

South Lake to Hurd Lake Hike

By the Parchers Resort Crew

Bishop Pass Trailhead at South Lake
(2.6 Miles Roundtrip and 400 Vertical Ft.)

Hurd Lake is a jewel of the canyon, one that is rarely visited, in spite of its proximity to the South Lake Trail Head. At a leisurely pace, it takes me about 40 minutes to hike to Hurd Lake.

The best parking is up by the trailhead, when the road ends. During peak season, July 1st to Labor Day, it is best to park in the places designated for day parking, leaving the unmarked, overnight parking for backpackers. Park and make your way to the trail head signs. There is a pit toilet nearby and this will be the last facilities to use other than the woods.

Hurd Lake is accessed by following the Bishop Pass Trail as it winds along the East shore of South Lake. This first ascent is the most difficult climb of this hike so don't let it discourage you. You will be through it in minutes. As the trail opens up, there is an excellent photo op of South Lake.

The trail then moves up a small draw, away from the lake. You will notice old stumps among the willows in this meadow. This was the location of an old sawmill that was in use when they were building the South Lake Dam.

The trail then winds back toward the lake and then parallels the lake. You are now in the John Muir Wilderness. The trail will turn south-east and you will come to a trail junction. To the right is the Treasure Lake Trail and to the left is the Bishop Pass Trail. Go toward Bishop Pass.

The trail ascends slowly on to a large bench. After ¼ mile or so, be conscious of crossing over a small wooden bridge. Less than 100 years up the trail is the unmarked trail junction of the Hurd Lake Trail. You will know that you are there when you pass the up-ended roots of a large fallen tree on the left. A dozen or so paces beyond this a log crosses the trail. Look to your right and you will see the unmarked, rarely trodden trail to Hurd Lake.

Follow the trail as it descends to a small seasonal creek and meadow. The trail works around the far side of the meadow and then winds back into the woods. Once the trail moves away from the meadow, follow it a couple hundred yards and the lake will come into view.

Hurd Lake is a peaceful and photogenic location and after a snack or picnic lunch, retrace your steps to South Lake



118°35.000' W

118°34.000' W

118°33.000' W

WGS84 118°32.000' W

37°11.000' N

37°10.000' N

37°09.000' N

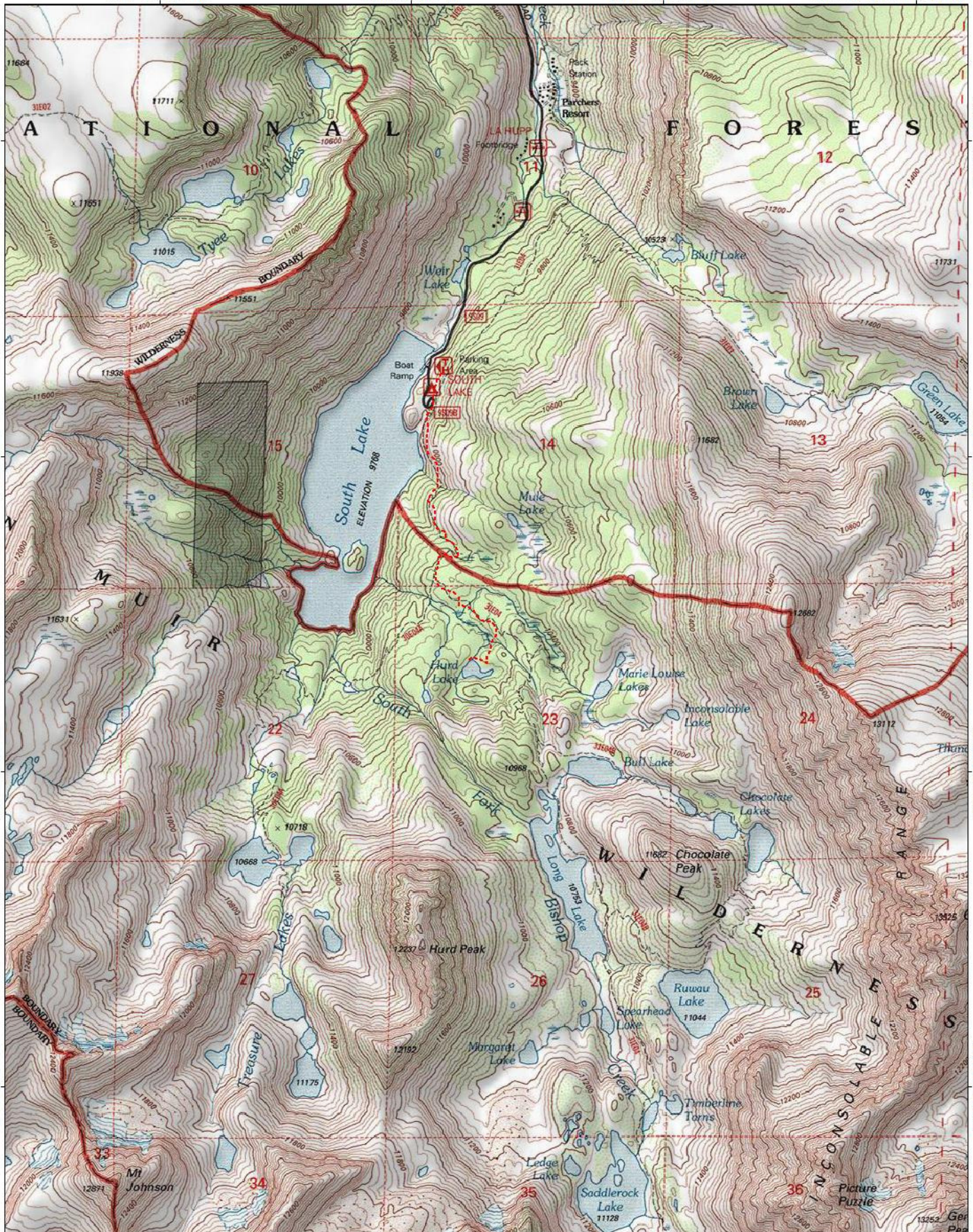
37°08.000' N

37°11.000' N

37°10.000' N

37°09.000' N

37°08.000' N



118°35.000' W

118°34.000' W

118°33.000' W

WGS84 118°32.000' W

