



# YOSEMITE AND THE HIGH SIERRA



## California's Finest 2-week Hiking Holiday

- ~ El Capitan and Half Dome
- ~ Ascent of Mount Whitney
- ~ Travelling through Death Valley
- ~ The bright lights of Las Vegas

North America 2006/07

15 DAYS



TREK

4 NIGHTS HOTELS, 9 NIGHTS CAMPING, 9 DAYS DEMANDING TREKKING, MAX ALTITUDE – 4418M.

Group Size 8 - 13

LAND ONLY PRICE **£1495**  
(join in San Francisco, depart Las Vegas)

FLIGHT PRICE FROM **£750**

YHS.1 Sat 22 Jul – Sat 5 Aug

YHS.2 Sat 19 Aug – Sat 2 Sept

INSURANCE **£130**

BEFORE CONFIRMING YOUR OWN TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS PLEASE CHECK YOUR TRIP IS 'GUARANTEED TO RUN'. YOU CAN CHECK YOUR TRIP STATUS AT WWW.KEADVENTURE.COM OR CONTACT THE KE OFFICE.



## Introduction

The soaring granite peaks and thundering waterfalls of California's Sierra Nevada are the focus of this spectacular new trekking holiday. Ranking amongst the world's most spectacular mountain ranges, the Sierra Nevada was christened the 'Range of Light' by pioneering conservationist and writer John Muir. This is a wilderness area of golden granite peaks and cliffs, huge granite domes cut by glaciers, turquoise lakes, ancient conifer forest and rare wildlife - including mountain lion and black bear. Our access point for this exciting part of the world is San Francisco, from where we drive inland to spend 5 days in the incomparable Yosemite National Park. From our campground in this world-famous park, we will take day walks to such celebrated sights as towering El Capitan, the cascading Nevada Falls, the dramatic summit of Half Dome (2695m.) and also hike to the top of Cloud's Rest (3025m.), a little-known peak which offers commanding views across the Yosemite Valley. Yosemite is a place of wonder and to stand beneath the sheer 1000 metre-high face of El Capitan, playground of the world's climbers, is truly awe-inspiring. Having gained useful acclimatisation during our time in Yosemite, we cross the Sierra by way of the Tioga Pass and then drive south via Mono Lake, stopping overnight in atmospheric Lone Pine. Here, on the east side of the Sierra Nevada, the biggest peaks rise precipitously above the lovely valley of the Owens River and provide obvious challenges to keen hillwalkers. Meeting up with our local cowboy guides and their pack mules, we will hike for 6 days into the High Sierra. Carrying just a daypack, we will trek through stands of Ponderosa pine and across alpine meadows, to reach our basecamp in the wild Upper Rock Creek Basin. We will cross several high passes in an area which is relatively little-visited and yet offers the most stunning landscape of the entire range. Mount Langley (4280m.) is one possible objective amongst a range of ice-carved 4000 metre peaks. Continuing our trek through the high alpine basin of 'The Miter' we cross a steep pass to enter beautiful Crabtree Valley and set up camp in a high meadow below Mount Whitney (4418m.), our ultimate goal and the highest peak in continental USA. Returning to the roadhead, we say goodbye to our cowboy muleteers and travel eastwards through Death Valley to bring this memorable trekking holiday to a close in Las Vegas, the world's most famous playground.

## Itinerary

### Group Size and Trip Status

For each of our group holidays, there is a minimum number of participants required to enable the trip to go ahead. The pricing panel on the front page of this dossier gives an indication of group size, showing minimum and maximum numbers. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to Run'. You can check the trip status by accessing our website at [www.keadventure.com](http://www.keadventure.com) or by calling the KE office. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status and so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements. If you are unsure about the trip status, please call our office.

### Day 1. Depart UK, arrive San Francisco

Depart from Terminal 3 of London, Heathrow Airport mid morning. The check in time for the flight is 3 hours before departure. We arrive in San Francisco in the early evening, meet our local guide and transfer to the group hotel.

