

JAMISON LAKE

By William Harlan



Photograph by: (Self) William Harlan

The first lake that you see is Jamison Lake and the other one behind it is Rock Lake. This picture is on the southeast side of Jamison Lake looking towards the trail, which is in between Jamison and Rock.

JAMISON LAKE

History:

1848 first gold discovered at Sutter's sawmill on the American River.

1851 first prospectors in this area, discovered an exposed quartz ledge, rich with gold.

1853 Jamison City sprang up as a tent city.

1872 Johnsville founded.

1873 Eureka Mills founded.

1887 Jamison Mine started.

(I think when the Jamison Mine opened is when Jamison Lake and Rock Lake were formed to supply water to the mine, but I can't find that out for sure.)

1919 Jamison Mine closed.

1943 last mine closed.

1959 Plumas-Eureka State Park established.

Description:

We'll be going into the heart of the Lakes Basin Recreation Area. Where there are a dozen or mountain lakes (man made and none) and most of them are only accessible by trails. There will be lots of trees, bugs and wildlife, so keep your eyes peeled. There is also some loose rocks, so please watch your footing. We are going into a Recreation Area where there will be other hikers, so please be respectful of others and be respectful of the land.

Directions:

We're going to leave FRC and head East on Hwy. 70 until you reach Mohawk Valley Rd. where we'll take a right. Follow Mohawk until we reach A14/Greyeagle-Johnsville Rd. into Plumas-Eureka State Park. We'll follow this for a few miles where we'll take a left on Jamison Creek Rd. for a mile to the Jamison Mine Museum and Jamison Creek Trailhead, where we'll start our hike. The drive should take about 45min.

Name:

Jamison Creek Trail - 5 (Exceptional)

Time Needed:

3 - 4 hrs. depending on how fit you are and how many scenic stops you make

Sun Exposure:

Jamison Lake sits below the 7812' Mt. Elwell, so it takes the sun a few hours after daybreak for it to actually hit the lake. After it breaks the mountain, it will be beating away until it falls behind another mountain around 5 - 6 p.m., which is when it will start to cool off quickly.

Elevation: 5280' - 6265'

Rating: There is no class level or experience level needed for this hike. Any age group and/or health issues should be able to do this hike. It is a pretty moderate hike. Watch your footing, breath in big and blow out small, and just take your time.

Gear Needed: Durable shoes or hiking boots, drinking water or a way to purify your drinking water, a map of the area to know which trails take you where.

Directions: Follow signs from trailhead for 3-1/4 mi. Continue on east side of Grass Lake and take the trail left fork, the Jamison Lake and Rock Lakes Trail, but if you continue to the right on the Jamison Creek Trail takes you to either to the Wades Lake intersection, on to the Mount Washington trail intersection or on up to the Sierra Crest/Pacific Crest Trail. Following the left fork of the trail, the Jamison and Rock Lakes trail, from here it is about 0.8 mile to Jamison Lake and another 0.2 mile and only 120' climb to Rock Lake.

Description of Terrain: It is pretty rocky terrain, we are going into a granite basin so there will be lots granite rocks protruding out of the earth. The accent up is pretty steep, but that also depends on which way you decide to go. The first part of the trail is the steepest and there are big granite rocks that steps up the trail.