

# Tyee Lakes Trailhead to Lake Sabrina Hike

**By the Parchers Resort Crew**

Tyee Lakes Trailhead near Willow Campground  
(About 8 Miles and 2400 ft. vertical)

This hike can be approached from either Lake Sabrina or from the Tyee Lakes Trailhead. I recommend starting at Tyee because the trail to Lake Sabrina from Table Mountain is much easier to go down than come up. However, do your own thing. Don't say I didn't warn you.

The Tyee Lakes trail head can be found off South Lake Road between Table Mountain Group Camp and Willow Campground. When headed up-canyon, it is on the right hand side of the road. There is parking along the road near the trailhead sign.

Cross the footbridge that goes over South Fork of Bishop Creek. Follow the trail as it meanders up the canyon wall. The first section is exposed and is an excellent place to view wildflowers in the early season. The trail remains in open country as it ascends but then enters patches of forest that provide cover and shade. You will encounter a series of switchbacks that meander through the forest. There will be openings that will provide excellent views looking down the canyon. The small pond visible is locally referred to as Mud Lake. At this point, you just might get phone reception, so check your email and text messages if you want to take a rest break.

There are flat stretches of trail, but for the most part, this hike is uphill switchbacks until you are almost to First Tyee Lake. The lake will come into view and provides a welcome panorama as you wind your way around the north side of the lake. There are ample small brook trout to be had should you choose to wet a line.

It is a short but steep hike up to Second Tyee Lake. Second Tyee is a shallow, grassy lake but provides an excellent foreground for photos. Attack another steep, but short set of switchbacks that lead you to Fourth Tyee Lake. What happened to Third Tyee Lake? As you ascend the trail look to the left and you will see the small Third Tyee Lake tucked in under the mountain.

Fourth Tyee Lake will soon come into view. The best spots to lunch or to fish are right as you come up to the lake. Follow the trail on the south side of Fourth Tyee Lake as it ascends through the rocky landscape. It is a short hike up to Fifth Tyee Lake. This is a spectacular fishing lake and is very scenic. There are grassy beaches to relax on as a reward for your exercise of will in making the hike.

After a rest at Fifth Tyee Lake, get back on the trail and follow its ascent out of the canyon. There are long switchbacks that lead to the top of Table Mountain. Table Mountain is like it sounds, relatively flat. There is short grass and glacier polished round rocks peaking out of the surface. The view of the surrounding peaks, including Mt. Humphries is spectacular.

The trail on Table Mountain is poorly marked but, if you look closely, you will stay on track. As you descend off Table Mountain you descend a long series of sandy switchbacks. The view down to George Lake is stunning. But, watch your step on this bad trail.

Lake George is a beautiful Alpine lake. The trail goes down to the shoreline and then descends below the lake to a long wooded bench. The hike through the woods here is delightful. As you descend from the bench you are greeted with a fantastic vista of the Sabrina Basin, including a spectacular waterfall in the distance.

The hike down the switchbacks to Lake Sabrina is over bad, rocky trail. This is a real leg burner. The back end of Lake Sabrina comes into view and is with you through most of the remainder of the hike. You descend to just above the shoreline and follow the lake past the dam. The trail then meanders down to the trail head at the road. It is a short walk up to Lake Sabrina for a burger, piece of pie or a well-deserved cold drink. Hopefully, you have arranged a ride back to the Tyee Trailhead. You will not be in the mood to walk.

George Lake



