visitor Center or seasonally at the dump station.

Restrooms

The nearest restrooms are pit toilets with no running water at the Baker Creek Trailhead.



BAKER CREEK LOOP

Total Distance: 3.3 miles

Elevation Gain: 850 feet

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Time: 1.5 – 3 hours

Begin at: Baker Creek Trailhead (map previous page)

Baker Creek Loop is an upper easy/low moderate trail open for a majority of the year. This forested hike meanders through conifers and low lying sagebrush and grass meadows. The top of the loop greets visitors with the welcome sight of a green meadow in the summer and late spring, or a snow covered pristine surface in winter after a snowshoe. Wildflowers often fill the fields around the trailhead in the springtime, along with the meadows along the trail.

This hike starts at the Baker Creek Trailhead at the end of Baker Creek Road. Parking outside of designated spaces or along the road is prohibited.

Water

Potable water is not available along Baker Creek Road. Pack sufficient water with you, about one gallon per person per day. Water is available year-round at the nearby Lehman Caves Visitor Center or seasonally at the dump station.

Restrooms

The nearest restrooms are pit toilets with no running water at the Baker Creek Trailhead.

POLE CANYON LOOP

Total Distance: 6.6 miles

Elevation Gain: 1,600 feet

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 3 – 6 hours

Begin at: Pole Canyon Trailhead (map next page)

Pole Canyon wanders through meadow and forested area leading to a mountain pass. This trail has it all: mixed conifers, stream crossings, spectacular views of Baker Peak. Located along Baker Creek Road, Pole Canyon is easily accessible year-round, though sometimes requiring a short snowshoe from the Baker Creek pit toilet to the trailhead.

This hike starts at the Pole Canyon Trailhead off of Baker Creek Road. Make the turn off 1.5 miles down the road towards Grey Cliffs Campground, then stay left at the first split. Down this road several hundred feet is the Pole Canyon Picnic Area and Trailhead. Parking outside of designated spaces or along the road is prohibited.

Water

Potable water is not available along Baker Creek Road. Pack sufficient water with you, about one gallon per person per day. Water is available year-round at the nearby Lehman Caves Visitor Center or seasonally at the dump station.

Restrooms

The nearest restrooms are pit toilets with no running water at the Pole Canyon Trailhead.

