

The Chilnualna area of Yosemite National Park is one of those gems that you just can't pass up; high mountain lakes and passes, meadows strewn with wildflowers, views galore and—of course—waterfalls. This 4-6 day backpacking trip will have us starting from the southern portion of the park in Wawona and then hiking to Chilnualna Falls, the largest fall outside the Valley area. This loop will then take you to several glacier formed lakes in the higher country of Yosemite National Park. You will hike over a 9,000 foot (2743.2 m) pass before descending back down to Chilnualna Falls and Wawona. After each day of hiking, take a swim, relax by the campfire or take some time to enjoy the beauty of Yosemite.

Difficulty	OH @#%&!	Solitude	Number of backpacking (miles/km)	Elevation changes (feet/m)
4	3	8	28.5/46	5,000/1,524

### **Day 1**

Let the adventure begin! The drive to the southern entrance of Yosemite National Park will take about 2 hours. After we get all packed up, we will hike only 5 miles (8 km) with a 2000 ft (609.6 m) increase in elevation today so we can explore and camp near Chilnualna Falls for the first night- near smaller waterfalls and swimming holes. We will pass Chilnualna Falls, a gorgeous 240 ft (73.2 m) waterfall that is lesser known than those you will find in the Valley area (therefore, fewer people)! This is a great place for a packs off/snack break and to get into the water above the falls.

### **Day 2**

After breakfast, we will pack up and hike about 6.5 miles (10.5 km) with a 2000 ft (609.6 m) gain in elevation to Johnson Lake to camp. This is a gorgeous mountain lake that is great for swimming. There are also opportunities to go on a trail-blazing hike for some great views of the southern portion of the park.

### **Day 3**

Today we hike about 4 miles (6.4 km) to Buena Vista Lake. First we will hike by Royal Arch Lake at 8700ft (2651.8 m) in elevation, then we hike over Buena Vista Pass (gaining another 600 ft (182.9 m) and the highest point of our hike) where there is an amazing panoramic view of the park- Buena Vista Lake, another great lake for swimming.

### **Day 4**

Today's hike will take us along some of Chilnualna Creek's arteries and lakes. There are a couple great campsites along the creek, but most guests like to camp at the same camp as day one - small waterfalls and great swimming holes. This is an 8 mile (12.9 m) hike mostly all downhill.

### **Day 5**

We will hike back to Wawona today - the distance is the same as day one but we are descending the 2000 ft (609.6 m)! Once back in Wawona, we usually have time for lunch and to shop for souvenirs before heading back to Fresno, arriving by dinner time.

### **Cost**

\$1,150 per person for groups of 2 to 4 people  
\$1,050 per person for groups of 5 to 7 people

\*Our prices do not include guide gratuity (10% of the tour price is recommended).

The following are included in the tour price:

- Round-trip transportation from your hotel in Fresno.
- All permits, fees and taxes.
- All food and snacks on the trail- meals prepared by your guide.
- All necessary gear (tent, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, backpack, meal kit, trekking poles, headlamp, etc.) – Check out the "About Us" section on our website for more information about our gear.
- A certified, medically trained guide that will guide you safely on your journey.