

Hiking to White Mtn. & Boundary Peaks



Before you embark on your trip to White Mountain or Boundary Peak, there are a few high altitude tips and precautions to be aware of. Weather conditions can change quickly and are unpredictable anytime of the year, so be sure to carry adequate clothing and protection. Solar radiation at high altitudes is intense. A wide-brimmed hat, sunscreen, and UV eye protection should be included in your gear. Plan your trip well by taking note of these precautions and other common sense preparations.

White Mountain Peak (14,246) is the highest point in the Inyo-White Range and the third highest peak in California. Your trip is best accomplished as a day hike from the locked gate at the entrance to the University of California research facility at Barcroft Laboratory. This is located approximately 16 miles north of Schulman Grove at the end of the White Mountain Road, which is paved from State Highway 168 (Westgard Pass) to Schulman Grove. It is generally a good quality dirt road from that point to the locked gate below Barcroft Lab.

The hike up to the peak is along an old abandoned road where the country is open and above tree line; finding your way to the peak is an easy task. The trip is approximately 15 miles round trip from the Barcroft gate and starts at 11,680 feet; if you are not acclimated or are not in good condition, the going can be slow. Except for snow, water is generally not available along the route.

The dirt road to the gate at Barcroft is closed to vehicles in the winter and spring until the snow has melted off and the road is reasonably dry. This is done to protect the roadbed from damage by vehicles when it is saturated. During these periods, the road is gated at Schulman Grove and at the bottom of Silver and Wyman Canyons. It usually opens in mid-June but can be blocked by snow or wet conditions as late as the 4th of July.

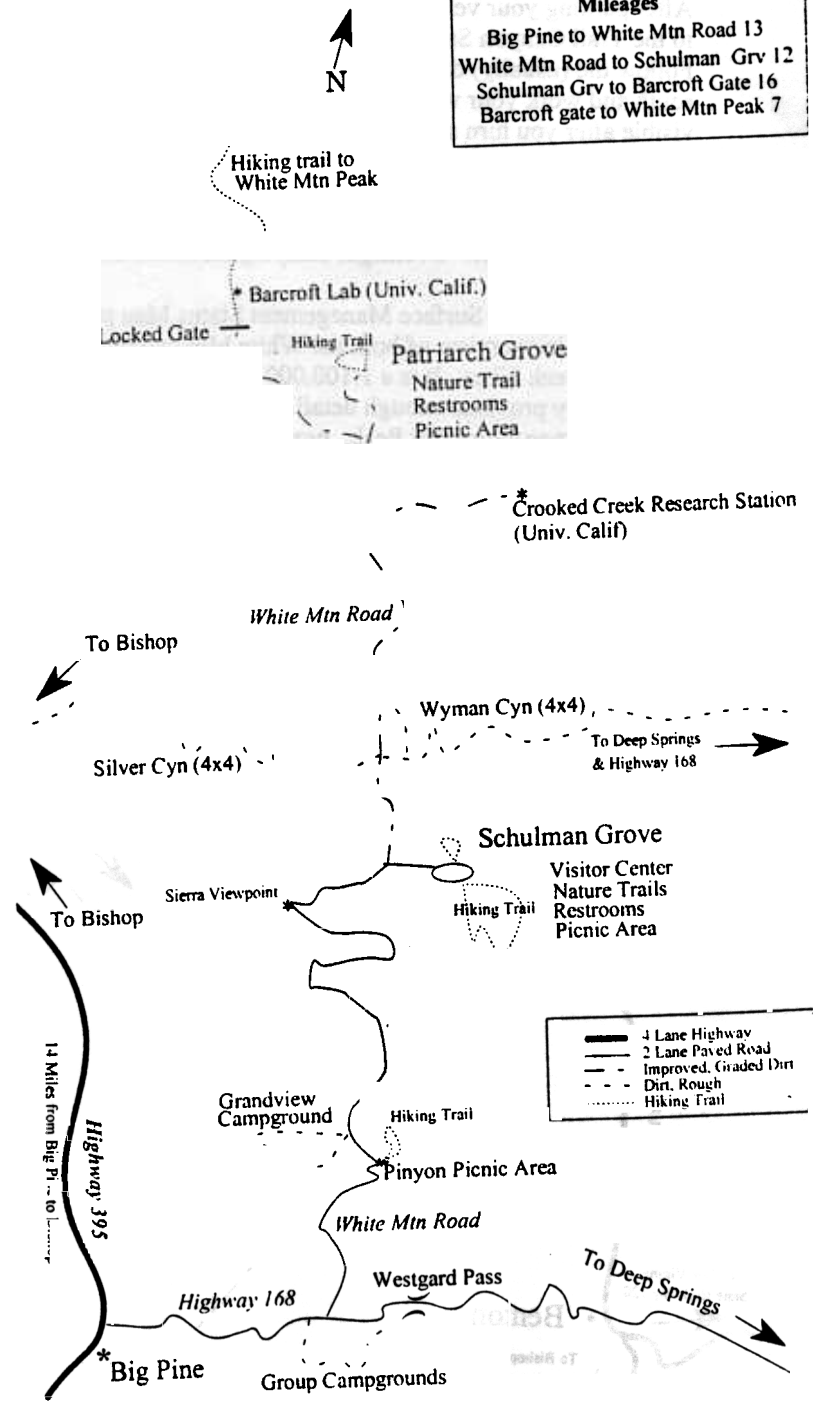
Your best bet for planning a trip is to call (760) 873-2500 and select the White/Boundary Peak option on the recorded information line.

There are few places to set up an overnight camp with any shelter along the way to White Mountain Peak. The wind can be debilitating at times, so it is recommended that the hike to White Mountain Peak be done as a day trip. Permits are not required to hike to the peak.

Many hikers find it convenient to spend the night at Grandview Campground before the hike. Due to the fragile high alpine environment, camping at the trailhead is discouraged as there are no facilities at that location. If you must stay overnight at the trailhead, please do not build fires and keep your vehicle within the parking area. Camping is not allowed within the boundaries of the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest. Maps of the area can be ordered and purchased from the White Mtn. Ranger Station at (760) 873-2500.

* **White Mtn Peak** (Elevation 14,246)

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