

HIKING THE TRAILS

Vista Point Trail

- **Difficulty:** Easy, ADA accessible
- **Length:** 0.2 miles (one way to viewpoint from Vista Point parking lot)
- **Elevation Gain:** 60 feet
- **Pets:** Dogs allowed on maximum 6-foot leash.
- **Description:** If you only have a short time, this is the trail for you. Views of Castle Crags, Mount Shasta and Gray Rocks. Shaded. Excellent photo opportunities. A connector trail can also be taken from the campground near the campfire center, approximately 1.25 miles in length and gaining about 600 feet in elevation. [Root Creek Trail](#)

- **Difficulty:** Easy, ADA accessible
- **Length:** 1.1 miles (one way)
- **Elevation Gain:** 60 feet
- **Pets:** No dogs allowed.

- **Description:** This easy, accessible trail leaves from the Vista Point area and follows a shaded trail through the forest ending at Root Creek. Wild orchids can be found along this trail in the spring and early summer.

River Trail

- **Difficulty:** Easy
- **Length:** 1.5 miles (one way) along the Sacramento River
- **Elevation Gain:** 50 feet
- **Pets:** No dogs allowed.
- **Description:** Trail is accessible from multiple points along Riverside Drive, as well as Frontage Road and the Lower Loop Camping area. If accessing from the Riverside Campground connector trail, please note the freeway underpass is locked during winter/off-season months. Popular with fisherman, this out-and-back trail follows a scenic stretch of the Sacramento River. Keep your eye open for interesting riparian species such as the unique Pacific Yew tree.

Indian Creek Nature Loop

- **Difficulty:** Easy
- **Length:** 1.1 miles (loop)
- **Elevation Gain:** 150 feet
- **Pets:** No dogs allowed.
- **Description:** This 1.1-mile loop near the park's main entrance is shaded and crosses Indian Creek twice over quaint wood and stone bridges. Good place for wildflower viewing in the spring/early summer. Be sure to pick up an interpretive guide at the entrance station to learn more about the park. A spur of this loop becomes the Flume Trail.



The park is supported by McArthur-Burney Falls Interpretive Association, a nonprofit education organization that provides assistance and funding for activities which enhance the quality of visits to the park. CastleCragsPark.org

Flume Trail

- **Difficulty:** Easy to moderate
- **Length/Elevation Gain:** Varies
- **Pets:** No dogs allowed.
- **Description:** This trail is shaded and crosses several seasonal creeks lined with wildflowers in the spring and early summer. Great for wildlife viewing. The Flume Trail begins by branching off the Indian Creek Nature Trail, following a fairly level path approximately 3 miles (one way) to the Flume Environmental Campground. The trail then continues approximately 1.75 miles uphill to connect to the Pacific Crest Trail. Combine with the Pacific Crest Trail and Bob's Hat Trail to create a 7.5-mile loop with an elevation gain of around 600 feet.

Kettlebelly Trail

- **Difficulty:** Easy to moderate
- **Length:** 1.5 miles (one-way)
- **Elevation Gain:** ~140 feet
- **Pets:** No dogs allowed.
- **Description:** This trail connects with the Vista Point Trail below the viewpoint and travels along the Kettlebelly Ridge around 1.5 miles to the Pacific Crest Trail. It is shaded and is beautiful at sunrise with the sun beaming through the trees.

Bob's Hat Trail to Castle Dome

- **Difficulty:** Moderate to Strenuous
- **Length:** 3.6 miles (to Castle Dome, one way)
- **Elevation Gain:** 2,600 feet (to Castle Dome)
- **Pets:** No dogs allowed.
- **Description:** Begins near the park entrance with connections to the Milt Kenny Trail (0.4 miles), Pacific Crest Trail (1.4 miles), and Crags Trail (1.7 miles). Reaching Castle Dome via the Bob's Hat Trail is approximately 3.6 miles each way with a significant elevation gain of 2,600 feet.

