

# Faery Falls and Ney Springs Canyon



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**Visit at Hike Mt Shasta:** [www.hikemtshasta.com](http://www.hikemtshasta.com)

*Map property and courtesy of the Mt Shasta Visitors Center*

**Length:** 1.4 miles (.7 mi There and .7 mi Back)

**Elevation Gain:** Approx. 300'ft

**Season:** Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall

## About Ney Springs Canyon Trail

This short hike enters a lush canyon, home to 19th century ruins, a well-developed rock-climbing area, a crashing creek, and a beautiful waterfall. The Ney Springs Canyon Trail is an old dirt road. It enters a densely forested canyon through which Ney Springs Creek crashes over boulders and small cataracts. At the upper end of the road are ruins of 19th century Ney Springs Resort. Little remains other than some walls, cisterns, fountains and some steps leading down into the creek. Beyond the ruins are found a series of crags, home to numerous rock-climbing routes, and the Faery Falls waterfall at the end of the Ney Springs Canyon Trail.

## The Trail

The old road that makes up the Ney Springs Canyon Trail begins at a road junction in a clearing (see directions). The main road crosses Ney Springs Creek and continues east on the south bank of the creek. The trail heads west, staying on the north side. It is a short trail, directly above the creek. After 0.4 miles of climbing, the road reaches the ruins of the Ney Springs Resort. The first section of the ruins is difficult to make out of all the vegetation. If one is interested in the ruins, find the more obvious retaining walls, cisterns and fountains and such, then backtrack to find the large foundations from what was likely the carriage house.

## Faery Falls

Access to the falls is simple. The old road passes through the resort area. The old fountain is on the north side of

the road. The cisterns are on the left, south, side of the road, down by the creek. A short distance from the Ney Springs Resort ruins is Faery Falls, an attractive, 40-foot cataract. Today, the falls are what draw most people into Ney Springs Canyon, though its proximity to the resort suggests it was equally popular to the canyon's guests in the 19th century. The fall has two tiers. At the top of the second tier, the creek splits in two and fans out over the rock. In low water half of the fan disappears.

To reach the falls, continue past the resort ruins for 0.25 miles. Pass a cairn-marked use trail leading down to a small fall on the creek just after the ruins. Beyond this point, note an old road turning right off the main road. Just beyond this junction another cairn-marked use trail heads down to the creek, the falls now being quite audible. There are several good vantages for the falls, and it is possible to climb all the way to the base.

## Climbing Ney Springs Canyon Crags (Not Visible on Map)

A well-developed climbing area has been established at some crags on Ney Springs Canyon's northern wall. The area has a couple dozen routes. The Ney crags are an excellent option for climbers during winter. Being on the north wall of the canyon, the crags get a full day's sun, which keeps them free of ice and melts the snow off quickly after a storm. Furthermore, the area is relatively low elevation snow does not build up too much on the access routes.

To access the crag from the canyon, hike past the resort ruins. Just before the falls, an old road branches off to the right and begins climbing. A hundred yards or so off the main road there will be a large clearing on the left. Head into the clearing and look for the use trail heading uphill to the left. There are usually cairns marking this spot, but the trail is obvious from the clearing. Eventually the use trail will split, leading to different sections of the crag.

## Directions

From the town of Mt. Shasta, head west on W. Lake, crossing over I-5. At the stop sign, turn left onto Old Stage Road. After 0.25 miles, go right onto WA Barr Road. Continue over Lake Siskiyou dam. Just past the dam, make a left hand turn onto Castle Lake Road. Immediately make another left turn onto Ney Springs Road. Continue straight at 1 mile, passing the turn to the Ney Springs/Cantara Wildlife area. The road will turn to the west. After another 0.5 miles there is a large clearing on the left. Park here and hike up the road on the right.

# FAERY FALLS TRAIL MAP



Castle Lake Rd

Shasta Trinity  
National Forest

3,248'ft

Old Forest  
Service  
Road

Faery Falls  
Trailhead  
2,976'ft

Faery Falls Trail

3,281'ft

3,051'ft

3,609'ft

Climbing  
Craigs

3,248'ft

3,172'ft

3,165'ft

3,094'ft

Faery Falls  
3,228'ft

3,300'ft

New Springs Creek

New Springs Rd

Private Road

## LEGEND

- Elevation Marker
- Parking
- Junction
- Trailhead
- Camping
- Hills/Canyon
- Creek/River
- Paved Road
- Dirt Road
- Private Road
- Focal Trail
- Adjacent Trail

Distance: 0.7 Miles from Trailhead to Faery Falls