



Forest  
Service

Inyo  
National Forest



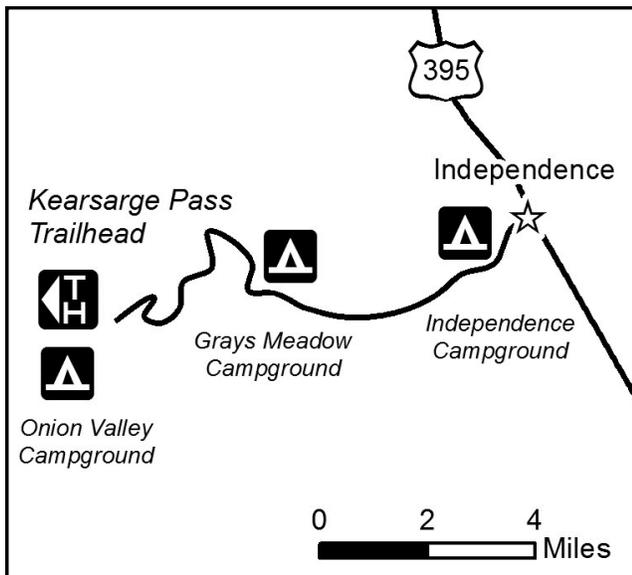
# Kearsarge Pass Trail

Kearsarge Pass Trail climbs from Onion Valley (9,200 ft) to Kearsarge Pass (11,700 ft). The pass is a popular destination for day hikers. Along the way, the trail passes through pine forests and by a series of small lakes. Beyond Kearsarge Pass, the trail enters Kings Canyon National Park, where it joins the John Muir and Pacific Crest Trails. It also provides access to the Rae Lakes Loop.

## Access:

From Highway 395, in Independence, CA:

- Turn west on Market Street.
- Onion Valley is about 15 miles west of Independence, at the end of the road.



## Season:

Relatively snow free from approximately June through October.

Onion Valley Road is closed due to snow from approximately November to April.

## Trailhead Facilities:

Water: Yes (May-Sept)

Bear Resistant Food Storage Lockers: Yes

Camping Options: The nearest developed campground is Onion Valley Campground, located 100 yards from the trailhead.

## On The Trail:

Food Storage: Food, trash and scented items must be stored in bear-resistant containers.

Human Waste: Bury human waste 6"-8" deep in soil, at least 100 ft from campsites, trails, and water.

Campfires: Campfires are prohibited.

Pets: Pets must be under control at all times.

Additional Regulations: Information about Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park regulations is available at [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki) or at Inyo National Forest visitor centers.

## Permit & Quota Information:

Permits are required for overnight trips. Obtain permits at any Inyo National Forest ranger station or visitor center.

Between May 1 and Nov 1 overnight use is limited to 60 people per day. Permits may be reserved up to 6 months in advance at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

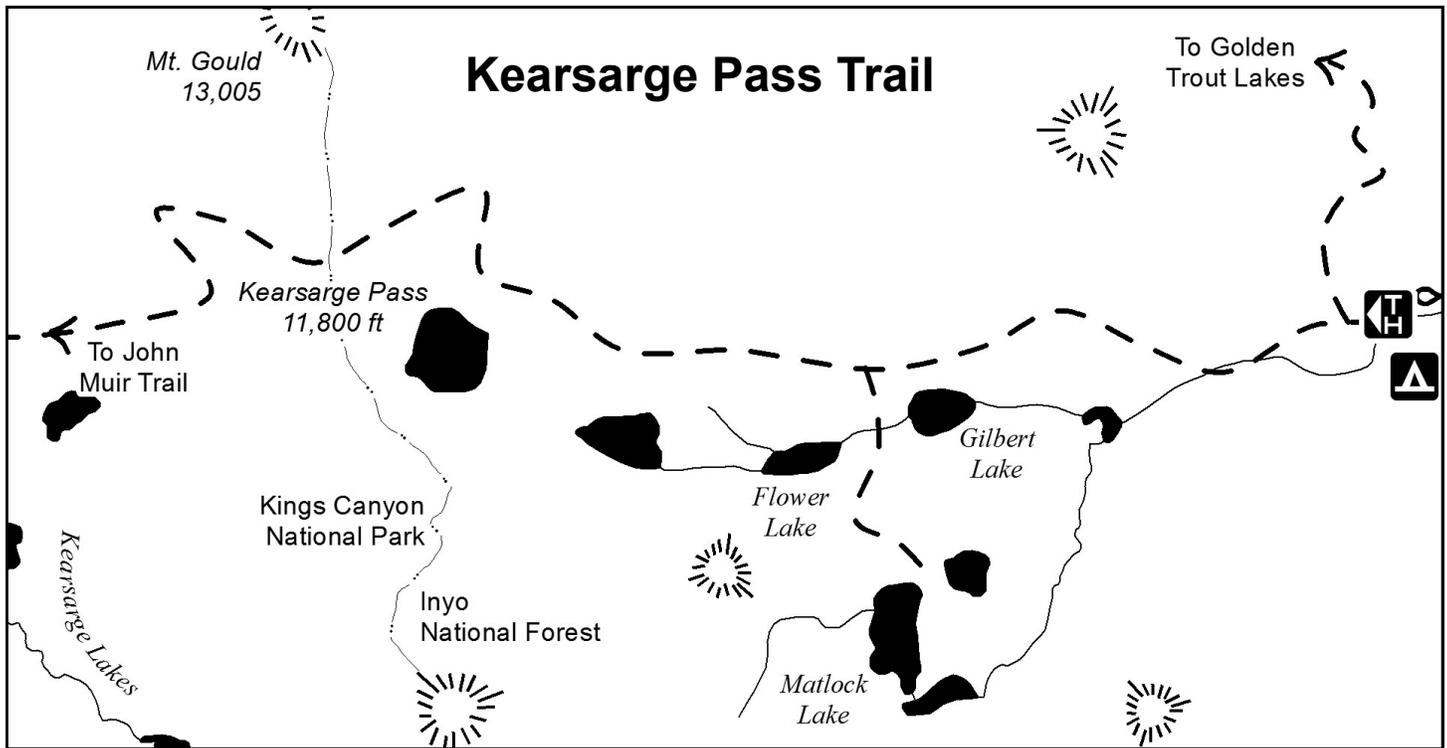
## Reservations

Toll Free 877-444-6777  
TDD 877-833-6777  
Intl: 518-885-3639  
[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)



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Location	Distance	Elevation
Trailhead	0 miles	9,200 ft
Gilbert Lake	2.2 miles	10,400 ft
Kearsarge Pass	4.5 miles	11,800 ft
John Muir Trail	7 miles	10,700 ft



### Leave No Trace Principles

1. Plan ahead and prepare.
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
3. Dispose of waste properly.
4. Minimize use and impact of fires.
5. Respect wildlife.
6. Leave what you find.
7. Be considerate of other visitors.

### Maps:

Tom Harrison: Kearsarge Pass-Rae Lakes Loop; Kings Canyon High Country; Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

National Geographic: Sequoia Kings Canyon

USDA Forest Service: A Guide to the John Muir Wilderness and Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness

USGS Quad: Kearsarge Peak; Mount Clarence King

### Need more information?

[www.fs.usda.gov/goto/inyo/kearsargepasstrail](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/inyo/kearsargepasstrail)  
760-876-6200

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