

Mirror Lake & Tenaya Canyon

Distance: 2 miles to the lake; 5 miles loop around lake.

Type of trip: Out and back.

Elevation: +112 ft., - 10 ft. (out), Mirror Lake.

+220ft., - 74 ft. (out) Tenaya Canyon.

Difficulty: Easy to moderate.

Time: 1 hour round trip to the lake (end of paved trail); 2-3 hours for full loop

Begin at: Mirror Lake Trailhead (shuttle stop #17).

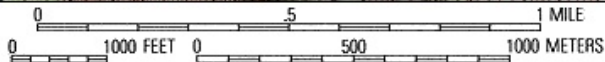
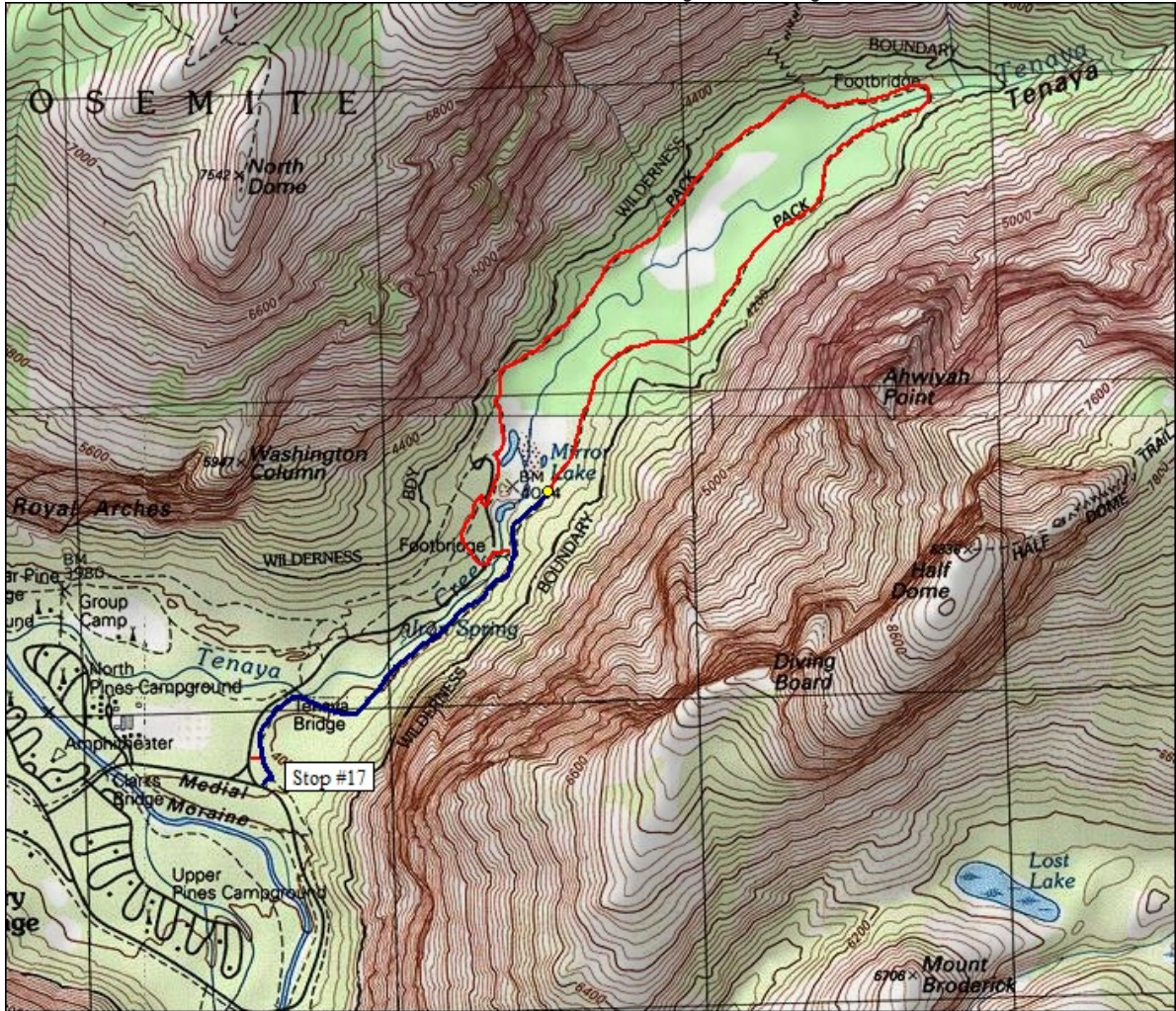
Seasonality: This trail is open year-round. In winter it can be icy and snowy, especially along the south side of Tenaya Creek.

Trail notes: The first mile of this trail is a paved service road that leads directly to Mirror Lake. You may access the loop trail from the end of the paved path. The loop follows Tenaya Creek beyond the lake, and crosses two bridges after the Snow Creek Trail junction before returning past Mirror Lake on the south side of Tenaya Canyon. (There is no safe access to the north side of Mirror Lake directly from the south side of the loop, except via bridges at the west and east ends of the trail).

Mirror Lake has little water much of the year and, while pleasant at any time of year, it is fullest in spring and early summer, when Tenaya Creek flows freely with fresh snowmelt. When water is calm, the lake offers beautiful reflections of surrounding cliffs. Exhibits along the trail tell the story of Mirror Lake's lake-to-meadow succession, and also highlight some of the cultural history of the area. Mirror Lake is often referred to as Mirror Meadow in late summer due to the lack of water and the influx of grasses and sandy areas.

<https://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/mirrorlaketrail.htm>

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