



SWS Mountain Guides

110 Alpine St.

Mt. Shasta, CA 96067

info@swsmountainguides.com

www.swsmountainguides.com

Phone: 888.797.6867

SIERRA NEVADA HIGH ROUTE

The Classic High Trans-Sierra Route

West to East

Wolverton, Sequoia Nat'l Park to Shepard Pass Trailhead, Owens Valley



General Description: This high-elevation Trans-Sierra tour is one of the ranges' most spectacular passages. As the route weaves 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, the tour stays above the tree line once through the first pass until the descent to Owens Valley Desert Floor near Independence, CA. Near the halfway point at Triple Divide Peak, we'll stop and sample the incredible Cloud and Deadman Canyons bowls. Two miles up and over two miles across, these giant glacial cirques are the skier's 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 tour's conclusion. We have skied the High Route many times and organized this tour from West to East; we feel this is the best direction; you can get on the snow within a few miles of the Wolverton trailhead instead of 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 Parks, California

Itinerary: **On our first day**, we met at 7:00 am at the Woodlake Airport in Woodlake, CA. (our return point via private air charter), just west of Three Rivers and the southern entrance to Sequoia National Park. We will do a pack check, have an avalanche safety discussion, and then carpool to the trailhead at Wolverton parking area in Sequoia National Park, approximately 45 miles / 1.5 hrs. We will ski from the trailhead to tour a camp on the Tablelands, just past the Pear Lake Hut. **Day Two**, Tablelands Over Horn Peak Pass around the top of Deadman Canyon. Day Three: Over Glacier Ridge to Cloud Canyon to Glacier at the base of Triple Divide Peak. **Day Four**, Over Triple Divide Pass to Colby Canyon and the bottom of Milestone Pass.



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Day Five, Over Milestone Pass down Milestone Canyon camp on the Tyndall Plateau. **Day Six**, Over Shepherd Pass, our final major pass descending to the Shepherd Pass Trailhead, stay at Anvil Camp. Day Seven, Final descent out to Shepherd Pass, the trailhead for our vehicle shuttle to the Independence Airport. We meet our Chartered aircraft for the quick flight from Independence to the Woodlake Airport, flying over our route and landing back at our vehicles. Finally, we received a shuttle to retrieve our remaining vehicle at the Wolverton parking lot.

**Remember campsites locations; daily travel 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.

Level: Participants on this tour should be in excellent physical condition and have advanced alpine, Randonnee or Snowboarding advanced backcountry experience -**split boards only**. The Sierra High Route has over 13,000 ft. of Ascent with over 12,500 ft. of descent over 36 plus miles.

Group Size: Guide to Client ratio 1:3 Minimum Group size 2 clients / Maximum Group 6 clients

Cost: Check website for dates and prices - minimum 2 skiers

* Includes charter air flight back to trailhead

Includes: Professional instruction / guides, chartered air flight back to trailhead, breakfasts, freeze dried dinners and hot drinks, tents, stoves, avalanche safety equipment, radios, group climbing equipment, group camping equipment, permits and permit fees. Private charter air flight back to Woodlake airport - Meeting place.