

Destinations in Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Backcountry

Our pack station to start the following trips into Sequoia and Kings Canyons Parks is located in Onion Valley, 14 miles west of Independence at the trailhead for Kearsarge Pass. In Independence, turn west at the Post Office, then continue 14 miles on Onion Valley Road to end at the pack station and U.S. Forest Service campground. Allow travel time to climb to 9,200' – approximately 45 minutes. Independence is approximately 1 hour south of Bishop. Corral facilities located at Taboose, Sawmill, and Shepherd's Pass. For trips originating at Shepherd's Pass, Sawmill Pass, or Taboose Pass trailheads, Sequoia Kings Pack Trains corrals are located near these trailheads, where we meet.

Shepherd's Pass is the first pass North of Mt. Whitney, leading to the upper Kern Plateau and Tyndall Creek golden trout area. There are numerous lakes draining into Tyndall Creek in this area, among which are the Wright Lakes and the Wallace Lakes. From your camp on Tyndall Creek, you may hike in any direction to excellent golden trout fishing - both lake and stream. Milestone Basin, with a large assortment of lakes in the Lake South America string, lies to the West and Diamond Mesa Lakes to the North. In the area are a number of peaks of interest to mountain climbers, including Mt. Williamson (14,384'), University

(13,588'), and Mt. Tyndall (14,024').

North from your camp on Tyndall Creek you can follow the John Muir Trail



over spectacular forester pass thirteen 200 and drop down into upper Bubbs Creek. To the East, you will get to the high country of Center Basin, which offers five little lakes at a high elevation. Following the John Muir Trail West down Bubbs Creek, you reach Vidette Meadows. From a base camp in Vidette, one can fish in Bubbs, as it rushes to join the South Fork of the Kings River. Vidette Meadows is reached in one day from Pass.

The trail to ***Kearsarge Pass*** (11,823') starts at the pack station in Onion Valley at 9,200'. This is excellent for kids, families and first-time visitors. A string of lakes on the East side provide a good spot for a weekend trip as they may only take a couple of hours to reach. Flower, Gilbert, Matlock, Slim, and Bench lakes, in spectacular settings are excellent for fishing in children. The views from the top of the pass, looking down on the Kearsarge Lakes in the shadow of the pinnacles to Bullfrog Lake is one you will never forget. West of Bullfrog Lake lies Charlotte Lake. All of these destinations are reached with your Packer returning the same day or the next day to the pack station.

From ***Charlotte Lake***, you can hike over Gardner Pass to the many lakes of Gardner Basin. If you follow the John Muir Trail, you will cross Glen Pass (11,900') with breathtaking views of Rae Lakes and the famous Fin Dome. The Rae Lakes are among the most impressive spots in the High Sierra. It is a short hike over the ridge to Sixty Lakes Basin to more fishing for Rainbow, German Browns, and secluded country.



Destinations to ***Baxter Pass, Baxter Lakes, Woods Creek, and Woods Lake Basin*** are just North along the John Muir Trail. These lakes and streams have excellent fishing and camping.

Continuing North, ***Sawmill Pass*** leads to the spectacular eleven lakes in the Woods Lakes Basin. Golden, Rainbow, Brown, and Eastern Brook trout invite the angler to explore the camp here. Leaving our trailhead corral at Division Creek, ten miles North of Independence, we come to Sawmill Meadow and Sawmill Lake. Leaving Woods Lake, the trail leads West meeting the Kings River Trail, or turns North, passing Twins Lake, at the foot of Pinchot Pass, with still more great camping, fishing, and spectacular surroundings. North of Pinchot Pass is Bench Lake, Marjorie Lake, and the headwaters of the South Fork of Kings River.



Taboose Pass trailhead is fifteen miles North of Independence leading up Taboose Creek over Taboose Pass (11,360') into the headwaters of the South Fork of the Kings River. Fishing there is absolutely excellent! Rimmed on both sides with lakes, Bench Lake is the largest. North and South are large canyons from Pinchot Pass and Mather Pass, full of lakes and streams. Another group of lakes lies near the Middle Fork of the Kings River over Cartridge Pass.

