Sunol Regional Wilderness Indian Joe Nature/Indian Joe Creek/Cave Rocks Road/High Valley Road/ Flag Hill Road/Flag Hill Trails

Length: 4.45-Mile Loop Location: Sunol GPS Coordinates: 37.5160375 -121.8318128 Intensity: Moderate

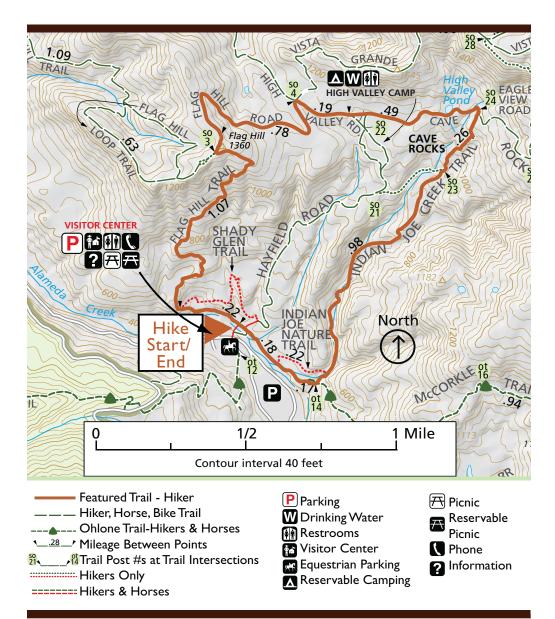


Park Features: This stunning park of rugged peaks and beautiful vistas has a remote wilderness feel. Its 6,859 acres of wilderness were once home to the area's first inhabitants and then became vast ranchlands. Today it offers hiking, nature study, backpacking, and picnicking; it draws thousands of visitors annually. The Old Green Barn Visitor Center offers naturalist-led programs that bring to life the history of the park or interpret its natural features. At its higher reaches, the park features large outcroppings of rocks that offer a glimpse into its marine origins. There is little water available in the park beyond the Visitor Center; be sure to bring adequate supplies with you on the trail.

Trail Highlights: This trail offers a partially shaded trail that climbs out of the valley along Indian Joe Creek. Higher up it meanders through grasslands and seasonal wildflower blooms. The rolling hills lead to a rocky ridge top. Here, at Flag Hill, nearly 1,400 feet high, is the pinnacle of this loop, where you'll tower above the valley below and enjoy sweeping views of the region.

Trail Directions: From the Visitor Center, cross the footbridge over Alameda Creek and turn right towards Indian Joe Nature Trail and Canyon View Trails. Make a left onto Indian Joe Nature Trail and follow it up a short hill and across the streambed. Turn left on Indian Joe Creek Trail, passing through a small cattle gate. The trail will meander back and forth across the seasonal creek and then begin to climb steeply, eventually passing the large jumble of giant boulders known as Indian loe Cave Rocks. Explore this area if you like and then continue climbing until the trail meets Cave Rocks Road. Turn left and follow this road (You might see western pond turtles at High Valley Pond on your right) until you reach High Valley Road, just past a large barn. (The historic High Valley Barn offers a good stop for a lunch break, as it has water, picnic tables and bathrooms). Make a right onto High Valley Road past the barn, and then a left onto Flag Hill Road. Follow to the ridgetop and at the stone sign monument, bear right to enjoy the sweeping views from Flag Hill. To descend and return to the starting point, from the monument, follow Flag Hill Trail downhill, to your right. The trail slowly winds down into the valley with a few narrow, rocky and exposed spots. At the bottom, turn left at the sign post pointing you toward Hayfield Road. Finally, make a right onto the footbridge over Alameda Creek, where you began, and return to the parking lot.

Driving Directions: *From Fremont:* Drive north on I-680 and exit at Calaveras Rd. Turn right at the exit onto Calaveras Rd. and proceed about four miles and make a left onto Geary Rd., Geary Rd. will lead directly into the park. Old Green Barn Visitor Center is open on weekends only.



From the Oakland-Berkeley area: Drive east on 1-580 until it the junction with 1-680. Take 1-680 south and exit at Calaveras Rd./Highway 84 just after the Sunol exit. At the bottom of the exit turn left onto Calaveras Rd. and proceed as noted above. **From the Walnut Creek-Danville area:** Drive south on 1-680 and exit at Calaveras Rd./Highway 84 just after the Sunol exit. Proceed as noted above.

Park Hours: 8am to sunset (varies seasonally)
Fees: \$5 Seasonal, weekends and holidays, \$4 per trailered vehicle, \$2 per dog.
Guide/service dogs free.
Website: ebparks.org/parks/sunol