

North Lake to Upper Lamarck Lake Hike

By the Parchers Resort Crew

Piute Pass Trailhead at North Lake
(4.5 Miles Roundtrip and 1600 Vertical Ft.)

Follow the North Lake road past the lake. When you come to the road to Bishop Pack Outfit and the Hiker Parking, turn right. Go to the parking lot and park. Start your hike here by walking back down the road you came in on until it reaches the road to the campground. Turn to the right and walk into the campground, about a ¼ mile walk. The trail begins to the right of the restrooms.

Follow the trail past the walk-in campsites and look for a trail junction marker. Take the fork to the left, following the sign to Lamarck Lake and Grass Lake. The trail meanders through the lush vegetation of the canyon bottom. This is an excellent place to view wild flowers in the early season. The trail ascends gently out of the bottom, working its way up the ridge into a more open forest.

There are a series of gentle switchbacks, but the trail is excellent, as you work your way out of the canyon. There is good tree cover through most of this stretch. After a mile or so of gentle uphill hiking, you come to a relatively flat bench. There is continued forest in this portion of the hike.

After hiking on the bench for a couple hundred yards you will come to a trail marker. The trail to Lower Lamarck Lake is to the right. Follow the trail as it gently ascends out of the forest. From here to the lake the trail is a series of switchbacks, some short and steep with rocky step-ups. However, you are rewarded with spectacular views when stopping to rest.

The last set of switchbacks is across granite and this is a sign that you are getting close. The trail flattens out and soon, Lower Lamarck Lake will come into view. When reaching Lower Lamarck Lake follow the trail to the left (South). The trail drops into a draw and heads back to the lake. Then, the trail ascends above the lake on the south shore.

After reaching a flat, the main trail will break to the left. This trail leads to Lamarck Coll. There is a small trail that goes straight ahead. This small trail leads to Upper Lamarck Lake. Ignore the sign that says "Trail" with an arrow pointing to the left, and follow the small trail to the lake.

When ready, retrace your steps back to North Lake. Be sure to take advantage of the beautiful views of Grass Lake and North Lake as you descend the switchbacks below Lower Lamarck Lake. A side trip to Grass Lake is only a 10 minute hike off the trail, so consider that on your way down.



