Trip Overview

The trail selected for this expedition stretches over one hundred and sixty five miles through the mountain passes and forests surrounding the spectacular Lake Tahoe. You aren’t working up to a breathtaking viewpoint on this one—the entire Tahoe Rim Trail is the view. The picture above should convince you that tackling a section of this trail on foot is worth the challenge. End your year on a high note by working as a tight-knit team to see how many miles, sights, and accomplishments you can squeeze into this ten day backpacking experience. The group will be completely self-sufficient, transporting all necessary equipment, food, and supplies for the week of backpacking.

The view was only half of the motivation for choosing this location: the rest is in the challenge. You will walk away from this trip knowing how to make a variety of complex meals on a backcountry stove, how to tackle timing logistics over varied terrain, and all of the basics of orienteering and backcountry living. The trip is also the perfect way to practice self-awareness, adaptability in stressful situations and what it really means to work closely with a small group toward a unified goal. These are critical components of a productive member in a successful team. All together, these skills, sights and challenges will make this trip an unforgettable experience.

General Schedule of Trip

On May 20th, we will meet as a group in Reno International Airport to take a shuttle to our hotel in South Tahoe. We will spent the night exploring town and packing group gear and food for our departure the next morning. On May 21st, a shuttle will take the group to the trailhead for the beginning of our seven day backpacking adventure. Between the 22nd and 26th we will make our way around the lake, passing over streams, through valleys, and snow covered passes. On the 27th we will pack up camp for the final time before meeting our driver to return to the hotel, hard-earned showers, and a celebratory dinner. You can either fly home or continue traveling independently on May 28th.

The Trail

Proposed in 1978, the Tahoe Rim Trail was completed in 2001 through by volunteers. It’s no wonder people were so willing to dedicate themselves to the task: winding over two mountain ranges, through three wilderness areas and three national forests, this is one of the most beautiful, sought after hiking destinations in the country. In addition to its breathtaking vistas, the trail is also popular for its variability: from 6,240 to 10,338 feet, Tahoe is a great testing ground for outdoor enthusiasts of all experience levels.

As a testament to its wide-reaching appeal, Lake Tahoe sees over 3 million visitors each year. Due to our timing and choice of activity we should miss most of the crowds, as snow pack on the mountains will inhibit many from attempting the trail in May. As a result of this choice, our exact route will be determined by snow pack and trail conditions in late spring.
Transportation
You are responsible for your own flights to and from Reno International Airport. Included in the price of this expedition is a shuttle from the airport to Lake Tahoe as well as transportation to and from the trail. To allow for everyone’s individual plans, the shuttle back to the airport is not included in the price, but a group shuttle can be organized if there is interest.

Preparation
The elevation gains and losses on this trip are considerable and the trail, though well-traveled, is very strenuous at times. We recommend walking, running, biking or hiking with a thirty pound pack three to five times a week in the months preceding departure.

We will be hiking at altitudes between 6,000 and 10,000 feet, so proper physical preparation will be critical to enjoy this trip. No prior experience hiking is required, and all backcountry skills and expectations will be covered during the trip.

Accommodations/Meals
Hotel accommodation for the first and last nights are included in the cost of this expedition. The group will stay near the trailhead both nights.

Dinner the first and last night of the trip are also included, as are three meals a day for our time in the field. Trail mix and other “snacks” may be included in the menu, but feel free to supplement with energy bars or other lightweight, energy-dense foods. You will prepare your own typical camp meals such as quesadillas, pasta and oatmeal with the

Weather
There is a huge range to temperature in the Lake Tahoe region due to elevation changes and the effects of the lake and mountains, but expect to see daily lows around 30 and highs in the 60s. Weather can change very quickly on the trail, so it’s important to be prepared for a variety of temperatures and conditions.