



ALGER CREEK TRAIL CAMP

- Hike Length:** 6.5 miles round trip; 1400' elevation gain
Difficulty: Moderate
Season: June–October
Topo map: *Forest Falls (7.5')*,
San Gorgonio Wilderness (Tom Harrison)
Permit: San Gorgonio Wilderness Permit required

Features

Alger Creek rises high on San Bernardino Peak Divide and flows steeply down the south slope into Mill Creek Canyon. Deeply recessed into the mountainside, shaded by rich stands of pine, fir, cedar, and alder, the little creek seldom suffers the full glare of sunlight. It is a delightful place to relax and keep cool and enjoy nature's sylvan charms on a hot summer day. The Forest Service has built a beautiful trail camp on a bench shaded by tall incense-cedars, just above the churning waters of Alger Creek.

This formerly was a loop trip, until a property owner's complaint cowed the Forest Service into closing the lower portion of the Falls Creek Trail—in spite of the fact that the trail, built by John W. Dobbs in 1898, has been a public thoroughfare for over 100 years. Now you must go and return via the Momyer Creek Trail.

Description

From Redlands drive east on State Highway 38 to its junction with Valley of the Falls Road at the huge switchback 20 yards before mile marker 038 SBD 15.00. Turn right and continue east up Mill Creek Canyon to the large parking area for the Momyer Creek and Falls Creek trails, on your left 100 yards before the fire station, 2.9 miles (**GPS SB50**). Mill Creek Canyon is prone to dangerous mudslides and avalanches in times of heavy precipitation and hiking is not recommended on those days.

Follow the trail down into the broad boulder wash of Mill Creek. The path across the creek is washed away almost every spring, so there's no use trying to follow it. Instead, traverse directly across the boulder maze to the north bank, where you will pick up a recently constructed trail that climbs north onto a low bench. Here your trail turns left (west) and climbs the chaparral-blanketed slope to a junction with the old beginning of the Momyer Creek Trail coming up from Torrey Pines Road. Turn right and follow the well-defined footpath as it switchbacks steeply up the divide between Momyer Creek and Alger Creek, through chaparral and scrub oak. Soon you are climbing through a patchy forest of oak and Jeffrey pine.

In 3 miles you reach the marked junction with the Alger Creek Trail, branching right (northeast). Turn right and follow this lateral trail, following the line of John Dobbs' old flume, before dropping to Alger Creek Trail Camp, 1 mile. The cedar-shaded trail camp is to your right, just above the tumultuous creek.

Your trail continues 100 yards to the creek, fords it, and continues on to Falls Creek (see Hike 52). But you enjoy the delightful wilderness setting of Alger Creek, then return the way you came.