

Community Hiking Club

September 2017 Car Camping Trip

BIG PINE CANYON CAR CAMPING TRIP

(Backpacking Option available-see bottom of flier)



September 14-17 **GPS:**

Latitude:	Longitude:	Elevation:
37.130241	-118.413617	7,400 ft

Sage Flat Campground is surrounded by towering trees, and is perfectly situated in scenic Big Pine Canyon. Campsites are perched along the cool, fish-filled waters of Big Pine Creek. (We can fish here too). Big Pine Canyon is heralded for having both the largest and southern most glaciers in the Sierra Nevada. Palisade Glacier, the largest, sits above Big Pine Lakes. These impressive glacial lakes at around 10,000 feet elevation are the source of the North Fork of Big Pine Creek.

The South Fork is bordered by the Palisade Crest with peaks over 14,000 feet and Middle Palisade Glacier, the southernmost glacier. The campground sits among Jeffrey pine, Great Basin Sagebrush and Cottonwood trees.



Directions:

From Santa Clarita take SR-14 through the Antelope Valley to Mojave. Watch for a sign near the end of the town of Mojave with a right hand turn arrow for the continuation of SR-14 indicating "Bishop-Reno NORTH".



Turn right at this sign to stay on SR-14. SR-14 will eventually become Highway 395 near the town of Ridgecrest.

Stay on Highway 395 until you enter the town of Big Pine. Please be sure to obey speed limits through all the little towns along the way. Tickets are very expensive, and this is how the towns make lots of money....Turn left on Crocker Avenue.

NOTE: THERE IS NO STREET SIGN. See photos below. Look for the gas stations and Bristlecone Motel as your landmarks.

Be wary....it hardly looks like a street, and the street sign was gone when we visited the site in July.



Continue west up Big Pine Canyon Road/Glacier Lodge Road for about 8 miles until you see the camp ground sign on the left side of the road in a forested area.



Once you've entered the campground, look for Dianne's site with the Community Hiking Club banner. If you've paid her for your site in advance, she will tell you where your site is located. If you have registered for your site online, you will already have your site number. If you've not paid for your site in advance, try to find a site as close to the group as possible. At the other local campgrounds beyond Sage Flat are already booked on line. There are a FEW spaces in those campgrounds that are first come, first served. If all sites are taken in Sage Flat, it will be possible to share a site with other CHC members. Dianne will help you with this as well. Each site can have as many as 6 people. Most sites can accommodate 2 vehicles. There is an extra fee for the 2nd vehicle. (See fees below). ONLY 2 vehicles are allowed in each site, so please carpool.

If all else fails, there are other options farther up the road: Upper Sage Flat Campground and Big Pine Creek Campground. There is also Glacier Lodge that may have a camping site available. None of their cabins are available at this time.

NOTE: You are **not** allowed to bring wood in from other areas. This is to prevent the spread of Borers from area to area which are killing the trees in California at an alarming rate. If you want to have a fire, PLEASE purchase local wood. It is available in Lone Pine, Big Pine and in the Campground as well.

Campground Amenities:

Campfire Rings

Creek Access

Firewood Vendor (See the Campground Host/Manager)

Vault Toilets

Bear Vaults!!!-Make sure all the food, cosmetics, ice chests will fit in the bear vault!!!

Bear Vaults are 48" x 30" x 36"

Water is currently available, but this may change from time to time.

Suggestions: Bring a water filter

Bring water for dishes/showers/drinking/dousing your fire

Nearby:

Big Pine has a small market, ice, restaurants and gas

There is also a tiny souvenir store and restaurant at Glacier Lodge 1 mile from camp.

The Copper Top BBQ is located in Big Pine. I suggest that you plan to eat lunch or dinner there at least once before you head home. They have been voted the #1 BBQ in the entire U.S.A.