### Day 2. Drive to Yosemite National Park

After breakfast, we have an introductory briefing at 8.00 am before boarding our transport for the 4 hour drive to our overnight stopping place at one of the campgrounds in the Yosemite National Park. It is most likely that we choose one of the camps in the Tuolumne Meadows area, which gives us access to some of the best trails. Another advantage of staying in the Tuolumne area is that the elevation here is around 2700 metres and this provides great altitude acclimatisation for the second part of the trip. On arrival at camp, the guide will brief the group on the safe-keeping of foodstuffs. Black bears (and raccoons) sometimes visit the camp at night and it is important not to attract these creatures by leaving food accessible. In the afternoon, we are free to relax to help us get over our long journey, or to wander into Tuolumne Meadows for great views of a host of surrounding granite peaks and domes.

### Day 3. Yosemite, hike to Glen Aulin

From the foothills of the Sierra Nevada in the west, to the high crest at 4000 metres, Yosemite National Park encloses a vast area of wilderness. The park was set up in 1890, thanks to the work of John Muir. The Yosemite Valley itself is at an elevation of around 1200 metres and is ringed by impressive granite peaks and domes. However, there is much more to the park than just 'The Valley' and the variety of hiking trails and adventure options is enormous. The group leader will make a decision about the best hikes to include and the order in which they should be undertaken, depending on the prevailing weather conditions and other factors. An obvious first choice hike from Tuolumne is through the deep canyon of the Tuolumne River to Glen Aulin. Starting out at around 2700 metres, this scenic and well-marked trail takes us through stands of lodgepole pine, past impressive rock walls and towering waterfalls. Involving 20 kilometres of hiking and just 300 metres of ascent and descent, this walk will take us 6 hours or so. Overnight at camp.

### Day 4. Yosemite, rest day with option to hike Lembert Dome

For those who want to take it easy today, there are lots of options for short excursions across Tuolumne Meadows and for paddling in the clear pools of the Tuolumne River. For those with energy to spare, there are also options for longer day-hikes, such as the 8 kilometre (4 hour) round trip to Lembert Dome, which is a great viewpoint. The trail to Lembert Dome passes through forest and then across bare rock with some scrambling near the summit as the angle gets steeper. Overnight at camp.

### Day 5. Climb to the top of Half Dome

After breakfast at camp, we will transfer into the Yosemite Valley, stopping off to admire El Capitan as it emerges dramatically above the roadside pine trees. Peering upwards, we can try to spot climbers, who will be almost invisible to the naked eye, such is the scale of the cliff. A little further into the valley and we will gain our first view of Half Dome (from this perspective) and continue to the trailhead. The walk up Half Dome from the valley involves 1500 metres of ascent, following a good trail which affords views of much of the valley's best rock scenery and several of its waterfalls; Yosemite Falls, Vernal Falls and Nevada Falls. Reaching a high saddle, we are faced with a bare incline of granite, with we manage to overcome thanks to a long series of metal steps and handrails which have been bolted in place on Half Dome's upper slopes. The views are superb in all directions and we linger awhile before starting the long return trek to the trailhead. Today's hike is approximately 27.5 kilometres and involves 1500 metres of ascent and descent. Anyone who does not fancy the final part of the climb to Half Dome's summit can opt not to do it. Overnight at camp.

### Day 6. Drive to Lone Pine via Mono Lake

It's now time to leave the wonders of the Yosemite National Park and head eastwards across the Sierra Nevada on our approach to Mount Whitney. It is a picturesque drive up to the Tioga Pass (2984m.) where we leave the park and descend across huge scree slope to reach Mono Lake (1945m.). Mono Lake is an oddity, a lake without an outflow. This has resulted in the lake waters becoming rich in minerals. Volcanic and hot spring activity at the lake has caused the formation of weird-shaped tufa towers which have been exposed by a fall in the lake level. We will stop off at the lake to stretch our legs and see the sights. From Mono Lake, we head south through the Wild West town of Bishop with its long main street. This is a good place for the guide to stop off to buy supplies for the trek and for group members to do a bit of shopping, or even laundry. Arriving in the small settlement of Lone Pine, we check in to the atmospheric Dow Villa Motel. Lazing in the heated outdoor pool and looking up at Mount Whitney provides an unusual perspective on the next 6 days' trekking. We will find time to repack for the Mount Whitney trek and can leave any equipment items we don't need at the motel.

