



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

# Hiking Trails: West Shore

## Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit



The information below describes several trails located on the west shore of the Lake Tahoe Basin. Information regarding distance and difficulty is provided, as well as an orientation map. A topo-graphic map and compass are recommended.

Weather conditions can change rapidly. Be prepared with the proper clothing and equipment. Always carry extra water. Hiking permits are required for Desolation wilderness. Permits may be obtained from trailheads. Overnight permits are also required for Desolation, for more information contact our office at (530) 543-2600, Monday through Friday, or (530) 543-2674 open daily from May through September.

If you bring your pet on the trail, put it on a leash to minimize its impact on wildlife and other visitors. Observe common courtesy and follow trail regulations. Other hikers will appreciate your observance of minimum impact camping and packing out what you pack in.

**REMEMBER ... open campfires are NOT allowed in Desolation Wilderness!**

### 1. Page Meadow:

In the spring, myriads of beautiful wildflowers can be seen in this easy walk through a large meadow. To reduce impact in this fragile meadow, stay on designated trails! From Highway 89, two miles south of Tahoe City, turn on Pineland Drive. Turn right on Forest Service Road 15N60 or 16N48 to get to the area.

### 2. Sugarpine Point State Park:

There are several trails within the park, including Balancing Rock (easy 0.7 loop) and General Creek, a more moderate route into Desolation Wilderness. Take Highway 89 north 16 miles from South Lake Tahoe to Sugarpine Point State Park. (There is a fee for day use parking. Pets are not allowed on State Park trails). Contact state park rangers to obtain maps of the many trails located here. While you're there don't miss a tour of the historic Ehrman Mansion. Call (530) 525-7982 for more information.

### 3. Meek's Bay Trail:

This moderate hike takes you along the northernmost part of the Tahoe-Yosemite Trail. After hiking on a road for approximately 1.3 miles, the trail passes a small spring, parallels Meeks Creek and continues upward into a forested valley. A chain of alpine lakes can be seen before the trail ascends 1,000 feet up a series of switchbacks leading to Phipps Pass. Take Highway 89 to the Meeks Bay Resort. Parking is located across the highway from the resort at a small dirt parking lot. Wilderness permit required and may be self-issued at the trailhead.

**4. D. L. Bliss-Rubicon Pt. :** Dipping up and down along the shoreline of Lake Tahoe, this moderate 3 mile each way trail offers some the most scenic views of the lake. Bring a swimsuit, towel and picnic lunch to enjoy a sunny day at one of the many quiet coves along the way. Or continue to the Vikingsholm trail, another 2.9 miles and ride the red trolley back to D.L. Bliss. Take Highway 89 north 10 miles from South Lake Tahoe to D.L. Bliss State Park. (There is a fee for day use parking). Pets are not allowed on State Park trails).

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**5. Vikingsholm Castle:**

View a historic Scandinavian summer home now owned by California State Parks. Moderate 1 mile each way to the castle. Daily tours are given from mid June through Labor Day. (A small fee is charged). Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the fabulous view of Emerald Bay and Fannette Island from the shoreline of this state park. Hike the short trail to Lower Eagle Falls which begins directly across from the castle. Or hike along the north shore of Emerald Bay which connects with the Rubicon Point trail 6.8 miles one way. Take Highway 89 north from South lake Tahoe approximately 9 miles to the parking lot on the right. The parking lot fills up quickly in the summer season, so arrive early.

**6. Eagle Falls:**

Leading into the heart of Desolation Wilderness, this moderate trail offers majestic views of the sierra high country. Just a 20-minute walk, Eagle Lake is a popular 1 mile each way hike. A longer hike will lead you to the three Velmas, Dicks, and Fontanillis lakes. Take Highway 89 north approximately 9 miles from South Lake Tahoe to Eagle Falls Picnic Area on the left. This is a very popular and congested area. Wilderness permit required.

**7. CASCADE CREEK FALL TRAIL:**

Spectacular views of the 200 foot high falls and Cascade Lake can be seen from this short .75 mile-trail. For best viewing try springtime, when runoff from snow melt is high. Take Highway 89 north from South Lake Tahoe approximately 8 miles to the Bayview Campground across from inspiration Point. Parking is located at the far end of the campground.

**8. BAYVIEW TRAIL:**

Offering magnificent views of Emerald Bay and Lake Tahoe, this steep trail leads you up the side of Maggie's Peak into Desolation Wilderness. Stop at Granite Lake for a short rest along the way. In 2.7 miles this trail intersects with the Eagle Falls Trail. Corral and watering facilities for horses are available at the trailhead. See "Cascade Creek Fall Trail" for directions. Wilderness permit required.