It's FABULOUS.....(Tri-tip and Baby Back Ribs are the best)

Know Before You Go:

Electric hookups are not available

This facility has first-come, first-served sites and they fill up fast

Limit one RV or two vehicles per site

Please check in with the campground host upon arrival

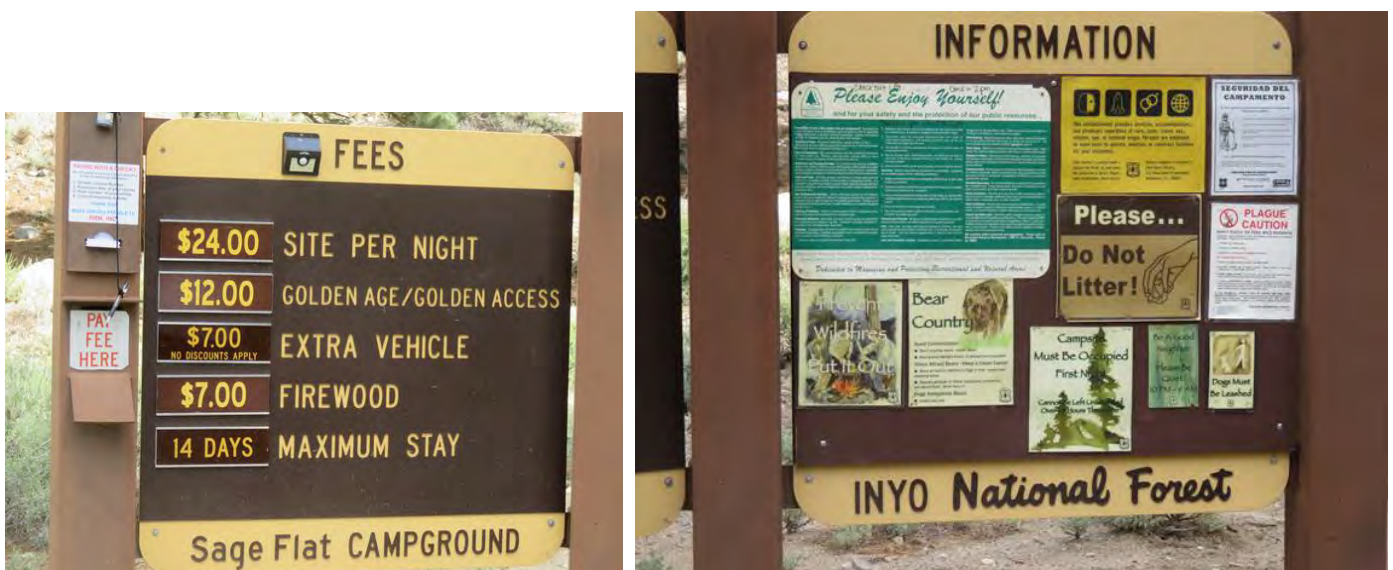
You must pay for your site within ½ hour of arrival

Backpacking Option:

Hiking overnight within the Inyo Wilderness requires a special permit for overnight stays. These permits are managed through a limited allocation system. Steve Ritchie and Jennifer Smith Cox will have your permit if you make arrangements to backpack with them on this weekend. (See schedule below) More information about the backpacking option will be available soon. Please let Dianne know if you would like to backpack. She is taking names, emails and phone numbers for Steve and Jenn. Potential backpacking information is at the bottom of this flier.

Don't Move Firewood: Protect California's forests from tree-killing pests by buying your firewood locally and burning it on-site. For more information visit www.firewood.ca.gov.

This is a family-friendly and pet-friendly campground. Some campsites boast creek-front access, and each site accommodates a maximum of six campers, 2 vehicles.



The site fees per night are \$24.00. The first person to arrive should pay this amount for their site. Any additional people who share the site can pay person #1.

Extra vehicles are \$7.00. each (only ONE extra vehicle allowed per site)

Firewood is \$7.00

If you are lucky enough to have a Golden Age Pass, your nightly fee will be \$12.00. You must pay within ½ hour of your arrival. Envelopes are available at the left of this sign where it says, "PAY HERE". Fill out the envelope and deposit your money or give it to the camp host. Retain the tear off portion and attach it to your site numbered pole on the clip. See photo below. If you've paid Dianne, find Dianne's site and she will direct you to your site.