### Day 7. Hike to Rock Creek

From Lone Pine, a narrow, steep mountain road leads up to the start of our hike at the Cottonwood Pass Trailhead. Here, we meet up with our cowboys and their mules, the mules are packed with our gear and

we set off into the High Sierra wilderness. Crossing Horseshoe Meadows is the easy bit, but we start to get into the swing of things as we climb a series of switchbacks through ancient forest to reach Cottonwood Pass. From the pass, we descend more easily into the drainage of the alpine stream known as Rock Creek. We set up our camp at around 3350 metres elevation, with good views westwards to the peaks of the High Sierra. 20 kilometres walking today, with 700 metres of ascent and 350 metres of descent.

### Day 8. Through 'The Miter' to Crabtree Creek

This variant of the approach to Mount Whitney is not well known and is little-travelled. We ascend to the headwaters of Rock Creek, passing rocky cascades, alpine lakes and acres of bare rock. This high bowl is known as 'The Miter' as it is high above the last of the stunted pines which marked the treeline. Ultimately, we cross steep scree to reach the Crabtree Pass at 3340 metres, before dropping down into a cirque which often holds snow. On this side of the pass we are in the drainage of Crabtree Creek, which has steep bare rock slabs polished by glacial ice. After a total of 15 kilometres walking (involving 800 metres of ascent and 500 metres of descent) we set up camp on a meadow site which is one of the basecamp areas for Mount Whitney.

### Day 9. A rest day at camp

We have allowed a rest day at this idyllic spot to give everyone a chance to prepare themselves for the ascent of Mount Whitney. There are lots of opportunities for exploration in the surrounding area, including viewpoint peaks, for those who simply cannot rest.

### Day 10. Mount Whitney ascent

It is usual to make an early start for this potentially long day of hiking. Our route on the mountain is via the western flank and is actually a part of the John Muir Trail. There are good views of Mount Hitchcock as we begin to gain height. We join with the normal route from the east at Trail Crest and from here the route winds its way beneath the impressive jagged peaks below the summit. At the top, we have superb views across range after range of granite peaks and eastwards down to the Owens Valley and the desert beyond. We return to camp via the same route. 20 kilometres walking, with 1200 metres of ascent and descent.

### Day 11. Return hike over Crabtree Pass to Rock Creek

We retrace our route back across Crabtree Pass, which is no hardship, as it is one of the finest hikes in the Sierra Nevada. Dropping down through the impressive scenery of 'The Miter,' we reach our camping place at Rock Creek. A final chance to fish for the rare golden trout and to enjoy another night in the wilderness under the stars.

### Day 12. Return hike to the trailhead, overnight at Lone Pine

We recross the continental divide at Cottonwood Pass and hike out to the trailhead, where we say goodbye to the cowboys and their mules who have accompanied us on this 6-day adventure. We drive back down into

Lone Pine and check into the Dow Villa Motel. We will find a diner or restaurant in Lone Pine for a celebratory evening meal.

### Day 13. Drive through Death Valley to Las Vegas

After breakfast, we will set off for a most interesting drive eastwards to Las Vegas. This drive takes us through Death Valley and we will have time to stop off to see the sights and to feel the heat. Iley, we stop to marvel at some of the sights, but due to the intense heat no hiking can be done. In the afternoon we will arrive in Las Vegas, check into a hotel and rest, before heading out into the city for a meal at a restaurant. Walking the strip (with its outrageous themed hotels and casinos) and watching the nighttime crowds is something of a culture shock after our time in the desert. There's no rush - as this is the city that never sleeps.

