Ladybug Trail: Walk to the Trailhead

South Fork Kaweah, Sequoia National Park · Wander Companion trail sheet

Work, Fit, & Wander
Checked November 14, 2026

WALK FROM DAY-USE PARKING TO THE LADYBUG TRAILHEAD

Not published yet

The park has not published this distance. Its road page says only that you can't drive to the old trailhead parking area at the end of the road. Allow extra time and call before you go.

My distance, lot → trailhead _____
My walking time _____
Measured with _____
Date _____

How the walk-in works



1. From Highway 198 in Three Rivers, turn onto South Fork Road. It is unpaved inside the park; a high-clearance vehicle is recommended.
2. Park in the new day-use lot at the old South Fork Campground entrance. Don't park along the narrow road.
3. Walk the old road past the closed campground to the Ladybug and Garfield trails.
4. The trail starts at the east end of the old campground (mile 0.00 below).

Parking pin: 36.3500, -118.7655

Before you go

☐ Call the road line: (559) 565-3341, then press 1 and 1
☐ Bring your park pass ($35 per vehicle, or an annual pass)
☐ Check Sequoia road conditions; the road gets slippery in rain or snow
☐ Download offline maps before you lose signal
☐ Start a GPS track at the lot so you can fill in the box above
☐ Carry plenty of water and be self-reliant

Trail conditions

2026

- Crews cleared downed logs from the trailhead to a little over halfway out in July 2026.
- Past that, and near creek crossings, expect storm damage and missing sections of trail.
- Trails in the South Fork drainage are not passable for stock.
- Day hikers don't need a wilderness permit.

Official trail log

NPS

Miles from the trailhead, not from the parking lot. Add your walk-in distance to each number. The log predates the 2023 storm damage.

Mile	Point	Elev.
0.00	Trailhead and corral	3,640 ft
0.04	Clough Cave Bridge	
0.46	Pigeon Creek (dry most of the year)	3,840 ft
0.71	Top of Bone Hill viewpoint	
0.92	Squaw Creek (flows all year)	4,120 ft
1.70	**Ladybug Camp**, young sequoias; first camping area	4,280 ft
2.15	Viewpoint down Garfield Creek	
2.51	Cedar forest	
3.09	**Cedar Creek**, Cedar Flat Grove; look for ladybugs	5,040 ft
3.85	Waterfalls along the river	
4.02	**Whiskeylog Camp**, 1,480 ft gain to here	5,120 ft

Pick a turnaround

Turn around at	Trail, round trip	+ my walk-in ×2
Bone Hill viewpoint	1.4 mi	
Ladybug Camp	3.4 mi	
Cedar Creek	6.2 mi	
Whiskeylog Camp	8.0 mi	

Trail numbers are the NPS log doubled. Other listings round the full hike to about 8.4 mi out and back.

My hike

Left the lot _____
Reached trailhead _____
Turnaround point _____
Back at the lot _____
Notes _____

Sources: NPS Ladybug Trail description and Sequoia & Kings Canyon road conditions, checked November 14, 2026; July 2026 trail and parking details from the park's earlier updates. Conditions change; always confirm with the park before you go. © Work, Fit, & Wander.