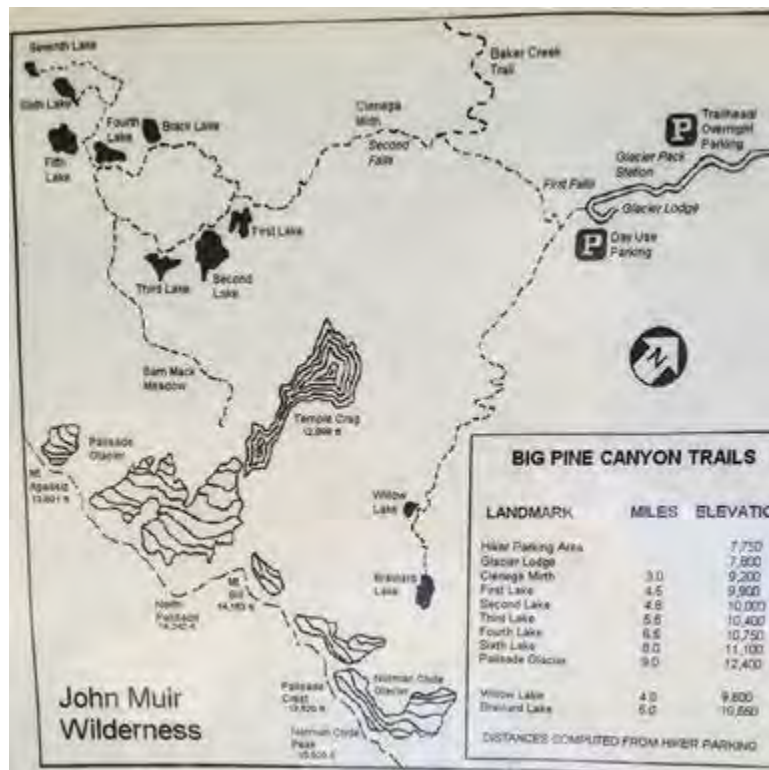


Information you will need: Name, address, car license plate #, extra car license #, number of people in your space, arrival date, departure date. You can have up to 6 campers in your site. Try to carpool. You can only have ONE extra vehicle per site. If you pay Dianne early, she will need your tent and ALL this information to hold your space.



Creek Running Through Campground

Recreation:



The creek and nearby Big Pine Lakes are great for fishing. Both water spots have rainbow, brown and brook trout. Just up the road in Big Pine Creek Campground there is a Trout Pond. You can fish here for free (With a Ca. Fishing License)



Trout Pond

The North Fork Trail gives hikers access to Big Pine Lakes 1-7 and the Palisade Glacier. The trail climbs past waterfalls and zigzags through Jeffrey pine, manzanita and sage before it reaches Big Pine Lakes. The longest hike is to Palisade Glacier, which is 9 miles one way. Other hikes range from 3-5 miles one way. The altitude makes things a little more difficult, and on some of the hikes, especially to the glaciers and lakes, there is significant gain in the first couple of miles. There are also short little hikes -1.5 miles close to the campground. North Fork Trail, South Fork Trail, and Baker Creek Trail are also options for day trips. The hike to Lake 1, as an example is almost 10,000 in elevation. You begin at 7400.



There is a pack station close by should you want to hire a pack mule/horse for a trip up into the high country. If you'd like to make reservations for the pack train, call **Glacier Pack Train at 760-938-2538**. They cover the Palisade Glacier Region. They can take you to Big Pine Lakes, Palisade Glaciers, Sawmill Pass, Baker Lakes, And a loop trip to the Upper Lakes. The packer (pictured below) told me that he only had a handful of openings during our weekend, so make reservations first. The only trip he had availability for was to Lake #1. **The fee for the day pack is \$90.00 PP**



Glacier Pack Station

Car campers will be hiking Friday to the South Fork of the Big Pine Canyon. This is a gorgeous hike through Great Basin Sage towards the glaciers. It is consistently up up up for 4 miles at a comfortable level. You will see waterfalls and Pine Canyon Creek, and glaciated mountains. On Saturday, we will hike into the Numbered Lakes to Lake 1. This is a 10-12 mile trek. You will need to be prepared for this trek with 3-4 liters of water, or a water filter to have the capacity to filter water as needed. You will need lots of food/snacks/electrolytes to keep you going. It is a tough trek. The 12 miles will feel like 20. If you have energy to spend after reaching Lake #1, Lakes 2 and 3 are close by.

In order to prevent blisters and tired feet, I might suggest that you purchase 2 products on line: Sportslick will protect your skin against blisters, chafing, and is also an antifungal and antibacterial. Use it on your feet and carry it with you to use if other areas of your body chafe enroute.

