



SWS Mountain Guides

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SIERRA HIGH ROUTE A High Trans-Sierra Route

Kings Canyon & Sequoia National Parks & John Muir Wilderness Inyo National Forest

General Description: This high elevation Trans-Sierra tour is one of the ranges' most spectacular passages. As the route weaves its way from Wolverton ski area in Kings Canyon National Park to Shepherd Pass trailhead, it treads over seven passes of 12,000 ft. or higher, each with a superb ski run off the "back" side. True to its name, once through the first pass the tour stays above tree line until the descent to Owens Valley Desert Floor near Independence, CA. Near the half way point at Triple Divide Peak we'll stop and sample the incredible bowls of Cloud and Deadman Canyons. Two miles up and over two miles across these giant glacial cirques are the skiers pot-of-gold at the end of the rainbow. A rolling tour through the Kern Plateau and descent down Shepard's Pass brings us down again to the tree line and the conclusion of the tour. We have skied the High Route many times and have organized this tour from West to East, we feel this is the best direction, are able to get on the snow within a few miles of the Wolverton trailhead, as opposed to hauling your skis 5,000 vertical feet up Shepard's Pass. The descents are excellent especially with the spring sun warming the eastern slopes for our mid-morning runs down the eastern sides of the passes. Join us for an adventure of a lifetime!

Location: Kings Canyon & Sequoia National Park, California

Itinerary's: Our first day we meet 8:00am at the Woodlake Airport (our return point via private air charter), just west of Three Rivers and the southern entrance to Sequoia National Park. From here we car pool Wolverton parking lot at 8:00 am (Sequoia National Park), a quick pack check, avalanche safety discussion, start ski touring with first's nights camp at Pear Lake Hut.

Day Two; Tablelands to Big Bird Lake. Day Three; Over Big Bird Pass around the top of Deadman Canyon over Glacier Ridge camp in Cloud Canyon. Day Four: Cloud Canyon over the Whaleback to Glacier Lake at the base of Triple Divide Peak. Day Five: Over Triple Divide Pass to Colby Canyon and the base of Milestone Pass. Day Six: Over Milestone Pass down Milestone Canyon camp on the Tyndall Plateau. Day Seven: Over Shepherd Pass, our final major pass on the route descending to the Shepherd Pass Trailhead and a well deserved shower, meal, and bed in Independence, Ca. Day eight; Our return to the Woodlake Airport via a chartered flight over our route, landing back at to our vehicles with a quick shuttle to retrieve our remaining vehicle at the Wolverton parking lot.

*Remember campsites and passes may change daily due to snow conditions & weather.

Food: Group breakfasts, dinners and hot beverages are included, Please bring your favorite, high-calorie, high-carbohydrate lunches and snacks.

Maps: USGS 15' Mt. Whitney, Triple Divide Peak. Wilderness Press has excellent editions of these maps

Level: Participants on this tour should be in excellent physical condition and have advanced alpine, Randonnee or telemarking down hill skiing skills or advanced backcountry snowboarding experience. Along with advanced skills and experience with ascending with packs and skins. The gross elevation gain on this trip exceeds 15,000 ft.

Dates: April 26th – May 3rd, 2009

Cost: \$1,795.00* (Group size limited to 6)

* Includes charter air flight back to trailhead, hotel last night.

Includes: Professional instruction / guides, hotel last night, chartered air flight back to trailhead, breakfasts, dinners and hot drinks, tents, stoves, avalanche safety equipment, radios, group climbing equipment, group camping equipment, and permits.