



## RESERVATION & TRIP POLICIES

We ask all our guests to please take note of the following:

- 1) A 20% Non-Refundable Deposit is due to book your trip.
- 2) The **Full Balance** of your trip is due 30 days before the start date of the trip.
- 3) Cancellations within the 30-day window are non-refundable. Deposits are non-refundable.
- 4) We reserve the option to relocate your trip if safety, trail, or weather conditions require. **We recommend that guests purchase cancellation and trip travel insurance to avoid the risk of losing payment due to illness or family emergency. TravelSafe.com and imglobal.com, as well as other sites, offer information and insurance options**
- 5) If some members of your party cancel, note that the rate of your trip per person may change.
- 6) An assumption of risk form will be signed by all trip participants who are riding prior to departure.
- 7) All riding guests will be assigned a riding animal with regard to that guest's height, weight and riding ability.
- 8) We do have weight limitations for riders, any guest who is over 225lbs or a BMI above 29 for their height will need to be pre-approved **before** making reservations.

WEIGHT																
HEIGHT	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190	200	210	220	230	240	250
5'0"	20	21	23	25	27	29	31	33	35	37	39	41	43	45	47	49
5'1"	19	21	23	25	26	28	30	32	34	36	38	40	42	43	45	47
5'2"	18	20	22	24	26	27	29	31	33	35	37	38	40	42	44	46
5'3"	18	19	21	23	25	27	28	30	32	34	35	37	39	41	43	44
5'4"	17	19	21	22	24	26	27	29	31	33	34	36	38	39	41	43
5'5"	17	18	20	22	23	25	27	28	30	32	33	35	37	38	40	42
5'6"	16	18	19	21	23	24	26	27	29	31	32	34	36	37	39	40
5'7"	16	17	19	20	22	23	25	27	28	30	31	33	34	36	38	39
5'8"	15	17	18	20	21	23	24	26	27	29	30	32	33	35	36	38
5'9"	15	16	18	19	21	22	24	25	27	28	30	31	32	34	35	37
5'10"	14	16	17	19	20	22	23	24	26	27	29	30	32	33	34	36
5'11"	14	15	17	18	20	21	22	24	25	26	27	28	30	32	33	35
6'0"	14	15	16	18	19	20	22	23	24	26	27	28	30	31	33	34
6'1"	13	15	16	17	18	20	21	22	24	25	26	28	29	30	32	33
6'2"	13	14	15	17	18	19	21	22	23	24	26	27	28	30	31	32
6'3"	12	14	15	16	17	19	20	21	22	24	25	26	27	29	30	31
6'4"	12	13	15	16	17	18	19	21	22	23	24	26	27	28	29	30

- 9) Participants who have physical or mental challenges that may cause a safety risk for themselves, other trip participants, or livestock will need pre-approval before making reservations.
- 10) Children must be 6 years of age to ride a horse on a wilderness pack trip. There is no double riding allowed.
- 11) Saddle and pack animals are not allowed out without the services of a packer.
- 12) Dogs cannot travel with livestock on a pack trip.
- 13) Smoking is not allowed while traveling on the trail, while on the horses, or around the pack station.
- 14) No excess gear will be allowed on the riding animals, including but not limited to: fishing rods, backpacks, day packs, fanny packs. Only guest's jacket and/or rain poncho, water, camera, and any medical necessities will be allowed on the riding animals. Pack Station will provide hornbags for these items.



- 15) No mind-altering substances may be consumed before or during the ride. A guest will be asked to dismount their animal and walk if any of these substances are in evidence.
- 16) Helmets are available and required for children 12 & under, ages 13-17 must wear a helmet or have a parent signature to decline the use of a helmet.
- 17) Riders **must**, to the best of their ability, obey and listen to the instructions and directions of the trail guide/packer and management.
- 18) Please be prepared to hike certain sections of trail due to safety requirements. (In particular, either side of McGee Pass, the trail down from Steelhead and Grass Lakes, and Laurel Pass).

