

This Yosemite backpacking trip is perfect for the adventurer looking for views and alpine lakes. The Red Peak Pass hike will have you gaining elevation as you make your way up to the 11,000 ft Red Peak via the Merced River Canyon. This area is rarely visited due to its rugged terrain, but your efforts will be rewarded with pristine alpine lakes and above tree-line landscapes that allow for open stargazing at night.

On the way, you may hike through Little Yosemite Valley, by Half Dome, Nevada and Vernal Falls. Or, we can start from a less popular trailhead and trek through meadows away from the crowds before making our way up the peak. Camp will change every night as you move through the area via this 51-mile (82 km) loop. You will camp at Moraine Dome, Washburn Lake, and Ottoway Lake, to name just a few of the many beautiful destinations.

Difficulty	OH @#%&!	Solitude	Number of backpacking (miles/km)	Elevation changes (feet/m)
8	6	8	51/82	5,230/1,594

Day 1

Up and at 'em! The drive today will take about 2.5 hours and arrival at Glacier Point (elevation 7214 ft), we will get you set up and on our hike away from the Yosemite Valley southeast along the Illilouette Creek. The goal is to hike about 7 miles (11.3 km) this day and to set up camp along the creek.

Day 2

After breakfast, we will pack up and hike about 9 miles (14.5 km) through the Merced Pass and up to Lower Ottoway lake. The group will gain about 2,500 ft (762 m) in elevation before reaching the campsites at the lake. The lake is great for rainbow trout fishing.

Day 3

Today, the group hikes up over the 11,150 ft (3,398.5 m) high Red Peak Pass. The views from this point are outstanding and stretch for miles. We continue down the other side of the pass down to the trail intersection with the Triple Peak Fork of the Merced River, where we will camp for the night. The group will travel over 8 miles this day.

Day 4

We pack up again and hike past Washburn Lake, where its cold waters are home to brook and rainbow trout, to the campsites at Merced Lake. We will at most likely cover 10 miles (16.1 km) this day, but we will drop about 1,800 ft (548.6 m) in elevation to the lake. Depending on what time we get to camp, there is an opportunity for swimming at Merced Lake.

Day 5

After breakfast, we will pack up and hike about 9 miles (14.5 km) from Merced Lake to Little Yosemite Valley, dropping about a 1,000 ft (304.8 m) in elevation. We pass some great scenery: Bunnell Cascades, Bunnell Point and Moraine Dome.

Day 6

It's the last day and as we head back to Glacier Point, we will pass by the top of the 500 ft tall Nevada Falls as well as Panorama Point. The hike to the trailhead is about 7 miles (11.3 km). Once back in the Valley, we usually have time for lunch and to shop for souvenirs before heading back to Fresno, arriving by dinner time.

Cost

\$1,350 per person for groups of 2 to 4 people

\$1,230 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 while 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 lead you safely on your journey.
- An unforgettable experience!