

**Great Outdoors OC/LB chapter
presents
Lake Italy and Vee Lake
Intermediate-Advanced Backpack
September 6 through 13, 2015**



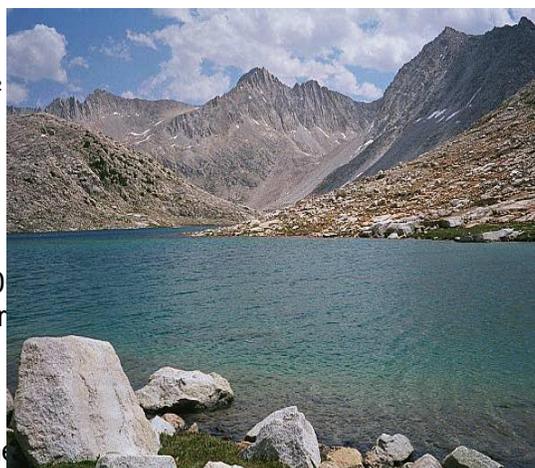
Great Friends, Great Times, Great Outdoors

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September is still a great time to backpack in the Sierra Nevada. The weather is still good, and the crowds are gone. The leaves are turning, and the days and nights are cooler.

This eight day backpack will begin at Bear Creek. On the first day, we will backpack to beautiful twin falls. This area was covered by glaciers, which slowly retreated upward, leaving the oldest terrain at the beginning of the trip, and newer terrain the higher we go. Mostly, we will be traveling through forest. After covering 5 ½ miles and 1,000 feet of gain, we will come to our campsite.

Day two, we will leave the forest of Jeffrey Pines and Aspen trees, and enter the Lodgepole forest. We will backpack above the creek, seeing granite domes, ravines and cliffs. The first two miles are steep, covering 1,000 feet of gain. At 9,600 feet we will reach the campsite at Hilgard meadow, having covered seven miles.



Lake Italy

The third day will take us to Lake Italy, just 4 miles with 1,500 feet of gain. The trail is sketchy after we leave the John Muir trail. We will be hiking through meadows and across granite slabs. Once we reach Lake Italy, we will hike about a mile along the shore, and camp near the outlet from Jumble Lake.

On day four, we will be going partly cross country, as we head to Vee Lakes. Our trip will take us past Jumble Lake, White Bear Lake, Black Bear Lake, Little Bear Lake before we camp on the Northeast end of Vee Lake. We will have climbed to 12,000 feet before descending to Vee Lake at 11,163 feet and have covered about 5 miles.

Our fifth day we will have a rest day. Backpackers will be free to relax at this large high altitude lake, or explore the lake and its surrounding area in which there are a number of other high altitude lakes.

Day Six, we will be back on trail, descending past the Seven Gables Lakes and Seven Gables peak until we rejoin the Pacific Crest Trail. From there we will return to Hilgard Meadow for the night.

The last two days, we will retrace our steps to Bear Creek, stopping again for the night on day seven at Twin Falls. Day eight will take us back to the trailhead for our return drive to Orange County/Long Beach.

Bring your ten essentials (listed on GO website at www.greatoutdoorsla.org/essen.html). Carpooling is recommended to help reduce gas cost and parking. Participation requires approval by the Trip Leader. You need to have previously done a beginner backpack or day hike with the trip leader. For trip costs, registration form, driving directions, and a complete gear list, contact Trip Leader(s) in Contact info above. Carpooling is recommended to help reduce gas cost and parking.