

BEAR VALLEY TRAIL TO GLEN TRAIL JUNCTION WITH GLEN CAMP LOOP
POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE, CA

This 7.4-mile out-and-back hike starts at the Bear Valley Visitor Center and follows the Bear Valley Trail to its junction with the Glen and Baldy Trails, then follows the Glen Trail to its junction with the Glen Camp Loop trail.

(See my trip report on the Bear Valley Trail to the Coast Trail for more info on the Bear Valley Trail.)

This is a good hike to do in the spring, since during that time of year Divide Meadow is a green meadow with occasional flowers, rather than a dry grassy field (as it is later in the summer and in the fall).

I recommend picking up a hiking map from the Bear Valley Visitor Center (a PDF is also available on the NPS website).

The distances for this hike are as follows:

Bear Valley Visitors Center to Divide Meadow: 1.6 miles

Divide Meadow to junction with Glen and Baldy Trails: 1.5 miles

Junction with Glen and Baldy Trails to Glen Trail Junction with Glen Camp Loop: 0.6 mile

We had originally planned to continue along the Glen Trail for another 0.7 mile to the Coast Trail, but we had to turn around earlier due to time constraints.

Panorama of Divide Meadow. Notice how green the meadow is in the spring (this photo was taken on April 26, 2019), as compared to the fall (see my report on the Bear Valley Trail to the Coast Trail from September 16, 2018):



This tree is located at the western end of the meadow; I'm not sure what kind of tree it is, but it was covered with flowers:



Here are three photos of some of the flowers we encountered just west of Divide Meadow:



This is the junction of the Bear Valley Trail (which continues to the left in this photo) with the Baldy Trail (center of photo). The Glen Trail takes off behind where I was standing to take this photo:



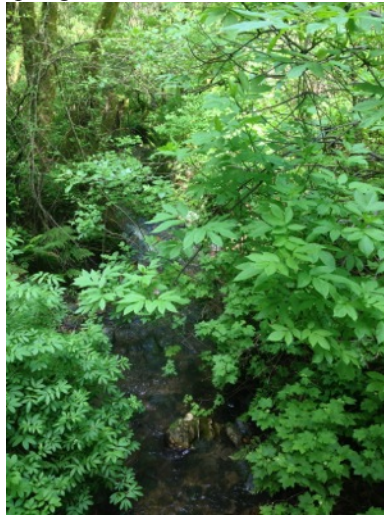
There is a very well-constructed bridge at the start of the Glen Trail:



Looking straight down from the bridge at the creek rushing over some rocks below:



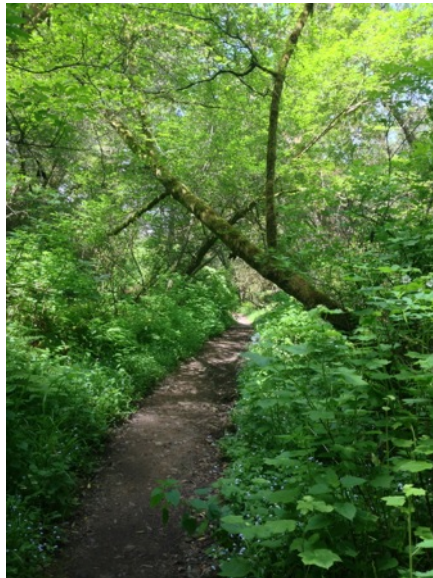
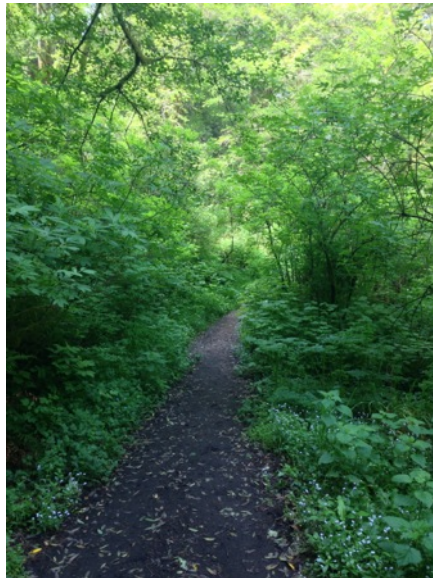
There is definitely more water in the creek in the spring than there was in the fall:



We spotted this nice flower just past the bridge:



The next four photos show the Glen Trail past the bridge, as it climbs up a hillside towards the ridge. The trail itself wasn't particularly wide, but it does appear to follow an old road:

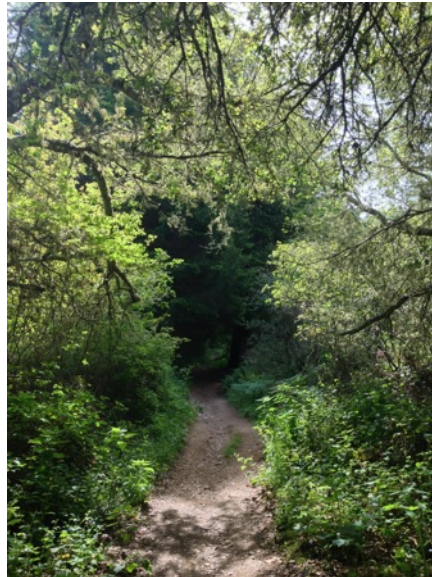




Here we are approaching where the trail crosses a small ridge:



After crossing the ridge, the trail turns towards the south:



This would have been a good place to stop for second breakfast, but we were already behind schedule on this hike:



Looking west across a small meadow:



I think this plant is called Cow Parsnip, or Hogweed (not to be confused with Queen Anne's Lace):



At the southern end of this small meadow, the trail narrows and passes through a dense collection of ferns:



Some of the fern plants had small flowers growing off of the stems:



A few of the fern fronds had not yet unfurled:



Shortly past the meadow, the trail rounds a sharp bend and reaches a ridge:



On a clear day, it might be possible to see through the trees and to the ocean, but on this day there was fog over the ocean:



From here, we continued along the ridge, towards where the Glen Trail meets the Glen Camp Loop Trail:



Looking back down towards Bear Valley:



The trail flattens out for a short distance, and the forest is very scenic through here:



Near where two ridges join at the top of a valley, there is another small meadow:



At the top of this valley is where the Glen Camp Loop takes off (to the left) from the Glen Trail:



Panorama of the fork in the trail, with the part of the Glen Trail we just came from on the far left and continuing to the far right, and the Glen Camp Loop Trail in the shade to the right of center. Note that this panorama is distorted:



Another panorama of this scenic part of the forest, with the Glen Camp Loop Trail to the left, and the Glen Trail continuing in the center of the photo:



From here, we turned around and hiked back towards the Bear Valley Trail. This is the view looking across the small meadow we encountered on the hike up, towards the ridge on the other side of Bear Valley. Notice that there is still some fog at the top of the ridge, on the left side in this photo:



This mushroom-covered log is located near the junction of the Glen, Baldy, and Bear Valley Trails:



There were possibly hundreds of these critters along the Bear Valley Trail when we did this hike, but I don't recall seeing them on past hikes:



Another photo of what I think is called Cow Parsnip:



More plants blooming, on the other side of the creek:



Notice how the fog was just barely visible from Divide Meadow, at the far western end of Bear Valley:



There is a nice lunch spot at the southern side of Divide Meadow, from which there are good views looking west down the Bear Valley:

