Backpacking: Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks

May 24th - June 3rd, 2017
$925.00
Includes first and last nights’ lodging, backcountry equipment and meals, permits, ground transportation during trip, and meals before and after backpacking.

Trip Overview
Come explore the breathtaking Sierra Nevada mountains on a backpacking trip through Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Our trail will lead us through groves of giant sequoia trees, alpine meadows, and rocky overpasses with views of the highest peak in the continental United States. These are some of the most famous parks in the country, but relatively few people get off the well-worn tourist trails to experience all the backcountry has to offer. Our group will become a self-contained team as we wake each day to determine our route and what the day will offer. Basic map reading, backcountry living, and travel skills will be covered early so participants can get the most out of their trip.

Don’t miss this opportunity to see some of California’s best vistas, wildlife, waterfalls, alpine lakes, and panoramic views of the surrounding mountains! Everybody is welcome, and no backpacking experience is required.

General Schedule of Trip
- May 24th: Fly independently to Fresno, and shuttle to hotel
- May 25th - June 1st: Shuttle to trailhead, backpack through Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks
- June 2nd: Hike out, shuttle to hotel for the final evening, final group dinner together
- June 3rd: Return home or continue traveling on your own

Facilitators
This program will be facilitated by Hanna Warfield and Maggie DeBell. Hanna is a senior Political Science major, whose favorite GRAB trips have taken her hiking in the White Mountains and kayaking in the Allegheny Reservoir. Maggie, a junior Health Sciences major, is excited to be embarking on her second GRAB expedition. Last year, she led a road trip to seven national parks in the Southwest, and has also enjoyed snowshoeing, ice climbing, and participating in Ascent. Combined, Hanna and Maggie have 5 years of trip-leading experience, over 1500 hours of training, and wilderness first responder medical certifications.

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Registration and Payment: Registration is open online at www.gettysburg.edu/grab until March 20, 2017. A $150 non-refundable deposit is due at time of registration to secure a place on the trip of your choice. We accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover, e-checks or cash. The final payment will be required one month prior the trip departure date. To register, please fill out the online form or call the GRAB Office at 717.337.6313 to register over the phone.

Not Included in the Price: Hospitalization, individual evacuation costs, insurance, meals in destination cities prior to and at the conclusion of the trip, souvenirs, alcohol, or other personal expenses incurred outside the scope of the trip. We DO NOT include airfare in the pricing of our trips. We want to give participants the opportunity to have flexibility in their travel arrangements. Some people will have frequent flyer miles, many people will be traveling from various destinations, while others may already be at the site location or decide to extend their trip once our expedition has concluded.

The Hiking: Hiking distance will vary from 6-10 miles per day, but the average time spent hiking will range from 4-8 hours, which includes stops for lunch & breaks, appreciating the sites, general conversation, and determining our route.

Group Size: The trip consists of two facilitators from the Office of Experiential Education and up to ten participants from the Gettysburg College community; students, employees and families, and alumni of the college are all welcome.

Transportation: You are responsible for your own flights to and from Fresno Yosemite International Airport and for your transportation from the airport to the hotel in Fresno, and back to the airport at the end of the program. There is a free shuttle between the airport and hotel should you choose to use it. Should the group stay outside of Fresno on the final night, transportation to the airport will also be provided and timing clarified for flight purposes. All other ground transportation will be arranged and provided, including shuttles to and from the trail. If you plan to travel further following the trip, you are responsible for those logistics as well.

Accommodations and Meals: Accommodations are provided the first night in a hotel in Fresno, and the last night of the trip at either a hotel in Fresno or a rental property near Kings Canyon, subject to availability. All meals from your arrival in Fresno through dinner on the 2nd of June will be provided. Our backcountry portion will be spent in tents with no access to modern amenities. The group will boil or purify their own water, cook their own meals, and carry and pitch their own tents or tarps.

Weather: Spring weather in Kings Canyon varies from highs of mid 60s to lows of 30 and will depend upon the elevation we are hiking at. There is a likelihood of snow, rain, and everything in between. Your facilitators will help you prepare to manage any weather that comes.

Physical Preparation: The trip is designed to be a challenging backpacking trip and the terrain will be mountainous with varying levels of elevation. You should base your preparation on your personal needs. If you can, get out and walk, run, bike, or move any way you like to accustom yourself to the level of movement necessary for this trip. Any activity will help make the experience more enjoyable.

Health and Medical & Release of Liability: We require each participant to fill out medical/liability forms for Gettysburg College and for any contracted services who request similar documentation. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Cancellation of Trips: We reserve the right to cancel trips due to lack of participants, State Department warnings, or natural occurrences that may be potentially hazardous. If you cancel the trip more than 60 days from the departure date, you will receive a full refund minus the $150 deposit. If cancellation occurs between 45-60 days prior to the departure date a 50% refund is available. If cancellation occurs between 30-45 days of the trip a 25% refund will be available. There will be no refunds for cancellations made within 30 days of the expedition.