

MT Sobek: John Muir Trail: Northbound to Yosemite

Day 1 Arrive in Fresno, California

Arrive in Fresno, California, to check in at the DoubleTree by Hilton near the Fresno air terminal by 5pm. At 6pm, meet the guides and the group for a welcome dinner and orientation talk; do the final gear check and discuss the details of the trip.

Accommodation: DoubleTree by Hilton

(D)

Day 2 Start the John Muir Trail at Sallie Keyes

3-hour private van transfer

3-4 hours/6.2 miles hiking with 400' elevation gain

Meet at 7am after breakfast. Drive about three hours to Florence Lake, and meet the horse-packer and mules to offload the gear. Then begin the first leg of the trip, which starts with a ferry ride across Florence Lake (7,325') into the John Muir Wilderness. Today's hike is a mild 6.2 miles with a 400-ft elevation gain to the junction of the John Muir Trail at the Sallie Keyes cut-off.

Accommodation: MT Sobek Camp—John Muir Trail Northbound

(B, L, D)

Day 3 Hike Over Selden Pass to Rosemarie Meadow

5-6 hours/10 miles hiking to 10,880' with 3,555' elevation gain

Hike 10 miles over the Selden Pass (10,880') to Rosemarie Meadow, past the picturesque Sallie Keyes Lakes, which were named after Sallie Keyes Shipp, the daughter of the principal owners (and shepherders) of Blayne Meadows (from 1890-1940). An aspen tree in the meadows is rumored to still have her name carved in it.

Accommodation: MT Sobek Camp—John Muir Trail Northbound

(B, L, D)

Day 4 Descend to Mono Creek

6 hours/11 miles hiking to 7,870' with 3,010' elevation loss

Today's hike is 11 miles downhill (except for a stout but brief uphill climb of Bear Ridge) to Quail Meadows and into the Mono Creek Drainage at 7,870'. Mono Creek, named after the Mono Indians, drains from the nearby Mono Divide, first crossed on August 2, 1864, by the Brewer party of the Whitney Survey. Mono Creek serves as a main artery in the California watershed.

(B, L, D)

Day 5 Head Up to Chief Lake

4-6 hours/8 miles hiking to 10,880' with 3,010' elevation gain

Today is another uphill day. You'll journey 8 miles to Chief Lake over Silver Pass (10,880') across the Silver Divide, named in 1907-09 by the USGS survey from Theodore S. Solomons' 1896 map of the area. Solomons gave the creek its name because of its silvery appearance.

(B, L, D)

Day 6 Pass Tully Hole & Camp at Duck Lake

6-7 hours/11 miles hiking to 9,600' with 1,280' elevation loss

Just over 11 miles of hiking up and down leads past Tully Hole and Purple Lake to the camp at the Duck Lake junction (9,600'). Tully Hole was named after Gene Tully, who was one of the original 60 rangers of the US Forest Service. He helped rid Yosemite National Park of sheep from 1905-07.

Tully Hole was where he rested his stock during his 6-week patrols of the mountains. One of today's highlights is a lunch stop at the picturesque Lake Virginia.

(B, L, D)

Day 7 Onward to Red's Meadow

6-7 hours/11.5 miles hiking to 7,580' with 2,020' elevation loss

Today enjoy 11.5 miles of cruising to Red's Meadow in the Mammoth area, with astounding views of the Minarets as well as Mount Ritter and Banner Peak. John Muir made the first ascent in October 1872 and his account of the climb is legendary to mountain climbers. Meet the food drop here and be treated to a natural hot spring-fed shower.

(B, L, D)

Day 8 Reach Ansel Adams Wilderness & Shadow Creek

6 hours/11 miles hiking to 8,750 with 1,223' elevation gain

Today enter the Ansel Adams Wilderness, named after the famous photographer and conservationist who took all those iconic photographs of the West. Highlights include the unique Devil's Postpile National Monument. It's an 11-mile hike to Shadow Creek, the next camp, home for the next two nights.

(B, L, D)

Day 9 Enjoy Layover Day at Shadow Creek

Today is a well-deserved layover day in the heart of John Muir Trail country. Take time to photograph, fish, hike, wash socks, or just plain hang out.

(B, L, D)

Day 10 Hike Over Island Pass to Rush Creek Camp

5-6 hours/10 miles hiking to 10,205' with 1,455' elevation gain

A 10-mile hike today leads through the famous "postcard" John Muir Trail country of Garnett, Waugh, and Thousand Island Lakes. Hike over Island Pass (10,205') to the campsite on Rush Creek.

(B, L, D)

Day 11 Meet the Lyell Fork of the Tuolumne River

8 hours/12 miles hiking to 11,050' with 845' elevation gain

Hike 12 miles over towering Donahue Pass (11,050') beneath the highest peak in Yosemite (Mt. Lyell at 13,114') and down to the Lyell Fork of the Tuolumne River in Yosemite National Park. Donahue was a sergeant in the cavalry and the peak and pass were named after him by Lt. McClure in 1895, when Donahue made the first ascent.

(B, L, D)

Day 12 End the Trek and Return to Fresno

4-hour shuttle & private van transfer

3 hours/6 miles hiking with 2,431 elevation loss

Hike the remaining six miles along the John Muir Trail and finish the long journey in Tuolumne Meadows, where the shuttle awaits with cold drinks and a fresh lunch. After lunch, take the shuttle back through Yosemite Valley before returning to the hotel in Fresno for a celebration dinner and a

good night's sleep.

Accommodation: DoubleTree by Hilton

(B, L, D)

Day 13 Depart Fresno

Today take the free airport shuttle to the terminal to catch your flight, which can be scheduled to depart at any time.

Accommodation: DoubleTree by Hilton