

Welcome

Water | Geology

Wildflowers

Squaw Valley provides many unique micro-environments that host numerous types of plants.

Trees

The trees common to the habitat in and around Squaw Valley are specially adapted to the soils that formed as a result of the weathering of granite and volcanic rock types.

Wildlife



Hiking Guide

squawalpine.com



We hope that you enjoy our many hiking trails or join us for one of our guided hikes. Squaw Valley and the surrounding Sierra Nevada provide one of the most spectacular settings in the world, and we recognize the importance of stewardship in managing the forest and vegetation that support ecosystems and allow for public recreation opportunities.

Squaw Valley employs an Environmental Improvement Department that works to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) for a healthy ecosystem, reduces erosion and performs revegetation efforts. We ask that you please stay on designated trails and roads to avoid disturbance of these sensitive areas.

Dogs are welcome on designated hiking trails. Please keep your dog on a leash on the Tram and in public areas in the base area and at High Camp. Dogs under voice control are permitted off leash on designated trails, and we appreciate efforts to avoid disturbing wildlife and your removal of any dog waste. Dog waste bags are provided in the base area and at High Camp. Please pick up after your pet and dispose of waste in designated garbage cans.

Tram Schedule

Please check squawalpine.com for the Aerial Tram schedule or call 1-800-403-0206.

Activities

High Camp Activities include dining, sightseeing, e-Mountain Bike Tours, hiking, roller skating, disc golf and the Olympic Museum.

For lodging and activity packages visit squawalpine.com or call 1-800-731-8021.

For all other information including hours of operation, please call 1-800-403-0206.

Water is an important resource for a healthy mountain ecosystem. Squaw Valley engages in substantial water quality monitoring in order to ensure the ongoing health of the watershed including Squaw Creek and the Truckee River.

Water samples are collected from several sites during key runoff periods and are analyzed by an independent laboratory for key constituents, particularly sediment. This data is then used to identify areas that may benefit from further environmental enhancement, drainage improvement or revegetation.

The geologic history of this region has created steep and jagged rock formations. Granite Chief Peak, Squaw Valley's highest peak at 9,006', is an example of the light gray, medium to coarse-grained granite rock type that is primarily composed of quartz and feldspar. Emigrant Peak at 8,774' and Squaw Peak at 8,885', are darker in appearance and are volcanic in origin. The rocks on Broken Arrow, visible from the Squaw Valley Tram, are reddish in color, rounded and sandy looking. These formations are also granite and were formed this way by the extreme heat associated with lava flows from nearby volcanoes millions of years ago.

For Resort Practices
and Policies Related
to COVID-19:



All schedules are subject to weather and other factors, please check squawalpine.com for the daily schedule or call 1-800-403-0206.



Visit us in The Village at Squaw Valley
For hiking apparel including footwear and backpacks for everyone in the family.



MULE'S EARS

These yellow flowers are very common throughout Lake Tahoe. The plants were given their name because of their long "mule ear" leaves.



LUPINE

Lupines at high elevations typically grow as dense ground cover and are a favorite food source for butterflies.



GREAT RED PAINTBRUSH

These grow in grassy meadows, along streams and forest openings.



MARIPOSA LILY

This flower is common to drier areas of the Sierra and is well liked by bumblebees for its nectar.



BUCKWHEAT

This plant typically grows on exposed dry slopes and is yellow in the spring turning to an orange, ochre and then brown as summer turns to fall.



PENSTEMON

This plant is found on rocky slopes, ledges and ridges at high elevation above timberline.



CALIFORNIA SNOW FLOWER

This striking red flower emerges from the sometimes still snow-covered ground in early spring and throughout summer.



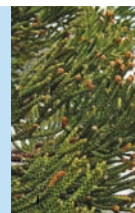
CALIFORNIA RED FIR

This tree is found at upper elevations. Its needles grow to about 1" and its cones are 8" long. This tree is home to numerous species of birds including nuthatches, woodpeckers and chickadees.



WESTERN WHITE PINE

These tall, straight trees can grow to 180' tall and 4' in diameter. They can be easily identified by their 5 needle clusters. Their cones are cylindrical and grow 5" to 12" long, thin and curved.



SIERRA JUNIPER

This tree is recognizable by its gnarled and twisted look. It grows on rocky outcrops with its roots growing into the crevices of granite.



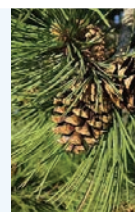
LODGEPOLE PINE

This tree's wood is flexible and was once used by Native Americans to build teepees and lodges. These trees grow to 110' tall and can live 150 years. Lodgepole cones are small at 3" and are prickly.



JEFFREY PINE

These trees live up to 500 years and grow up to 200' in height. Their cones are long and oval and their deeply furrowed bark has a distinct vanilla or pineapple odor.



PONDEROSA PINE

These trees have an orange colored bark and their cones have sharp spines and are very prickly.



