

# A Photographer's Walking Tour of Idyllwild

The dramatic scenery of Idyllwild offers the opportunity for photographers of all skill levels to take advantage of some of the most spectacular scenery in the Western United States. This brief guide offers a quick study to the best spots in and around town – most within walking distance! Begin anywhere on the map. The **Idyllwild Loop** covers a distance of 2 miles and can be completed in about an hour.



This walking tour averages an elevation of 5,200 feet (1 mile) and features a moderate altitude gain and loss, but quaint cabins, playful squirrels, clean mountain air and lasting images offer a reward all their own.

**1.** The view from the second level of *The Fort* up **North Circle Dr.** offers the quintessential view of this bucolic alpine village nestled at the foot of the towering granite spire **Lily Rock**.

**2.** Not far from the Fort stands a lone eagle from the old **Idyllwild Tree Monument**. A new one is on it's way and symbolizes the epicenter of Idyllwild.

**3.** Take in the scene of **Strawberry Creek** looking west from the Village Center Dr. bridge. Weather and seasons offer an ever-changing panorama.



**4.** Perhaps the most stunning view in all the **San Jacinto Mountains** is looking northeast at an unobstructed view of **Lily Rock spire** across a lovely mountain meadow.

**5.** On the west side of the road at 25585 Tahquitz Dr. stands one of the **tallest pine trees** in Southern California estimated to be 400 years old and 125 feet high. (*Private property.*)

**6.** **Fern Valley & Four Corners** – this rustic neighborhood of Idyllwild features a turn-of-the-century feel and number of period buildings in the area.

**7.** The converted log cabin home occupied by **Café Aroma** features authentic detail, rustic appeal and definitive Idyllwild style.

**8.** **Idyllwild Historical Society**, housed in an antique log cabin built in the 1920s, offers a glimpse of what moun-

tain life was like then in the wilderness.

**9.** As the original business center of Idyllwild, **Village Lane** features charming storefronts and galleries reminiscent of a by-gone era.

## Outside Idyllwild

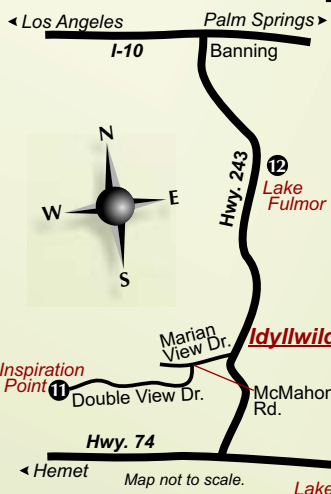


**10.** **Humber Park** serves as the gateway to hiking the high country of the San Jacinto Mountains. Views from the park are astounding.

**11.** With breath-taking views of Hemet and Diamond Valley Lake, **Inspiration Point** offers dramatic vistas and unparalleled sunsets.

**12.** As one of the most photographed lakes in California **Lake Fulmor's** setting and composition is a photographer's dream.

**13.** It is easy to see why the spectacular views of **Garner Valley and Lake Hemet** were chosen to provide the original backdrop for the opening sequence of the television show "Bonanza."



Note: A US Forest Service Adventure Pass is required to park at Lake Fulmor and Humber Park. Passes are available at the Ranger Station, 25905 Hwy. 243 at Pine Crest Avenue, Idyllwild.