



California Yosemite High Country Hiking

6 Days



The Adventure Company | EST. 1969

MT+SOBEKTM
MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
AS THE PIONEER OF ADVENTURE TRAVEL

➤ California Yosemite High Country Hiking

Magnificent Yosemite National Park holds a revered place in the hearts of avid adventurers, from its world-renowned granite monoliths to the flower-carpeted meadows and alpine lakes of the Tuolumne high country. Beginning on the shores of Mono Lake, you'll visit an otherworldly desert ecosystem punctuated by dormant volcanoes and fascinatingly shaped tufa towers. Above Tuolumne Meadows, rocky paths take you past sparkling high-country lakes and to sweeping views of the meadows below and the mountains beyond. Your exceptional guides lead you from the dramatic east to the more heavily forested west as you take in breathtaking views of Yosemite Valley icons: Half Dome, El Capitan, and Vernal and Nevada Falls. After hiking the Valley from top to bottom, spend each evening reminiscing about the day's adventures amongst new friends.

Details

Arrive: Reno, Nevada

Depart: Reno, Nevada

Duration: 6 Days

Group Size: 4-12 Guests

Minimum Age: 18 Years Old

Activity Level:



Testimonials

"We have traveled throughout the world, but never experienced a level of service and attention to detail as we did with MT Sobek."

Dennis G.

I was lucky enough to include 4 members of our family and it was a tremendous bonding and learning experience. It is comforting to know you have MTS handling all of the planning and organization and can concentrate on the beauty, relationships, and experience!

Doug G.

GOT QUESTIONS? SPEAK WITH AN EXPERT.

☎ 1-800-974-0300

✉ info@mtsobek.com

Why Take This Trip With Us?

REASON #01

MT Sobek has been exploring US National Parks for more than 50 years, placing a strong emphasis on responsible travel practices that protect the natural environment.

REASON #02

In six spectacular and well-paced days, you'll hike Yosemite's best trails and see the park's legendary sights, including granite domes, plunging waterfalls,

REASON #03

Hike with top-notch local guides, who have expert knowledge of this remote and expansive mountain region.

What to Expect



ACTIVITIES

Moderate to strenuous hiking on rocky paths, up to 9 miles at elevations ranging from 4,000 to 11,000 feet.



LODGING

Rest well at comfortable lodge-style accommodation in an alpine setting.



CLIMATE

Expect sunny days with temperatures of 70-90F, often dropping into the 40s at night. Be prepared for rain showers.

Meet Our Guides

Our expert guides and trip leaders are truly the key to our trips' success. Many are locals who live in-country year-round; others have made it their second home—all are passionate, enthusiastic and endlessly knowledgeable. Meet two of the guides that might be on your trip.

Based in the mountains of Lake Tahoe, a setting where outdoor adventure comes with the territory, Javier loves nothing more than sharing the thrill and beauty of nature with others. He is a certified Wilderness First Responder and enjoys leading backcountry snowboarding guiding clinics and spending his free time splitboarding in winters. Summers mean managing a camp retreat, exploring other corners of the world, and guiding guests to new experiences.

Greg Beardsley

A well-rounded guide and certified Wilderness First Responder, Asli ("Oz") spends her free time hiking, biking, running, and skiing the mountains of the west with her 3 beloved dogs (Max, Woody and Chia). When not on an adventure, you can find her managing Down to Earth, a residential composting company based in Reno, Nevada. Her love of animals, the outdoors, and sustainability are all passions she brings to the trail.

Asli Kupoglu

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Itinerary

DAY 1

JOURNEY TO MONO LAKE & HIKE THE SOUTH TUFA RESERVE

Meet your guide and fellow travelers in Reno, Nevada, this morning. Drive along the east side of the Sierra Nevada into the high desert and magical Mono Lake, stopping for a picnic lunch at the Mono Lake Visitor Center. This afternoon, hike through the world-famous South Tufa Grove, wandering among otherworldly tufa towers and learning about Mono Lake's unique million-year-old ecosystem. Arriving in Lee Vining late this afternoon, check into your hotel rooms before gathering for a home-cooked dinner and orientation.

Activity: 1.5 miles/1 hours hiking with 100' elevation gain

Meals: L, D

DAY 2

WITNESS CATHEDRAL PEAK ON A HIKE TO BUDD LAKE

Drive over Tioga Pass (9,943'), the highest highway pass in California, to Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite National Park. Starting at 8,570 feet of elevation, set out to discover a hidden gem, following a primitive trail up through pine forest and blocky granite boulders along the crystal clear, bubbling waters of Budd Creek. Get glimpses of soaring Cathedral Peak and the chance to see age-old bristle-cone pine trees. Emerge into a high alpine meadow bursting with wildflowers to reach the shores of gently rippling Budd Lake (10,120'). The rugged peak of Cockscomb rises from the cirque on the lake's southeast side. Enjoy a well-earned meal on returning to your lodge.

