





# Loch Leven Lakes Trail

## Nevada City Ranger District

### Tahoe National Forest

#### General Information

Mileage	Lower Lake, 3 miles Middle Lake, 4.5 miles High Lake, 5 miles
Elevation Change	5,680 to 6,800 feet (1,120')
Difficulty Level	 (more difficult)
Use Level	 (heavy)
Topographic Maps	Cisco Grove & Soda Springs

#### Access

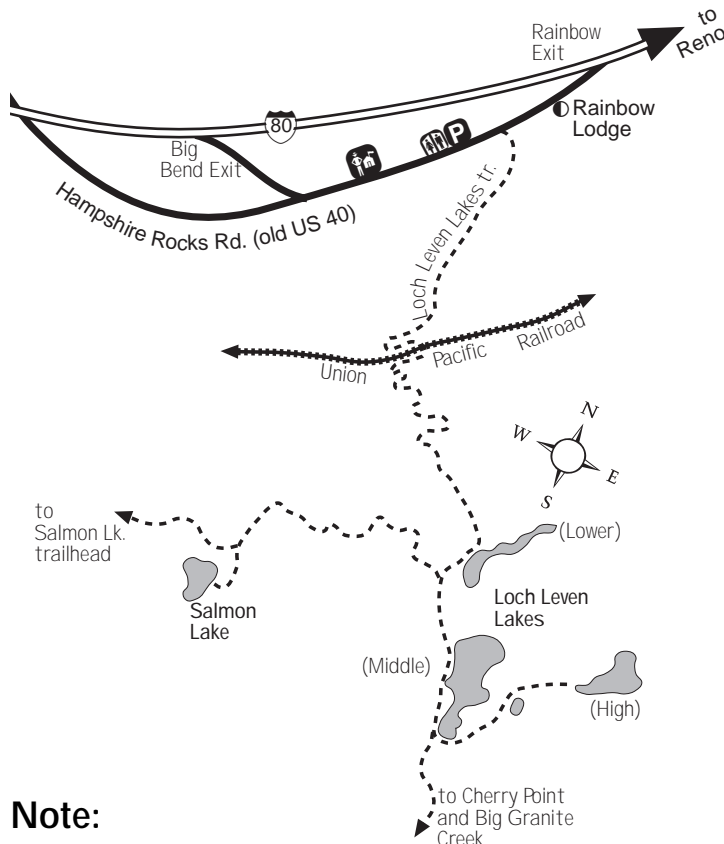
From Interstate 80 eastbound, take the Big Bend exit. From westbound I-80, take the Rainbow/Big Bend exit. The trailhead begins one-eighth of a mile east of Big Bend Visitor Center. A parking lot and restroom is located across the road from the trailhead.

#### Trail Description

The Loch Leven Lakes trail is located south of Interstate 80 at Big Bend (elevation 5,680 feet). The trail leads to a series of five alpine lakes, the highest at 6,900 feet. The trail is generally open for hiking from mid-June to mid-November, snow conditions permitting. The trail is not marked for winter use, and can be difficult to follow in winter.

The trail works its way upward on a moderately steep grade to the southwest, then southeasterly.

Granite outcroppings and huge boulders left by receding glaciers are found scattered among Jeffrey and Lodgepole Pine. As the trail ascends, it crosses a creek and the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. It then continues upward through a cool and majestic fir forest, with switchbacks leading to the summit. From the summit, the trail winds down and around Lower Loch Leven Lake. At the south end of the lake, the trail splits; the branch to the right leads southwest to Salmon Lake, and the other fork continues south, climbing and descending small ridges to Middle Loch Leven and still further to High Loch Leven Lake. Vistas of ridges and valleys, high alpine meadows, and glaciated mountain terrain can be seen in either direction. Fishing is generally good, and lakeside camping is available at all of the lakes.



#### Note:

Only water from developed systems at recreation sites is maintained safe to drink. Open water sources are easily contaminated by human or animal waste. Water from springs, lakes, ponds, and streams should be properly treated before drinking. One recommended method of treatment is to bring clear water to a rolling boil for five minutes.

#### Nevada City Ranger District

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