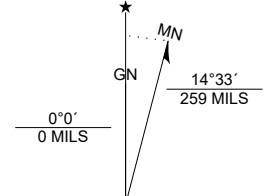


KTNPBlog Redwood: James Irvine-Miner's Ridge Loop Trail (12.1 miles)



GCS WGS 1984
 Scale 1:34,000
 Contour Interval 20 Feet



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Type: Lollipop Loop

Total Distance: 12.1 miles (19.5 km) round trip

Cumulative Elevation Gain/Loss: 2685 feet (818 m)

Time: 7.5 hours which includes lunch and rest breaks

Trail Markings: Trail signs at intersections

Difficulty: Strenuous, due to the distance

Crowds: Minimal, except at Prairie Creek Visitor Center and Fern Canyon

Water: The ocean, few creeks that are crossed, stream through Fern Canyon

Highlights: Redwood trees, fern canyon, primeval forests, beach, ocean coastline, solitude, wildlife, streams

Note: You can do this hike in either direction. If the back entrance of Fern Canyon is open, you can hike through there without backtracking through the canyon. To get to Miner's Ridge Trail from Fern Canyon, you can either walk along the road or try the Coastal Trail.

Directions to Prairie Creek Visitor Center:

41.3640042,-124.0253462

Trail Directions

- **Mile 0.0** - From Prairie Creek Visitor Center, walk north until you see the trailhead sign for Prairie Creek Trail. Turn right onto the trail, and go over a bridge.
- **Mile 0.1** - Continue straight at the intersection
- **Mile 0.2** - Continue straight at the intersection with West Ridge Trail for 60 feet. Turn right onto James Irvine Trail.
- **Mile 0.9** - Intersection with Miner's Ridge Trail; keep right to continue on James Irvine Trail
- **Mile 3.3** - Continue straight on James Irvine Trail. Clintonia Trail, to your left, could be used to make a shorter loop
- **Mile 4.7** - Intersection with Friendship Ridge Trail; continue straight
- **Mile 5.0** - Intersection with the back entrance to Fern Canyon Trail. If it's closed, continue straight on James Irvine. If it's open, you can go left onto Fern Canyon Trail. These directions assume the back entrance is closed.
- **Mile 5.3** - Front entrance of Fern Canyon. Go in as far as you can, following Home Creek. Once you can't go any further, double back to the canyon entrance
- **Mile 6.1** - Once back at the entrance to Fern Canyon, turn left onto Gold Bluffs Trail
- **Mile 6.3** - At Fern Canyon parking lot; restrooms (outhouses) are available. Two choices: you can either take the gravel road (Gold Bluffs Beach Road), or you can take the Coastal Trail along the beach (access trail at the back of Fern Canyon parking lot). We chose the gravel road because the connecting path was flooded.
- **Mile 7.5** - Take Miner's Ridge Trail which leads into the forest on the left. You'll see a tsunami evacuation site after a couple minutes on the trail. If you want to check out Gold Bluffs Beach Campground, it's 500 feet beyond the Miner's Ridge Trail and gravel road intersection.
- **Mile 9.5** - At the intersection with Clintonia Trail. Continue straight on Miner's Ridge Trail.
- **Mile 11.3** - You've completed the loop and are back on James Irvine Trail. Continue straight.
- **Mile 11.9** - Turn left at this intersection. 60 feet later, you'll come to another intersection with West Ridge Trail. Continue straight.
- **Mile 12.0** - Intersection with Prairie Creek Trail - continue straight
- **Mile 12.1** - Back at Prairie Creek Visitor Center!

James Irvine & Miner's Ridge Loop Trail (12.1 miles)

Calculated from 1/3 arc seconds DEM