### Day 14. Depart Las Vegas

After breakfast, there should be a bit of time to have a final walk up and down the strip, before taking the transfer to the airport for the return flight to the UK. Depart in the early afternoon.

### Day 15. Arrive UK

We arrive at London, Heathrow Airport in the morning.

**Important:** This day-to-day schedule should be taken only as a general guide. Although we update our itineraries every year, to take into account such things as: changes to trekking routes and changes in the routing or availability of local transport, it is not possible to guarantee that any of our holidays will run exactly according to the proposed itinerary. A variety of factors, including adverse weather conditions and difficulties with transportation, can lead to enforced changes. The trip leader will make any changes that are necessary.

## Trip Summary and Grading

**16 days. (4 nights hotels, 9 nights camping, 9 days DEMANDING trekking). Max altitude – 4418 metres.**

This is not a long or continuous trekking trip. Whilst in Yosemite National Park, we will complete a series of day-hikes from a campground, with short transfers to take us to the trailheads. We have the option of a rest or easier day here and all of the walks are optional. This part of the trip can be made much easier if one or more of the walks is missed out. Most of the hiking throughout the trip is on good trails, but approximately a third of it will be on rougher terrain where no path, or only poor paths, exist. There will be sections of bare rock slabs, rough boulderfields and scree. The summit slopes of Half Dome are very exposed (although there are handrails). During the 6 days that we spend beneath Mount Whitney, we have just a 2-day walk-in to the peak, a rest day at basecamp, an optional ascent of Whitney itself and then 2-day walk out. On each of the principal hiking days on the trip we will cover something in the region of 20 kilometres and on 2 of these days, there will be a considerable amount of ascent and descent (Half Dome ascent and Mount Whitney summit day). We ascend to considerable altitude only at Mount Whitney's summit (4418 metres) and this comes late in the trip when we should be reasonably well acclimatised. There are only 3 driving days (apart from short trailhead transfers) and driving distances are relatively short.

## Trip Details

### Joining arrangements and transfers

The preferred group flights for this trip are with American Airlines. A single group transfer will be arranged to meet the designated group flight on arrival at San Francisco Airport. This transfer will normally be in the early evening of Day 1 of the trip itinerary. At the end of the trip there will be a single group transfer from the group hotel to Las Vegas Airport timed to the check in for the designated group flight. This transfer will normally be in the late morning of Day 15. The KE representative or local guide will assist with Airport transfers.

Whether you have booked your own flights or KE has booked them for you, if you are not on the designated group flights you will need to make your own transfer arrangements at San Francisco and Las Vegas Airports.

Clients travelling to San Francisco on flights other than the designated group flights can take one of the airport shuttle buses to the group hotel. These run 24 hours a day from just outside the airport and the cost per person is \$14. Alternatively, a taxi will cost \$40 to \$50. Details of the group hotel will be provided with your final confirmation letter. At the end of the trip the hotel in Las Vegas provides a free airport shuttle service. **Please note** that all clients must be ready for the group introductory meeting at 8am on Day 2 of the itinerary, the day after arriving in San Francisco. Please ensure that you have packed your bags and have taken breakfast before attending this meeting.

### Services included

A professional local driver / guide. A trek support team of 2 cowboys and their mules, to accompany the group on the Mount Whitney trek (including tips for the cowboys) is also included in the trip price. International flights (if booking a Land Only package plus flights), San Francisco and Las Vegas airport transfers (for designated group flights), all land transport, hotel accommodation in San Francisco and in Las Vegas, motel accommodation in Lone Pine, 10 nights camping to include campground fees and all equipment (excluding personal equipment). Entrance fees to Yosemite and Death Valley national parks. The following meals are also included: Breakfasts on all days except Days 8 and 14. Lunches on all days except Days 2, 7, and 14. Dinners on all days except Days 5, 7, 13 and 14.

