

Overnight Use for Mt. Whitney Trail~ Updated April 20, 2011

When will the trail be clear of snow?

When can I apply for these dates?

How do I reserve a permit?

Scroll to the bottom for more information.

May~ Expect winter conditions in May and June. Climbing on snow and ice is serious business. Unless you are a experienced winter mountaineer, proficient with the use of winter mountaineering equipment, early spring may not be a good time for you to visit Mt Whitney.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 54	2 60	3 57	4 57	5 51	6 31	7 28
8 60	9 60	10 55	11 58	12 56	13 27	14 26
15 60	16 57	17 51	18 41	19 41	20 2	21 1
22 51	23 45	24 47	25 47	26 40	27 FULL	28 FULL
29 6	30 47	31 54				

June ~ Expect below freezing nights, with possible winter storms and a snow pack that melts and then refreezes each night as it slowly recedes.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 15	2 24	3 FULL	4 FULL
5 1	6 FULL	7 14	8 8	9 FULL	10 FULL	11 FULL
12 FULL	13 FULL	14 FULL	15 FULL	16 1	17 FULL	18 FULL
19 FULL	20 FULL	21 FULL	22 FULL	23 FULL	24 FULL	25 FULL
26 FULL	27 FULL	28 FULL	29 FULL	30 FULL		

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July~ The most requested entry dates are Friday and Saturday in July and August. A smaller group size will help your chances if the date you request is almost full when your application is drawn.						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 FULL	2 FULL
3 FULL	4 FULL	5 FULL	6 FULL	7 FULL	8 FULL	9 FULL
10 FULL	11 FULL	12 FULL	13 FULL	14 FULL	15 FULL	16 FULL
17 FULL	18 FULL	19 FULL	20 FULL	21 FULL	22 FULL	23 FULL
24 FULL	25 FULL	26 FULL	27 FULL	28 FULL	29 FULL	30 FULL
31 FULL						
August ~ Lottery applications are stirred into random order. When your application is drawn, a reservation will be made if there is still space left on any of the dates you requested. Providing alternate choices for the entry date will improve your chances.						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 FULL	2 FULL	3 FULL	4 FULL	5 FULL	6 FULL
7 FULL	8 FULL	9 FULL	10 FULL	11 FULL	12 FULL	13 FULL
14 FULL	15 FULL	16 FULL	17 FULL	18 FULL	19 FULL	20 FULL
21 FULL	22 FULL	23 FULL	24 FULL	25 FULL	26 FULL	27
28 FULL	29 FULL	30 FULL	31 FULL			

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September ~ Late September and October expect shorter days, cold temperatures and possible winter snow storms.						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 FULL	2 FULL	3 FULL
4 FULL	5 FULL	6 FULL	7 FULL	8 FULL	9 FULL	10 FULL
11 FULL	12 FULL	13 FULL	14 FULL	15 FULL	16 FULL	17 FULL
18 FULL	19 FULL	20 FULL	21 FULL	22 FULL	23 FULL	24 FULL
25 FULL	26 FULL	27 FULL	28 FULL	29 FULL	30 1	
October ~ First snowfall of the fall season was on these dates: ~#~ Snow on October 3, 2010 ~#~ S on October 13, 2009 ~#~ Snow on October 4, 2008 ~#~ Snow on September 20, 2007 ~#~ Snow on October 3, 2006						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 FULL
2 FULL	3 35	4 32	5 50	6 8	7 FULL	8 1
9 58	10 39	11 49	12 57	13 46	14 2	15 FULL
16 43	17 58	18 60	19 60	20 60	21 18	22 36
23 60	24 60	25 60	26 60	27 56	28 60	29 60
30 60	31 60	Nov 1 60				

When will the trail be clear of snow? Winter mountaineering skills, experience and equipment are essential for a safe excursion when ice and snow are on the Mt. Whitney Trail.

- Expect the switchbacks above Trail Camp to be covered by snow and ice through the end of June or early July. This area can be very hazardous when there is ice or snow.
- Snow may cover the trail again in late September or October.

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When can I make a reservation for Mt. Whitney Day Use or Mt. Whitney Trail Overnight trips?

If you missed the February Lottery....

- A freeze on transactions is in effect while visitors are notified of lottery results. If you missed the lottery, or want to request a different date, check this calendar page after April 1 for available dates for 2011. Apply for **lottery leftovers** starting on:
Wednesday, April 20 for trips in May, June or July
Wednesday, April 27 for trips in August, September or October
If space is available, reservations can be made up until 2 days before the trip.
- **All other trips** with quotas can be reserved from 6 months in advance and up until 2 days before the trip if space is available.
- **Non quota trails** do not need reservations, unless the Mt. Whitney exit quota for Trail Crest is used.

Is all the space reserved? Mt. Whitney trail overnight and day use permits are 100% reservable, all the space for July, August and early September was reserved during the lottery. However, it is common to have openings from cancellations a few days before the trip date.

For trails other than Mt Whitney, (Not for Mt. Whitney) at least 40% of the space is saved for visitors who request a walk in permit in person the day before the trip.

Where do I pick up the permit? All Mt. Whitney Wilderness Permits must be picked up at:

Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center, phone (760) 876-6200
located at the junction of Highway 395 and SR 136.

Self issue permit forms are available from November 2nd to April 30th.

How do I make a reservation? On-line reservation software is in development and will change how **2012** season reservations are made. **Trips in 2011 will continue making reservations by contacting the Inyo National Forest staff at the Wilderness Permit Office.**

Inyo National Forest

Wilderness Permit Phone Line (760) 873-2483

Wilderness Permit Office

Fax Line (760) 873-2484

351 Pacu Lane Suite 200

Bishop, CA 93514 ~ Open ~ 8am-4:30pm, 7 days a week, from May 15 to October 15.

Winter season ~ Closed weekends and holidays.

Wilderness permits are required year-round for all visitors entering the Mt Whitney Zone. Reservations can only be made for trips that begin during the quota period, from May 1 through November 1.

Day Use Permit: If the entire trip will be on one calendar date and you will enter the Mt. Whitney Zone, a Day Use permit is required. Day Use includes all routes (access to Mountaineer's Route, East Face/Buttress routes, Mt Russell). No consecutive day use, if trip is more than one calendar date an Overnight permit is required.

Overnight permit (or multi-night): Trips lasting one night or more, that start on the Mt. Whitney trail require an Overnight permit. This includes trips that will end elsewhere (i.e. Pacific Crest and John Muir trails). Day permit can not be used as part of an overnight trip to pass through the area. Overnight use does not include all routes. Entry via North Fork of Lone Pine Creek is NOT in lottery (access to Mountaineer's Route, East Face /Buttress, Mt. Russell), can be reserved 6 months in advance.

Group Size: You are limited to the number of people indicated in your group size. The maximum group size is 15 people. Large groups can not exceed 15 people even if on separate permits.

Entry Date: is the day you will begin walking from the trailhead. All of your group must start on the entry date listed on your permit. Your permit will not be valid if you miss your entry date. Do not include extra days you are staying at Whitney Portal before you start on the trail.

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