

Clouds Rest

Distance: 13.1 miles (out and back). 17 miles from Tenaya Lake Tioga road to Happy Isles.

Type of trip: Out and back or point to point.

Difficulty: Strenuous

Elevation: + 2279 ft., - 576 ft. (out) (out and back).
+ 2733 ft., - 6874 ft. point to point.

Hiking Time: 1-3 days.

Begin at: The trailhead is off Tioga Road at the west end of Tenaya Lake - watch for the "Sunrise" signs. Its 31 miles from the Tioga Road's western end point at Crane Flat, and 16 miles from Yosemite's eastern entrance at Tioga Pass.

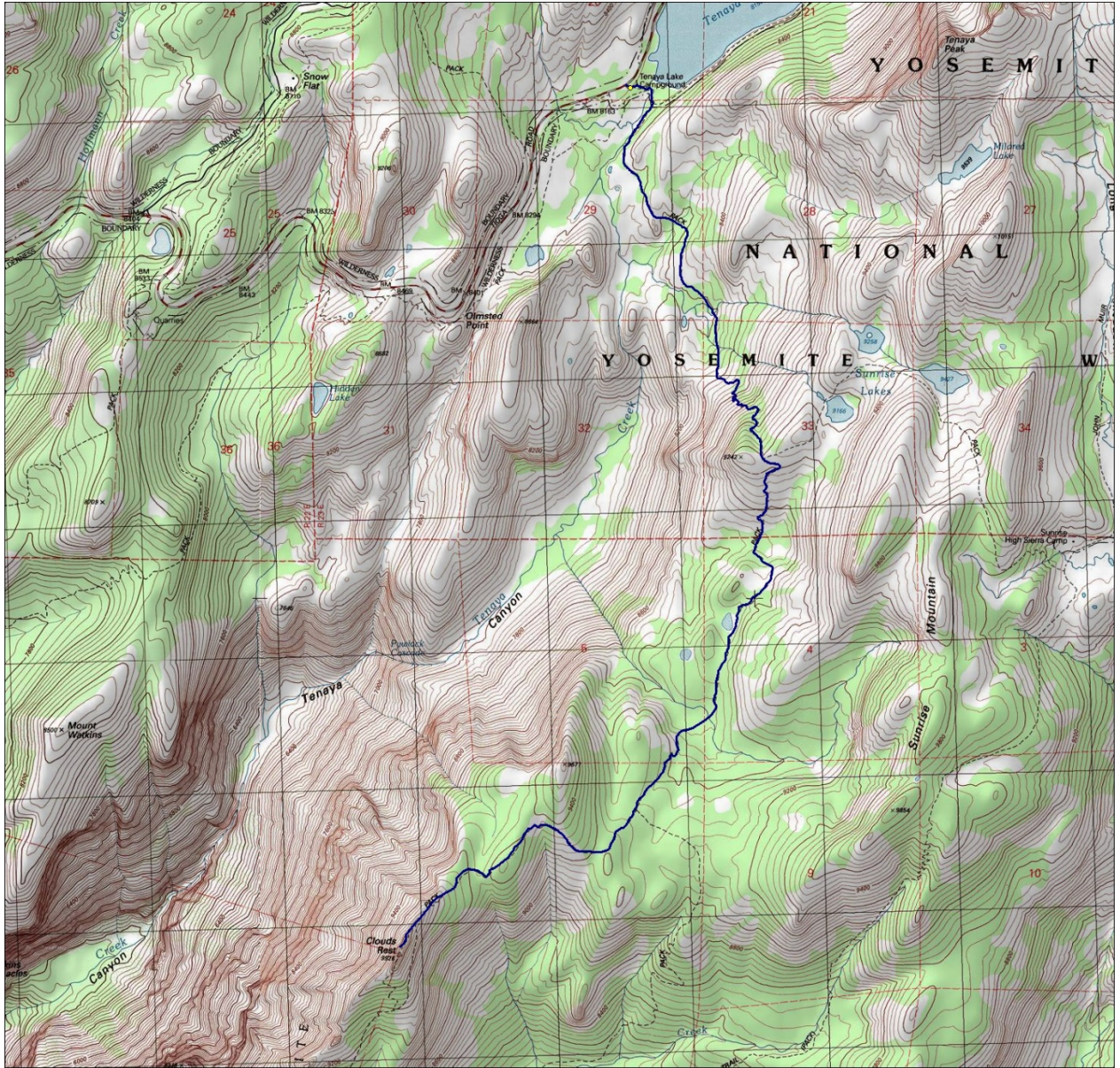
If you can arrange transportation, you can hike 17 miles one way from Tenaya Lake up and over Clouds Rest and down to Yosemite Valley via the Half Dome trail. You'll climb 1,800 feet to the Clouds Rest summit and then descend nearly 6,000 feet to the valley floor.

Seasonality: Roughly March through October when Tioga road is open.

Trail notes: From the trailhead, you start the hike by following the trail markers for Sunrise High Sierra Camp. After the first 1.5 mile hike on the relatively flat trail, you begin to climb up the lower slope below Sunrise Mountain. At the switchbacks you will gain 1,000 feet in elevation in just one mile before reaching the top of the slope. On the top, you immediately encounter the Y junction for either Cloud's Rest or Sunrise Lakes. Bear right for Cloud's Rest and begin to follow the trail markers for it from now on. The trail beyond the junction (called Forsyth Trail) descends sharply for 0.5 miles until you reach the flat land below Sunrise Mountain. The trail on the land is about 1.7 miles long and traverses beautiful woods and a nice lake before you encounter the next junction. Bear right at the "T" junction for Cloud's Rest and you are about 1.5 miles away from it (though the marker says 2.5 miles). Since you're approaching Cloud's Rest from its back, you only begin to see it after passing the junction. Keep hiking up on the trail until you encounter the marker for Cloud's Rest Foot Trail. Use extreme caution beyond this point as the pass way on the top of Cloud's Rest is narrow and both sides are sheer drip-offs. You can enjoy the spectacular views of Half Dome, Tenaya Canyon and surrounding mountains after a short scramble to the summit where you can find a geology mark on it. Take the same way back to the Sunrise Lakes trailhead once you're ready to return. Or you can descend to Little Yosemite Valley and follow the John Muir trail to Happy Isle. See section on hiking Half Dome.

<http://www.yosemitechikes.com/tioga-road/clouds-rest/clouds-rest.htm>

Clouds Rest (Out and back)



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