Crags Trail to Castle Dome/Indian Springs

- **Difficulty:** Strenuous
- **Length/Elevation:** 2.7 miles (one way) to Castle Dome
- **Elevation gain:** 2,200 feet
- **Pets:** No dogs allowed.
- **Description:** This trail is strenuous but rewarding and one of the park's most popular trails. The first 1.5 miles pass through dense forest before emerging to excellent views. Just beyond 1.5 miles, a spur trail offers a five-minute walk to Indian Springs, which flows year-round out of the granite rock. Just past Indian Springs, the trail enters the Castle Crags Wilderness, managed by the U.S. Forest Service. The last portion of this hike is steep and rocky with NO SHADE, but the views are worth the effort.

Pacific Crest Trail (PCT)

- **Difficulty:** Strenuous
- **Pets:** Dogs allowed on the Pacific Crest Trail, but NOT on connecting trails within Castle Crags State Park.
- **Description:** The Pacific Crest Trail runs through the park with connectors to the Root Creek Trail, Dome Trail, Kettlebelly Trail and Flume Trail. The quickest access point is about a quarter mile into the Crags Trail. If hiking with your dog, access the Pacific Crest Trail at the Soda Creek exit off Interstate 5 (one exit north of the park) and travel either direction with your furry companion.



CASTLE CRAGS STATE PARK

WELCOME to Castle Crags State Park! Named for the 6,000-foot towering granite formation, the park offers 76 developed campsites, six environmental campsites, Sacramento River access, as well as amazing views of Castle Crags and Mount Shasta.

The park features 28 miles of hiking trails, ranging from easy to strenuous. Various trails and park areas also serve as a jumping-off point to access the Castle Crags Wilderness area and the Pacific Crest Trail. There is truly something for everyone.



Castle Crags State Park
20022 Castle Creek Road
Castella, CA 96017



California State Parks Passes Accepted: Adventure, Disabled Discount, Explorer, Golden Bear, Senior Golden Bear, Golden Poppy, State Library, Veteran



California State Parks supports equal access. For accommodation requests, including alternative formats, please contact 530-235-2684. For information about accessible features at this park, visit parks.ca.gov/AccessibleFeatures.

ACTIVITIES

Accessible Trails—Be sure to make your way up to our Vista Point. This easy Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-accessible trail is 0.2 miles (one way) and provides views of Castle Crags, Mount Shasta and the nearby Gray Rocks formation. It is shaded and dogs on leash are allowed.

The nearby 1.1-mile Root Creek Trail is also ADA accessible, well shaded, and is a great place for viewing flowers and wildlife.

More trail information on back cover.

River Access—The Sacramento River can be accessed from the Riverside Day-Use Area and at various points along Riverside Road. Please check wildlife.ca.gov/fishing for current fishing regulations.

PLEASE REMEMBER

Parking—The Vista Point parking lot is for day use only and open from 8 a.m. until sunset. No overnight parking is allowed.

Pets—Pets must be on maximum 6-foot leash at ALL times and physically under control. Pets are not permitted on the trails, except the 0.2-mile Vista Point Trail and the 0.6-mile Campground Trail. **Do not leave your pet unattended in your car.** The Vista Point parking lot has **NO SHADE**.

Speed Limit—15 mph on all park roads.

Seasonal Closures—During winter/off-season months, the pedestrian underpass, Upper and Lower Loops of the main campground and Riverside campground are closed. With particularly severe winter weather conditions, the entire park may close.

Are You Prepared?

Make a plan: Some parts of the park may not have reception so before you leave, let someone at camp or at home know where you are going and when you plan on returning.

Bring your charged phone with you: If you think you are getting lost, stop and call for help if possible. Call early and stay put.

Hike with a buddy: Use the buddy system and hike with a friend or family member.

Do not walk off-trail: Walking off-trail increases your chance of suffering an injury or getting lost.

Take extra supplies: Bring plenty of drinking water, food, illumination sources, clothing and first aid.

PARK WEBPAGE FOR MORE INFO



