More Information

The trail/road is easy to follow but please be sure to be aware of the environment as well as the weather. There are multiple stream crossings—use caution and bring dry socks and shoes.

Hike described here is to the stream crossing above the falls. There are old trails beyond but these are overgrown and difficult to follow.

Be away of your surroundings—including weather—to ensure safety. A small amount of rain may make stream unsafe to cross during the return trip.

Directions to Zim Zim Falls Trail

FROM WOODLAND/DAVIS/WINTERS

Take CA-128 West around Lake Berryessa. Turn right on Berryessa-Knoxville Rd and continue for 24 miles. After the bridge over Putah Creek, the road will narrow and become rough. After leaving the lake and turning north, there are several concrete low-water crossing through Etiwanda Creek. The trail head is on the west side of the road, just before mile marker 24 (look for a green gate).

FROM CLEAR LAKE AREA

Follow Morgan Valley Road, east out of Lower Lake. After 13.7 miles, this becomes Berryessa Knoxville Rd—follow this for an additional 12 miles to the trail head.
Zim Zim Falls Trail

OVERVIEW:

Zim Zim Falls is one of the most accessible, year-round waterfalls in Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. Spring brings wildflowers while bald eagles are in the area fall through spring.

Be sure to pack plenty of water. Please abide by Leave-no-Trace principles.

DIFFICULTY: Difficult

LENGTH: 8.3 miles (round-trip)

ELEVATION GAIN: 900+ feet

TERRAIN: Old ranch/fire road. Steady, easy climb up valley, steepness increases as trail approaches falls

BEST TIME TO HIKE: September—early June (Wildflowers in spring)

BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT: YES

WAYPOINTS

P—Parking/trail head
1—Stay to the right
2—Trail to base of falls
3—Stream crossing above falls

Park on the gravel area and find the trail beyond the green gate on west side of the road. The trail is easy to follow as it slowly climbs through the valley. There are multiple stream crossings that—depending on the amount of water—require hikers to find rocks to step across or get their feet wet. About 3/4 mile, a faint trail will head to the left (1). Continue following Zim Zim Creek up the valley on the main trail in a (mostly) northwest direction.

The valley will narrow and eventually the trail will begin to climb. A single track trail will lead to a nice view of the falls as well as a pool at the base (2). Enjoy the falls, then return to the trail. You can choose to return to the trail head at the time by turning right or you can turn left and follow the trail to where it crosses the creek above the falls (3).