

Labor Day Weekend Trip –Weminuche Wilderness – August 31-September 6

Backpack in the beautiful Weminuche Wilderness of Southern Colorado, located approximately 20-25 miles NE of Durango (18 miles north of Bayfield).

There are options available other than backpacking for this trip.

Trip leader : Steve Owen Contact at 918-373-0042, 918-373-2031 or sowen@solae.co for pricing. Must be a member to go on this trip.

Schedule

- Departing Tulsa on Wednesday afternoon at 4 pm.
- Arrive at trailheads on Thursday morning.
- Hike in on Thursday morning. Stay in wilderness Thursday, Friday, Saturday (3 nights)
- Hike out Sunday. Bus picks up at 12 to 1 pm.
- Stay Sunday night and Monday in Pagosa Springs
- Depart Pagosa Springs Monday afternoon at 3 pm. Arrive Tulsa by 6 am on Tuesday morning.

Backpacking : There are two trailheads located at the upper end of Vallecito Lake that backpackers may start from.

1. Pine River Trailhead Options

- a. Backpack up Pine River trail. (**Rated easy**)
- b. Backpack up Pine River trail to Lake Creek Trail. Continue up the Lake Creek trail to Emerald Lake. (**Rated Moderate**)

Emerald Lake is the second largest natural lake in Colorado. This is a large beautiful lake with excellent rainbow trout fishing. Moon Lake, located several miles above Emerald Lake, has a good population of brook trout.

2. Vallecito Creek Trailhead Options

- a. Backpack up Vallecito Creek. (**Rated easy to moderate**) Hike as far as you want and then set up camp. There is excellent fly fishing in Vallecito Creek, especially above Johnson Creek. There are also many nice campsites near Johnson Creek.
- b. Backpack up Vallecito Creek to Johnson Creek trail. Continue west up Johnson Creek trail to Hazel Lake. (**Rated difficult**)

Other Options

Stay in one of the many lodges and resorts located on Vallecito Lake. Fish, hike, bike, go horseback riding or just hang out and enjoy the beautiful scenery and fresh mountain air. Or camp in the Vallecito Creek Campground and day hike and fish Vallecito Creek.

[If you are new to backpacking we can help you with equipment requirements and trip planning. For first timers some equipment is available on loan from other members and equipment can also be rented in Tulsa.](#)