

Horseshoe Meadow loop via New Army & Cottonwood Passes

Distance: 20 miles

Elevation Gain/Loss: 3900' ascent/ 3900' descent

Route Elevations: Horseshoe Meadow (start/finish) 9675', New Army Pass 12280', low point near PCT junction 10920', Cottonwood Pass 11515'

Location: Horseshoe Meadow, south of Lone Pine

Time Of Year: when the bulk of the winter snowpack has melted off, generally June through October

Directions From Bishop: 395S to Lone Pine, Whitney Portal Road to Horseshoe Meadow Road

Route Description: from Horseshoe Meadow the trail climbs gradually to the Cottonwood Lakes skirting just to the south of them but passing Long Lake and High Lake before switchbacking steeply to New Army Pass (if you want to bag a 14'er it's a fairly easy cross country cruise up to Mt Langley from the pass), from the pass the trail descends gradually down to its junction with the PCT, to complete the loop head south on the PCT along rolling terrain past Chicken Spring Lake and up to Cottonwood Pass (a minimal climb from the west side), from Cottonwood Pass descend back down to the T/H at the end of Horseshoe Meadow Rd, a short jaunt along the road will take you back to the New Army Pass T/H

Odds & Ends: with the exception of the Cottonwood Lakes/New Army Pass section of this run the route can be fairly dry especially in the late summer and fall, may need to carry more water than is typically necessary on a backcountry run in the Sierra

