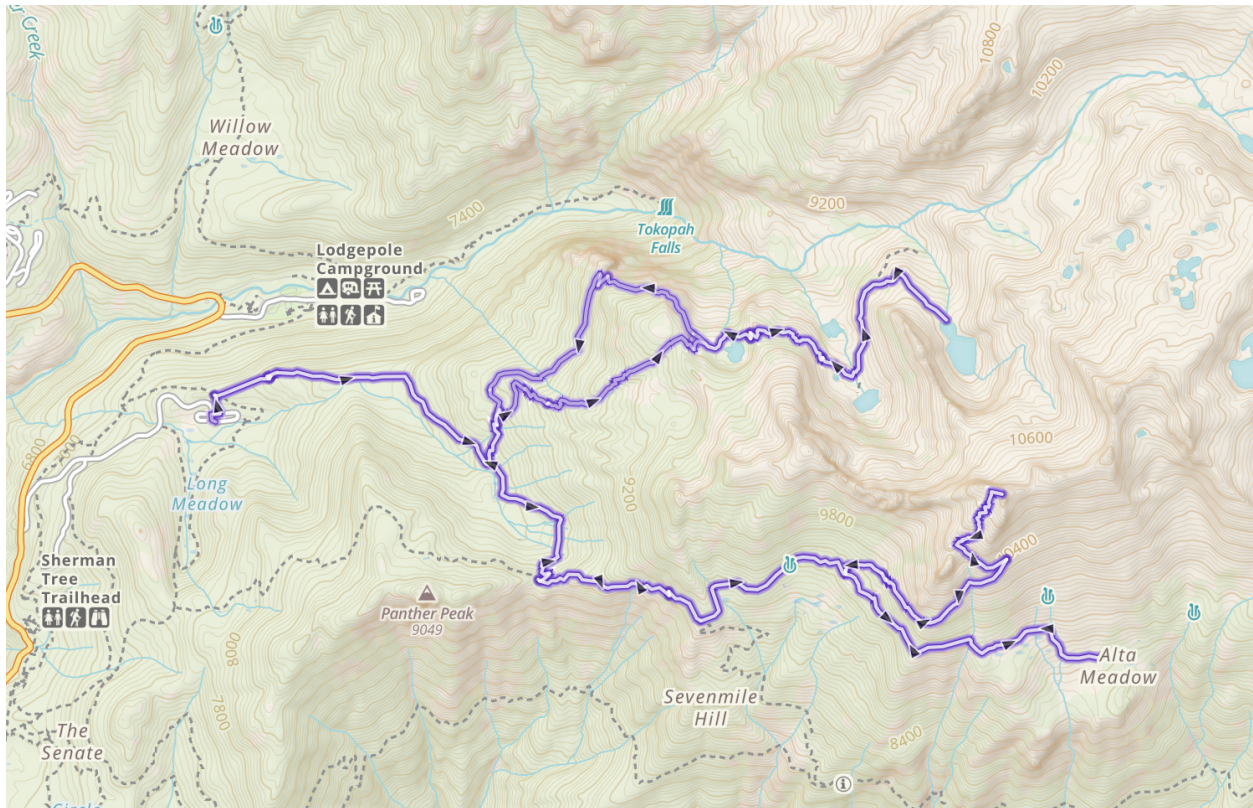


JULY 30-AUGUST 3

LINE OF SIGHT

SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK



Description

On this trip we will consider how our bodies relate to the vertical and the visible, engaging with the idea of a high point, peak, or vista that moves in and out of sight. How does a summit within view affect a sense of a goal, achievement, or accomplishment? From whence comes this urge to “get to the top” – for clarity, for a clear line of sight in as many degrees as possible? We will pay special attention to the ways in which vision or lack thereof contributes to our orientation of our bodies in space. Of course, with lookouts and observation points we can also consider the implied agency in that relationship (ie. who is watching whom) and ways in which we could complicate the human-centric idea of a person surveying a passive vista.

We start by approaching Alta Peak, one of the more prominent points on the west side of the southern Sierra, camping part way up on our first night. On the second day, we will summit the peak for sunrise, hoping to catch views of Mt. Whitney from the top, before descending again to

the meadow below, where we will camp with the granite peak as our sentinel. From there, we move on to Emerald and Pear Lakes, with the peak moving in and out of view. Finally, on our last day, we will climb the Watchtower look out point for a different perspective on the land we have just walked through.

Trip Details

Itinerary

Day	Description	Mileage
1	Hike from trailhead to Mehrten Meadow	4 mi
2	Hike to Alta Peak for sunrise, hike to camp at Alta Meadow	6.5 mi
3	Hike to Emerald Lake	7.5 mi
4	Explore Emerald and Pear Lakes	2 ish mi
5	Hike out via the Watchtower	5.5 mi

Total Mileage: 26 mi

Difficulty: Moderate. Trail is maintained and mileage is manageable each day. We will be starting at 7000 ft, so altitude sensitivity might be an issue.



Elevation



Ascent **8,698 ft**

Descent **8,713 ft**

Max Elevation **11,132 ft**

Min Elevation **7,275 ft**

Expected Conditions

- Weather
 - Highs in the 70s-80s, lows in the 50s, possibility of afternoon thunderstorms
- Trail
 - Maintained, unlikely to be much remaining snow or ice
- Water
 - Water will be reliably in springs, but carrying capacity of 2-3 liters for summiting the peak would be ideal.
- Gear Considerations
 - Depending on the mosquitos, I'd recommend a head net, bug spray, and treating your clothing ahead of time with Permethrin.
 - Make sure you have rain gear and a way of keeping things in your pack dry in case of afternoon storms.

Getting to the Trailhead

- Meet at Wolverton Trailhead at 11 am July 30th
- Park Entrance Fee: Each car will need to purchase entrance to the National Park (\$35) or have an annual National Parks pass (\$80, also covers Angeles National Forest Adventure pass fees as well as all other national Parks like Joshua Tree).
<https://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/fees.htm>
- Wilderness Permit fees: \$10 per person, to reimburse Christina

Additional Notes