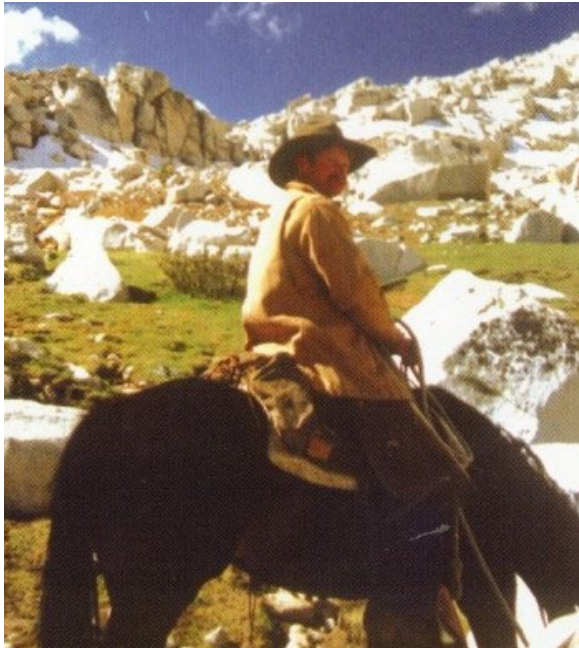


Destinations from Pine Creek

Our Pine Creek Pack Station, from which the following trips start, is located approximately 20 miles north of Bishop and 35 miles south of Mammoth Lakes – approximately 2 hours from Yosemite National Park. On highway 395 (north from Bishop or south from Mammoth Lakes) take the Pine Creek Road exit then approximately 9 miles north to our Pine Creek Pack Station.

Pine Lakes, Burcham Lake: 2.5 - 3 hours ride to lakes centrally located in Pine Creek Canyon. Nearby lakes and streams with easy to moderate hiking. Excellent fishing for Eastern Brook, Kamloops, Rainbow, and Golden Trout. Ample firewood, good water. Elevation 9,900' to 10,200'.

Horton Lakes - Horton Creek: 3.5 hours from our Horton corral along Horton Creek to Horton Lake. Easy to moderate hiking to Upper Lake hand tarns. Isolated, good water, ample firewood, excellent fishing for Golden and Eastern Brook trout.



Recommended for families. Elevation 10,000'. Best fishing in early season.

Morgan Lake: 3.5 - 4 hour ride. Good water, ample firewood, excellent campsites, fishing for Golden, Eastern Brook, and Rainbow trout. Recommended for families. Moderate riding. Elevation 10,700' to 11,000'.

Hilton Lakes and Hilton Creek: 3 hour ride from our Hilton Creek corral to four lakes with excellent campsites. Brown, Rainbow and Golden trout fishing. Elevation 9,900' to 10,300'. Full service

base camps, extended and loop trips also available.



Gable Lakes: 3 hour pack to four lakes with excellent campsites. Fishing for Golden and Eastern Brook trout. Moderate riding. Good water, firewood available but limited. Commercial pack animal use needs case-by-case approval from USFS. Elevation 10,600'.

Lake Italy and Bear Lakes: 3.5 hour ride to present drop-off at Honeymoon Lake. Firewood scarce, good water, some sheltered campsites. Mostly above timberline. Some of the finest fishing for Golden trout. Access from Merriam



approximately 3 miles on foot trail. Trips over Italy Pass need USFS case-by-case approval for entry quota at Italy Pass.

Honeymoon Lake and Golden Pond: 4 – 4.5 hour ride. Excellent base camp for excursions to lakes and streams in four drainages, six nearby peaks exceed 13,000'. Good water, firewood limited, fishing for Golden, Rainbow, Kamloops, and Eastern Brook trout. Elevation 10,500' to 11,800'.

Granite Park Lakes: 4.5 hour ride to lakes 1, 2, and 3. Access to Lake Italy or Chalfant Lakes. Excellent fishing for Golden trout. Elevation 11,400' to 11,800'.

Royce Lakes: 5 hour ride to above timberline remote lakes. Spectacular waterfalls, no firewood, good water, exposed camping. Campsites below the ridge are recommended. Stock access from Pine Creek Pass. Hiking access also from Honeymoon Lake in Pine Creek Canyon.

French Canyon: 5 hour ride to exclusive Golden trout fisheries. Good water, uncrowded camping, remote, firewood. Thirty lakes and streams. Easy to moderate hiking from centrally located campsites. Elevation at lakes 10,800' to 11,700'. French Creek offers excellent Golden trout fishing, ample firewood, and good camping. High altitude meadows. Elevation at creek approximately 9,400' to 10,800'. Miles of streams, waterfalls, and scenery.

Lower French Canyon: 6 hour ride to centrally located campsites with excellent stream fishing for Golden trout. Large meadows, ample firewood, good water, panoramic setting with peaks and domes. Elevation approximately 9,400'.

Merriam Lake and Merriam Creek: 6.5 hour ride to this isolated lake surrounded by spectacular peaks and granite domes, nearby sister lakes. Access to Bear Lakes Basin and Seven Gables lakes by foot travel. Fishing for Golden trout, limited firewood, high meadows, timberline camping at lake. Campsites near lake provide shelter with good water. Elevation 10,900'.

Hutchinson Meadows - Lower Piute Creek: 6.5 hour ride to great camping areas with stream fishing for Golden trout. Access to Chevaux, Alsace Lakes, Pilot Knob, East and West Pinnacles Creeks. The trail leads South to a number of lakes in northern Humphreys Basin and Piute Canyon.



Blaney Meadows, Hot Springs, and Bear Creek: Approximately twenty miles. Trips to South Fork of the San Joaquin River for four species of trout. Elevations at creek sites approximately 7,800'. Full service hiking or saddle tours. Extended loop and resupply trips available.

