



## DESOLATION WILDERNESS: LAND OF LAKES VILLAGE-BASED WALKING/HIKING TOUR

- GUIDE:** Matt Brown
- MEET:** Sunnyside Resort - West Shore of Lake Tahoe, California
- VISIT:** Echo Lakes, Lake Aloha, Dicks Lake, Fontanillis Lake, Emerald Bay
- ACCOMMODATION:** Two nights Sunnyside Lodge and Two nights Backcountry Camp
- LENGTH:** Four nights and five days
- HIKE RATING:** Strenuous (Packs will weigh 30 pounds when fully loaded)

Desolation Wilderness is a 100 square mile road less wilderness area. It ranges from 6,000 to almost 10,000 feet in elevation. There are over 100 lakes with Dicks Peak and distinct Pyramid Peak dominating the landscape. This trip is a great introduction to the sub-alpine environment that Lake Tahoe and the Sierra Crest are famous for. The hiking journey begins along the Northern shore of the small lakeside community at Echo Lakes and finishes on the breathtaking Bay View Trail with sweeping views of Emerald Bay and Lake Tahoe. The three day 23 mile guided backpacking trip will explore Desolation Wilderness via backcountry camps on the Eastern flank of Pyramid Peak above Lake Aloha and in the Shadow of Dicks Peak at Fontanillis Lake. Our first evening and final evening will be spent at the beautiful Sunnyside Lodge on the West Shore of Lake Tahoe.

### DAY ONE

Our meeting point is Sunnyside Lodge on the west shore of Lake Tahoe. Arrive early and take a dip in the lake or do some shopping in nearby Tahoe City before settling in for our welcome dinner. (Sunnyside Lodge)

### DAY TWO

Our first day of hiking takes us along the northern shore of Echo Lakes(7525') climbing just 600 feet in about 7.5 miles through the pines into the Granitic Desolation Wilderness and the southeastern shore of Lake Aloha (8120'). A source of water for the City of Sacramento, Lake Aloha is a series of small dams that make up the lake with small Granite Islands throughout. Our camp sits a half mile further above the western shore on a gigantic granite ledge at the base of Pyramid Peak (Pyramid Peak Camp)

### DAY THREE

We skirt the east shore of Lake Aloha heading northeast towards Gilmore Lake and Mount Tallac. Our 8 mile trek takes us past Heather and Susie Lakes before reaching the outlet of Gilmore Lake where we veer northwest making a steady climb to Dicks Pass, the highpoint of our hike, at just under 9400 feet. From the pass the summit of Dicks Peak and Jakes Peak can be seen just to the west. Dicks Lake sits another 900 feet below with our camp a few minutes further down the trail. (Fontanillis Lake Camp)

### DAY FOUR

The west shore of Lake Tahoe is our destination — hiking seven miles connecting to the Bay View trail which will lead us down to Emerald Bay. Fannnette Island, the only island in Lake Tahoe, sits perched in the middle of Emerald Bay and the entire expanse of the Lake comes into view. We might choose to tour Vikingsholm Castle, on the shore of Emerald Bay, or simply head over to the Lodge for some lakeside deck time and a well deserved iced tea. (Sunnyside Lodge)

### DAY FIVE

After breakfast we will say our good-byes and leave for our post-trip destinations.