

DRAFT TRINITY COUNTY ACCESSIBLE RECREATION LIST

**THIS IS A DRAFT WORKING LIST OF POSSIBILITIES, NOT GUARANTEED TO BE ACCESSIBLE BY WHEELCHAIRS. Basically, it's a rough working list of places I'd like to go to and see just how 'accessible' they actually might be. So, if you use this list, keep in mind the location may turn out to be obstacle-filled and unsuitable.*

Trinity County has plenty of recreation opportunities, but 'accessibility' has not been high on the priority list. You can help change that, just by coming here and wheeling around.

For these truly rural counties, all-terrain mobility gear is a huge help. Without all terrain gear your options will be much more limited in terms of doing things beyond Scenic Drives. Believe me, the Scenic Drives alone are worth the trip, but to enjoy getting out and about, an all-terrain device will be extremely liberating.

If you want to experience all that Trinity County has to offer and you need ADA accessible accommodations, then Weaverville will be the town to choose for optimal hotel accommodations. Of course many people vacation using RVs, and camping is a seasonal option.

For camping, your best bet for ADA facilities will be private campgrounds and developed campgrounds managed by concessionaires around Lewiston and Trinity lakes. BLM also has campgrounds with accessible features. Conditions change seasonally, and a number of great campgrounds were out of service for 2017 due to the severity of spring storms and the Helena Fire along Highway 299W. For your peace of mind, I urge you to call the managing agency as a part of your trip planning.

If you have very limited mobility – or no access to an all-terrain device, one of the great ways to enjoy Trinity County is through taking 'scenic drives'. Most of the scenic drives can be accomplished as a day trip or as a part of a loop. Take some time and look through the various scenic drive brochures.

Visiting Trinity County: <http://visittrinity.com/>

SCENIC DRIVES:

Scenic drives can be enjoyed by everyone, no matter what your physical abilities might be. I encourage everyone to make sure their vehicles are tuned for trips, and you should carry extra food, water, and possible some overnight supplies. Take paper maps whenever possible. Trinity is not a highly populated county. If you take a back road and get stuck, you could be there a while. Cell service is spotty. GPS is NOT reliable.

Trinity Scenic Byway: This route follows much of the wild and scenic Trinity River on state Highway 299W between Redding on the east and Arcata on the west. The Trinity River is a very popular whitewater river for rafting and kayaking. The USFS theme of the route is, "From the Valley Oaks to the Redwood Coast". While this is a great scenic highway, check road conditions with CalTrans. During 2017 the road had a lot of repair which meant a lot of long delays. It's a wonderful drive, though. <https://scenicbyways.info/byway/2194.html>

Siskiyou Trinity Scenic Highway: Highway 3 between Weaverville and Yreka goes through some wonderful rugged forests with dramatic views of mountain peaks including Mount Shasta on the northern end. You'll see evidence of historic mining operations along the river, and have the option of side trips into Lewiston and Trinity Lake areas. This road is NOT open in winter due to snow.

http://visitrtrinity.com/relax-enjoy/road-touring/?doing_wp_cron=1524107363.8066871166229248046875

Off-Highway Roads and Trails:

There are over 3,500 miles of off-highway roads and trails in the Shasta Trinity region. Printed maps are available at The Watershed Center Office in Hayfork, the Hayfork and Weaverville Ranger Districts, and Topps Grocery Store in Weaverville. http://www.trinityohvtrails.com/riding_areas.html

While this can be a fun activity, if you are not familiar with off-highway roads, or don't have a suitable vehicle, then this activity is NOT for you. First-timers should go with a group, so that if you experience problems you won't be stuck in the back country with no help in sight. There is little to no cell phone service in these remote locations.

For those with mobility challenges, I strongly advise that you travel with others. Something as simple as having a flat tire could become a serious emergency if you can't make the repair. Getting stuck is a part of the fun for a lot of people (but not for me). I can tell you from experience that a 4x4 vehicle just means you are 30 feet farther stuck. Getting stuck 40 miles into the back country when you can't physically walk (or roll) out, is not really something you want to experience. Trust me on this one. Go only with a group. Be sure someone knows where you are going and when you will be back.

TRAILS

Weaverville Basin Trails System: This is a new trail system and is just getting started with trail building. There may be some wheelchair accessible portions, but none that are paved surfaces as yet. Your best bet is to stop by the Trinity County Resource Conservation District and ask about wheelchair suitability, or phone them. Just by inquiring you remind them that people using wheelchairs need access, too.

<http://www.tcrd.net/index.php/2014-02-05-08-30-03/weaverville-basin-trail-system>

FOREST AND LAKE RECREATION IN TRINITY COUNTY

Shasta Trinity National Forest Camping and Boating

Boat Ramps

Trinity Lake, Trinity County

- **Bowerman Public Boat Ramp (unconfirmed)**
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/stnf/recarea/?recid=6476>
- **Clark Springs Public Boat Ramp**
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/stnf/recarea/?recid=6481>

Lewiston Lake, Trinity County

- **Pine Cove Public Boat Ramp**
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/stnf/recreation>

BLM

Finding information on accessible recreation on BLM managed lands is incredible difficult via the www in 2017 as they are revising their web site, and it isn't coming out very well. My suggestion is to stop by the nearest BLM office to pick up maps (or call) and ask a lot of questions.

BLM has 3 campgrounds in Trinity County that are deemed as 'accessible' by wheelchair users by their Redding office. Accessibility is not shown on their maps. All three campgrounds are along the Trinity River and will likely be popular with kayakers and rafters, too. They are designated as Douglas City, Junction City and Steel Bridge Campgrounds.

<https://www.blm.gov/visit/trinity-wild-and-scenic-river>

STATE PARKS

The **Weaverville Joss House Historic State Park** is not considered accessible by wheelchair users (or rolling walker users, either). Some portions of the grounds may be accessible, but the information about the place is pretty vague. Still, it's a unique historic structure and of historic interest even from the outside. Stop and check it out, anyway.

http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=457