



California John Muir Trail Northbound to Yosemite Trekking

A Legendary Wilderness Adventure in the Sierra Nevada

Thank you for checking out our adventures and for downloading this itinerary. Please note that this itinerary may be subject to change depending on the specific departure date. Be sure to check with us before scheduling any flights.

We love talking travel!
Contact us at info@mtsobek.com
or call **800-974-0300**



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Unrivalled Expertise

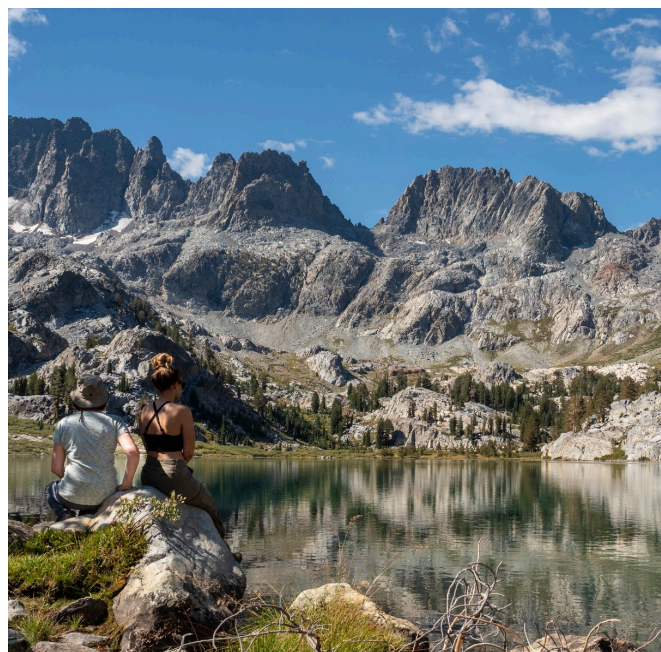
MT Sobek started it all! Since our first Everest Base Camp trek in 1969, we've been leading award-winning adventures and building authentic connections in far-flung locations around the world. We were named Best Adventure Tour Company in 2022 by USA Today's 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards.

Unique Trip Design

Our adventures are perfectly paced, with incredible attention to detail — the right mix of fun, learning, and challenge that guarantees lifelong memories. Plan nothing, enjoy everything. We take care of all of the logistics so that you can have more time to do what's most important: relax, take in the experience, and enjoy!

Small Groups

We keep our groups intentionally small — usually fewer than 10 people. This allows you a more intimate experience with the people and wildlife you encounter. With a smaller group size, we can take advantage of many unexpected invitations and opportunities that would be impossible with larger groups.





Leading the Way

World-Class Local Guides

Our knowledgeable and passionate expert guides effortlessly create an immersive local experience for you. They are trained to the highest professional standards and are at the heart of everything we do. They make it possible to meet the challenges of adventure travel, and help create lasting memories and lifelong friendships... we can confidently say our guides are the best in the business.





Why take this trip with us?

REASON 1

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

REASON 2

This legendary 13-day northbound trek is fully aided with the support of a professional packer and mules that transport gear and move camp. This allows you to fully focus on the epic scenery and enjoy the challenge of the adventure.

REASON 3

Trek with our expert MT Sobek guides, who have in-depth knowledge of this remote and expansive mountain region. They'll also entertain with in-depth knowledge of local flora, fauna and legends about the great explorers who first blazed these trails.

At A Glance

ACTIVITIES

Strenuous hikes with elevation changes up to 3,555' paired with stunning scenery, dining and camping outdoors, and time to unwind and take it all in.



LODGING

Camps in pristine settings along the way and a full-service hotel as the bookend, featuring an outdoor pool and spa to enjoy before and after the expedition.



CLIMATE

You will be camping at 9,000-10,000', and there can be snow on the ground. Daytime temperatures are 65-85°F and 20-35°F at night.



KNOW BEFORE YOU BOOK

"What a total comfort to know that with MT Sobek, you're in the hands of professionals who have been doing it so long and so well. That was part of why we landed on them as our operators for our dream trip, and everything about the experience they gave us—from tailored expertise to unswerving professionalism—confirmed the company's emphasis on excellence." - Alex M.