Evolution Valley and Kings Canyon National Park: Full service and extended and loop trips to all areas in Evolution Valley, and trips South out over Bishop Pass, Taboose Pass, Sawhill Pass, Onion Valley, Shepherds Pass, and Mt. Whitney areas. Also, in Sequoia National Park. Spot, dunnage, and resupplying services South to include Evolution Basin and Sapphire Lake areas.

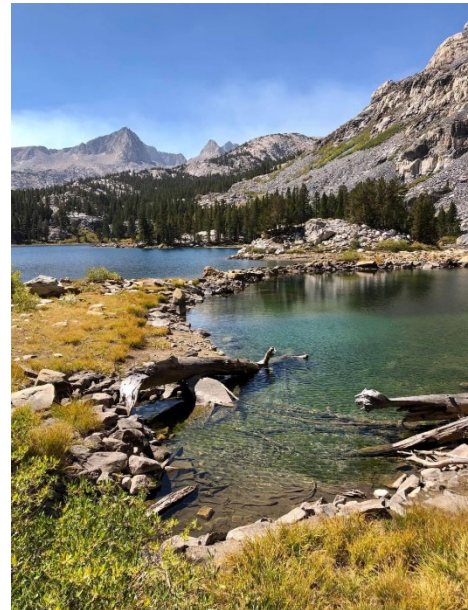
Specialty Trips

Great Western Divide East Lake and Lake Reflection: Our base camp at East Lake, 9,400', offers excellent fishing, climbing, and photography, or exploring in this historically significant area of Kings Canyon National Park. Mt. Brewer, North and South Guard, Mt. Geneva, and other peaks, surround us as we enjoy Lake Reflection and East Creek. Great camping, excellent meals, a restful scenic trip, campfires, excellent fishing. It's a big deal!

Rae Lakes & Sixty Lakes Basin: Historically famous High Sierra scenery. Our tour visits Charlotte Lake, Rae Lakes, Baxter Lakes, and Sixty Lakes area. Relaxing layover days included in this inspiring journey of unsurpassed photographic wonders along the John Muir Trail.

Evolution Valley photographic journey: A spectacular tour along the John Muir Trail and its lateral in Golden trout country along Pine, French, and Piute Creeks. Evolution Valley, Colby McClure meadows. Evolution and Sapphire Lakes and more, provide opportunities for top-quality photography, bird watching, and fishing. Layover days included.

Premier Golden Trout Fly Fishing & Angling Camps: First class wilderness fishing. French Canyon is a traditional sports fisherman paradise. Twenty eight productive lakes and several streams are reached from our comfortable camps within a two mile area. This is the grandfather of High Sierra Golden trout habitat. Camp amenities include heated tents, excellent meals, and hot showers. Camps are secluded for optimum experiences, coordinating with Golden Trout Wilderness activities.



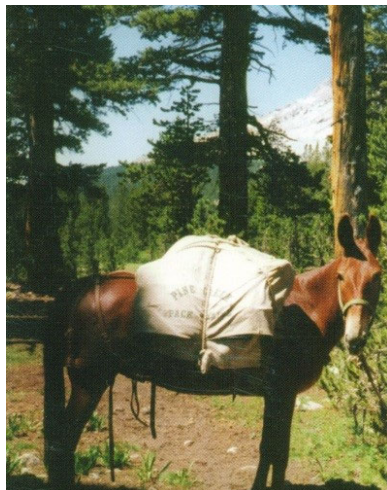
John Muir Trail Ride: A spectacular route for photographing natural areas of historic inspiration. Views of Mt. Brewer, Kearsarge Pinnacles, and University Peak, as we cross Kearsarge Pass. We travel to Charlotte Lake, Rae Lakes, Baxter Creek Meadows, and North to Woods Creek with dramatic views of Mt. Clarence King. Crossing Pinchot and Mathers Passes, we travel along Palisade Lakes to Deer Meadow, the middle fork of Kings River in Le Conte Canyon, Dusy Basin and out over Bishop Pass.



***Wilderness
Packing and Equine
Management School &
Fall Colors Trail Ride:***

Enjoy fishing and fall colors or learn about

packing in the back country. Our route takes us from Pine Creek to Hilton Creek to our fall pastures. Two great camps at Morgan Lakes and Hilton Lakes/Creek with heated tents, hearty traditional western meals, hot showers, good horses and saddle mules. The owner, packing 31 years on the Inyo and Sierra National



Forests, and Sequoia Kings Canyon National Parks, is your host along the scenic route. Wilderness management of pack stock and responsible use of the lands, as well as equine selection, equipment, shoeing, and first aid are some of the topics. Hands on participation, certificate of course completion, and opportunity for advanced instruction. The structured trip covers the basics and includes spectacular fall colors, fishing, and fun.