

CALIFORNIA GIRL SCOUT BACKPACKERS

Lake Aloha

Lake Aloha Trail - Desolation Wilderness

Itinerary provided by Girl Scouts San Diego

Created: January 2020

Distance: 7 miles round trip

Starting Trailhead: Echo Lakes

Finishing Trailhead: Echo Lakes

Best Months: mid-July – mid-September

Permit Limit: 12 people

Preview: Easy to moderate, good for a 1st-time or 2nd-time backpacking trip. This hike is located west of Lake Tahoe within an area designated by the US Forest Service as Desolation Wilderness – 63,960 acres of sub-alpine and alpine forest, granite peaks, and glacially formed valleys and lakes.

Girl Scout Progression Points: Participants should have beginning backpacking experience and will extend their skills on bear awareness/safety, navigation, wilderness day hikes, and base-camp backpacking.

Key Risks:

- Bears
- Weather
- If swimming, check with your council regarding potential lifeguard requirements

Sample Itinerary (By Day):

1. Drive to Lake Tahoe area campground, possibly D.L. Bliss State Park or Eagle Point. Dinner in Lake Tahoe.
2. Drive to Echo Lake. Take ferry to trailhead. Backpack 3.5 miles to Lake Aloha.
3. Day hike possibilities: North on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) or Heather and Susie Lakes.
4. Pack up and hike south on the PCT to Tamarack Lake. Consider hiking around Lake of the Woods for off-trail hiking experience.
5. Hike remaining 1.5 miles to the ferry landing at Echo Lake.

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:

- Consider a day hike on the Rubicon Trail around Emerald Bay before your backpacking trip begins. Leave one car at Vikingsholm parking lot. Hike a moderate 5-mile trail around the lake edge to Vikingsholm Castle at Emerald Bay. Take 30-minute castle tour, then hike 1 steep mile to the parking lot.

Permits Needed:

- Wilderness Permit: Six months in advance of trip. www.recreation.gov

Resources & Safety Management:

- Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit: 35 College Dr., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150, Tel: 530-543-2600
- Eldorado National Forest, Pacific Ranger District in Pollock Pines: 530-647-5415
- Additional Costs
 - Echo Lake Ferry: \$28/person
 - Day use parking at campground: \$10
 - Vikingsholm Tour: \$10/adult, \$8/girl



Lake Aloha in Desolation Wilderness

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