### Services not included

Travel Insurance, San Francisco and Las Vegas airport transfers (other than for group flights), tips for the local driver / guide, miscellaneous personal expenses – drinks, souvenirs etc.. The following meals are not included in the trip price: Breakfasts on Days 8 and 14. Lunches on Days 2, 7, and 14. Dinners on Days 5, 7, 13 and 14.

### Spending money

Most meals are included within the trip price. However, there will be occasions when it will make sense for us to stop off at an inexpensive restaurant or diner for lunch. Similarly, there will be several opportunities for us to take dinner at a restaurant. On average, breakfasts and lunches cost from \$4 to \$15 and dinners from \$10 to \$25.

We estimate that approximately \$250 should be sufficient to cover all your personal spending whilst in North America, including the above non-included meals, tips for the local guide, together with miscellaneous items such as bar bills, etc. If you are intending to buy expensive souvenirs, you should budget accordingly (credit cards can be useful in this respect). Your money can be carried in the form of cash (US Dollars) or travellers cheques.

### Group leader and support staff

The maximum group size for this trip is 13. The group will be accompanied throughout the trip by a professional local driver / guide. The guide will also accompany the group whilst hiking. The group will be accompanied by a team of 2 cowboys and their mules during the Mount Whitney approach.

## KE Pricing and Flights

We are taking a new approach to trip pricing for 2006/07. With improved online booking technology, more frequent domestic connections and the proliferation of low-cost airlines, more of you are choosing to book your own international flights. On account of this, we have given priority to 'land only' prices in this dossier (please refer to the panel on the front page). The land only price does not include the cost of international flights and is based on joining the group in the destination country. Alongside the land only prices you will also see an estimated flight cost for each trip.

You can choose to book your holiday as a **Land Only Package plus Flights**, in which case KE will book your international airtickets, or as a **Land Only Package** and make your own international flight arrangements.

### Land Only Package plus Flights

If you would like to book your flights through KE, you should indicate this on your booking form or contact the KE office to this effect. KE has full ATOL bonding and can book air tickets for any flight, from any airline, worldwide. For most of our holidays, we select a preferred flight and it is the estimated cost of airtickets for this flight that is shown in the pricing panel. (The estimated cost of this flight is based on fare information available at the time of printing). Up to date prices and flight timings for your chosen trip can be obtained by contacting the KE office.

### Preferred flights

For those booking a Land Only Package plus Flights, we propose to use American Airlines for this trip. Flights depart from Terminal 3 of London's Heathrow airport in the morning (approximately 8.am) and travel via Chicago. The recommended check-in time is 3 hours before departure. The flight normally arrives in San Francisco mid afternoon the same day. The return flight normally departs Las Vegas in the early afternoon and the connecting flight from Chicago arrives in the UK the following morning. Less direct flight connections through other US cities are possible if there is no availability on the above routing. **Please note that all airline schedules are subject to change.** Full details of your flight schedule will be confirmed with your booking

If you would like to fly with an alternative airline, or if you want to extend your holiday by a few days, this can also be arranged within a Land Only Package plus Flights booking. Please contact the office to discuss your options.

### UK add-on flights

Subject to availability, we can book add-on flights from 6 UK regional airports to connect with the group flights from London. These add-on flights are available from Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle, Manchester and Jersey into Heathrow. Booking these flights through the international carrier (American Airlines), allows us the flexibility to make reasonable changes to the booking without penalty and also means that you can book your baggage from your nearest airport all the way through to San Francisco. The cost of these flights is very reasonable starting from £40. We recommend that you do not purchase non-flexible add-on flights (or rail tickets), since the entire cost of such tickets will be lost in the case of your international flight being delayed.

### Land Only Package

If you are making your own flight arrangements, you must check that your chosen holiday has reached the minimum numbers and is '**Guaranteed to Run**' - **BEFORE** paying for your airtickets. Check with the KE office or check the trip status on the KE website. Land only clients should book flights which enable them to meet their group at the hotel in San Francisco no later than 8.00 am on Day 2 of the trip itinerary. Return flights can be booked to depart Las Vegas no sooner than the penultimate day (Day 15) of the trip itinerary.