Upper Lehman Creek



Lehman Caves Visitor Center



Road may be closed by snow

Grey Cliffs Group Camping
Reservations required

2.1mi
3.4km
Walk through
campgrounds

Baker Creek
Campground

2.5mi
4.0km

POLE CANYON

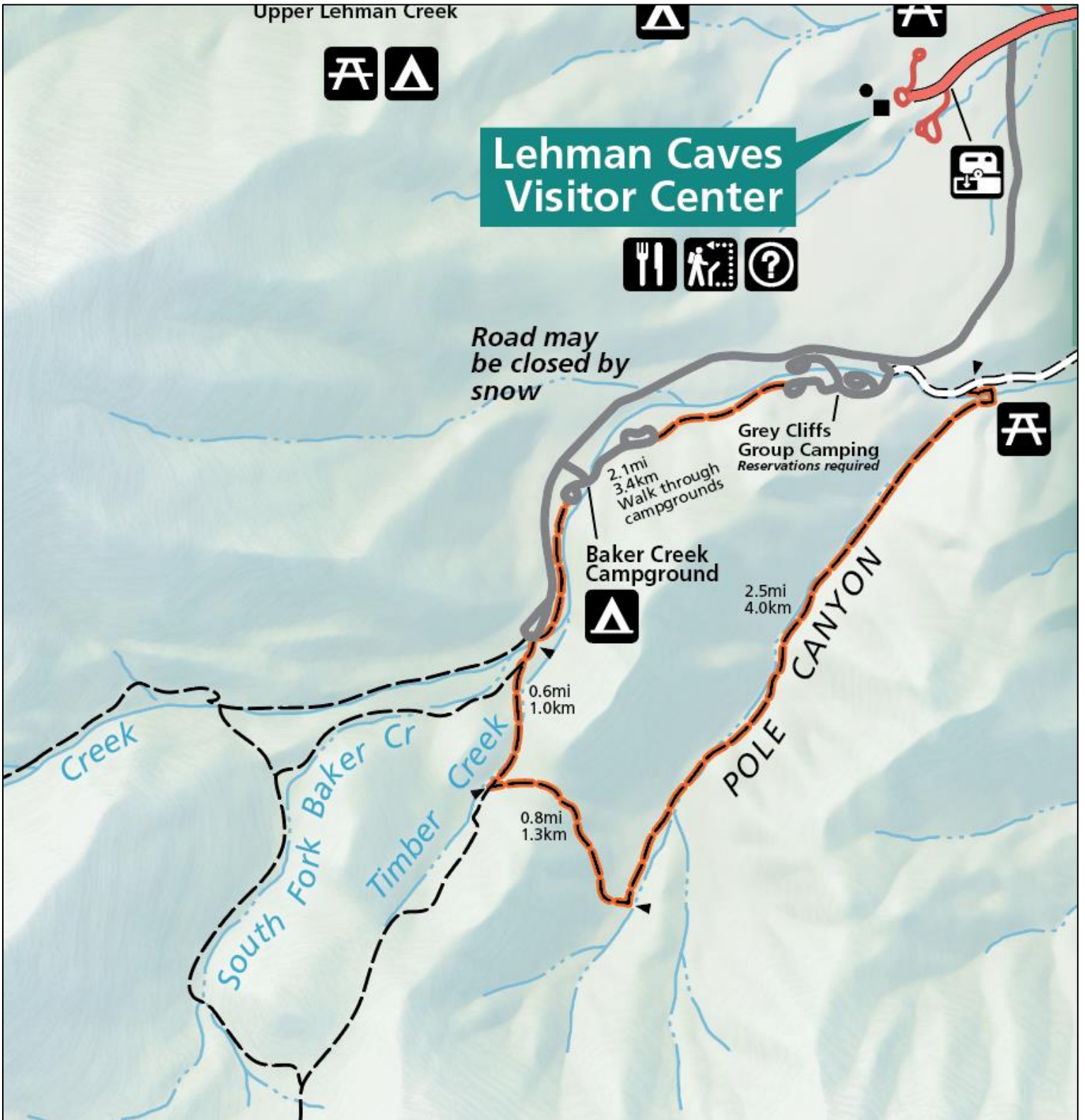
0.6mi
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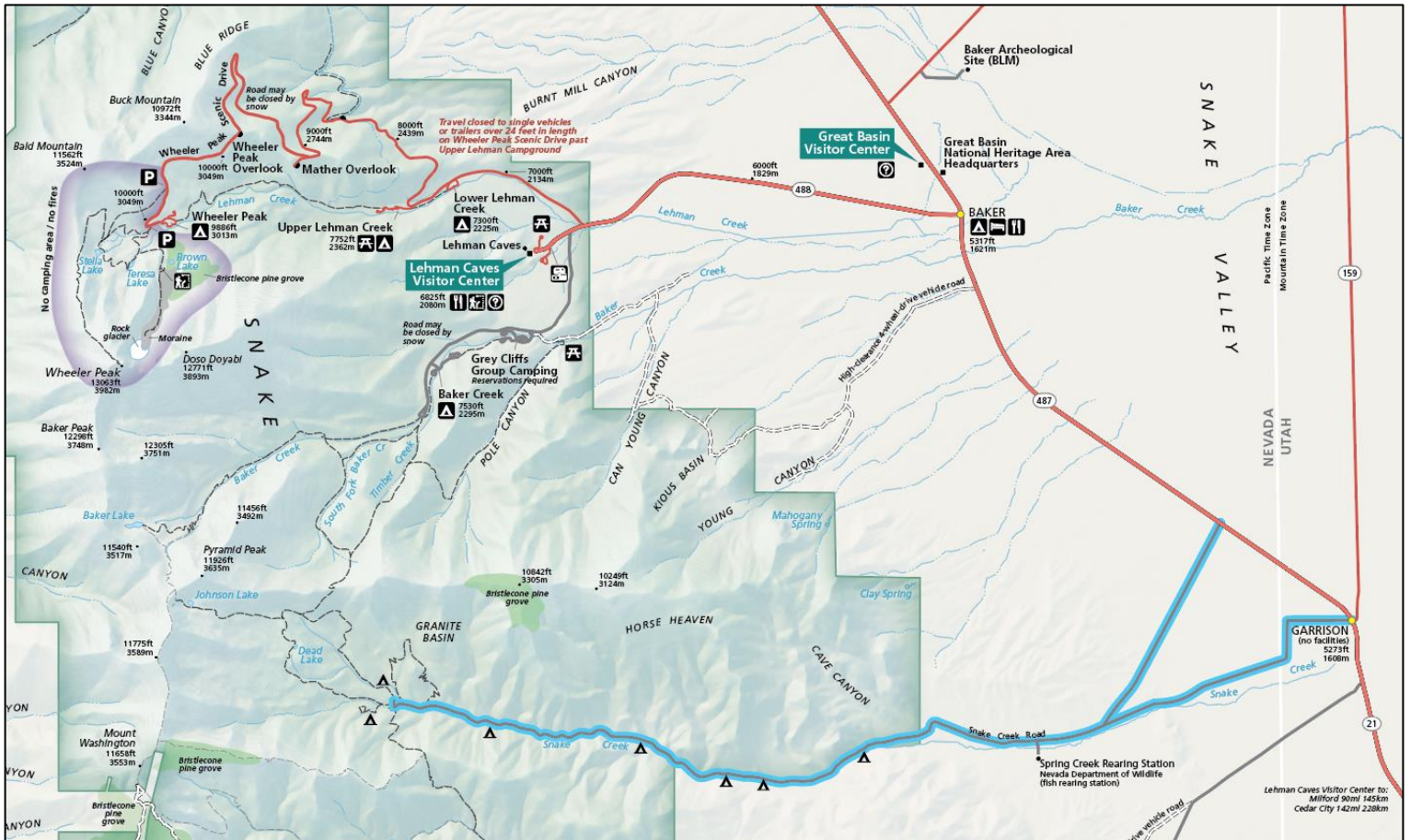
Creek

