

Ski and Snowshoe Routes

BEGINNER TRAILS

Manzanita Lake Snowshoe Loop

This trail is not recommended for skiing

Distance: 1.6 mile loop

Elevation: 5800 feet to 5850 feet

Average Time: 1.5 hours

Begin near the Loomis Ranger Station and circle the lake in either direction. This route provides excellent views of snow-covered Lassen Peak and Chaos Crag. Please stay off lake ice. Lake ice is unstable, and shores may be difficult to recognize under snow.

Nanny Creek via McGowan Ski Trail

Located in adjacent Lassen National Forest

Distance: 5 miles to Nanny Creek one-way

Elevation: 6080 feet to 5110 feet

Average Skiing Time: 4 hours

The McGowan Ski Trail is located in Lassen National Forest, 3.5 miles south of the Southwest entrance. Marked with blue and white ski touring signs, the route travels across a flat and slightly descending landscape. Skiers will pass through largely forested areas with some meadow clearings, ending at Highway 36 at Nanny Creek. The trail does not go to McGowan Lake, which is on private property. This trail makes for a good one-way ski route if vehicles are available for shuttle.

Main Park Road to Lake Helen

Distance: 12.4 miles round-trip

Elevation: 6700 feet to 8200 feet

Average Skiing Time: 6 hours

From the Southwest parking area, follow the main park road. Hazardous, steep side hills with icy conditions may be encountered. The Diamond Peak area has a history of avalanches. This area should be avoided by using the marked "Ranger Cutoff" trail just north of Windy Point (see map on page 8). By mid-winter it is difficult to find any trace of the road between the head of Little Hot Springs Valley and Reading Peak. High winds and whiteout conditions are common in this same area during winter storms. The road crosses several avalanche paths. Good overnight snow camping areas can be found a short distance from the road north of Diamond Peak, and near Emerald Lake and Lake Helen.

INTERMEDIATE ROUTES

Forest Lake

Distance: 2 miles round-trip

Elevation: 6700 feet to 7500 feet

Average Skiing Time: 2 hours

Description: This marked route through fir forest is popular with skiers and snowshoers alike. Look for a trail sign on the main park road across from the Southwest parking area. Follow the tree markers through several bowls to a short ridge. Continue along the ridge to the open bowl area beneath Brokeoff Mountain. Turn left (south) and follow the markers to Forest Lake.

Manzanita Creek

Distance: 7.5 miles round-trip

Elevation: 5850 feet to 7400 feet

Average Skiing Time: 6 hours

From the Loomis Ranger Station, cross a footbridge, then turn right onto the Manzanita Lake Campground road. Travel through the campground to the Manzanita Creek trailhead sign. The route is mostly a gradual climb of more than 1,000 feet. Suitable snow camping sites are found along the upper portion. Beware of avalanche chutes off of Loomis Peak that may reach the upper end of the trail.



Please be courteous by using separate ski and snowshoe tracks

Ski and Snowshoe Routes

Experience traveling in avalanche terrain is recommended for all advanced routes

ADVANCED ROUTES



Snowshoers enjoy the rewards of their climb to Ridge Lakes

Brokeoff Mountain

Distance: 8 miles round-trip

Elevation: 6650 feet to 9250 feet

Average Skiing Time: 8 hours

Most skiers access the summit via the southwest ridge. Getting onto this ridge can be difficult as the various routes pass through hazardous canyons. Traditional routes use the Forest Lake trail or the summer trail that begins near the park entrance. Numerous avalanche paths exist on all aspects of the mountain. Travelers should use extreme caution. Many skiers reserve travel on Brokeoff Mountain until spring when snow conditions traditionally stabilize. Summit conditions during inclement weather often include high winds with little or no visibility. Be cautious of overhanging cornices at the summit.

Ridge Lakes

Distance: 2 miles round-trip

Elevation: 7000 feet to 8000 feet

Skiing Time: 2 hours

Follow the main park road from the Southwest parking area about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, cross the bridge before Sulphur Works. Look for the trail sign to your left (north of the main park road). The trail climbs rapidly along the east side of West Sulphur Creek to the Ridge Lakes basin. Several good camping spots can be found on the north shore of Ridge Lakes. If weather is severe, more protected camping can be found about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile below Ridge Lakes along its outlet creek. Avoid the area south of Ridge Lakes during periods of avalanche danger.

Lassen Peak

Distance: 20 miles round-trip

Elevation: 6700 feet to 10,457 feet

Average Skiing Time: 3 days

Most skiers and snowshoers allow three days to summit Lassen Peak in the winter. A possible itinerary includes Lake Helen, summit Lassen, return. Conditions on the mountain are most stable in early morning hours; afternoon travel is not recommended. The safest route up the mountain follows the summer trail through the forested section and continues on the southeast ridge to the summit. Weather conditions on Lassen Peak can deteriorate rapidly, creating whiteout conditions and high winds.

Lassen Backcountry Ski Patrol

The Lassen Volcanic Backcountry Ski Patrol is on patrol! Volunteer patrol members bear the universal first aid symbol and name tags. They can provide information about routes, weather conditions, and the park in general. You can often meet ski patrollers snow camping at the Southwest or Devastated Areas. Look for the Backcountry Ski Patrol sign on their vehicles.



Southwest Area Winter Route Map



Travel Safely

Winter travel at Lassen Volcanic involves risk. Your best chance of survival is to use your own resources; be prepared and stay alert. We encourage travelers to sign in on the rosters at Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center and the Loomis Ranger Station.

Group Travel. Always travel with a partner or group. Select a familiar route equal to your group's experience and ability.

Storm Preparedness. Be prepared for winter weather extremes including gale winds, subzero temperatures, blowing snow and whiteout conditions. Postpone or terminate your trip if a storm is forecasted or appears to be building.

