



DONNER MEMORIAL STATE PARK

WELCOME! Donner Memorial State Park (SP) is located in the scenic Sierra Nevada mountain range at an elevation of about 6,000 feet. Glaciers dominated the crest of the Sierra Nevada through much of the past million years, carving out the Truckee Basin, where the park is located. This legendary alpine park offers summer camping, picnicking, kayaking, canoeing, fishing, and hiking. During the winter, visitors can cross-country ski, snowshoe on trails, and play in the snow. Visitors are welcome year-round to visit the famous Pioneer Monument (California Historical Landmark #134), built in 1918 by the Native Sons of the Golden West to commemorate the California emigrants traveling west during the 1800s.

The visitor center features compelling exhibits that illuminate the traditional lifeways of the Washoe people, emigrant experience, Donner Party, Chinese railroad workers, and early motoring adventures over Donner Pass.



Donner Memorial State Park
12593 Donner Pass Road
Truckee, CA 96161



Day-Use Areas: Sunrise to sunset
Visitor Center: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas,
and New Years Day



Day-Use Parking:
\$10/vehicle/day
Bus Fee: \$100/day



California State Parks Passes Accepted: Disabled Discount, Distinguished Veteran, Golden Bear, Golden Bear (Limited), Golden Poppy, State Library, Tahoe Regional



(530) 582-7892
711, TTY Relay Service

parks.ca.gov/DonnerMemorial



California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact the park at (530) 582-7892. If you need this publication in an alternate format, contact interp@parks.ca.gov.

THINGS TO DO

Day Use—The day-use areas along the lake feature picnic tables, restrooms, a beach, fishing, and a lakeside interpretive trail. Charcoal/wood use is prohibited in the day-use areas. Propane/gas grill use is allowed.

Camping—The Donner Memorial SP campground offers 154 sites with picnic tables, restrooms, and hot showers nearby. Open from Memorial Day to mid-September, weather permitting. There are no recreational vehicle hookups. To make camping reservations, please visit ReserveCalifornia.com

Pioneer Monument—Visit the Pioneer Monument, honoring those who risked their lives to reach California during the mid-1800s. Sitting atop a 22-foot pedestal facing westward toward Donner Pass, the monument stands on the spot where the Schallenberger, and later the Breen, cabin once stood.

Donner Memorial State Park Visitor Center—Explore the history of the area and the people who lived in and came into this part of the Sierra, including the Washoe people, the Donner Party, and the builders of the transcontinental railroad. Visit the gift shop for souvenirs related to the area's cultural and natural history.

Educational Opportunities—Visit website for educational opportunities parks.ca.gov/DonnerMemorial.

TRAILS

The park has over 8 miles of hiking and over-the-snow trails. The Emigrant Trail, in the southwest corner, connects to the renowned Pacific Crest Trail. **Note: Most trails outside of the campground area are wide and graded.**

- **Nature Trail (0.5 miles, easy)**—This packed gravel trail meanders through pine and fir forest and along a boardwalk over Donner Creek. The historic Murphy Cabin site is located along this trail. A self-guided tour infosheet is available in the visitor center. Note: Pets are not allowed on the Nature Trail.
- **China Cove Fire Road (0.7 miles, easy)**—This packed dirt and wood chip road connects China Cove to the Split Rock Campground.
- **Lakeside Interpretive Trail (1.4 miles, easy)**—This accessible, packed gravel trail hugs the southern shore of Donner Lake to China Cove. Several interpretive panels line this scenic trail.
- **Splitrock Trail (2 miles, moderate)**—This uneven, single-track trail connects China Cove to Michel's Pond. This trail is for hiking or biking.



PLEASE REMEMBER

Washoe Tribe—California State Parks acknowledges that Donner Memorial SP lies within the traditional territory and ancestral homeland of the Waš-šiw (wa she shu), recognized today as the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. The Washoe people are the original stewards of this land since time immemorial and refer to Donner Lake as Behé-zij wí-giya (beh-heh-zing wee-gee-ah) meaning, "Little Eye".

Pets—Dogs are allowed on the Lakeside Interpretive Trail, Splitrock Trail, fire roads, campgrounds, and the shore of Donner Lake, except for China Cove Beach. Dogs must always remain on a 6-foot (maximum) leash and are not allowed in the visitor center or on the Nature Trail. Dogs are not allowed on designated ski trails when there is snow.

Sierra State Parks Foundation—

The Sierra State Parks Foundation is our partner in education, interpretation, preservation, advocacy, and providing welcoming visitor experiences. For more information, visit SierraStateParks.org.





- Major Road
- Paved Road
- Unpaved Road: Multiuse (open seasonally to vehicles)
- Trail: Accessible
- Trail: Hike
- Trail: Multiuse
- Trail: Hike and Bike
- Railroad
- Locked Gate
- Accessible Feature
- Boat Launch: Vehicle
- Campfire Center/Amphitheater
- Campground
- Campground: Hike and Bike
- Picnic Area
- Parking
- Restroom
- Swim Area
- Visitor Center

