

Mount Scott Trail

Time: 3 hours

Difficulty: Difficult

Length: 2.5 mi (4.02 km)

Elevation: 7680 - 8832 ft (2341 - 2692 m)

Trailhead coordinates:

Latitude: N +42° 55.74 or 42.92904

Longitude: W -122° 01.80 or -122.03006

Altitude: 7680 ft (2341 m)

Highlight: panoramic views; Highest point in the park, fire lookout, lake view, panoramic view of High Cascades, Klamath Basin, and Eastern Cascades; alpine wildflowers

Trail Description

In a park with spectacular views, Mount Scott has some of the most awe-inspiring views. This is also a fantastic alpine wildflower trail.

Despite the length and high altitude to which this trail reaches, it is relatively gradual for its entire length. In its first .25 mile the trail passes through a relatively open, and flat, pumice field with great closeup views of the northern face of Mount Scott. The next .75 miles of the trail gradually rises along Mount Scott's west and southwest flanks through a forest dominated by mountain hemlock, with some whitebark pines and a few Shasta red firs.

The trail then breaks into a more open pumice and forested habitat as it begins to climb more steeply, and switchback, up the south face of Mount Scott before ascending to the summit ridge. There are a couple of spectacular viewing points as the trail switchbacks at the edge of Mount Scott's collapsed northern face.

The summit ridge, .2 miles long, is fairly flat. The fire lookout (built in 1926) lies at the north end of the ridge. To the south can be seen the Klamath Basin and other southern High Cascades points and to the north (past the fire lookout) can be seen.

Be very sure to take a coat and other warm weather gear as the top is often windy, cold, and the weather can turn very quickly...even during the late summer months.

Trailhead location: East Rim Drive, 14 miles (22.5 km) east of Park Headquarters.

Nature Note: Mt. Scott is the park's highest peak-8,929 feet (2,721 meters) in elevation; mid- to late July is the peak blooming period for Mount Scott's high alpine wildflowers.

Historic Note: Mount Scott is named for Levi Scott (1797 - 1890), an Oregon pioneer who helped lay the Applegate Trail, served in the Oregon Territorial Legislature, the Oregon Constitutional Convention, and founded Scottsburg, Oregon.

Seasonal Information: Expect the trail to be covered in snow from October to late July, however, conditions vary somewhat from year to year. See Crater Lake Current Conditions for more information.