***We appreciate your cooperation with these procedures that are designed to make your vacation safe and enjoyable!***

***THANK YOU!***

**WHEN YOU ARRIVE:**

*We hope this information will be helpful to you, please read:*

**Upon arrival you will be directed to the packing dock to unload your gear. You will need to fill out liability release forms (unless this has been done ahead of time), obtain wilderness permits, fit helmets for children 12 and under, overview brief low - impact camping procedures, pack water and minimal essentials in your "horn bag". This will go with you on your riding animal. It will be kept to a maximum weight of 3 lbs, (1 horn bag per rider). Please be prepared to take **ONLY** the necessary items. All other gear will be stowed on the pack mules. At this time, you will be assigned a riding animal with regard to your height, weight, and riding ability. You will be directed to the mounting area, where riding horses and mules are lined up according to trail guide's discretion. Once mounted, we ask that you remain seated, quiet, and still. Your trail guide will adjust your stirrups for maximum control and safety, advise you as to how to hold your reins, tie your horn bag and jacket/rain gear on your saddle. Once all are mounted, your guide will give a safety and instructional talk with regard to your ride. Please pay very close attention at this time.**

***HAVE A GREAT RIDE!***



## GENERAL INFORMATION

*This information is provided to help you properly prepare for your wilderness vacation allowing you to fully enjoy your trip!*

1. **We request that you have your gear to the pack station at 5:00 p.m. the evening before your departure.** If you bring additional gear in the morning, it must be at the loading dock by 7:00 a.m.
2. Lodging and camping is available both before and after your trip in McGee Canyon, Crowley Lake, Mammoth Lakes, and Bishop. Please note, the pack station does not provide lodging or accommodations before or after your trip.
3. All gear is to be packed on the mules, except water, snacks, jacket, raingear, and camera which will go on your riding horse/mule. Horn bags will be provided but will be limited to 3 lbs. when on your riding animal. Please don't bring your own saddle bags. No backpacks/fanny packs will be allowed on your saddle animal.
4. Each guest is assigned a riding horse or mule with regard to height, weight, and ability. **Our weight limit is 225 lbs.** We also have a height/weight ratio limit for riders. (BMI) Please note, due to trail conditions below Steelhead Lake, McGee Pass, and Laurel Pass, guests must be physically able to walk up to 1/2 mile of trail.
5. Though the Sierra is noted for good weather, please be prepared for possible inclement weather, and remember, nights at 10,000' level can get cold! Average temperatures' range from 30-45 degrees.
6. Plan to wear full length jeans, boots or close toed shoes, and a hat for the ride in and out.
7. PLEASE LEAVE YOUR DOGS AT HOME if you are riding! Unfortunately, most pets are not compatible with horses, mules, and rocky mountain trails.
8. Gratuities are accepted and are a personal choice.
9. **When packing your gear, plan on 150 lbs. per mule.** However, this weight depends on the bulk of your loads and therefore can vary. The packers will assure that your loads are packed to maximum efficiency, while ensuring the safety of all animals, and guests.
10. **For Full Service Trips (Traveling/Base Camps) guests are allowed 30 lbs. per person.** This weight includes sleeping bags/pads, fishing equipment, liquor, etc. You may bring your own tent if under 10 lbs. which will not be included in 30 lb. weight limit.
11. If your destination requires an overnight stay for your packers, you are charged for the pack mules necessary for stock feed and packer gear.



## **WHEN IT COMES TO PACKING....*let us make a few suggestions:***

- Pack your personal gear, (clothing, etc.) in duffle bags (approx. 24' in length) for maximum space efficiency. Line the inside with large plastic bag to protect from rain. Same with sleeping bags
- Pack your cold foods, (meat, etc.) pre-frozen in ice chests with ice. Your other food items may be brought in the original grocery bags or in 18-gallon Rubbermaid type containers. We can repack any food in bear boxes and leave at your campsite for storage. Soft-sided coolers are best as they fit into most bear boxes.
- Place all cosmetics, soaps, medications, etc. into small plastic containers with close-fitting caps, THEN into sturdy resealable plastic storage bags. If anything breaks or bursts from altitude changes, the plastic bag contains the spill.
- When possible, it is a good idea to transfer alcoholic beverages to sturdy plastic bottles with well-fitting caps, it will save weight and protect against breakage.
- Be sure to protect all breakables and point them out to your packer.
- All saws, axes and knives MUST be in protective sheath covers. Fuels must be tightly packed so they will not leak.
- Please see **PACKING LIST** below.
- **Remember** - try to minimize the weight of your dunnage by packaging only what you need and only the amount of any item you will need during your trip. This list is simply a suggestion and not all items may be required for your trip.