Activity: 9 miles/4-5 hours hiking with 1,900' elevation gain and loss

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 3

TAKE A LOOP HIKE TO GLITTERING GAYLOR & GRANITE LAKES

Leaving the eastern Sierra behind, journey to Yosemite West. En route, stop to explore a series of stunning mountain lakes. Begin your hike at just under 10,000 feet with a short and steep climb to a breathtaking view of nearby Mount Dana. Past the ascent, the trail becomes gradual and easy as you make your way to Middle Gaylor Lake and Upper Gaylor Lake. Along the trail, enjoy sweeping vistas across Moraine Flat to the rugged mountains beyond. Reaching the top of the pass (10,861'), you're rewarded with awe-inspiring views of the granite peaks along the Sierra Crest. The loop hike continues past Granite Lake, which sits below an impressive granite cirque. Continue to the group's private lodgings in Yosemite West.

Activity: 5 miles/3 hours hiking with 1,200' elevation gain and loss

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 4

HIKE MCGURK MEADOW TO TAFT POINT & SENTINEL DOME

Today, you'll set out for the McGurk Meadow Trailhead (7,000') to begin a hike with incredible views. Pass through dreamy wildflower meadows and pine forest, to the very edge of Yosemite Valley at Taft Point. On the rim, you'll get a good look at the giant fissures and vertical gashes in the granite mountain and enjoy stunning views across the valley to Yosemite Falls. From Taft Point, climb over granite slabs to the top of Sentinel Dome (8,100') for 360-degree views of Half Dome, Yosemite Valley, Merced River Canyon, Tenaya Canyon, and beyond to the high county. End the day with a delicious home-cooked meal and a comfy bed to rest up for tomorrow's adventure.

Activity: 8-9 miles/4-5 hours hiking with 1,500' elevation gain and loss

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 5

HIKE THE PANORAMA TRAIL TO NEVADA & VERNAL FALLS

After a hearty breakfast, drive to Glacier Point (7,200'). Hike the less-traveled Panorama Trail to gorgeous views of Half Dome and Yosemite Falls. Arriving at the splendid 594-foot Nevada Falls, have a look down to the floor of the Yosemite Valley—a different perspective than yesterday's hike. Descend on the famous Mist Trail at the mossy edge of Nevada Falls and feel the spray of 317-foot Vernal Falls. When you reach the valley floor (4,000'), your van will be waiting to carry you back to your lodging at Yosemite West.

Activity: 10 miles/6 hours hiking with 700' elevation gain and 3,200' loss

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 6

HIKE AMONG GIANT SEQUOIAS & RETURN TO RENO

After loading your luggage into the support van, set out for one of Yosemite's iconic sequoia groves—typically Tuolumne or Merced. Hike at 6,000 feet beneath towering giants that have stood for millennia, soaking in the quiet majesty of these ancient trees. Take a moment to enjoy the light filtering to the forest floor and the scent of pine and earth on this final walk in Yosemite. Afterward, enjoy a scenic picnic lunch along the sparkling shoreline of Tenaya Lake. In the afternoon, you'll journey onward to the Reno-Tahoe Airport for departure, carrying with you the indelible memories of giant forests, alpine lakes, and the soaring landscapes of Yosemite.

Activity: 3 miles/2 hours hiking with 600' elevation gain and loss

Meals: B, L

Dates

Jul 12 - 17, 2026

Jul 26 - 31, 2026

Aug 9 - 14, 2026

Sep 6 - 11, 2026

For full terms and conditions please visit www.mtsobek.com/terms. Please note that our itineraries may be subject to change.

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Inclusions & Exclusions

PRICE INCLUDES

- Expertise and services of our experienced adventure guides
- All accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, almost all lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Snacks and water between meals
- Additional regional guides and experts on many trips
- Comprehensive Trip Planner with detailed pre-trip information
- All fees for events, activities, or attractions fees as noted in the itinerary
- All gratuities for hotels, included meals, and activities
- Equipment and experienced guides for activities as described in the itinerary
- Park and other entry fees (unless otherwise noted)
- Transportation from trip start to end as noted in the itinerary
- Baggage transfers and portorage unless otherwise noted in the itinerary
- Group first aid kit and emergency communication device

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Airfare or other transportation to and from trip
- start and end location, associated taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages (MT Sobek provides wine at select events)
- Pre- and post-trip accommodation
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and guide-drivers
- Any meals on your own as noted in the itinerary
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses

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► The World of MT Sobek

At Mountain Travel Sobek, we believe life is an adventure and adventure is life.

As the originators, innovators and leaders in adventure travel for more than five decades, we passionately create, craft and share indelible, transformative journeys to the world's most memorable places. Our more than 200 unique and once-in-a-lifetime trips are designed to inspire and exhilarate, enliven and excite--opening eyes and minds through profoundly personal connections with nature and culture.

Our small group and custom adventures span the globe, and the spectrum—of interests, environments and activities—every one expertly planned and knowledgeably and passionately guided. And our commitment to making every experience a remarkable one has earned us preferred travel outfitter status for National Geographic Active Expeditions, Active New York Times Journeys, and Smithsonian Active Journeys.

We are *the* adventure company.

Awards



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