

GET OUT

Pat Keyes Trail

Inyo National Forest and Bureau of Land Management Inyo Mountains Wilderness

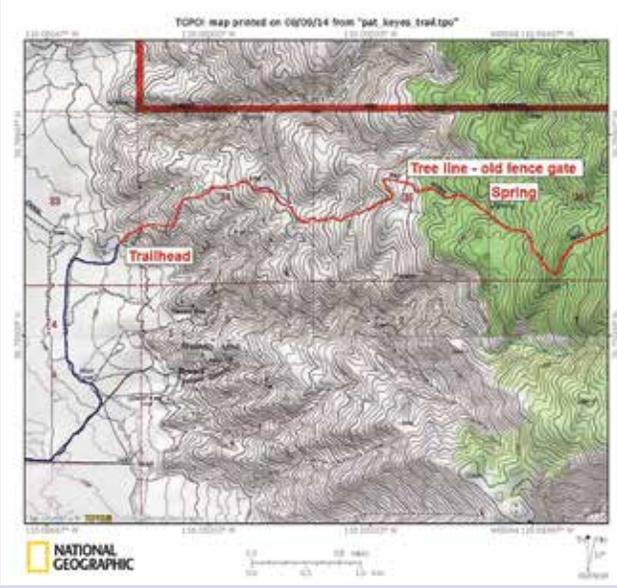
The trail starts at 3840' and steeply climbs 3.5 miles to the spring at 7,000'. Another two miles will take you to Pat Keyes Pass at about 9,500'. There are many rewards along the way, but the exhilarating view of the Sierra Nevada to the west is stupendous and well worth the 11 miles out and back.



Photo: Sydney Quinn



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South of Independence, CA, leave Hwy. 395 and turn east on Manzanar Reward Mine Road 4.7 miles to a junction. Turn left and drive 1.1 miles north to a road junction. An old corral may be visible at the base of the mountains. Turn right and drive east .5 mi. to the trailhead. This follows the blue line on the map. A high clearance vehicle is likely required as the road is not normally maintained.

This hike is usually most comfortable in spring and fall though winter or summer can be quite pleasant.

AREA DESCRIPTION: Managed by the Bureau of Land Management and Inyo National Forest, the Inyo Mountain Wilderness encompasses a large portion of the Inyo Mountains, which rise to 11,000 feet at Keynot Peak and separates the Owens Valley on the west and Saline Valley on the east. These mountains have maintained most of their pristine character due to the sheer ruggedness of the terrain. Evidence of historic and prehistoric man's use of the area has been found. Vegetation includes creosote, shadscale scrub, big sagebrush, lush riparian areas in most of the canyons on the eastern slope and pinyon-juniper woodland, bristlecone and limber pine on the higher reaches. Wildlife include desert bighorn sheep and the Inyo Mountain salamander.



Photo: Dennis Vance