Hoyt Trail

This trail leads to swimming holes along the South Yuba River and historic Hoyt Crossing, a popular hangout for skinny-dippers and other river lovers in summer. Southern exposure means warmth on cool days and wildflowers in the spring. From the trail, you can spot the old Miner’s Tunnel across the River, a relic of Nevada County’s history. An optional extension up the old Hoyt Crossing Road makes for a vigorous 4.5 mile in-and-out hike.

Getting there:
Take Highway 49 west towards Downieville for 6.9 miles. As you near the river you will see a sign on your right that says “South Yuba River Access”. Just 0.1 mile past the sign, and before crossing the highway bridge, turn right into a paved parking lot. Walk across the old bridge to reach the trailhead at the far end of the bridge.

Distance: 0.75 miles one way to Hoyt Crossing beach. An extension up the old Hoyt Crossing Road adds 1.6 miles each way, for a round trip of about 4.5 miles.

Elevation change: Total elevation gain on trail to Hoyt Crossing is about 200 feet. The optional extension adds a 1000 foot ascent.

Uses: No alcoholic beverages or glass containers. Dogs on leash. No bicycles or motorized vehicles. No smoking or fires. No camping.