**WHETHER WE BOOK YOUR FLIGHTS OR YOU DO, EARLY BOOKING USUALLY MEANS CHEAPER AIRTICKETS.**

### Equipment

For this trip you will need the following: 4-season sleeping bag, camping mattress, walking boots, waterproof jacket and trousers, fleece jacket or similar, warm hat and gloves, a daypack of around 30-40 litres, torch and batteries, 2 x 1 litre water bottles, sunglasses, sun cream.

A more detailed packing check list will be provided with your confirmation of booking.

**Equipment hire**

It is not possible to hire equipment through KE for this trip.

**Baggage allowance on the trip**

In general you should aim to keep the overall weight of your packed trek bag to a maximum of 15kg. It will be useful to reduce this weight still further for the mule-assisted 6-day trek to Mount Whitney and any superfluous items can be left in Lone Pine for this period. All KE clients resident in the UK will receive a **FREE KE trek bag**. These have been specially made to stand up to the rigours of adventure travel. You will receive your KE bag 6 weeks prior to your departure date. If you have travelled with us before, already have a KE trek bag and would prefer a KE T-Shirt, please let us know. We regret that we cannot post trek bags to addresses outside the UK except by special arrangement.

**Accommodation**

During this trip the group will spend 1 nights in San Francisco at the Hotel Radisson Miyako in the central district of Japantown and one night in Las Vegas at the modern 3-star La Quinta Hotel, which is close to 'The Strip' and has a swimming pool amongst its facilities. There will be 2 nights at the Dow Villa Motel in Lone Pine. This is a somewhat historic motel with twin rooms and en-suite facilities. There are 5 nights camping in established campgrounds in the Yosemite National Park and here there are basic facilities. The established campgrounds have hot showers which are coin-operated (\$3 - \$4). There are also 5 nights where we will be camping in the wild with no facilities at all. We use big 2-person tents and all communal camping equipment and cooking paraphernalia is provided. Group members will be expected to erect their own tents and help with camp chores including meal preparation during our stay in Yosemite National Park. However, while trekking in the Sierra Nevada we will have a camp cook with us who will prepare all meals. All accommodation is allocated on a twin sharing basis. If you are travelling by yourself you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex. Single tent occupation cannot be offered on this trip. Depending on availability it may be possible to book a single room for the hotel nights in San Francisco, Lone Pine and in Las Vegas. Please contact our office for a quote.

**General information**

**Climate**

California's summer weather is normally dry and sunny with the possibility of scattered mountain thunderstorms. This is perfect for trekking. Daytime temperatures vary greatly with altitude but will usually range between 20 and 25 degrees centigrade. At our highest camps, high-time temperatures will fall as low as 0 degrees centigrade or even a few degrees below freezing.

**Visa requirements**

No visas are currently required by British nationals for entry to North America unless you have a conviction or a police record. Please note that you must have a machine readable passport. A British passport is machine readable when there are two lines of letters, numbers and chevrons (">>>>>") printed across the long edge of the personal information page (the page with photograph and personal details). You will not be allowed to travel if you do not have a machine readable passport. You may also be required to provide details of your first night's accommodation in the USA. This information will form part of your final payment receipt letter which is sent to you 6 weeks prior to departure. Please ensure that you have this letter with you when you check in for your flight.

**Vaccinations**

You should attend your own GP and dentist for a check-up. Your GP will have access to the most up to date information on the required vaccinations for the country you are visiting. In general we do not require that you have any vaccinations for this trip other than standard travel jabs (Polio, Tetanus, and Hepatitis A).

**First Aid**

A medical kit will accompany each trek. The guides on this trip will have appropriate wilderness first-aid training and are experienced in dealing with a range of medical problems associated with adventure travel. We recommend that you bring your own personal first aid kit consisting of the following: A broad spectrum antibiotic, antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium) painkillers, plasters and blister treatment, Insect repellent (DEET), and re-hydration salts (Dioralite). Glucose tablets or Kendal Mint cake, and multi-vitamin tablets are a good idea.

