

HAPPY & SAD BOULDERS



The Happy and Sad Boulders are two world-renown bouldering areas just north of Bishop. They contain classic problems, distinctive physical features, and volcanic tuff rock. House sized boulders have



fractured and tumbled down into these narrow canyons creating challenging problems. Both locations are about 3/4 mile apart on the Wild Trout section of Chalk Bluff Road.

Land Manager: Bureau of Land Management—Bishop Field Office.

Directions to Trailhead: From the Bishop Chamber of Commerce, proceed north for about 1/2 mile to Highway 6. After 1.5 miles, turn left on Five Bridges Road. Follow this paved road 2.4 miles to a 4-way intersection where the pavement turns to dirt. Take a left on Chalk Bluff Road for the Happy and Sad Boulders.

Drive 1.5 miles to the Sad Boulders parking area on the left with the nearby kiosk. Park here. The trail begins up the canyon as you look north. Follow the trail uphill for about 20 minutes into the Sads. From the Sads parking, continue about 0.75 miles to the Happy Boulders where you will see a bathroom and parking area. Look for the kiosk and trail sign to the north. **Please pack out all trash.**

Hiking Distance/Elevation/GPS Coordinates:

About 1/4 mile approach to respective bouldering areas from Happy and Sad parking lots. 4,229 feet (1,289 meters) Happy Boulders *Lat: N 37.4136; Long: W -118.4476.* Sad Boulders *Lat: N 37.4176; Long: W -118.4328.*

Camping: PV Pit, a climbers' campground, is located nearby and open during winter. Contact the **Bishop Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau** at 690 N Main Street for information.

PINE CREEK CRAGS



Pine Creek Crag is a stunning high wall slot canyon located in Pine Creek Canyon northwest of Bishop. This granitic canyon contains several high wall routes for the avid mountaineer.

Land Manager: Inyo National Forest—White Mountain Ranger District.

Directions to Trailhead: Take U.S. Highway 395 north about 10.5 miles from the Bishop Chamber of Commerce to the Rovana turnoff (Pine Creek Road).



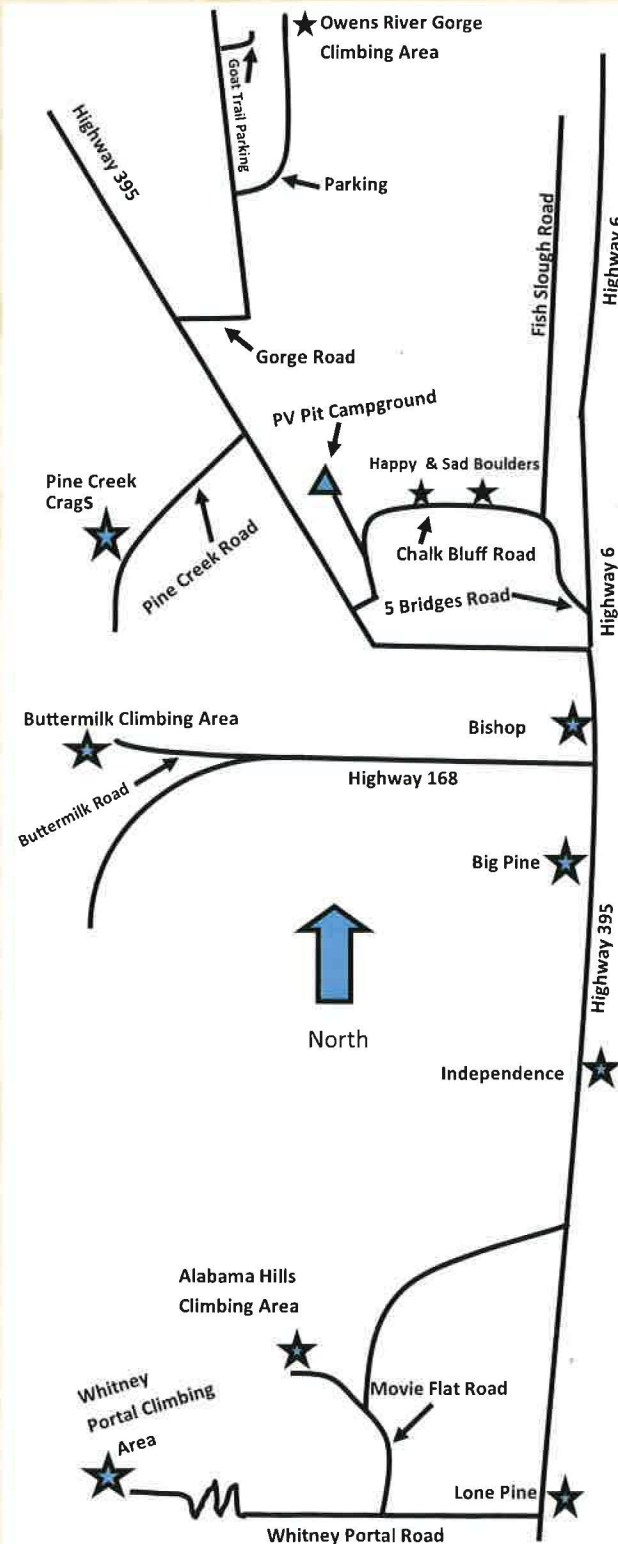
Turn left on Pine Creek Road. Proceed 7.8 miles from this turn. You will pass the Rovana community as you head into Pine Creek Canyon. At the 7.8 mile mark, you will see a narrow high walled canyon known as Pine Creek Crag off to your right. Look for a small parking area on