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Tackle the northbound half of the John Muir Trail set in California's stunning Sierra Nevada, beginning at Lake Florence and ending in Yosemite National Park's beautiful Tuolumne Meadows. Traverse mountain passes through several protected zones, including the Ansel Adams and John Muir Wilderness areas—totaling 103 miles through dazzling scenery of 13,000-foot peaks, countless lakes, huge granite walls, and rich meadows. The hiking is tough but you'll travel light, as the trip is fully aided by mule support and expert MT Sobek guides who share local legends.

13 Days

Start: Fresno, California

End: Fresno, California

Departing: July, August

Activities: Hiking & Trekking, Adventure Camping

Lodging: Wilderness Camping, Comfortable Hotels

Group Size: 6-11 Guests

ACTIVITY:



Check mtsobek.com for date-specific pricing.

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"MT Sobek offers the highest quality trips to the most adventurous locations and we trust their experience, knowledge and record. Can't wait to book again."

- Helen S.

The Itinerary

DAY 01

Arrive in Fresno, California

Arrive in Fresno, California, to check in at the Fairfield Inn & Suites Fresno Yosemite Airport, near the Fresno air terminal, by 4pm. At 6pm, join the guides for an orientation and final gear check, along with a welcome dinner near the hotel.

MEALS: Dinner

DAY 02

Start the John Muir Trail at Sallie Keyes

Meet at 7am after breakfast. Drive about three hours to Florence Lake, and meet the horse-packer and mules to offload the gear. Then begin the first leg of the trip, which starts with a ferry ride across Florence Lake (7,325') into the John Muir Wilderness. Today's hike is a mild 5.24 miles with a 862-ft elevation gain and 453-ft elevation loss to the junction of the John Muir Trail at the Sallie Keyes cut-off and Shooting Star Meadow.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 3-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 3-4 hours/5.24 miles hiking with 862' elevation gain and 453' elevation loss

DAY 03

Hike Over Selden Pass to Rosemarie Meadow

Hike 9 miles over the Selden Pass (10,880') to Rosemarie Meadow, past the picturesque Sallie Keyes Lakes, which were named after Sallie Keyes Shipp, the daughter of the principal owners (and sheepherders) of Blayne Meadows (from 1890-1940). An aspen tree in the meadows is rumored to still have her name carved in it.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 5-6 hours/8.9 miles hiking to 10,880', with 3,297' elevation gain and 1,103' elevation loss

DAY 04

Descend to Mono Creek

Today's hike is 10.87 miles downhill (except for a stout but brief uphill climb of Bear Ridge) to Quail Meadows and into the Mono Creek Drainage at 7,870'. Mono Creek, named after the Mono Indians, drains from the nearby Mono Divide, first crossed on August 2, 1864, by the Brewer party of the Whitney Survey. Mono Creek serves as a main artery in the California watershed.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 6 hours/10.87 miles hiking to 10,036'', with 1,125' elevation gain and 3,287' elevation loss



Head Up to Chief Lake

Today is another uphill day. You'll journey 8 miles to Chief Lake over Silver Pass (10,880') across the Silver Divide, named in 1907-09 by the USGS survey from Theodore S. Solomons' 1896 map of the area. Solomons gave the creek its name because of its silvery appearance.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 4-6 hours/8 miles hiking, with 3,150' elevation gain and 413' elevation loss



Pass Tully Hole & Camp at Duck Lake

Just over 11 miles of hiking up and down leads past Tully Hole and Purple Lake to the camp at the Duck Lake junction (9,520'). Tully Hole was named after Gene Tully, who was one of the original 60 rangers of the US Forest Service. He helped rid Yosemite National Park of sheep from 1905-07. Tully Hole was where he rested his stock during his 6-week patrols of the mountains. One of today's highlights is a lunch stop at the picturesque Lake Virginia.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 6-7 hours/11 miles hiking, with 2,210' elevation gain and 2,870' elevation loss



