







## Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne fastpack

Distance:

66 miles

**Elevation Gain/Loss:** 10550'

**Altitude Range:** 4300' to 9900'

Location: Yosemite NP, Tuolumne Meadows, Soda Springs/Glen Aulin t/h

## Suggested Map:

Tom Harrison Maps 'Yosemite High Country'

# Time Of Year:

Summer/Fall

## **Directions From Bishop:**

Head north on 395 to Lee Vining then take Tioga Pass Rd into park and down to Tuolumne Meadows. As you drop into Tuolumne you will see Lembert Dome and it's parking area on the right. Turn right here and take the gravel road past parking area. You can park anywhere along the south side of the gravel road.

## **Route Description:**

This route is all trail. From the t/h take the mellow stretch of Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) along the Tuolumne River to Glen Aulin. Just before reaching Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp head left (SW) passing McGee Lake and rolling along through heavily forested terrain. There will be a few signed junctions with trails heading out to Hwy 120 that you will pass; follow signs to Ten Lakes. You will soon start climbing into the alpine around the NW flanks of 10845' Tuolumne Peak, eventually reaching the Ten Lakes Basin, approximately 19 miles in. After climbing out of the basin over 9670' Ten Lakes Pass you will quickly descend back into heavy forest which you will remain in past White Wolf at 7875' and to the lip of the descent into the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne where you will bottom out in Pate Valley at 4300', several miles above where the Tuolumne feeds into Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. From here it is a long, gradual climb, with a few steeper bumps, up along the Tuolumne River until reaching the more sustained climbing that brings you alongside the majestic series of Waterwheel, LeConte and California Falls. Above California Falls the trail flattens out again as you pass through the Glen Aulin meadow. The Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne section from Pate Valley to Glen Aulin is about 13 miles with 3500' of ascent, the majority of which comes in the 2nd half. Cross the bridge over the

Tuolumne at Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp and retrace your path on the PCT back to Tuolumne Meadows.