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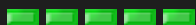
Crag Peak looming over the popular destination of Crag Lake.

Fishing:
 2/10

Hiking:
 4/10

Scenery:
 7/10

Solitude:
 1/10

Distance:
 4.83 mi 1-way

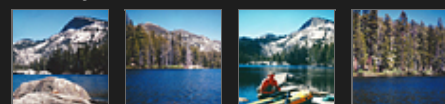
Map:



Elevation Profile 1:



Gallery:



Crag Lake - (El Dorado County)

Desolation Wilderness

Pre 2010

 Like 0



Getting There

Crag Lake is a popular destination in Desolation Wilderness that is reputed to hold Rainbow, Brook, and Brown Trout. To reach Crag Lake, park at the [Meeks Bay Trailhead](#). [Meeks Bay](#) is located on the southwestern shore of Lake Tahoe, California. The trail to Crag Lake leads to a pater noster string of lakes including Lake Genevieve, Hidden Lake, Shadow Lake, Cliff Lake and Stony Ridge Lake.

The Hike

This is a very popular trail and destination to say the least. While there are parts of Desolation Wilderness where you will not see another human for days, this is not one of them. Because this trip report is about 20 years old, I cannot remember if this took place on a weekend or not. I think it was a weekend trip which made the overcrowding issue worse. The trail to Crag Lake starts on a dirt road and stays flat for the first 1.6 miles. There is ample shade for the majority of this hike. There are only two steep climbs and before you know it, you will be at Lake Genevieve. You may find yourself alone at Lake Genevieve as Crag Lake makes a much better camping experience if you can find a good place to camp before it fills up with backpackers.

The Fishing

Very popular Crag Lake can better be appreciated for its' scenery rather than a great fishing lake even though you can do well with bait. Crag Lake contains Rainbows, Brookies, and Brown trout. The majority of the fish you will see will be Brookies in the 12-13 inch range. Fly fishing was very slow, even trolling from the raft, but a glob of rainbow or chartruese/glitter Powerbait can work wonders. The fish are a little wary of flies and lures but won't back down from bait. This is another lake where a float tube or rubber raft comes in really handy if your willing to pack it in.

However, if you are looking for the solitude associated with most mountain excursions, just keep moving my friend. It might be painful to pass up such a visually pleasing lake with it's little islands and perfect little campsites, but it is likely that you will end up camping a hair too close to your neighbor and you may feel a bit crowded in.

Better camping areas can be found at Hidden, Cliff, or Stony Ridge Lakes. And, Stony Ridge Lake has Lake Trout lurking near the bottom so you might tie into a monster there.

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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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