

WHITNEY PORTAL AND HIKING TRAILS

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Welcome to the high country! Mt. Whitney is one of the most popular destinations among hikers in the United States and from Europe. Rising 14,497 feet above the desert floor, Mt. Whitney is the tallest peak in the contiguous 48 states. Whitney Portal is located 13 miles west of Lone Pine at the end of Whitney Portal Road. At an elevation of 8,365 feet the Portal is a cool way to spend a hot summer day. The picnic area by the pond is for day use only. The picnic area has picnic tables and fire rings. The pond is stocked with trout during the summer and is a great place to fish especially for the youngsters. Don't miss the waterfall or the hiking trails leading down the mountain to Lone Pine Campground. You will also find at the Portal the Whitney Portal Store,



Home of the World Famous Portal Pancakes, serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. Enjoy the sounds of the small creek that runs by the outdoor picnic tables while you dine. The store is stocked with snacks, souvenirs, fishing and camping equipment.

Hiking Mt. Whitney

If you are planning a hike make sure you check weather conditions, trail conditions and arm yourself with general hiking tips as well as Mt. Whitney Guidebooks and maps. It never hurts to be prepared. The following are some general tips and information that are essential to your well being and enjoyment while visiting the Eastern Sierras.

PERMITS are required year-round for all persons staying overnight in the wilderness areas. During the summer months there are trail quota restrictions. Contact the ranger station for information. (760) 876-6300

ALTITUDE at 10,000 feet there is one-third less oxygen available than at sea level. Due to the high altitude of the Sierras some hikers may experience altitude sickness.



Photographs by Cass McParrish

WATER unfortunately Giardia spores are present in many streams and lakes in the high country. Do not drink the water from streams and lakes.

WEATHER can be unpredictable at high elevations, storms can occur at any time. Be prepared for rain or snow and have protection from the sun. Layer your clothing, always carry water, sun lotion, a hat and dark glasses.