**Know Before You Go**

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign & Commonwealth Office's "Know before you go!" campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas, and we recommend that all KE travellers take a look at the FCO Travel Advice for their chosen destination on the official FCO website : [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk). Note that FCO Travel Advice is also available by phoning **0845 850 2829**.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any holiday that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss alternatives. We receive regular updates direct from the FCO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. Please be assured that we follow FCO advice very closely; if you have any questions about what the FCO have to say, please call our office.

**Reference Books and Maps**

It is a good idea to do some reading about the country you will be visiting, its customs and people. The following books are recommended.

**Books**

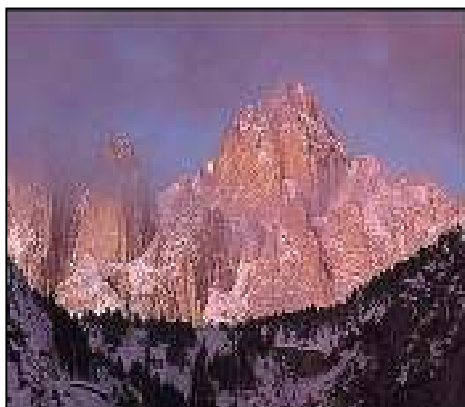
- Insight Guide. US National Parks (West).
- National Parks of the United States (National Geographic).
- Hiking California. Rod Adkinson.
- Fodor Guide Series. California, Arizona, Utah.
- Lonely Planet. California.
- Lonely Planet. USA.

**Maps**

Delorme Mapping have Atlas and Gazeteer map books for each of the states we visit.

**Available from:**

- Cordee. 3A De Montfort Street, Leicester. (tel. 0116 2543579).**
- Or from Stanfords, 12-14 Long Acre, London. Covent Garden. WC2E 9LP. (tel. 0207 836 1321).**



**Adventure Travel Insurance....**

**Single-Trip**

It is a condition of joining any of our holidays that you are insured against medical and personal accident risks (to include repatriation costs, air ambulance and helicopter rescue services). We also strongly recommend that you take out cancellation insurance, as all deposits paid are non-refundable. KE insurance policies are specifically designed to cover potential risks on our holidays, as detailed below. Our insurance can also provide cover if you extend your holiday, assuming that your itinerary is acceptable to the insurers. Please contact us for details. Our policies are underwritten by AXA Insurance and have been arranged by our insurance brokers, Campbell Irvine: Tel 01737 223687. We can sell single-trip insurance to anyone wishing to travel with KE – please refer to the panel on the front page of this dossier for the premium for this trip. Details of our insurance scheme together with other important information can be found on pages 120 and 121 of the KE 2006/07 brochure.

**Why not take out Annual Cover ?**

If you are planning more than one holiday overseas in 2006-7 then it makes sense to consider KE's comprehensive Annual Insurance Policy (not available to persons aged over 65). For a premium of £195 this policy will cover any number of trips in a 12 month period, providing no single trip is of more than 70 days duration. Cover applies to any activities undertaken on a KE holiday plus scuba diving and winter sports for up to 21 days each year. Standard annual travel insurance policies, of the type offered by credit card companies and high-street travel agents, do not always provide adequate cover for adventure travellers. KE's Annual Cover does!

**Special Family Discount.**

Include your spouse / partner and children for a total premium of £345.