Avoid Hydrothermal Areas. Snow surrounding thermal areas may be a weak layer hiding pools of acidic boiling water. Visitors have been injured by traveling too close to these areas.

Avalanche Awareness

Snow travel at Lassen Volcanic National Park involves entering avalanche terrain. Each year avalanches claim more than 150 lives worldwide. Knowledge, information and equipment are key to preventing and surviving avalanche accidents.

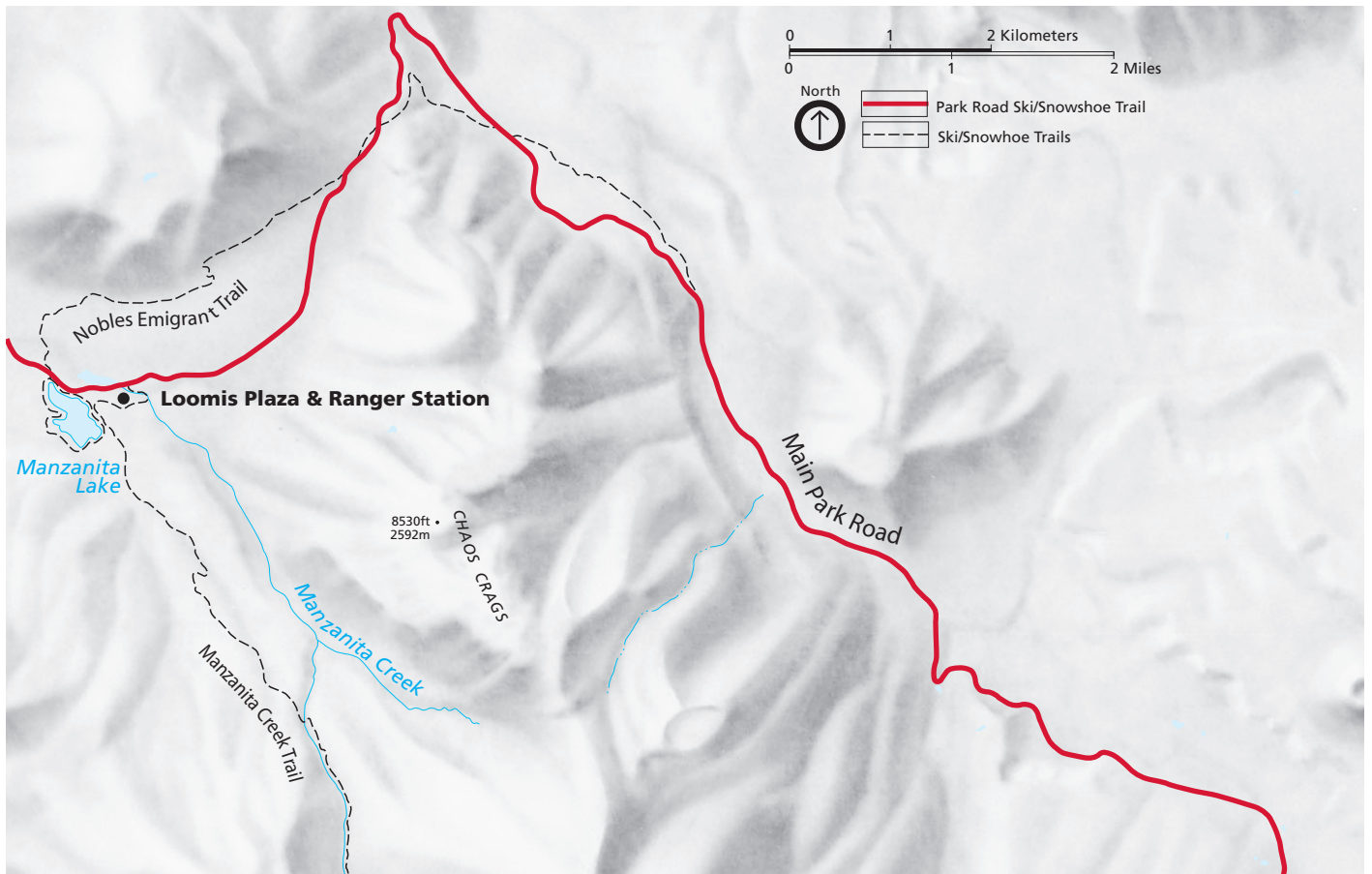
Before you enter the winter wilderness, ensure that you have a solid understanding of avalanche awareness and carry avalanche gear including a shovel, probe, and transceiver (beacon).

Be especially cautious during and after a snow storm. Spring road opening also warrants extra caution, as avalanches and rock slides can occur on plowed sections of the road at any time.

For more information about traveling in avalanche terrain, and to view a park avalanche terrain map, visit the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center or Loomis Ranger Station.



Manzanita Lake Area Winter Route Map



Wilderness Camping

Permits Required

A free wilderness permit is required for overnight camping in Lassen's backcountry wilderness. Permits are available in-person during operating hours at the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center (KYVC). Self-registration is available after hours at the Loomis Ranger Station and inside the KYVC vestibule. Permits are also available in advance through our website or by phone at (530) 595-4480.



Water

Purify park surface water and melted snow before drinking by filtering or boiling for five minutes to avoid giardia. Potable water is available at the KYVC and near the Loomis Ranger Station.

Campfires

Campfires are not allowed anywhere in the backcountry. Please use camp stoves only.

Parking

Please park in designated overnight parking areas only; vehicles can be damaged by snow removal equipment if parked in other areas.

Food Storage

To protect wildlife, food and other scented items must be hung out of reach of animals, or stored in an animal-proof container.

Waste

Dig latrines and bury human waste at least one foot deep in snow away from trails and drainages. Carry out all waste paper.