

South Lake to Treasure Lakes Hike

By the Parchers Resort Crew

Bishop Pass Trailhead at South Lake
(5.7 Miles Roundtrip and 1050 Vertical Ft.)

Catch the trail as it leaves the lower end of the South Lake parking lot. There are some nice wildflowers during the first 100 yards of trail. The trail ascends into the open, following above the shoreline. There are some spectacular views of the Sierra Crest and South Lake Island to had in this stretch.

The trail then moves into a draw before making a hairpin turn back toward the lake. At this point, the trail enters the John Muir Wilderness. There is a long straight stretch of trail through the forest before coming to the Treasure Lakes Trail Junction.

At the junction, take the trail to the right, marked Treasure Lakes. Follow the path as it moves parallel to the South Lake Shoreline. You will lose some elevation as he path winds around the back of the lake. You will shortly regain your lost ground as the trail moves to a flat crossing creeks several times. There is some beautiful stretches of slow moving creek to be found in this area holding rainbow-golden crossed trout.

As the trail ascends above the creek it will climb out of the woods into open ground. The views back towards South Lake get better and better as you gain altitude. There is some serious climbing before reaching the lower two Treasure Lakes. This is where most people stop.

If you are ambitious and want to climb to the the 3rd Treasure Lake, follow the trail that runs between 1st and 2nd Treasure Lakes until it fizzles out in the back of the lakes. There is a draw that the creek runs in. Follow the creek uphill until it can no longer be easily followed and then move to the right. This is where reading a map is important.

There is a small granite escarpment that you will need to traverse. It can easily be walked up and this will lead you to a flat of about 150 that leads to 3rd Treasure Lake. There are no fish in this lake but it is scenic none the less.