The second product I suggest is called CM Response Joint Action Cream. This can also be found online. It works on muscles and joints. If something starts to hurt/swell/cramp on the trail, this topical cream will help to ease the pain so you can continue the hike.



Lake #1

Fishing is also an option. If you choose to fish, bring your gear and make sure you have a California Fishing License. There are Brook Trout, Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout in the waters near our Campground, and in the numbered lakes



This is a Brook Trout

For the car camping, we can squeeze in as many people as the campground can handle. There are only 28 sites. It is possible to put 6 people into each site that is available, but only 2 vehicles per site. Dianne may be able to get your reservations early IF you give her the entire fee for the weekend, AND your tent to hold your space. She will try to get up there on Wednesday to grab as many spots as possible. Please figure out WHO will be in your site, how many vehicles, etc. She will need all the information as listed above to hold your spot.



Dogs are allowed, as long as they are on a leash. Please pick up after your pet and make sure your pet is quiet during quiet hours. Also, on the trails, reel in your leash so as not to cause a tripping hazard for other hikers. Make sure your pet is up to tough hiking in altitude over rocky terrain.



For your convenience, here is a list of the usual camping supplies, please adjust if you're a backpacker.

Camping trip flier

Tent

Footprint/tarp

Extra stakes & guy lines

Tools for clearing/setting up your campsite – rake, hammer/mallet, shovel, broom

Sleeping bags

Sleeping pads

Pillows

Dirty clothes bag

Tables

Folding Camp Chairs

Lantern (and extra mantels)

Firewood (& fire starter) (Local wood only, please)

Stove/BBQ

Propane bottles and/or charcoal

Ice chest & ice

Extra batteries

Flashlights/headlamps

GPS/maps

Camera

Toilet paper

Toilet seat covers

Baby wipes

Scissors

Cooking utensils (spoon, fork, spatula, tongs, knife)

Bottle opener

Can opener

Eating utensils

Plates

Bowls

Cups

Paper towels

Ziploc bags

Hand wipes

Oven mitt

Water (for washing and putting out your fire)

Drinking water (and other desired drinks)

Food

Coffee pot/coffee

Toaster

Matches/igniter

Nonstick cooking spray

Cutting board

Sink

Sponge

Dish soap

Towel

Pots/pans

Duct tape

Foil

Wicking Clothing

Other clothing

Jacket(s)

Hat(s)

Boots/shoes

Toiletries

Medications

First Aid Kit

Tissues

Sunglasses

Sunscreen

Backpack

Trekking poles

Fishing Pole

Fishing License

Fishing gear (net, bait, hooks, etc)

3-4 liter water bottles

Water Filter

Bug spray

Bug nets

Suggested: Sportslick, CM Response Joint Action Cream or Tiger Balm (or similar)

NOTE: You don't want to look like a deer. Wear a bright shirt or vest.



WATCH FOR BEAR CROSSING ROADS!!

Bear are out and searching for food. Visitors reported bear activity from Mt Whitney to June Lake in April. Many have been hit and killed by vehicles. It can be difficult to see black bear at night. Slow down for wildlife!

STORE YOUR FOOD AND TRASH PROPERLY!!

Developed campsites have food storage lockers and bear-proof trashcans. Never leave food unattended at your campsite. For more information please contact the Forest Visitor Centers.

Backpackers will be packing in with Jenn Smith Cox and with Steve Ritchie . Backpackers may leave any unused gear in their vehicles or the bear vaults at the trail head. Please identify yourselves as backpackers when you make your reservations as Steve and Jenn will need to know this. Hiking within the Inyo Wilderness requires a special permit for overnight stays. The permit is for a specific number of hikers. Steve Ritchie will secure this permit for the group. He will need to know the exact number that will be accompanying him into the back country.



Potential Backpacking Schedule:

Thursday-Camp at Sage Flat Campground, 7400' to acclimatize

Friday-6:00 AM Arrive at Trailhead (with all your stuff packed in car/pack)-begin trek
Camp along Big Pine Creek, North Fork

Saturday-Break Camp, hike to Lakes 1, 2, 3-if group is capable of going as far as Lake 3.
Alternative-set camp at Lake 1 and hike to Lakes 2 and 3

Sunday-Hike down to Trail head and head home.