

WILDERNESS HIKING

BISHOP CREEK

NORTH & MIDDLE FORKS

Inyo National Forest



SABRINA BASIN TRAILHEAD LOCATION

From Hwy 395 in Bishop, turn west on Line Street (Hwy 168) and drive 18 miles to Lake Sabrina. Day use parking is at the end of the road. Overnight parking is located at a turnout near the North Lake turnout. (9040')

TRAIL DESCRIPTION

The Sabrina Basin trail leads into a basin of 13,000-foot granite peaks surrounding a number of alpine lakes. Fishing is abundant and good for rainbow, brown and brook trout.

A steep path of switchbacks off the main trail leads to George Lake. You can continue up and over Table Mtn to Tyee Lakes. The path over Table Mtn is a bit obscure but the views are remarkable.

The main trail leads to Blue Lake, a beautiful spot for photography with the rugged Thompson Ridge reflecting in the clear waters of the lake.

The right fork beyond Blue Lake leads through a forest of lodgepole pine with glacial erratics scattered about. Hikers following this trail have access to Dingleberry, Hungry Packer and Midnight Lakes. The backdrop of these lakes is magnificent with the jagged peaks of the Sierra Crest, dominated by Mt. Darwin and Mt. Haeckel.

A path marked with cairns beyond Blue Lake (left fork) leads to Donkey and Baboon Lakes. These lakes are seated below the glaciated ramparts of Mts. Powell and Thompson.

PIUTE PASS TRAILHEAD LOCATION

Follow the directions for Lake Sabrina except turn right at the North Lake turnout. Trailhead parking is by North Lake, near the pack station. The trailhead is about ½ mile farther, in the North Lake campground.

NO PARKING is allowed in the campground for hikers. (9320')

TRAIL DESCRIPTION

The Piute Pass trail eases up through a forest of lodgepole pine and quaking aspens before following the North Fork of Bishop Creek. Paintbrush, columbine and penstemmon flank the trail as you climb higher near the rusty cliffs of the Piute Crag and Mt. Emerson. Entering the high country above Loch Leven, the glaciated canyon is floored with small alpine meadows. Yellow-bellied marmots can be seen sunning on rocks or dashing into the shadows. Over Piute Pass (11,423') the trail drops into Humphreys Basin, filled with many high alpine lakes.

The Lamarck Lakes trail begins in the campground and heads south across two footbridges and through a grove of aspen trees. From the upper part of the trail, views of Mt. Emerson and the reddish Piute Crag can be seen. This country is rugged and rocky with sheer cliffs of granite and rough boulder slopes. Lower Lamarck Lake lies in a small granite basin. Cross the stream and outlet and follow the trail to Upper Lamarck Lake.

Weather conditions can change rapidly in the Sierra Nevada. Hikers should carry ample clothing for the anticipated changes. It is recommended that all hikers boil water for 3 to 5 minutes or use a filtering system before drinking due to the presence of giardia in most of the water.

Remember that stock have the right of way on all trails. Stand quietly off trail until all stock have passed to avoid spooking animals.

PLEASE be sure to carry out all empty bait containers and trash while hiking or fishing.

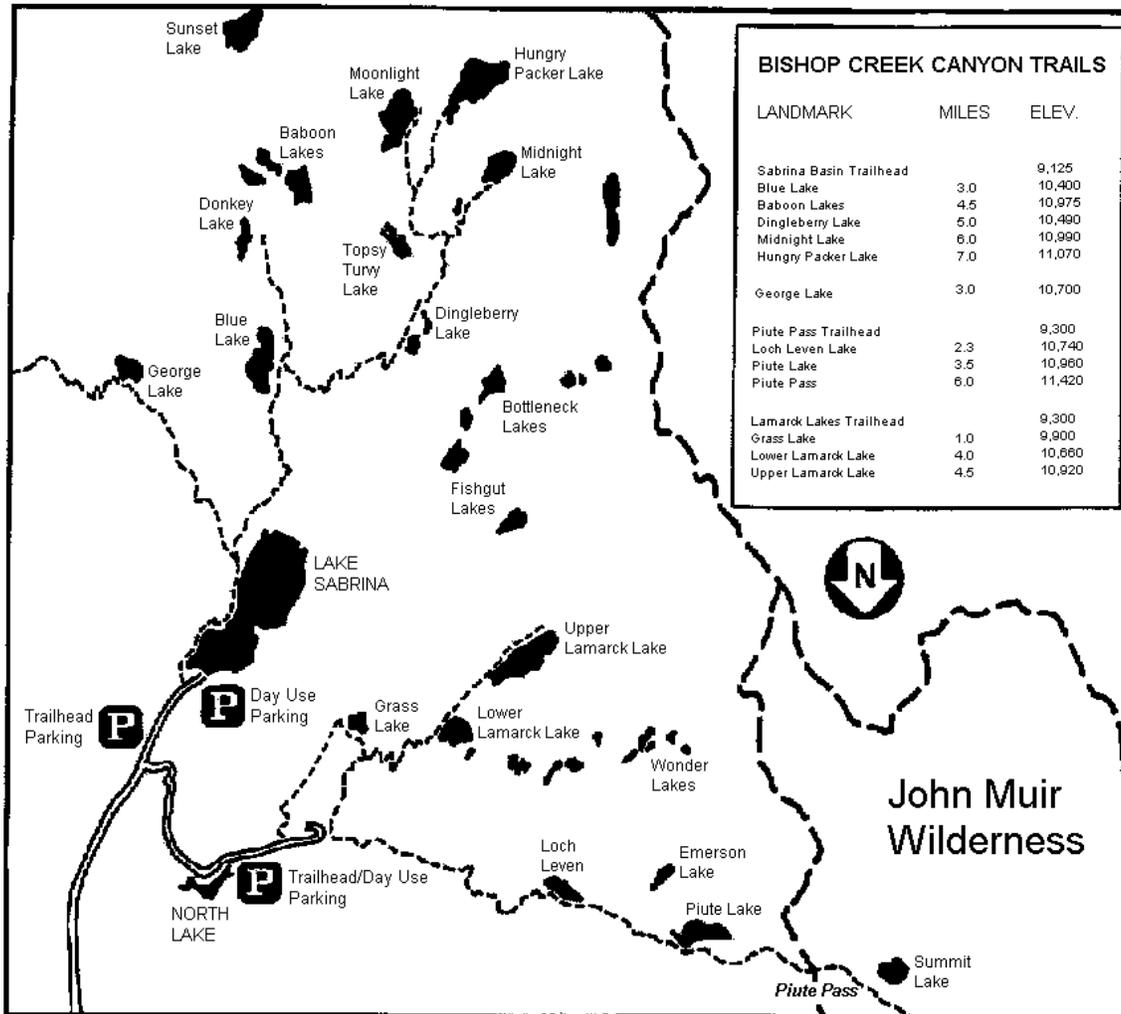


United States
Department of
Agriculture



Forest
Service

White Mtn
Ranger Station



GUIDEBOOKS

Geology of the Sierra Nevada by Mary Hill (Univ. of Calif. Press)

Best Short Hikes in California's Southern Sierra by Karen & Terry Whitehill (The Mountaineers)

The High Sierra: Peaks, Passes and Trails by R.J. Secor (The Mountaineers)

MAPS

USFS—John Muir Wilderness Map (topo)

USGS—Mt Darwin 7.5 minute quad (topo)

Mt. Thompson 7.5 minute quad (topo)

Wilderness Press—Mt. Goddard (topo, 15 minute series)

Tom Harrison Maps—Bishop Pass, North Lake to South Lake (shaded relief map)

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