

# Lassen Volcanic National Park Devils Kitchen

By Chris Walls



Boiling Spring

Photos by: Chris Walls

Boiling Mud pot

**History:** Devil's Kitchen is Lassen County's second largest hydrothermal areas in Lassen National Park located 7 miles southeast of Mt. Lassen Peak in the Warner valley region. Devils Kitchen is one of many geothermal areas located at Mount Lassen. The origin of Lassen's hydrothermal system has three required elements- abundant ground water, permeable rock, and a heat source of magma located at a depth of 5 to 6 miles under Lassen peak.

**Description:** Leading into Devils Kitchen is a peaceful hike over creeks, hot springs, a beautiful wide open meadow and up and over through a thicket of trees opening up to a bowl of geothermal activity made up of boiling mud pots, stem vents, and boiling springs.

**Directions:** From Quincy, head West on Hwy 70 towards Chico for 10 miles, turn right on Hwy 89 towards Greenville for 31 miles, turn right on Hwy 36 for 2 miles into Chester, turn left on to Feather River Drive, left on to Warner Valley Rd towards Drakesbad for 15 miles. The trails head will be about 0.5 miles after Warner Valley camp ground both are located on left hand side of the road. This road is not recommended for RV's and vehicles hauling heavy trailers. The road closes, during the winter months.

**Name:** Warner Valley trail – quality rating 4

**Time needed:** 4.2 miles round trip/ 2 hours

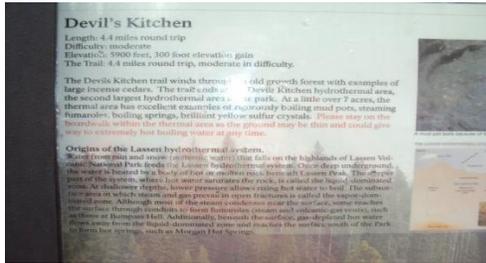
**Elevation:** 5,640 - 6,040ft

**Elevation Change:** 440ft

**Trail Rating:** 1 (Great hike for all ages)

**Gear Needed:** Walking shoes that can get dirty, Water, Lunch (optional)

**Directions:** This trail is pretty easy to navigate through because it has plenty of markers set out on the trails pointing you in the direction of travel, along with your point of interest, and the distance to your point of interest.



**Description:** The Warner Valley trail that leads you up to Devil's Kitchen is well maintained trail. Starting at the trail head you will walk over several foot bridges through a wet marsh land to a bridge where you will cross Hot Springs Creek. Follow the trail up along Hot Springs Creek (Hot Springs Creek is not actually "hot") where you will come to your first evidence of geothermal activity that being a small hot spring seeping out from the ground. As you continue up the trail a little further you will come to your first fork, stay to your right "remember these trails a well marked" continue a little further to another fork once again staying to your right cross the bridge one more time back over Hot Springs Creek, walk further over several long foot bridges through another wet marsh, as it opens up into a large beautiful meadow with breath taking views of the tall pines, and hills to both sides and also ahead of you, where you will gently ascend in elevation crossing one last fork staying to the right once again. As you continue up the trail you will do 3 to 4 gentle accents and descents crossing two more small streams before you smell the strong odor of sulfur that heavily fills the air with you final accent which is your steepest the forest opens and surrounds a large bowl known as Devil's Kitchen.

**Risk/Pitfalls:**

