

WHY THE NAME "CONVICT LAKE"

The naming of Convict Lake and Creek dates back to an early California gun fight. On September 17, 1871 a group of 29 convicts—murderers, train robbers, horse thieves, ect.—escaped from the Nevada Penitentiary in Carson City. One small group headed south, towards Owens Valley. Near Aurora, then a flourishing mining town, they encountered Billy Poor, mail rider, whom they killed in cold blood (one account said he was burned to death).

Next day the people of Aurora organized a posse and followed the convicts south. Word was sent ahead to Benton where another posse was organized, trailing the fugitives into Long Valley where they were eventually sighted at a camp on the shores of Monte Diablo Lake. This is the lake that soon became known as Convict Lake.

Gunfire immediately began. Two of the posse were killed. One of whom was Robert Morrison for whom Mt. Morrison (elevation 12,268 ft.) was named. The convicts escaped but were later captured in Round Valley, near Bishop, and two of them—Black and Morton—were hanged by a local group of lynchers who took them away (apparently without too much trouble) from the officers and the posse. The third convict was a youngster who, it was thought, played little part in the killings. Officers took him back to Carson City to complete his term.

That's the reason this beautiful lake, surrounded by rugged mountains and green trees, which later became one of the most popular fishing lakes in the entire Eastern High Sierras, received its peculiar name—"Convict Lake."



How to Reach CONVICT LAKE

35 Miles North of Bishop . . . On U. S. 395

- Convict Lake Resort, one of the oldest and most popular in the Eastern High Sierra, is easy to reach. It is located only two miles from U. S. Highway 395, 35 miles north of Bishop, on a good paved road.
- To reach Convict Lake Resort from the Southland, go north on either U. S. Highway 14 from Los Angeles or U. S. 395 from San Bernardino. These highways merge just south of Little Lake and continue together to Bishop. Take U. S. 395 north from Bishop 35 miles to the Convict Lake turn-off, which is plainly marked. Our resort is only two miles from U. S. 395.
- If you're coming from Northern, Central, or the Bay Area of California you'll probably cross the Sierra mountains on U. S. 40 to Reno, U. S. 50 to Carson City, State Route 108 (Sonora Pass Road) to Bridgeport, or State Route 120 (Tioga Pass Road) to Lee Vining. From any of these roads, drive southward on U. S. 395 to the Convict Lake turnoff. The map above not only shows Convict Lake Resort, in its relative position to the highways, but also shows other important lakes and streams in the immediate area.

Convict Lake Resort

Route 3, Bishop, California 93514

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