

For Immediate Release

3/12/2018

Point Defiance Loop Trail Hikes at South Yuba River State Park

Know & Go

What: Guided Hikes to Point Defiance

When: Thursdays: March 15, April 19, May 17

Time: 9:30 am

Come join us on a guided hike to Point Defiance, a three-mile loop trail that requires moderate hiking skills as it passes through varied habitats.

The Pt. Defiance Loop Trail begins across from the North Parking Lot, is approx. 3 miles, and ascends thru exquisite Blue Oak Woodland, studded with such wildflowers as Western Buttercup, Blue Dicks and Pacific Sanicle. Continuing through mixed forest canopy, we cross over a saddle to a gated, dirt road to descend the shady, north slope above the Middle Fork of the Yuba River. Big Leaf Maples, Madrone trees, Ponderosa Pines and shrubs line the road in this Lower Conifer Forest. Here we will look for some *special treasures*: flowers that are different from those found on the Buttermilk Bend Trail. Fairy Lanterns and Fawn Lilies plus ferns and mosses might be seen, as well as Bowl-tubed Iris, Grand Hound's Tongue and hanging gardens of Indian Pinks.

About two miles into the hike, the road ends at Pt. Defiance at the confluence of the Middle and South Forks of the Yuba River, where there is a BLM campground that is only reached by hiking or boating. Turning east, the trail narrows and goes up-and-down over rocks through a Riparian Forest. There is a myriad of lovely wildflowers among the trees and flowering shrubs as the trail winds back toward the covered bridge. Along with views of the South Yuba River, we may see the resident Bald Eagles in or near their nest. Our guided hike typically takes 3-4 hours, but walkers can forge ahead to return to the parking lot at will.

Walkers are advised to bring Drinking Water, Sunscreen, and a Hat.

State Parks Parking fee is \$5.

For more information contact SYRSP at (530) 432-2546