## **HOW ABOUT FISHING?**

- Fishing in the High Sierra can be both challenging and rewarding – with the proper gear it can be one of the highlights of your trip, both for the novice and the experienced angler.
- **Please note that fishing licenses are NOT available at or near the pack station. Be sure to get one BEFORE you arrive for your adventure.**
- Be sure to have 2 lb. Test leader, No. 8-12 hooks, worms, crickets or power bait.
- We suggest the following – flies: Colorado Renegade, Black Gnat, Mosquito, Yellow or Gray Hackle Peacock. Lures: Panther Martin, Meaps, Super Duper, Phoebe, Cast Master, and Rooster Tails.
- You must have your fishing rod in a metal or PVC rod case with Secure Ends (no longer than 3'). We cannot guarantee transport of poles in anything else.
- Remember, when cleaning your fish – be sure to bury entrails. Do not discard in creeks or lakes.
- Catch and release methods are encouraged to help maintain the quality of fishing in the High Sierra



## **LASTLY, TRAIL AND CAMP ETIQUETTE:**

*"Gentle Use" is essential to enjoyment, safety, and conservation in the Wilderness. In conjunction with the U.S.F.S we ask that you observe the following:*

- NO SMOKING while on or near the horses and mules, or away from camp.
- When hiking, observe the right of way. When possible, stand to the downhill side of the trail.
- Don't short cut switchbacks.
- When packing out garbage, flatten and store in heavy duty plastic garbage bags. Do not bury trash! Plan ahead when packing, so as to minimize trash. Before leaving your campsite, take one last check for small pieces of trash. Pack everything out!
- Firearms use is not permitted except during legal hunting seasons.
- Be sure latrine is set-up at least 200' from lakes or streams, wet meadows & water sources. Latrine holes should be 4—6" deep. After use, replace dirt and duff (pine needles, pinecones, and leaves).
- Same for wash or rinse water. Don't wash anything with soap in the lakes and streams, even biodegradable soap.
- Cutting or defacing of live or dead standing trees, or construction of improvements such as fireplaces, bough beds, etc. is prohibited. Use only deadfall for campfires. Campfires are now prohibited in most locations.
- Respect the solitude of the wilderness.
- Most of all, remember that to continue to preserve our wilderness environments, we must leave as little trace of our passing as possible. You start by leaving your campsite cleaner than when you arrived, and by keeping it as close as possible to it's natural state. If treated this way, our National Forest Wilderness area can remain unspoiled for all to see and enjoy.



## PACKING LIST

### GENERAL CAMP ITEMS

- camp stove & fuel
- lantern w/extra mantles
- matches/lighter
- water filter
- ax & shovel
- camp rain fly (tarp)
- rope
- small roll of tape
- camp chairs
- camp table
- ice chest
- folding camp toilet
- toilet paper
- solar shower

### KITCHEN

- plates & cups
- French press/coffee pot
- light weight pots & pans
- grill/griddle
- cutting board & knife
- cooking utensils
- utensils (forks, spoons, knives)
- can opener
- potholders
- mixing bowls
- dish soap & dish sponge
- hand towels
- scouring pads
- collapsible wash basin
- paper towels
- ziplock bags
- foil & plastic wrap
- trash bags

### FISHING

- rod in a hard case
- reel w/line
- canvass creel
- hooks, bait, flies/lures
- fishing license

### CLOTHING

- long pants & shorts
- underwear
- wool socks
- long underwear
- sweatshirt/sweatpants
- rain gear
- hiking boots
- tennis shoes
- water shoes/sandals
- bandana
- broad-brimmed hat
- beanie cap
- gloves
- bathing suit
- heavy jacket
- light jacket
- comfortable camp clothes

### TOILITRIES

- toothbrush/toothpaste
- dental floss
- soap
- shampoo/conditioner
- hairbrush/comb
- deodorant
- shaving kit
- chapstick
- sunscreen
- lotion
- towel & washcloth
- first aid kit (bandaids, moleskin, Ibuprofen)
- medication (if required)
- insect repellent
- hand sanitizer
- small packages of kleenex
- tweezers
- fingernail clippers

### SLEEPING

- sleeping bag
- foam pad/air mattress (air mattress repair kit)
- pillow
- ground cloth
- tent w/rain fly
- tent stakes

### PERSONAL GEAR

- water bottle
- duffle bags
- flashlight/headlamp
- extra batteries
- pocketknife/multi-tool
- sunglasses
- contacts/eyeglasses
- small day pack
- trekking poles
- reading material/games
- camera/batteries/film
- binoculars
- topo maps
- sewing kit
- alcohol/corkscrew

### NOTES:

•All food must be packed in bear proof containers. We provide aluminum boxes for \$10/day.

•Be aware of USFS policy requiring 1 pack mule/ 1.5 people. There is a maximum weight limit of 150lbs per pack mule.

•Due to USFS regulations there are limited campfires allowed in the John Muir & Ansel Adams Wildernesses.