Onward to Red's Meadow

Today enjoy 11.5 miles of cruising to Red's Meadow in the Mammoth area, with astounding views of the Minarets as well as Mount Ritter and Banner Peak. John Muir made the first ascent in October 1872 and his account of the climb is legendary to mountain climbers. Meet the food drop here and be treated to a shower.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 6-7 hours/11.5 miles hiking, with 670' elevation gain and 2,984' elevation loss



Reach Ansel Adams Wilderness & Shadow Creek

Today enter the Ansel Adams Wilderness, named after the famous photographer and conservationist who took all those iconic photographs of the West. Highlights include the unique Devil's Postpile National Monument. It's an 11-mile hike to Shadow Creek, the next camp, home for the next two nights.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 6 hours/11 miles hiking, with 2,905' elevation gain and 1,482' elevation loss



DAY 09

Enjoy Layover Day at Shadow Creek

Today is a well-deserved layover day in the heart of John Muir Trail country. Take time to photograph, fish, hike, wash socks, or just plain hang out.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

DAY 10

Hike Over Island Pass to Rush Creek Camp

A 10-mile hike today leads through the famous "postcard" John Muir Trail country of Garnett, Waugh, and Thousand Island Lakes. Hike over Island Pass (10,205') to the campsite on Rush Creek.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 5-6 hours/9.9 miles hiking to 10,205' with 2,925' elevation gain and 1,812' elevation loss

DAY 11

Meet the Lyell Fork of the Tuolumne River

Hike over towering Donahue Pass (11,050') beneath the highest peak in Yosemite (Mt. Lyell at 13,114') and down to the Lyell Fork of the Tuolumne River in Yosemite National Park. Donahue was a sergeant in the cavalry and the peak and pass were named after him by Lt. McClure in 1895, when Donahue made the first ascent.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 5 hours/6.4 miles hiking to 11,050' with 1,134' elevation gain and 2,306' elevation loss



End the Trek and Return to Fresno

Hike the remaining eight miles along the John Muir Trail and finish the incredible journey in Tuolumne Meadows, where the shuttle awaits with cold drinks and a fresh lunch. After lunch, continue through Yosemite National Park en route to the airport hotel in Fresno for a celebration dinner and a good night's sleep.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 4-hour transfer

ACTIVITY: 5 hours/8.4 miles hiking with 295' elevation gain and 624' elevation loss



Depart Fresno

Today take the hotel's airport shuttle to the terminal to catch your flight, which can be scheduled to depart at any time.



Where You'll Stay

These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.

Fairfield Inn & Suites Fresno Yosemite Airport

Conveniently located two blocks from Fresno Yosemite airport, the Fairfield Inn is clean and modern, and offers all the amenities necessary to rest and recharge on your MT Sobek adventure. The hotel boasts a 24-hour fitness center, heated outdoor pool, in-house restaurant for breakfast, and local restaurant delivery service for dinner. Each room features complimentary Wifi, a flat screen Smart TV for streaming services like Hulu and Netflix, comfortable bedding, electronics dock, coffee maker and microwave.

MT Sobek Camp—John Muir Trail Northbound

We supply all camping and commissary gear, including tents and sleeping pads. We encourage guests to bring their own sleeping bag, rated to 15 degrees in the 2-3 pound range. We encourage this because everyone sleeps differently, some need a really warm bag, others not so much thus having your own will ensure more comfort than renting. We also provide a Crazy Creek chair for every trip member. Previous camping experience is required for this trip! Guides will assist guests with their tents on the first night, but then it is up to the guests to set up their tents after that.

Departure Dates

This trip is available to run in: July, August

Book early for a greater choice of available dates.

Once you book, your price is GUARANTEED!

August 4-16, 2024

August 3-15, 2025

What's Included

PRICE INCLUDES

- Expertise and services of our experienced adventure guides
- All accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, 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
- Private guided tours at historic sites, museums, wineries and other select attractions as noted in the itinerary
- Special events and other select attractions as mentioned in the itinerary
- All gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Equipment and experienced guides for activities as described in the itinerary
- Park and other entry fees (unless otherwise noted)
- Fares for trains, ferries and other modes of travel as listed in the itinerary
- Select transfers as mentioned in the itinerary
- Baggage transfers and portage

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Domestic or International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and packers
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses



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