

CALIFORNIA GIRL SCOUT BACKPACKERS

Sespe Creek Trail

Piedra Blanca Trailhead to Bear Creek Camp

Itinerary provided by Trek Wild

Created: December, 2019

Distance: 8.6 miles, +200/-400' elevation gain/loss

Starting Trailhead: Piedra Blanca, at the end of Rose Valley Rd (Ventura County)

Finishing Trailhead: Piedra Blanca

Best Months: End of March (to miss winter rains) through end of May or Sept-Oct. Too hot in the summer.

Permit Limit: None.

Preview: Bear Creek Camp is a wonderful camp located on a large sandbar with swimming/wading and shade from cottonwood trees. It's a fairly flat hike along a year-round creek in a beautiful canyon. There are some rock-hopping water crossings which may become difficult after big rains.

Girl Scout Progression Points: Beginner Backpacking Skills

Key Risks:

- Water: Check water reports at hikelospadres.com.
- Poison Oak: Trail is pretty clear of poison oak.
- Fire/Stove Restrictions: Check with Los Padres NF.
- Stream Crossings: There are some rock-hopping stream crossings - which should be easy except right after a big rain.

Sample Itinerary (By Day):

1. Hike to 4.3 mi to camp.
2. Return to trailhead.

Itinerary Options:

- Trip Extension: Willet Hot Springs (9.5 mi from trailhead) is supposedly an even better camp with a Hot Springs! There is a more significant stream crossing right after Bear Creek Camp which may be difficult in early spring.

DISCLAIMER: Although California Girl Scout Backpackers attempts to keep the content contained in their itineraries up to date and accurate, it is up to each individual to check the accuracy of such information on their own. We assume no liability or make representations or warranties (expressed or implied) of any kind regarding the information provided.

Permits Needed:

- California fire permit required for stoves or campfires (see Los Padres NF website). Depending on the season, campfires and stoves may or may not be allowed.
- No overnight permit required.
- Adventure Pass required to park at trailhead.

Resources & Safety Management:

- Los Padres National Forest: fs.usda.gov/recrea/lpnf
- Map: Tom Harrison's Sespe Wilderness Trail Map



One of the camping areas at Bear Creek Camp

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