

Black Butte Trail

Mt. Shasta & McCloud Ranger Stations • Shasta-Trinity National Forest



Black Butte as it rises above Interstate 5

Scenic attractions...

From the summit of Black Butte (6,325 feet), you will get a spectacular view of the surrounding area. Mt. Shasta towers to the east. The city of Mt. Shasta and the Sacramento River canyon are to the south. Mt. Eddy and the Klamath Mountains are to the west. The town of Weed, the Shasta Valley and Mt. Mclaughlin in Oregon are to the north.

History...

Famed naturalist John Muir called it "Muir's Peak" when he visited the Mt. Shasta area during the late 1800s. Since that time, it has been successively named Winton Butte, Cone Mountain and, finally... Black Butte.

The trail to the summit was originally built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the late 1930s. This trail provided access to a Forest Service lookout that was built at the summit. Pack animals were used to bring supplies to the lookout.

The original lookout was destroyed during the Columbus Day Storm of 1962. A new lookout was built in 1963 and operated until 1973. The building was moved by helicopter to a new location in 1975. The only remaining evidence of the lookout is the concrete foundation at the summit.

Geology...

Black Butte is a steep, nearly treeless dome of hornblende andesite. It was formed about 10,000 years ago at about the same time as Shastina Crater on Mt. Shasta. A large crater first developed at the base of Mt. Shasta. Soon, very thick magma began to issue from the crater. Four successive eruptions of material with the consistency of cookie dough were forced above the crater rim. As the flow cooled, internal stress caused the lava to break into chunks that rolled down the side of the dome. Remnants of the solid core can be seen as crags near the summit.

Route to the trailhead...

From the Ranger Station drive east on Alma Street to the stop sign at Rockfellow Drive. Turn right and go one block to the stop sign at Everitt Memorial Highway. Turn left and continue approximately 2 miles up the Everitt Memorial Highway to the Black Butte Trailhead sign, located on the left side of the highway. Turn left and stay on the main dirt road for approximately 2.5 miles (see map). Where the dirt road crosses under the overhead powerline, take the dirt road to the left. Go approximately .5 mile on this road to the trailhead. Parking at the trailhead is very limited. Please park off the access road and turn around loop. The route is not recommended for buses or vehicles pulling trailers.

Hiking the trail...

The trail is about 2.56 miles from the trailhead to the summit. The trail is maintained annually, however, the trail surface is extremely rocky and steep in places. There is no water available along the trail. There are also few shady spots along the trail and heat can be a factor in having an enjoyable hike during mid-summer. The total vertical climb from the trailhead to the summit is 1,845 feet.

For more information... Write: **USDA Forst Service, Mt. Shasta Ranger Station, 204 West Alma, Mt. Shasta CA 96067**

Call: **(530) 926-4511**

World wide web: **www.fs.fed.us/r5/shastatrinity**

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Shasta-Trinity National Forest

Getting to Black Butte



Parking is very limited at the trailhead. Please park off the access road and turn around loop at the trailhead.

Black Butte
elevation 6325'

P Trailhead parking
4,480'

0.5 mile

1.1 miles

0.4 mile

1.0 miles

Everitt Memorial Highway
2.0 miles

Black Butte Summit

1-5

Railroad

Rockfellow Drive

Alma St.

Mt. Shasta Ranger Station

Mt. Shasta City

Safety and Trail etiquette...

- Be prepared for changing weather conditions. It can be much cooler and very windy at the summit
- A good population of rattlesnakes lives in and around Black Butte although they are rarely seen.
- The trail has some rough and steep sections. Wear proper foot gear.
- Respect the rights of the private land owners.
- Please pack out everything that you pack in. It would also be helpful if you picked up items that careless visitors neglected to carry out.
- Avoid using the trail when there is danger of lightning activity. Move quickly off the summit at the first indication of lightning.