

South Lake to Chocolate Lakes Hike

By the Parchers Resort Crew

Bishop Pass Trailhead at South Lake
(5.3 Miles Roundtrip and 1200 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 left, marked Bishop Pass. Follow the path onto a wooded bench that slowly ascends as it moves southeast. Continue to follow the trail as it makes some gentle switchbacks, then straightening out again. Look for the trail marker denoting the Marie Louise Lakes Trail. The trail steepens as it make a hairpin turn that will soon provide a view down on Hurd Lake.

The trail moves straight across a rocky outcropping before making about a half dozen steeper switchbacks. The trail straightens out moving up a shallow draw and then crosses to the other side. Start looking for the trail marker to Bull Lake. Take the trail to the left. In early season there may be some snow on this first stretch of trail. Don't let that stop you. It is only a few hundred yards to the outlet of Bull Lake.

Move up the trail on the north side of the lake and follow the trail as it extends along the creek above Bull Lake. The trail will cross the creek and climbs steeply up the draw to 1st Chocolate Lake. This section of the trail is poor but it doesn't last for long. Once you have reached the first lake, it is a relatively easy hike to the 2nd and 3rd Chocolate Lakes.



TOPO! map printed on 11/24/12 from "TopLongLake.tpo" and "Untitled.tpg"
118°34.000' W WGS84 118°33.000' W

