

Hedge Creek Falls



Hedge Creek Falls is a beautiful waterfall along Hedge Creek near the Sacramento River in Dunsmuir, Ca. The trail features a shaded trail head with picnic area, gazebo, a water fountain, and some trash receptacles with parking and a port-a-potty. This is a great trail to do with small children.

Dangers: Beware of Poison Oak!

Elevation Climb: 200' Feet

Distance: 0.7 Miles (Out and Back Total)

Challenge Level: Moderate (due to switchback grade).

Season: All seasons, except for severe weather conditions. Water fountain only turned on Spring-Fall when danger of freezing has ended.

Description: "Hedge Creek Falls is a 30-35' foot plunge that pours out of large notch cut through a hanging wall of columnar basalt. What sets the trail apart from other paths in the area that lead to waterfalls is the route's passage behind the waterfall. The columnar basalt has collapsed at its base, creating a large cleft through in the rock through which the trail passes. From there it descends downward along Hedge Creek, passing numerous smaller falls before finally ending at an observation deck high over the creek's confluence with the Sacramento River. From here there is a fantastic view of Mount Shasta.

The path to Hedge Creek Falls begins at a small picnic area that is situated just across the road from the parking area. There is a table, gazebo, water fountain (only operational from late spring to fall) and some displays about the area. The whole area is perched right on the edge of the canyon above Hedge Creek. The trail departs the

picnic area and descends at a very moderate grade. It immediately crosses over a small stream that has been rerouted under the trail through a culvert. The creek may or may not be flowing. The one drawback to the trip to Hedge Creek Falls is the presence of poison oak and this area has the highest concentration of the plant. As the trail proceeds, it traverses the increasingly steep slope of Hedge Creek's canyon. Soon the path reaches a switchback and the falls and its creek become audible. The trail continues downhill for only a few dozen yards before reaching another switchback. The grade levels off as the trail soon arrives at the waterfall.

Once on the far side of the falls the trail continues down the canyon. Unlike the first part of the hike, the trail now parallels closely alongside Hedge Creek. There are numerous small waterfalls and some interesting waterslides formed from the creek flowing over large smooth rocks. There are some particularly attractive falls near the end of the trail, which continues only a few hundred yards after passing the waterfall. After covering the short distance from the falls the trail finally arrives at an observation deck hung over the Sacramento River. Just to the left of the observation deck, there is an unofficial but well established use trail that drops down to the confluence of Hedge Creek and the Sacramento River. Here there is a good swimming hole followed by a shallow area with some easy rapids. It is a nice area to play in (Bubba Suess, hikemtshasta.com).



HEDGE CREEK FALLS TRAIL MAP

