

## Detailed Day by Day Description for Bishop Pass to Reds Meadow

Below are very tentative day-by-day itineraries. This can change for many reasons such as weather, minor injury, tired mules or unforeseen circumstances so please be flexible and go with any changes the backcountry dictates. If we decide we are going a long fast and easily we can take an additional layover day. If we need to make up some time then we will perhaps skip or move a layover day.

### **Day 0 Meet the evening before at the SMC office for an equipment check.**

### **Day 1 South Lake over Bishop Pass to Upper Dusy Basin:**

7.0 miles, 2700' of gain, 1050' of loss

We shuttle from the SMC office to the trailhead at Bishop Pass and have a relatively easy day over Bishop Pass to our camp just over the west side of the pass above the uppermost lake in Dusy Basin.

### **Day 2 Dusy Basin to Big Pete Meadow**

8.75 miles, 650' of gain, 3400' of loss

### **Day 3 Big Pete Meadow to Colby Meadow**

12 miles, 3,000' gain, 1,400' loss

The trail follows the Kings River past meadows and cascades before leaving the trees after ascending 1,600' in 3.4 miles. The barren, daunting landscape ahead can only be described as majestic, with the Black Divide to the west and the Goddard Divide to the north. We climb another 1,200' in 2.7 miles to Muir Pass, passing several lakes, including large Helen Lake. The top of 11,976' Muir Pass has the only structure on the John Muir Trail between Tuolumne Meadow and Mount Whitney, a small stone hut. The views from the pass are simply tremendous. The trail drops down into Evolution Basin with glacial cut walls and shelves with tarns and lakes dropping 900' in 1.4 miles on a loamy trail to a series of meadows, the first being Colby.

### **Day 4 Layover at Colby Meadow**

### **Day 5 Colby to Shooting Star Meadow**

11 miles, 801' gain, 2,650' loss

This is a day to enjoy the sight and sound of rushing water as the trail follows Evolution Creek and then the San Joaquin River. The day starts with a wade across Evolution Creek and then following its south bank before veering away to switch-back down through forest to a bridge crossing of the South Fork of the San Joaquin River at mile 1.9, crossing on another bridge at mile 2.8. The trail continues to follow the energetic San Joaquin River to a bridged crossing of Piute Creek as the John Muir Trail leaves Kings Canyon National Park and enters the John Muir Wilderness of the Sierra National Forest.

### **Day 6 Shooting Star Meadow to Rose Marie Meadow**

9.1 miles, 3525' gain, 1,320' loss

We start climbing right out of camp. The trail climbs 600' in two miles to the beautiful Sallie Keyes Lakes, around pretty Heart Lake, and finally topping out at 10,910' Seldon Pass in four miles. The view Marie Lake from the pass is breathtaking. This is an easy pass compared to those behind us with an easy walk of only ½ mile and less than 400' to the shores of Marie Lake and downhill to camp at Rosemarie Meadow.

### **Day 7 Layover Rose Marie**

There are excellent day hikes out of the Rose Marie camp including: Rose Lake and Sandpiper Lake.

### **Day 8 Rose Marie to Quail Meadow**

11 miles, 1,220' gain, 3,445' loss

The trail follows Bear Creek for three miles through forest. After dropping about 600', the trail leaves Bear Creek and starts to climb toward Bear Ridge, climbing 1,000' in 2.5 miles, mostly forested with some lovely views. The trail then drops over 2,100' down the forested north side of Bear Ridge, finally crossing over Mono Creek on a bridge to meet the trail to Edison Lake in four miles and walk ¼ mile to our campsite at Quail Meadow.

**Day 9 Quail Meadow to Tully Hole**

10.9 miles, 3,625' gain, 1,995' loss

A big day up and over the Silver Divide in one long push. After an early start we plan to spend some time at Silver Pass as the views are absolutely stunning. You can see the Minarets, Ritter, and Banner in the distance; peaks you will pass in a few days. The trail descends through alpine lakes surrounded by granite cirques and meadows peppered across the stone slabs, eventually dropping through thick forest to the Cascade Valley Junction at mile 4.2. The trail follows cascading Fish Creek to Tully Hole

**Day 10 Tully Hole to Deer Creek**

11.4 miles, 2,110' gain, 2,560' loss

Another climb to start our day as we head out to Lake Virginia and then over to secluded Purple Lake. Now we are the slopes high above Fish Creek and Cascade Valley and contour across the slopes below the outlet of Duck Lake on into Deer Creek, our final camp.

**Day 11 Deer Creek to Reds Meadow**

5.75 miles, 550' of gain, 1,950' of loss

The trail leaves Deer Creek, contouring along the hillside before descending slowly to the Mammoth Pass junction at mile 2.2. Continuing north, the trail drops another 1,300' in 3.4 miles through forest, portions recovering from a 1992 lightning strike, as it approaches Reds Meadow. We follow the John Muir Trail to the fascinating basalt columns of the Devils Postpile and then to the "civilization" of Reds Meadow and our shuttle pickup.