

The John Muir Trail

Happy Isles
Half Dome 8842 ft.
Cathedral Peak 10911 ft.
Donohue Pass 11056 ft.
Banner Peak 12947 ft.
Mt. Ritter 13143 ft.

Although there is no official start, most hikers begin their journey at the Happy Isles trailhead in Yosemite Valley, located 4,049 ft above sea level. After the steep climb out of the Valley in the first ten miles, the hiker will live above 8,000 ft for the remainder of their travels.

Though named after conservationist John Muir (1838-1914), the JMT was actually pioneered by Theodore Solomons, an explorer and mapper of the Sierras. Construction of the trail began after Muir's death in 1915 and took the Sierra Club he founded some 23 years to complete.

For 160 miles, the JMT follows the much longer Pacific Crest Trail. 2,650 miles in length, this trail runs from the northern border of Washington to the southern border of California.



Whereas the JMT typically takes around 20 days to complete, the PCT takes five to six months, if averaging 20 miles per day.

After hiking 211 miles, the trail ends atop the highest point in the lower 48 – the summit of Mt. Whitney. However, a 6,160 ft descent over 12 miles remains between you and the nearest trailhead.

NAD 1983 California Teale Albers
1:435,000
National Geographic Trail's Illustrated
Maps, #205, #206, and #809
Natural Earth Data
Joshua Schmale
summitpost.org
jmt-hiker.com
hikerjmt.com
Esri, 2010
pcta.org
John J Czaplewski, 2011



Seldon Pass 11058 ft.
Muir Pass 11955 ft.
Mt. Mendel 8842 ft.
Mt. Darwin 13803 ft.
Mt. Spencer 12431 ft.
Mt. Jepson 13390 ft.
Palisade Crest 13553 ft.
Norman Clyde Peak 13920 ft.
Middle Palisade 14040 ft.
Disappointment Peak 13917 ft.
Split Mountain 14058 ft.
Pinchot Pass 12050 ft.
Glen Pass 11079 ft.
Forester Pass 13160 ft.
Mt. Williamson 14370 ft.
Mt. Whitney 14494 ft.
Mt. Muir 14012 ft.
Whitney Portal