

A Photographer's Walking Tour & Restaurant Guide

Idyllwild

By John Simpson The Rainbow Inn

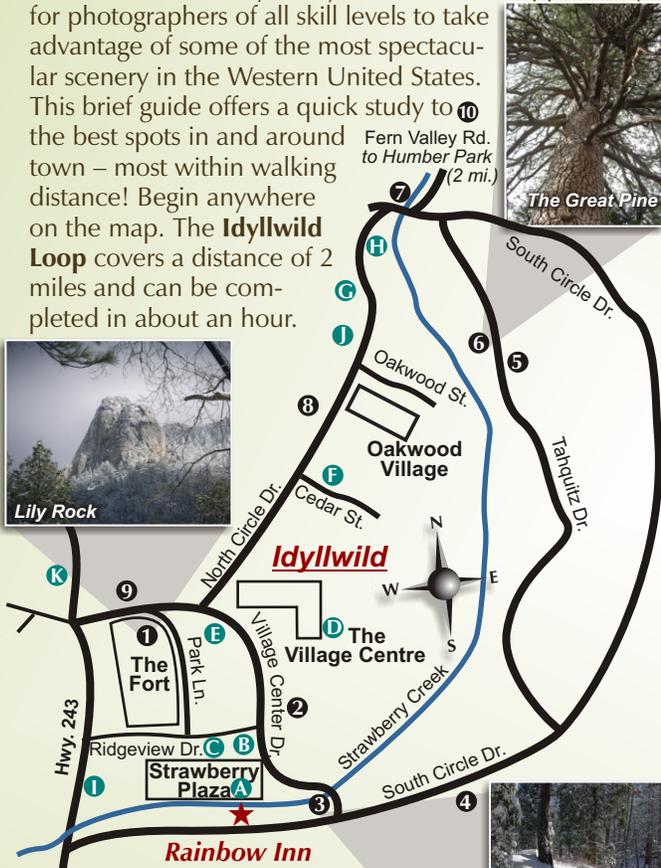
The dramatic scenery of Idyllwild offers the opportunity for photographers of all skill levels to take advantage of some of the most spectacular scenery in the Western United States. This brief guide offers a quick study to the best spots in and around town – most within walking distance! Begin anywhere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



Lily Rock



The Great Pine



Rainbow Inn

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 the **Idyllwild Town Monument**. "Harmony"

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. Idyllwild's oldest building at 54605 S. Circle Dr. (*private property*). Built as a logger's cabin around 1890.
5. Perhaps the most stunning view in all the **San Jacinto**



Strawberry Creek

Mountains is looking northeast at an unobstructed view of **Lily Rock spire** across a lovely mountain meadow.

6. 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 150 feet high. (*Private property.*)

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

8. **Idyllwild Historical Society**, housed in an antique log cabin built in the 1920s, offers a glimpse of what mountain life was once like in this 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** is the gateway to hiking the high country of the San Jacinto Mountains. Views from the park are astounding.



Lake Fulmor

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. (9 miles away.)

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

Restaurants – (A) **Idyllwild Pizza Company**, family style gourmet pizza parlor. (B) **Restaurant Gastrognome**, fine American cuisine with rustic charm. (C) **Fratello's Ristorante**, traditional Italian menu and sidewalk bistro. (D) **Idyll Awhile Wine Shoppe**, fine wine and craft beer selections in a charming setting. (E) **Jo'ans**, casual dining, lively beer garden in season. (F) **Ferro's**, modern Italian in a hip modern atmosphere. (G) **Café Aroma**, contemporary Italian in a historic log cabin. (H) **Idyology**, farm-to-table comfort food in an eclectic atmosphere. (I) **Jade Mountain**, an enticing array of Asian fare. (J) **La Casita**, authentic Mexican with home-style taste. (K) **The Lumber Mill**, a great burger-and-beer spot, often with live music.



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.

Map not to scale.