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Penner Lake - Tahoe National Forest



Fishing: 8/10

Hiking: 4/10

Scenery: 8/10

Solitude: 2/10

Distance: 5 mi 1-way

Map:

Elevation Profile:

Gallery:

See a short video of this lake.

Penner Lake - (Nevada County)

Tahoe National Forest

September 24, 2016


Like 0


Getting There

To reach Penner Lake in Nevada County, drive to the [Lindsey Lakes trailhead](#) by taking Highway 20 from [Highway 80 at Yuba Pass](#). Take Highway 20 west until you can turn right on Bowman Lake Road. From Bowman Lake Road, follow the signs to the turnoff for Lindsey Lakes Road. This road is an unimproved dirt road that is moderately rough but still manageable in a 2-wheel drive vehicle with modest clearance. We were the only car in the parking area on a Friday morning. As an alternative, you can use the Carr Lake trailhead and take the Crooked Lakes trail which is a slightly shorter hike. We chose the Lindsey Lakes trail because we wanted to fish a number of lakes along that route.

The Hike

The hike to Penner Lake starts in the parking area just below Lower Lindsey Lake and makes its way past Lower Lindsey Lake and the campground on the north side. This is a 4WD road that passes several lakes along the way including Upper Lindsey Lake, Culbertson Lake and the Rock Lakes. Construction crews were repairing the dam at Culbertson Lake when we were there and the lake had been drawn down significantly. The hike is moderate with only a few hills to hike up. The road leads to the Rock Lakes where, at Upper Rock Lake, it ends and a maintained trail begins. Following this trail leads you to Shotgun Lake or Penner Lake if you take the right turn just past Upper Rock Lake. After taking this right turn, there is about 1 mile of hiking over some very easy terrain before you reach

 See a short video of this lake.

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the eastern shore of Penner Lake. Camp sites are located on the east side of the lake and are plentiful. We chose the camp site on the northern peninsula which is an excellent spot that could accommodate several tents and has a couple of spots to hang a hammock. Expect to see people at Penner whenever you go there as it is a very popular lake which is easy to access from two different directions. There are many established camp sites but on a weekend you may find it difficult to find a camping spot if you do not get there early enough.

The Fishing

Penner is a great fishing destination that has never disappointed me. It didn't take long for me to land a 2 pound Brookie while fishing the lakelet on the east side of the peninsula. I threw out a black prince nymph for a while until the bite died out around noon. We paused for lunch and then packed up our fishing gear to adventure around the east side of the main body of the lake looking for a honey hole.

We started at the first point, near the northern peninsula, and managed to land a 12 inch Brookie while losing a few fish there as well. Caleb was having trouble keeping the trout on the line but we were happy they were biting after striking out the day before at Upper Rock Lake. From that point we moved southward along the shore, fishing every point that did not have people. We did not see any action until we reached the south end of the lake where we hooked into one more fish that shook our hook before we could land it. All in all, the east side fished poorly for us. When the sunlight started to wane, we trekked back to camp to fish the west side of the peninsula and prepare for dinner. From our camp, we landed two more Brook Trout, both measuring 12 inches or so.

Conclusively the fishing was slow with only 4 fish landed all day. That is why I rate it as fair to good for this outing, crediting the large Brookie caught upon arrival. Penner Lake makes for a good spot to take the kids as it is an easy hike and always has fish. Fish and Wildlife plant trout in the lake either annually or bi-annually.

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About

This site was created to provide information on fishing the lakes and streams in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains.

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