

Great Outdoors chapter presents
Mineral King to 9 Lakes
Advanced/Intermediate Backpack
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Contact: Frederick Brown: E-Mail : fredincal346@gmail.com. Phone: 562-754-1838

Starting from spectacular Mineral King, we begin hiking north over Timber Gap (9,400') for 1,600 vertical feet. Once we reach the summit, we will enter the forest as we descend to Cliff Creek crossing at about 7,000 feet. We begin ascending again, passing Cliff Creek Falls, before arriving at our first night campsite near small Pinto Lake (c 8,500'). We will have covered 8 ½ miles.

Leaving Pinto Lake, we have a grueling 3,100 foot gain over Black Rock Pass at 11,600'. On the way up, we will have nice views of Spring Lake Falls, Spring Lake, Cyclamen Lake and Columbine Lake. Once we reach the pass we descend into the five lakes basin, but not before enjoying a rest and views of the Kaweah Peaks, and the Whitney Crest. We will also have views of the Five Lakes Basin. We will camp at the north end of the first lake on the peninsula.

The third day, we will head north to the Nine Lakes Basin, camping at the first lake which is at 10,450'. Here we will have a rest day, giving us time to explore numerous secluded lakes north and east in spectacular settings.



On the fifth day, we will retrace our steps to Little Five Lakes, and then go on to the Big Five Lakes. Here we can have another rest day in Sierra Bliss.

On the seventh day, we will go to the head of Lost Canyon, camping in a high altitude meadow at 10,200'. From there, the eighth day, we will hike over Sawtooth and Glacier passes both over 11,000', descending steeply to Mineral King.

To participate in this trip you will need to have been on a previous backpack with one of Great Outdoors trip leaders.. Contact the trip leader for more information and the registration form. **Total distance is about 41 miles, total gain/loss is about 8,260 feet. Bring your ten essentials (listed on GO website at: www.greatoutdoorsla.org/essen.html). Carpooling is recommended to help reduce gas cost and parking.**