the right side of the road after you pass the canyon. Park here and hike up the narrow 4 wheel drive route which heads uphill and northerly to the mouth of the canyon. The route narrows into a single track hiking trail near the canyon entrance. Many sport routes dot Scheelite Canyon, between the classic crack climbs dating back to the 1970's. **Please pack out all trash.**

Hiking Distance/Elevation/GPS Coordinates:

About 1/3 mile approach to climbing area from parking area. 6,893 feet (2,100 meters) at parking area. *Lat: N 37.3807; Long: W -118.6733.*

Misc: Eastside Sports and Sage to Summit, two outdoor alpine shops in Bishop, provide technical gear, climbing books, clothing, and information about Eastern Sierra mountaineering venues. Their staff has scaled mountain peaks, walls, and boulders in this region of limitless outdoor possibilities.

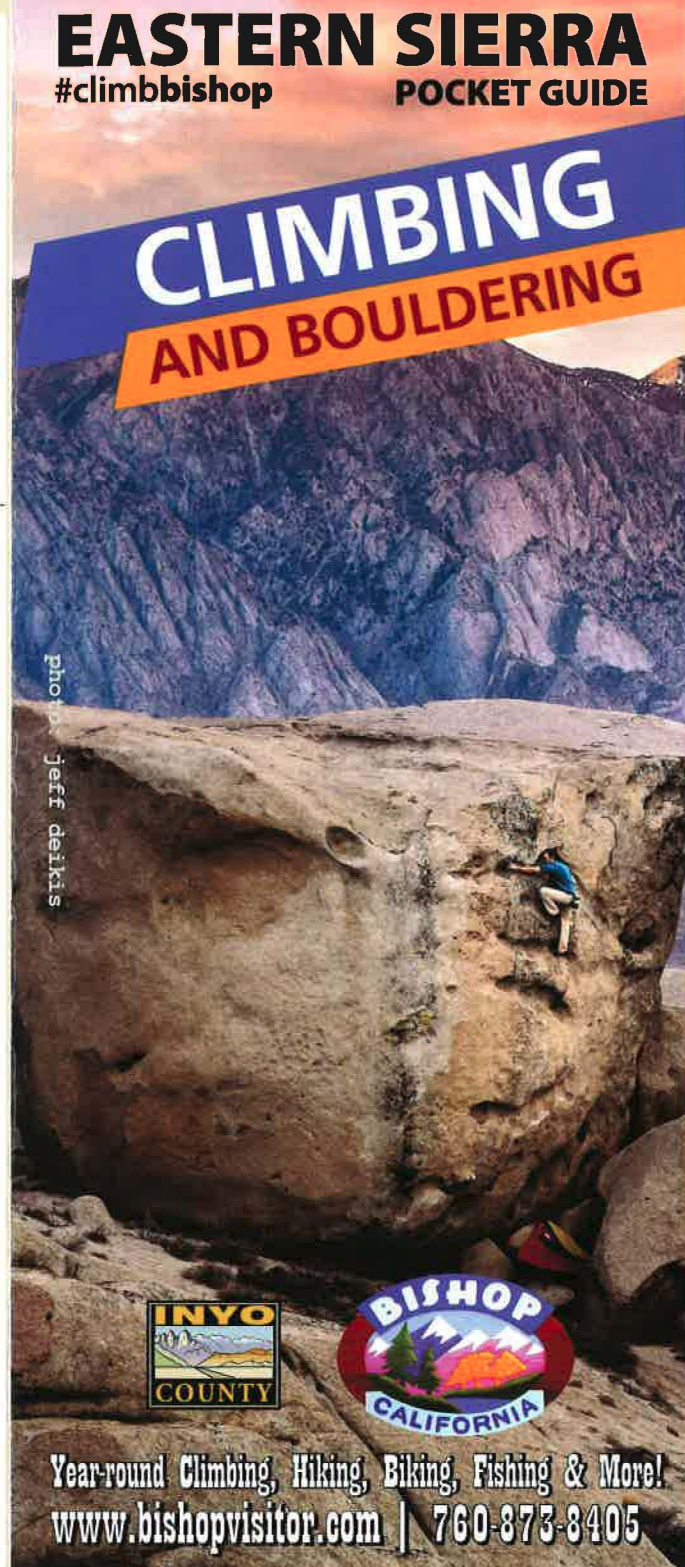


EASTERN SIERRA

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CLIMBING AND BOULDERING

photo: jeff deakis



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BUTTERMILK COUNTRY



The Buttermilk is a classic boulder field framed against 13,000 foot Sierra peaks. This technical mecca is one of the most scenic settings in America. Accessible year round, the area contains some 500 bouldering problems and 16 sport climbing routes. Boulders range in size from 10 to 30 feet. This multi-use area is open to boulderers, climbers, runners, hikers, bikers, off road vehicles and other users.



Land Manager: Los Angeles Dept of Water & Power. Inyo National Forest—White Mountain Ranger District.

Directions to Trailhead: From the Bishop Chamber of Commerce, head south on Main Street (Highway 395) for 1/2 mile. Turn right (west) on West Line Street (Highway 168).

Drive 7.25 miles to Buttermilk Road. Turn right and proceed 3.4 miles to the Frontside Parking Area. Additional parking is available off Buttermilk Road beyond this point providing deeper access into the climbing area. **Please pack out all trash.**

