

Overnight Use for Mt. Whitney Trail~ Updated October 20, 2011

Check Weather Forecasts for Winter Storms! Snow on the Mountain from October 4th storm. Be Bear Alert at Whitney Portal, lots of bear activity near the food storage lockers.
 Canceled space is republished onto this page. Large groups can not exceed 15 people.
 The number on each calendar date is how many people could be reserved at the time this was published.

September ~ Late September and October expect shorter days, cold temperatures and possible winter snow storms.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				9	FULL	FULL
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	7	10	8	9	FULL	21
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
19	12	12	21	24	6	9
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
2	7	29	2	3	13	FULL
25	26	27	28	29	30	
17	17	27	12	5	26	

October ~ First snowfall of fall season: ~#~ Snow on October 4, 2011~#~ Snow on October 3, 2010 ~#~ Snow on October 13, 2009 ~#~ Snow on October 4, 2008 ~#~ Snow on September 20, 2007 ~#~ Snow on October 3, 2006~#~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						18
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8	29	52	47	30	29	21
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
24	37	39	34	14	26	14
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
43	49	45	53	55	8	FULL
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
41	60	58	60	60	54	53
30	31	Nov 1				
56	60	60				

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When will the trail be clear of snow? Winter mountaineering skills, experience and equipment are essential for a safe excursion when ice and snow are on the Mt. Whitney Trail.

- Expect the switchbacks above Trail Camp to be covered by snow and ice through the end of June or early July. This area can be very hazardous when there is ice or snow.
- Snow may cover the trail again in late September or October.

Most of the dates for the summer are filled during the February Lottery. Any space from cancellations will be made available to other groups.

- **Reservations** can be made up **until 2 days before the trip** if space is available. Call (760)873-2483
- **One day before the trip, Walk In Permits** are available for any unused or canceled space. Walk-in permits must be requested in person at the **Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center**.
- **If you will start somewhere else**, and end the trip at Mt. Whitney, different rules and quotas will apply. Your entry point will determine the type of permit you will need; you may need to include "Exit quota for Trail Crest".

Is all the space reserved? July, August and September dates are usually completely reserved during the February lottery. Space is not saved for walk-in permits; however, it is common to have openings from cancellations a few days before the trip date. **Canceled space will be re-published onto the reservation calendar.** The number in each calendar date is how many **people** could reserve for that date.

Where do I pick up the permit? All Mt. Whitney Wilderness Permits must be picked up at:
Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center, phone (760) 876-6200
located at the junction of Highway 395 and SR 136.

Self issue permit forms are available from November 2nd to April 30th.

How do I make a reservation? On-line reservation software is in development for the **2012** season. Look for more information in the fall of 2011 for reservation system changes.

Trips in 2011 will continue making reservations by contacting the Inyo National Forest staff at the **Wilderness Permit Office.**

Inyo National Forest

Wilderness Permit Office

351 Pacu Lane Suite 200

Bishop, CA 93514 ~ Open ~ 8am-4:30pm, 7 days a week, from May 15 to October 15.

Winter season ~ Closed weekends and holidays.

Wilderness Permit Phone Line (760) 873-2483

Fax Line (760) 873-2484

Wilderness permits are required year-round for all visitors entering the Mt Whitney Zone. Reservations can only be made for trips that begin during the quota period, from May 1 through November 1.

Day Use Permit: If the entire trip will be on one calendar date and you will enter the Mt. Whitney Zone, a Day Use permit is required. Day Use includes all routes (access to Mountaineer's Route, East Face/Buttress routes, Mt Russell). No consecutive day use, if trip is more than one calendar date an Overnight permit is required.

Overnight permit (or multi-night): Trips lasting one night or more, that start on the Mt. Whitney trail require an Overnight permit. This includes trips that will end elsewhere (i.e. Pacific Crest and John Muir trails). Day permit can not be used as part of an overnight trip to pass through the area. Overnight use does not include all routes. Entry via North Fork of Lone Pine Creek is NOT in lottery (access to Mountaineer's Route, East Face /Buttress, Mt. Russell), can be reserved 6 months in advance.

Group Size: You are limited to the number of people indicated in your group size. The maximum group size is 15 people. Large groups can not exceed 15 people even if on separate permits.

Entry Date: is the day you will begin walking from the trailhead. All of your group must start on the entry date listed on your permit. Your permit will not be valid if you miss your entry date. Do not include extra days you are staying at Whitney Portal before you start on the trail.

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