Wander Companion Trail Sheet

Visalia-area day hikes, easy to harder · Page 1 of 2

Work, Fit, & Wander
Details checked November 2026

Big Sycamore Trail

Easy

About 1 mi · Very little climbing · $10/vehicle

Shady nature trail along the Tule River just below the Success Lake dam, with big sycamores and a river crossing. Good for families.

Where	Success Lake near Porterville. Navigate to 29330 Highway 190, Porterville, CA 93257
Drive	Hwy 198 east, Hwy 65 south to Porterville, Hwy 190 east. About 1 hr each way from Visalia
Parking	Past the roundabout on Hwy 190, turn left to the Army Corps headquarters **before** the dam. Trailhead is next to that lot
Fee	$10 day use, or $40 Corps annual pass. Display your receipt
Pin	36.0589, -118.9187
Call	(559) 784-0215

Add-on: paved 2.4 mi Bartlett Park Loop next door. Bring water; watch for rattlesnakes in warm months.

Dry Creek Preserve

Easy–moderate

Free · Dogs on leash · Bikes OK

Foothill trails through a 152-acre sycamore woodland restored from an old gravel quarry. The trust does not list trail lengths. Rocky in spots; wear sturdy shoes.

Where	35220 Dry Creek Road, Woodlake, CA 93286 (near Lemon Cove, about 25 mi east of Visalia)
Drive	Hwy 198 east, Hwy 216 toward Woodlake. After about ½ mi, turn north on Dry Creek Road
Parking	Preserve lot on the right, with kiosk and restrooms. Use the street address; listings give different mileages
Hours	About Nov 1–Jun 1: daily, 8 a.m. to sunset. Fire season: weekends only
Pin	36.4294, -119.0276
Info	sequoiariverlands.org/drycreek

Ladybug Trail

Moderate

4.2 mi one way · 8.4 mi out and back · $35 park pass

Climb up the South Fork of the Kaweah River in Sequoia National Park. Turn around anywhere for a shorter day. No wilderness permit needed for day hikers.

Trail	Logs cleared to a little past halfway (July 2026). Beyond that and near creek crossings, expect storm damage and missing trail. Not passable for horses
Drive	From Hwy 198 in Three Rivers, take South Fork Road. Unpaved inside the park; high clearance recommended. Slippery in rain or snow
Parking	New day-use lot at the old South Fork Campground entrance (vault toilet). You can't drive to the old trailhead lot, and the campground is closed. Walk the old road past the campground to the trailhead
Walk to trailhead	Distance not published by the park yet. Allow extra time
Pin (parking)	36.3500, -118.7655
Road line	(559) 565-3341, then 1, 1

Before you leave Wi-Fi

- ☐ Download offline maps (Google Maps, Apple Maps, or AllTrails with a paid plan)
- ☐ Check the official page for closures, hours and fees
- ☐ Check Sequoia road conditions for South Fork Road
- ☐ Check the weather and sunset time in the free planner
- ☐ Fill the tank before you leave town
- ☐ Leave your trip plan (page 2) with someone at home

Pick by the day you want

If you want…	Go to
Short, shady, family-friendly	Big Sycamore
Free, close to town, dog on leash	Dry Creek Preserve
A real climb and river views	Ladybug
A summer weekday	Big Sycamore or Ladybug (Dry Creek is weekends only in fire season)

Trail details from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Success Lake, Sequoia Riverlands Trust, Dry Creek Preserve and Sequoia & Kings Canyon road conditions, checked November 2026. Conditions, hours and fees change; always confirm with the official source before you go.

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Pack list, trip plan, budget & a sample Eastern Sierra day · Page 2 of 2

The Ten Essentials

NPS

- ☐ Navigation (offline map, paper map)
- ☐ Sun protection
- ☐ Extra clothing
- ☐ Illumination (headlamp)
- ☐ First-aid supplies
- ☐ Fire
- ☐ Repair kit and tools
- ☐ Nutrition
- ☐ Hydration (more than you think)
- ☐ Emergency shelter

Day-hike extras

- ☐ Park pass or cash for day-use fees
- ☐ Sturdy shoes for rocky trails
- ☐ Leash and water for your dog
- ☐ Printed copy of this sheet
- ☐ Phone charged, plus a battery pack
- ☐ Trash bag; pack out what you pack in

Leave this trip plan at home

Who _____
Where _____
Trailhead / lot _____
Vehicle & plate _____
Leave home _____
Back by _____
If not back, call _____

In an emergency, call 911. Cell signal is spotty near these trailheads.

Quick trip budget

Gas _____
Fees & parking _____
Food _____
Lodging _____
Total _____

Gas = round-trip miles ÷ MPG × price per gallon. Example: 100 mi ÷ 25 MPG × $4.89 ≈ $19.56. The free planner does this math for you.

Sample day: Mammoth Lakes

Summer & fall

About 6.5–7 hours from Visalia, so stay at least one night. Trailheads sit around 9,000 ft; go slow and drink extra water.

7:00	Lake George → Crystal Lake. About 3 mi round trip, 700–800 ft gain. Arrive before 8 or take the free Lakes Basin Trolley
9:30	TJ Lake from the same lot. About 1.6 mi, easy
11:30	Picnic at Lake Mary or Lake George; refill water
1:00	Horseshoe Lake loop (1.8 mi) plus McLeod Lake spur (about 1 mi). Volcanic CO_2 here: don't linger in low, still hollows
4:00	Twin Lakes photo stop on the way back to town

Lake Mary Road into the Lakes Basin is usually open from late spring to the first big snow. Devils Postpile and Rainbow Falls (about 4.5 mi) usually run mid-June to mid-October, with a mandatory paid summer shuttle for most day visitors.

Trail notes

Date _____
Trail _____
Weather _____
Time out / back _____

Conditions, parking, water, what to bring next time

Plan it in Wander Companion

The free planner on the Wander Companion page adds live weather, sunrise and sunset, map pins, share links and a trip budget for each of these hikes. AI trip planning is **coming soon**.

Ten Essentials from the National Park Service. Mammoth details: Town of Mammoth Lakes and Devils Postpile seasons; distances are approximate. © Work, Fit, & Wander. For personal trip planning.