Hiking Distance/Elevation/GPS Coordinates: Most problems and routes begin several hundred feet from various parking areas. The first parking area on the north side of Buttermilk Road is at an elevation of 6,280 feet (1,914 meters). *Latitude: N 37.3283; Longitude: W -118.5730.*

Misc: On your rest day, check out the **Eastern California Museum**, in Independence - the oldest museum in Inyo County. Containing the largest repository of local Paiute-Shoshone basketry, this facility features a great display of iconic alpine mountaineer, Norman Clyde. Clyde was notoriously known for his ascents of major eastern Sierra peaks in the early 20th century.

The PV Pit Campground is where climbers gather during winter months. **Horton Creek Campground** is a popular summer campground with climbers.

ALABAMA HILLS



The Alabama Hills is a surreal landscape of mountainous craggy boulders, towers, and pinnacles framed by Mt. Whitney and the High Sierra. The highly fractured and clustered hills of orange rock attracted early 20th century movie producers and continues as a major film production location today. Easy and moderate climbing routes on quartz monzonite are next to the parking areas. Rock quality ranges from quality patina to chossy. About 300+ routes have been established, the majority being bolted.



Land Manager: Bureau of Land Management—Bishop Field Office. Los Angeles Dept of Water & Power.

Directions to Trailhead: From the Bishop Chamber of Commerce, proceed south on Main Street (Hwy 395) for 60 miles to Lone Pine. Turn

right (west) at Whitney Portal Road. Proceed 2.75 miles to Movie Flat Road. Turn right heading north for 1.5 miles on this road until it turns sharply right and left. Take the left turn and drive on the good quality road for about 0.6 miles to the Loaf Parking Area which contains a large dark rock overhang. Park in disturbed areas only, not on plants. Although area plants may appear dead, they are actually alive. Short walking trails lead to several climbing locations. **Please pack out all trash.**