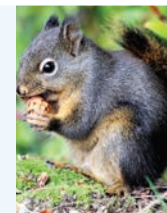
MOUNTAIN HEMLOCK

This tree grows mostly in shaded and moist areas. They tend to have a purple hue when young which gradually darkens as the tree ages.



YELLOW-BELLIED MARMOT

Marmots live in grassy areas and dig burrows under rocks. They are the largest member of the ground-hog family. They have a high pitched whistle that alerts other marmots of approaching predators.



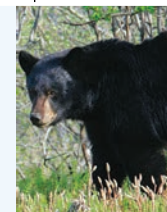
DOUGLAS SQUIRREL

These squirrels are bushy tailed and gray and can grow up to 20" long. Their ears have tufts of hair at the tips. They have a high pitched chatter. Also commonly known as a Chickaree or Pine Squirrel.



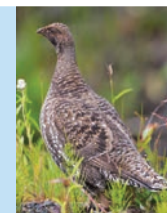
COYOTE

These animals weigh about 20 lbs. and are characterized by their slender dog-like appearance and bushy tail.



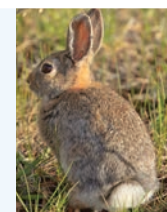
CALIFORNIA BLACK BEARS

Bears are omnivores and are primarily nocturnal. They can run up to 30mph. Although called black they can be brown or cinnamon in color. They can swim and climb trees. Keep your distance particularly when cubs are present and never feed or provoke them.



SOOTY GROUSE

This forest dwelling grouse has a long square tail and forages on the ground or in trees for food. Deep hooting sounds can often be heard from males.



MOUNTAIN COTTONTAIL

These rabbits are somewhat small. They have rounded ears at the tips that are relatively short, and a white-grey tail.



GOLDEN EAGLE

This powerful bird is North America's largest bird of prey with a wingspan of up to 7'. They eat rabbits, marmots and squirrels, diving at speeds of up to 150mph. They are a protected species.

Easy to Moderate Hikes

High Camp Loop

This hike is approximately 1.23 miles with 224' of elevation gain/loss, beginning from High Camp.

High Camp to the top of Gold Coast Chairlift

This hike is approximately .92 miles with 420' of elevation gain (one way).

The Village at Squaw to The Resort at Squaw Creek

This is an easy base area hike along the Trollstigen Trail and is less than a mile (one way).

Moderate to Difficult Hikes

High Camp Loop to the Siberia Basin Loop

This hike is approximately 2.3 miles with 619' of elevation gain/loss.

High Camp to the top of Emigrant Peak

This hike is approximately 1.38 miles with 683' of elevation change (one way).

High Camp to the top of Squaw Peak

This hike is approximately 2 miles with 844' of elevation change (one way).

High Camp to Shirley Lake

This hike is approximately 1.39 miles with 832' of elevation change (one way). There are relatively steep sections and loose rocks on the trail.

Base Area to High Camp Hikes

Challenging Hikes These hikes involve challenging terrain and require a high level of fitness.

Shirley Canyon Trail

This is a 3.6 mile (one way) hike with 2,109' of elevation change and several steep and rocky sections. From Shirley Lake take the Solitude or Shirley Canyon trail to High Camp.

Thunder Mountain Trail

A moderate base to High Camp hike of 3.2 miles and 2,000 feet of elevation change. Begin at the bottom of the Squaw One lift. This trail winds up the mountain. Be aware of vehicles and don't hike on the road.

Aerial Tram Operations

Weather Conditions Please be advised that the operation of the Aerial Tram can be impacted by wind and weather.

Confirm Schedule Conditions can change quickly throughout the day so please check the Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows app or website, ask a mountain host or ticket seller, check the local weather or call 1-800-403-0206.

Guided Hikes & More

The North Face Guided Hikes are complimentary and depart from High Camp. Hikes are approximately 1.5 miles and are weather and conditions permitting. Please check with a host or visit squawalpine.com for schedules.



Summer Camp For kids ages 5–13 we offer an adventure day camp that includes hiking, aerial tram rides, swimming, disc golf, yoga, cooking and more. Check squawalpine.com for complete information and dates, call 1-800-403-0206 or ask any of our ticket or host team members for more information.



Hike with Care

Please stay on designated trails and roads and obey all posted signs.

Wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots.

Carry plenty of water and a snack. Never drink directly from a stream.

Sudden weather changes are possible—carry a jacket and hat.

Wear sunscreen, sunglasses and a brimmed hat to avoid sunburn.

During thunderstorms, stay away from ridge tops, tall trees, lift towers and large rock outcroppings as they can attract lightning strikes.

Dog leashes required. Pick up after dogs. Don't let them disturb wildlife.

Please do not hike alone. It is fun and safer when done with a group.

Stay off chairlifts. During maintenance, lifts may start without warning.

No smoking. Fire danger in this area is high during summer months.

While rare, if you see a bear stop and quietly back away. Never approach a bear to take photos. They are wild and are unpredictable.

Be aware, company vehicles travel on Summer Road. Use caution.

In case of emergency, dial "911". To contact resort security, call (530)386-2538.

Thank You to Our Partners:

