



YOSEMITE AND LAKE TAHOE REGION: LODGE/INN-BASED GUIDED HIKING TOUR

- GUIDE:** Matt Brown
- MEET:** Cedar House Sports Hotel - Truckee, California
- VISIT:** Squaw Valley, Lake Tahoe, Desolation Wilderness, Mono Lake, Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows
- ACCOMMODATION:** Cedar House Sports Hotel, Plumpjack Squaw Valley Inn, Sunnyside Lodge, The Ahwahnee, Tuolumne Lodge
- LENGTH:** 11 nights and 12 days
- HIKE RATING:** Moderate to Strenuous

Lake Tahoe is a jewel amid one of the most spectacular regions of the Sierra Nevada mountains of California, while nearby Yosemite National Park is world-renowned for towering granite domes, powerful waterfalls, and abundant wildlife. This tour combines the best of both. Visit the famously blue waters of Lake Tahoe, hike below Half Dome and El Capitan in Yosemite Valley, and enjoy nights in Tuolumne Meadows, the scenic Yosemite "High Country." Join us for the whole or half of this great tour.

DAY ONE

Arrive in Reno and transfer by a short 45 minute shuttle to our meeting point at The Cedar House, nestled in the Martis Valley, just minutes from historic downtown Truckee. You might have a chance to check out the town or enjoy the outdoor spa before settling in for our welcome dinner at a favorite local restaurant. (Cedar House)

DAY TWO

Our first day of hiking is along the newly completed Donner Lake Rim Trail. Many options await, as the route wraps around the east end of Donner Lake, rises up Schallenberger Ridge to the granite escarpments of Mount Stephens, then weaves through steep hills and

dales to the north of Donner Summit. (Cedar House)

DAY THREE

Today we travel to Squaw Valley, home of the 1960 Winter Olympics. We might ride the cable car 2000 vertical feet to High Camp (el. 8200') or choose to ride it back at the end of the day. From High Camp we climb towards Emmigrant Peak and then to the summit of Granite Chief. The views are quite rewarding with Desolation peaks to the south and Castle Peak near Donner to the north. From here we descend to Shirley Lake and either hike back to High Camp or follow Squaw Creek to the valley floor. (Plumpjack Inn)

DAY FOUR

The West Shore of Lake Tahoe is our destination, hiking over six relatively level miles along the Rubicon Trail to Emerald Bay. We will see Fannette Island, the only island in Lake Tahoe, and tour Vikingsholm Castle. We also have an option to hike above Emerald Bay, past Eagle Lake Falls to Eagle Lake. (Sunnyside Resort)

DAY FIVE

The 9,735' summit of Mount Tallac is our destination, considered to be one of the finest hikes in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Initially our ascent is through Jeffrey Pines and passing two small lakes, Floating Island and Cathedral Lakes. This wooded section is fairly gradual and shaded. Cathedral Lake marks the spot where our ascent begins. We soon reach a saddle and the trail becomes more exposed and rocky. Eventually we reach the summit and are awarded a spectacular view of Pyramid Peak and the Crystal Range to the West and Lake Tahoe to the East. (Sunnyside Resort)

DAY SIX

Hiking far above Emerald Bay we once again enter the Desolation Wilderness in search of Dicks Lake. Passing Eagle Lake we steadily climb until we are out of the trees and along the trail—Dicks Peak in view—with



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the East side of Mt Tallac to our left. We'll reach Dicks Lake and enjoy a well deserved lunch on its quiet shore. Returning we connect with the Bay View trail, leading us back down to Emerald Bay. The entire lake comes into view as we descend the final switchbacks for the end of a fantastic day. (Sunnyside Lodge)

DAY SEVEN

We will travel south on historic Highway 395 along the east side of the Sierras making a stop at one of the oldest lakes in North America, Mono Lake. We head west via the highest trans-sierra route in California, crossing Tioga Pass at 9,945'. We enter the eastern gate of Yosemite, passing thru Tuolumne Meadows on our way to Yosemite Valley. We'll have time for an afternoon stroll to Mirror Lake/ Meadow. At the stone bridge, we will choose to take the five-mile loop around the meadow or stay our current course for a shorter but equally scenic option. Exhibits detail the story of the area's lake-to-meadow succession and it is a great area for spotting wildlife. (Ahwahnee)

DAY EIGHT

We have the option of hiking a full loop, roughly 13 miles, along the floor of Yosemite Valley or taking a shorter 6 mile option. This superb hiking trail follows many of the Valley's first east-west trails and wagon roads. The half-loop trail crosses the Merced River on El Capitan Bridge, while the longer loop continues on to Bridalveil Fall. Much of the Valley floor provides solitude as we hike through meadows and forests, and along the Merced River. We'll enjoy classic views of Sentinel Rock, Cathedral Rocks, El Capitan, Three Brothers, Bridalveil Fall, and Yosemite Falls. (Ahwahnee)

DAY NINE

Another spectacular day hiking along one of Yosemite's must-do hikes. While many of Yosemite's trails are popu-

lar due to having a single spectacular destination, the Mist Trail has fabulous views scattered all along it, beginning at the bridge overlook, progressing to two unforgettable waterfalls that fall a combined total of more than 900 feet, and ending with a spectacular view of Nevada Fall, Liberty Cap and the backside of Half Dome from the famous John Muir Trail. (Ahwahnee)

DAY TEN

We head back to the high country of Yosemite and Tuolumne Meadows, the largest sub-alpine meadow in the Sierras. Our hike passes through Lyell Canyon, along the Lyell Fork of the Tuolumne River, again on a section of the John Muir Trail. There are several creek crossings, including Rafferty Creek and Ireland Creek. We have a good chance to see bear in the Canyon. In the afternoon we may opt to hike to the 9400' summit of Lumbert Dome and catch some afternoon glows and the shadows as they begin to creep into the meadow. (Tuolumne Meadows Lodge)

DAY ELEVEN

Our hike today leads to the high saddle above Budd Lake separating the Mathis Crest from Cathedral Peak. From the trailhead we hike along the John Muir trail towards Cathedral Lakes before turning off along Budd Creek. The uniquely shaped Cathedral Peak comes into view with its pointy summit and will be our constant companion as we make our way to the 10,000' saddle. We are not disappointed as the knife-edged ridge of the Mathis Crest is before us, our backs to Cathedral Peak, and a spectacular view of Tuolumne Meadows and numerous granite domes. (Tuolumne Meadows Lodge)

DAY TWELVE

Our tour finishes after breakfast, and we will drive to Reno International Airport, arriving about 12:00pm.