South Fork Baker Cr

Timber Creek



SNAKE CREEK TRAILS



DEAD LAKE LOOP

Total Distance: 5.1 miles

Elevation Gain: 1,520 feet

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 3 – 5 hours

Begin at: Snake Creek Trailhead (map next page)

A 5.1-mile round trip hike to Dead Lake offers trails through aspen groves and views on the snake valley on the way to a lake that comes and goes with the seasons. After heavy snow seasons, the lake is often filled late into the season, but can be totally dry after drier winters.

Spring time ushers in a bevy of wildflowers of many colors, some years blooming well into the summer. Find yourself surrounded by pine, fir, and aspen trees as you hike through the forest and gain elevation.

This hike starts at the Snake Creek Trailhead on Snake Creek Road. Stop to park at the trailhead at the road's end. Parking outside of designated spaces or along the road is prohibited.

Water

Potable water is not available along Snake Creek Road. Pack sufficient water with you, about one gallon per person per day.

Restrooms

The nearest restrooms are pit toilets with no running water at the Snake Creek Trailhead.



JOHNSON LAKE FROM SNAKE CREEK

Distance: 8.0 miles

Elevation Gain: 2,520 feet

Difficulty: Strenuous

Time: 4 – 8 hours

Begin at: Snake Creek Trailhead (map next page)

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This hike starts at the Snake Creek Trailhead on Snake Creek Road. Stop to park at the trailhead at the road's end. Parking outside of designated spaces or along the road is prohibited.

Water

Potable water is not available along Snake Creek Road. Pack sufficient water with you, about one gallon per person per day.

Restrooms

The nearest restrooms are pit toilets with no running water at the Snake Creek Trailhead.



SNAKE DIVIDE ROUTE

Total Distance: 13.4 miles

Elevation Gain: 3,418 feet

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 7 – 12 hours

Begin at: Snake Creek Trailhead (map next page)

The out and back hike along the Snake Divide route is 13.4 miles round trip through rough terrain, gaining more than 3,000 feet. Following the well defined Shoshone trail, the Snake Divide trail branches and goes west, following the ridge formed by multiple 10,000+ foot peaks. The trail is often only marked by flagging and the occasional rock cairn, so having a GPS, map & compass, and the skills to use them is paramount if you want to remain on track. **Do not remove or destroy rock cairns or create your own - they are vital wayfinding tools in the wilderness.**

This route leads to two bristlecone groves located deep in the backcountry of Great Basin National Park. The Magic Grove below the rocky Mt Washington, and then above Mt Washington is the aptly named Mt Washington Grove. In these groves, be prepared to see the isolated bristlecone pines standing apart from each other and other species of tree. Some trees in these groves have stood for thousands of years, so please treat them with the respect and reverence they've earned. **Collecting or burning downed bristlecone wood is strictly prohibited**, as even remnants of these trees are useful for scientific study and dendrochronology. Some downed trees and limbs could be thousands of years older than even the oldest living bristlecones, so please exercise caution.

