



High Sierra Rambles



# Awesome Golden Trout Lakes of the Eastern Sierra

The **ULTIMATE GUIDE** to fishing for **GOLDEN TROUT**  
in the Eastern Sierra of California  
70+ Pages of Photos, Maps, Stories and more...



Created by: Dan Franklin

## Disclaimer

This guide was designed for entertainment and informational purposes only.

It should not be relied upon as a definitive guide to the areas described within.

Before undertaking any trip to the backcountry you should apply for required permits and

contact forest service personnel for current trail and weather conditions.

Backpacking in the high country of the Eastern Sierra is strenuous and should not

be undertaken by anyone who is not in good physical shape or who may suffer from altitude sickness.

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# Un named

**via: Shepherds Pass**

**TRAIL DAYS**  
**2**

**ALTITUDE**  
**3**

**DISTANCE**  
**4**

**CAMPING**  
**3**

**WATER**  
**3**

**EASE OF CATCH**  
**3.5**

**SIZE OF FISH**  
**2**

**OVERALL: 3.0**

## *A Rarely Visited Jewel of a Lake*

Ok, first Let's get the hard part out of the way.

The fastest way to get into the heart of the Sierra and to the best Golden Trout Fishing is via Shepherd Pass

The trailhead for the Shepherd Pass trail begins at an elevation of 6,100 feet.



The trail starts gradually through a along Symmes creek but soon changes to a steep climb over long switchbacks until you reach a hogback ridge at 9,100 feet. This is the divide between Symmes Creek and Shepherd Creek.

So, at this point you have climbed 3,000 feet. You are well on your way right?

Not so fast, the ridge you are on only divides Symmes Creek Canyon from Shepherd Creek Canyon. The next leg of the trail actually descends to 8,300 feet before the trail once again begins its grueling ascent.



## Camp Suggestion

On the dividing ridge that I call the hogsback

there is a good, flat, open place to camp.

There is no water here so be sure to fill up at Symmes Creek before starting out.



## Anvil Camp

If you are continuing on it may be late morning or afternoon. The overhead sun is hot. The trail now descends.

At 9,400 you reach Mahogany Flat which provides a shady resting-place before you resume your climb.

You traverse the long, exposed switchbacks to Anvil Camp (10,000 ft) Here you will probably stay for the night.

There is plenty of water but campsites can be scarce on weekends and holidays.

You can continue further up the trail for more sites. Stay close to Shepherds Creek for water.

## Shepherds Pass

The next morning you will start the long, exposed hike over rock and boulder fields until you approach the final climb to the pass.

As you gaze up at the forbidding rock wall that confronts you, you will wonder how you are supposed to reach the top without wings.

You will begin a final series of steep, rocky and exposed switchbacks that lead to a castellated outcropping on the right side of the narrowing canyon.

You carefully work your way around the backside of this rocky battlement and then see the trail as it climbs to the pass.

Early in the season a field of ice may cross the trail. If this is the case cross with care. If you have an ice ax, keep it ready.

The slope down is very steep. In early season conditions, when the trail is beneath the snow, hikers work their way up this icefield.

