



Cinder Cone

Trail Access: Cinder Cone Trailhead

Allowable Uses: Hike

Distance: 1.5 miles (round trip)

Difficulty: Difficult

Hiking Time: 2 hours



Trail Description

From the Cinder Cone Trailhead (adjacent to Diamond Valley Drive), follow the trail southwest as it travels parallel to the highway. Nearing the base of the cinder cone, follow the trail to the left as it curves towards the eastern side of the cinder cone. Afterwards, the trail begins winding slowly upwards in a southward direction. The trail flattens for a short time after coming around the back of the cinder cone on its southern edge, then begins a series of switchbacks to the top of the cinder cone. Periodic switchbacks continue upwards, providing views of the main canyon to the west, Diamond Valley to the east, and the mountains of Pine Valley to the distant northeast. There is a straight and steep incline just before reaching the top of the cinder cone. Once at the top, the trail forks both right and left as it circles the rim of the cinder cone.

Special Features

This trail showcases an extinct volcano. Classified as a cinder cone, this volcano is partially responsible for the formation of Snow Canyon and the black lava flows seen throughout the park. Hike to the top to see what is left of this volcanic remnant.

Safety and Considerations

This hike contains steep slopes, ledges, minimal shade, and sharp lava rock. Wear appropriate footwear and clothing, and bring water.

Avoid short-cutting up and down the steep sides of the volcano to reduce erosion and protect access to this remarkable feature.

Park Rules

- All visitors are required to stay on mapped trails.
- Dogs must be leashed. Scoop and dispose all waste.
- Day use hours are 6am-10pm.
- Pack out all litter.