If your only aim is to reach the Magic Grove bristlecones, a round-trip distance of 12.0 miles is to be expected. If you want to summit Mount Washington, prepare for the full 13.4 miles.

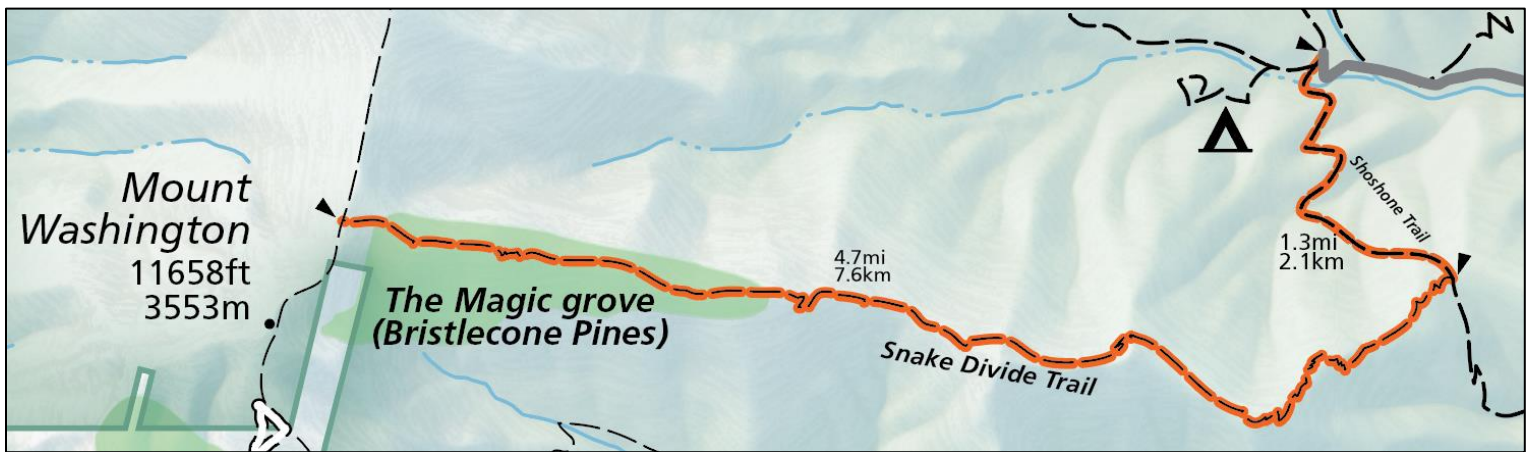
This hike starts at the Snake Creek Trailhead on Snake Creek Road. Stop to park at the trailhead at the road's end. **Parking outside designated spaces or along the road is prohibited.**

Water

Potable water is not available along Snake Creek Road. Pack sufficient water with you, about one gallon per person per day.

Restrooms

The nearest restrooms are pit toilets with no running water at the Snake Creek Trailhead.



LEXINGTON CREEK TRAILS

LEXINGTON ARCH TRAIL

Distance: 5.6 miles

Elevation Gain: 1,220 feet

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 3 – 5 hours

Begin at: Lexington Arch Trailhead

Lexington Arch stands as one of the tallest limestone arches in the world at nearly 200 feet tall. This trail takes visitors from a makeshift trailhead all the way underneath the arch, meandering through shrubland and some old forest. A fire in the early 2010s brought down the road constructed to the original trailhead and burned much of the surrounding hillsides, threatening the arch itself. Since then, a makeshift trailhead has been constructed about 1.0 miles short of the original, making for a ~5.6-mile round-trip hike. Due to the fire, the trail is mostly on exposed hillsides with little shade. Live trees emerge as you ascend the trail, allowing for occasional relief from the heat of the summer.

This hike starts at the end of Lexington Creek Road, outside the national park boundary. Stop to park at the trailhead at the road's end. Parking outside of designated spaces or along the road is prohibited. This road is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). As a result, the park may not close the road even if conditions are hazardous. Exercise caution driving to the arch in spring and fall, as washouts and running water are common.

Water

Potable water is not available. Pack sufficient water with you, about one gallon per person per day.

Restrooms

There are no toilets near the Lexington Arch or its trailhead. Pack out any toilet paper or other waste garbage.