**Questions? Contact the Forest Service at:**

Lake Tahoe Basin  
Management Unit

35 College Drive  
South Lake Tahoe,  
CA 96150 (530)  
543-2694 (Voice)  
(530) 541-4036 (Hearing  
Impaired)

[www.fs.fed.us/r5/lbmu](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/lbmu)

**Dogs on Trails:**



Dogs are allowed on most Forest Service trails. Pet owners please follow these guidelines:

Keep your pet under control and on a six foot leash.

Control excessive barking and don't allow your pet to chase or harass wildlife.

Clean up after your dog, please pack it out! Don't forget the doggie bags.

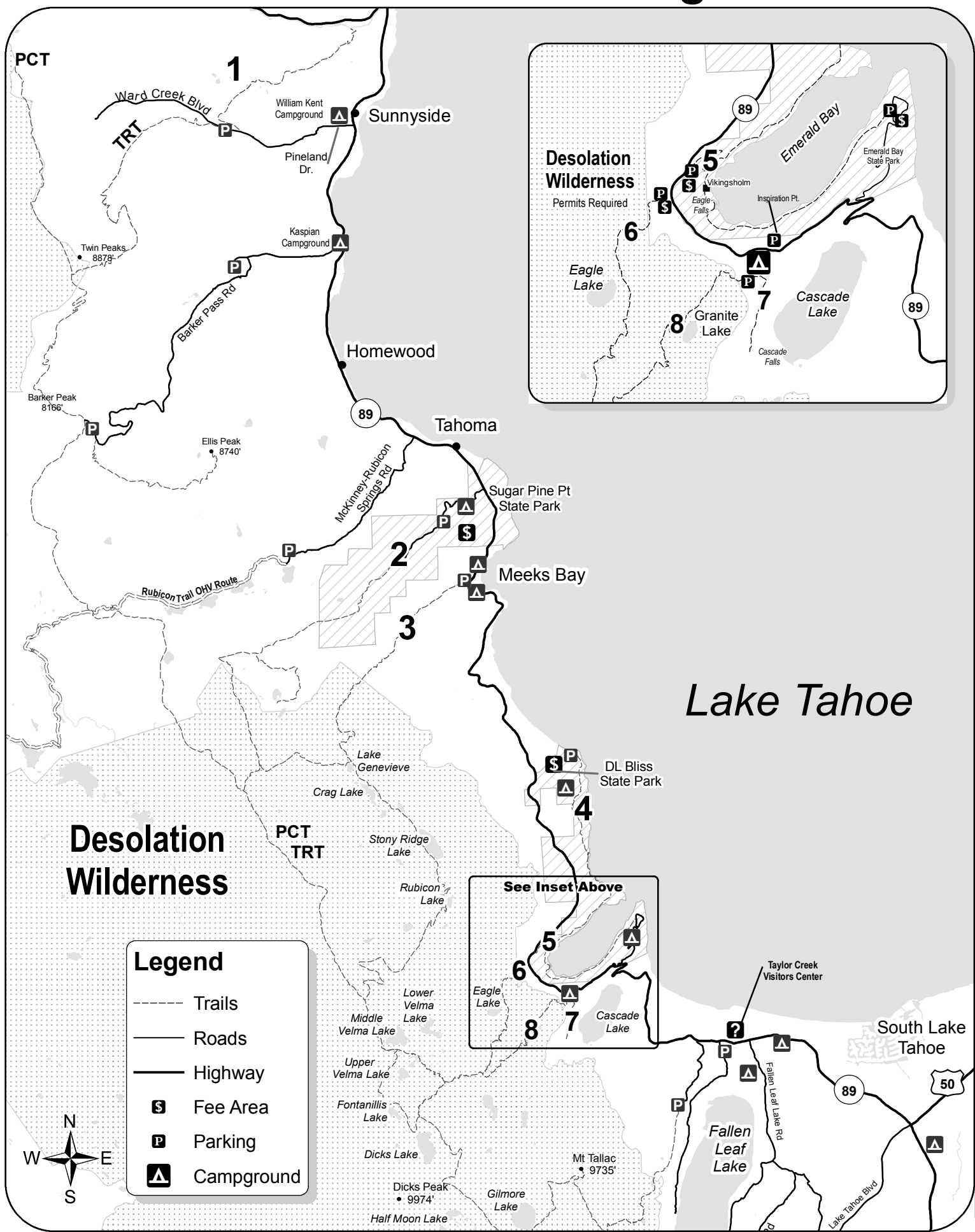
Check your pet's paws often, rocky terrain can cause cuts.

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# West Shore Hiking



**Desolation Wilderness**

*Lake Tahoe*

**Legend**

- Trails
- Roads
- Highway
- Fee Area
- Parking
- Campground

**See Inset Above**

South Lake Tahoe