



## Backpack with Llamas

### Sat-Sun September 1-9, 2018

The California Sierras are great territory for backpacking. The scenery is magnificent, with forests, streams, and lakes below peaks and exposed rock mountainsides. The weather is dependably good, with rain possible but unlikely, lots of sunshine, and comfortable temperatures. The wide trails are excellent by northeastern standards. They offer excellent footing; altitude change, both up and down, is eased by plenty of switchbacks.

We plan to cover 55 miles in six days, from Leavitt Meadows to Kennedy Meadow on the Sonora Pass road over the Sierra crest. The route is a long loop, with opportunities for extension if circumstances

make that desirable. With a starting trailhead at 7100 feet, and a maximum elevation just under 10,000 feet, eastern hikers in good condition should have no altitude issues.

Full-on backpacking requires tents, sleeping pads, stoves, water purification gear, and lots of food, which makes for weighty packs. Are you an experienced backpacker unsure about carrying the necessary weight? Let llamas carry shared gear, food, and 20 pounds of your personal gear. Llamas are a low impact alternative to pack horses, easy-going and gentle enough that the llama rancher sends his animals out without professional wranglers.

This is not an opportunity for beginner backpackers. To some degree, we will all be beginners in travelling with llamas, and we want to avoid concerns about group members who don't know from actual experience what backpacking means.

Our price of \$1,400 includes all meals, ground transportation, llama rental, and last night's motel lodging, but NOT your airfare to San Francisco and home. For a detailed prospectus, contact John Lisker ([john.lisker@juno.com](mailto:john.lisker@juno.com)) or Sue Lach ([slach@me.com](mailto:slach@me.com)).

