



Lassen Volcanic National Park

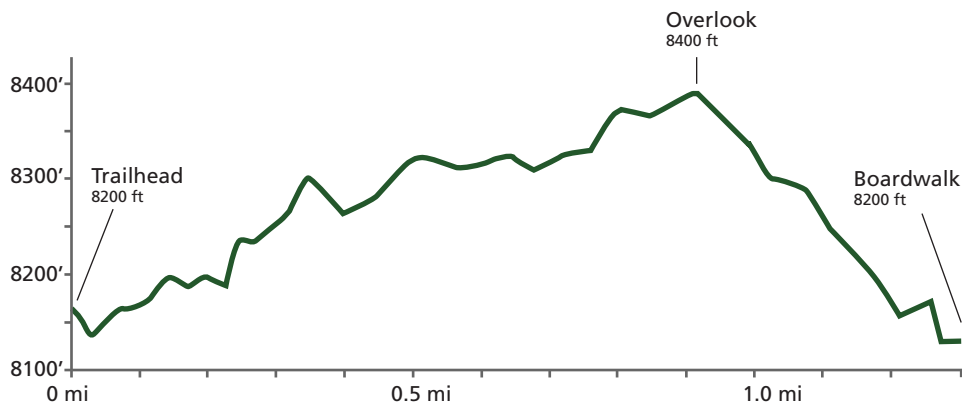
# Bumpass Hell Trail Guide



A boardwalk provides a safe way to explore the Bumpass Hell hydrothermal area

<b>Level of Difficulty:</b>	Moderate
<b>Round Trip Distance:</b>	2.6 mi (4.2 km)
<b>Round Trip Time:</b>	2 hours
<b>Elevation Start/Change:</b>	8200 ft (2499 m) / 300 ft (91 m)

Many argue that a trip to Lassen is not complete without a visit to Bumpass Hell. The largest hydrothermal area in the park got its name from Kendall Bumpass who severely burned his leg after breaking through a thin crust into a boiling pool. Beginning at the Bumpass Hell parking area, the trail traverses the rocky slope of Bumpass Mountain. At 0.9 mile, an overlook provides a view of the eroded rim of ancient Brokeoff Volcano (Mt. Tehama). The trail changes little in elevation until the basin overlook where it drops 100 feet into the hydrothermal area basin. Here, a boardwalk provides a safe way to explore the steaming pools, boiling mudpots, and array of unusual colors.



## Directions to Trailhead

The trailhead is located in the Bumpass Hell parking area approximately six miles from the southwest entrance. Due to the popularity of this trail, the parking area is often full on weekends and holidays. You may park your vehicle outside of the white line in the Lake Helen area, in the Lake Helen picnic area, or the Lake Helen turnout. Vehicles obstructing traffic will be ticketed.

### Are You Ready to Hike? Safety is *Your* Responsibility

#### A few suggestions to help you stay safe:

- ☐ Bring water and extra food
- ☐ Wear sturdy boots
- ☐ Bring a flashlight or headlamp
- ☐ Use sunscreen
- ☐ Carry extra layers for warmth
- ☐ Take breaks often
- ☐ Tell someone where you are going and when you will return
- ☐ Check the weather forecast on-line or at the visitor centers
- ☐ Finish your hike before dark



## Special Considerations

**Trail Closure** often extends into July or August due to hazardous snow and ice conditions. Unless mitigated, the initial traverse across the slope of Bumpass Mountain and the 100 foot descent into the hydrothermal area poses a risk of severe injury or even death.

**Winter Conditions** persist through the summer months and can be especially hazardous on the 100 foot descent into the hydrothermal basin. Wear proper footwear and consider use trekking poles to help maintain balance.

**Hiking at High Elevation** can aggravate preexisting medical conditions. Know the effects of altitude. Carry plenty of water, take breaks often, and do not exceed your abilities.



**Knee and ankle injuries are the most common visitor injury**

Watch your footing • Consider using trekking poles for balance • Wear appropriate footwear

# How Do I Safely Explore a Hydrothermal Area?

To help improve your level of safety, it is extremely important to stay on boardwalks and established trails in hydrothermal areas. One unfortunate visitor learned this lesson the hard way when he wandered beyond the barriers and safety warning signs. His foot broke through a thin crust hiding acidic boiling water and was severely burned. His injury required an emergency evacuation and a series of follow-up treatments and doctor visits.



**Stay on established trails to avoid injury**

*“It feels like I put my leg in a flame”*

*- Visitor injured at Devils Kitchen*



## In Case of Emergency, Dial 911

The closest emergency phone is at the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center.



## Pets Are Not Permitted on Hiking Trails

For the protection of wildlife and the safety of your pet, pets are allowed only in paved areas such as campgrounds and the park road.



## Yield to Uphill Hikers

Please carefully step off to the side of trail to allow uphill hikers to pass or to stop for a break.



The Bumpass Hell trail affords spectacular view of the surrounding landscape including Lassen Peak.

# Bumpass Hell Trail Map



• Eagle Peak

• Pilot Pinnacle

*Emerald Lake*

*Lake Helen*



1.5

• Bumpass Mountain

**Bumpass Hell**

1.7

*Cold Boiling Lake*

0.7

Kings Creek Picnic Area

To Crumbaugh Lake (1.0 mi)  
To Mill Creek Falls (2.2 mi)



# Explore Safely