Hiking Distance/Elevation/GPS Coordinates: Several climbing areas exist in the Alabamas. Many are located west of Movie Flat Road and only hundreds of feet from nearby parking. The parking area for the Loaf Climbing Area is 4,783 feet in elevation. *Lat: N 36.6081; Long: W -118.1338.*

Misc: Check out **Elevation**, a mountaineering shop in Lone Pine with maps, climbing guides, and technical gear. Learn about hidden climbing gems, places to camp, and alternative recreation opportunities from shop staff. Pick up the **Alabama Hills Recreation Map** which identifies popular climbing locations. Camp only in nearby campgrounds including Tuttle Creek, Portagee Joe, Diaz Lake, etc. The **Mt. Whitney Hostel** provides inexpensive climber friendly lodging in Lone Pine.

WHITNEY PORTAL



“The grandest climbing arena on the entire east side” is how Bishop Area Rock Climbs, the Eastern Sierra’s definitive guide to climbing, describes Whitney Portal. Its grandeur, views and sheer immensity overwhelms your senses. Granite cliffs pierce the sky projecting over a thousand feet upwards. Splitter finger cracks, long arching corners, and bulging white faces with black knobs make up the area’s routes. There are some 55 bolted routes with slab face climbing and 100+ trad routes. Parking is limited because the area is popular with hikers and backpackers.

Land Manager: Inyo National Forest—Mt. Whitney Ranger District.

Directions to Trailhead: From the Bishop Chamber of Commerce, proceed south on Main Street (Highway 395) for 60 miles to Lone Pine. Turn right (west) at Whitney Portal Road. Drive 11.1 miles to Meysan Trailhead Parking. A second parking area is 0.3 miles further; a third parking area is another 0.6 miles. The road ends here below the waterfall.



Hiking Distance/Elevation/GPS Coordinates: Meysan Lakes Trailhead Parking : *Latitude: N 36.5903; Longitude: W -118.2273.* The second parking area lies next to Wood Road (dirt) and across from the Whitney Group Campground. *Latitude: N 36.5884; Longitude: W -118.2339.* Mt. Whitney Trailhead Parking is at 8,317 feet (2,535 meters) - *Latitude: N 36.5868; Longitude: W -118.2397.* **Please pack out all trash.**

Misc: Stop at the **Whitney Portal Café**, a favorite of alpine climbers. Doug and Earlene Thompson, have catered to mountaineers and backpackers alike for decades. Doug, a climbing legend himself, is the guru of local mountaineering lore. Ask him about routes, hidden gems and other opportunities for mountain adventure. Stock up on carbs before your climb with their pizza-sized pancakes— the biggest in the world!

OWENS RIVER GORGE



The Owens River Gorge is a steep canyon cut by the Owens River. It is California’s most concentrated sport climbing area, located just north of Bishop, and provides over 500 routes. Year-round fishing opportunities too!

Land Manager: Los Angeles Dept. of Water & Power.

Directions to Trailhead: Take Highway 395 north from Bishop Chamber of Commerce about 12.1 miles to Paradise exit and turn right on the Gorge Road. At the T intersection, turn left (north) on the paved road for about 3.25 miles. Turn right and drive for about 400 feet. Park on the road shoulder before the road barricade. From here, hike down the road 1.5 miles just past the power plant to the climbing area. Much of this area is bolted. Keep dogs on leash as you walk into the canyon to avoid accidents with occasional maintenance vehicles. Great for bikes & stroller access. To reach the Goat Trail (most direct route), continue up the paved road from the 3.25 mile mark for about 1.5 miles.



Turn right and travel 0.3 miles to a parking area near a large power transmission pole. The trail is immediately north of the parking area. The trail is very steep, rugged, and loose but provides quick access from the top of the gorge.

Hiking Distance/Elevation/GPS Coordinates: About 1.5 mile approach to climbing area from parking area. 5,397 feet (1,605 meters) elevation. Road Access—*Lat. N 37.4912; Long: W -118.5635.* Goat Trail—*Lat: N 37.5100; Long: W -118.5715.*

Misc: **Camping is prohibited on City of Los Angeles’ land.** Inexpensive camping is available at PV Pit, Horton Creek, and others. Stop by the **Bishop Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau** at 690 N Main for locations. Don’t forget to pickup the guidebooks, *Owens River Gorge Climbs* by M. Lewis and *Bishop Area Rock Climbs* by P. Croft & M. Lewis.