## WHY NORTH AMERICA WITH KE ADVENTURE TRAVEL?

### EXPERIENCE

KE has 22 years experience of running adventure holidays worldwide. With a standard of service that is second-to-none, we have made some of the world's most radical and far-flung trekking and climbing itineraries accessible to everyone. Today a KE Adventure holiday can take you almost anywhere there are mountains, and using the very best of ground handling agents combined with KE's rigorous standards of quality we can assure you of a high quality experience. All of our holidays are accompanied by an experienced leader, many of whom are professional guides and instructors with an unrivalled knowledge of the areas in which they work. In addition to having the technical skills to ensure your safety, KE expects its leaders to be active members of the group. A leader should be fun to travel with and ready to share with you their enthusiasm for adventure travel and their knowledge of the area. The team of KE office staff is amongst the most experienced in the business, with the proven ability to set up and operate a worldwide programme of adventures. Every one has adventure travel at heart and joins at least one trip a year. In 2005 members of our office team travelled to places as widely dispersed as: Ecuador, France, Guatemala, India, Italy, Jordan, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Slovenia, Sweden, Tanzania, Tibet, Turkey, Vietnam. It is this depth of experience that makes KE stand out from other adventure travel operators. When you contact KE, by phone or e-mail, or visit our office, you will find the help and advice you need, from someone who has actually done the trip and can give you the benefit of their first-hand experience.

KE can guarantee the very best in trek support, excellent food, a good standard of hotel accommodation at the beginning and end of your trip, plus the back up of one of the most respected companies in the business. Client satisfaction is at the top of our agenda and almost 50% of our bookings each year come from repeat business. If you are looking for an adventure in North America, then look no further than KE.

### RESPONSIBLE TOURISM



KE Adventure Travel holds AITO's 3-Star Responsible Tourism award, in recognition of our 2 decades of commitment to Responsible Tourism. The AITO guidelines for Responsible Tourism fit naturally within KE's travel ethic. It is important to us that our clients are not the only beneficiaries of the travel experience, but that we share a two-way relationship with the areas that we visit. We make sure that our local staff are well treated and well paid, we respect indigenous cultures, take care to protect the environment of the places we visit and take every opportunity to make a positive contribution wherever we travel. We also provide our clients, trek leaders, agents and staff with the KE 'Mountain Code,' which is a set of guidelines for everyone involved in adventure travel. More information on our policy, practices and specific projects can be found at [www.keadventure.com](http://www.keadventure.com), and on the website of our partner charity the Juniper Trust: [www.junipertrust.co.uk](http://www.junipertrust.co.uk)

#### The KE Mountain Code

- **Protect the environment** – its flora, fauna and landscapes
- **Respect local cultures** – traditions, religions and built heritage
- **Benefit local communities** – both economically and socially
- **Conserve natural resources** – from office to destination
- **Minimise pollution** – through noise, waste disposal and congestion

### HOW TO BOOK

Having read this dossier, if you require further information, please don't hesitate to contact our office staff, or even arrange to drop in to our office in Keswick for a personal slide show. The next step is to check the availability of places on your trip either by checking the trip status on the KE website, or by e-mailing or phoning us. We can usually hold you a place for 7 days while you make a final decision.

#### Trip Status

For each of our group holidays, there is a minimum number of participants required to enable the trip to go ahead. The pricing panel on the first page of this dossier gives an indication of group size, showing both minimum and maximum numbers. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to '**Guaranteed to Run**' – you can check the trip status either on our website at [www.keadventure.com](http://www.keadventure.com) or by calling the KE office. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved guaranteed to run status and so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements. If you are unsure about the trip status, please call our office.

#### To Book your Holiday

There are 4 different ways to make your booking - by post, by fax, over the telephone, or through our website. Whichever of these methods you choose, you must complete a booking form and forward this to us with a £200 deposit, plus any applicable flight costs. We cannot confirm any booking until we receive your signed and fully completed booking form. Any unreasonable delay in submitting your booking form may jeopardise your place on your chosen holiday.

### YOUR COMPLETE FINANCIAL PROTECTION

KE Adventure Travel is a fully licensed and bonded tour operator. We are a member of the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO), bonded with the CAA (ATOL 2808) and AITO Trust (AITOT) and ABTA licensed (W4341). You can book your holiday with KE Adventure Travel in complete confidence that all monies you pay for a trip are fully protected.



We hope that this dossier has answered most of your questions, however, please feel free to call and speak to one of our experts

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