

# CALIFORNIA GIRL SCOUT BACKPACKERS

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## Little Lakes Valley

### Mosquito Flats to Gem Lakes

Itinerary provided by Girl Scouts San Diego

Created: January 2020

**Distance:** 12 miles round trip

**Starting Trailhead:** Mosquito Flats

**Finishing Trailhead:** Mosquito Flats

**Best Months:** June – October

**Permit Limit:** 15 people

**Preview:** This is an extremely easy 3 to 4 day trip. The scenery is nothing short of stunning. Magnificent lakes, majestic spires — you'll be singing like Julie Andrews in *The Sound of Music* within minutes of leaving the trailhead. This trip is on the east side of the Sierras, outside of Bishop, CA.

**Girl Scout Progression Points:** Build skills in bear awareness, moving camp to camp, and navigation.

#### Key Risks:

- Black Bear Country (food storage)
- Altitude (trailhead is at 10,000 feet)
- Weather

#### Sample Itinerary (By Day):

Trailhead: Mosquito Flats Trailhead is near Bishop (where you'll pick up your permit.) From Hwy. 395 at Tom's Place (just north of Bishop), go south up Rock Creek Rd. and drive 13 miles to the end. Bear lockers and backpacker campsites are available at the trailhead. (You can only camp one night at the trailhead and it is free.) Water is available from Rock Creek.

1. Drive to Mosquito Flats Trailhead. Camp in backpackers' campsite.
2. 3.5 miles to Chickenspring Lake.
3. 1.5 miles to Upper Gem Lakes.
4. Layover day at Gem Lakes, explore.
5. Out, showers at Rock Creek Lakes Resort, drive home.

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*DISCLAIMER: Although California Girl Scout Backpackers attempts to keep the content contained in their itineraries up to date and accurate, it is up to each individual to check the accuracy of such information on their own. We assume no liability or make representations or warranties (expressed or implied) of any kind regarding the information provided.*

**Itinerary Options:**

- Ruby Lake is a beautiful, but more strenuous, hike from the same trailhead. You could extend your trip with a day hike up to beautiful Ruby Lake. Heading south along the Little Lakes trail, turn right (west) at .5 miles and start climbing toward Mono Pass. 1.5 miles and 1000 feet of elevation gain will take you a trail junction for Ruby Lake. Follow this lateral trail a quarter mile to your destination

**Permits Needed:**

- Wilderness Permit (6 months in advance): <http://www.recreation.gov> – online permit system.

**Resources & Safety Management:**

- Inyo National Forest: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo/> 351 Pacu Ln. #200, Bishop, CA 93514
- Topo Maps: Mt. Abbot and Mt. Morgan 7.5 minute maps
- Wilderness Information: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo/recreation/wild/index/>
- Guidebook: Sierra South by Kathy Morey and Mike White - will provide you with excellent trail details.
- Rock Creek Lakes Resort (showers, café): <http://www.rockcreeklakesresort.com/>



Long Lake in Little Lakes Valley

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