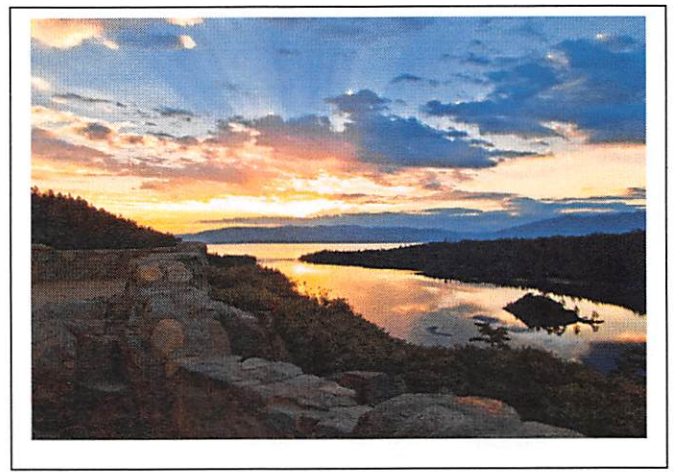
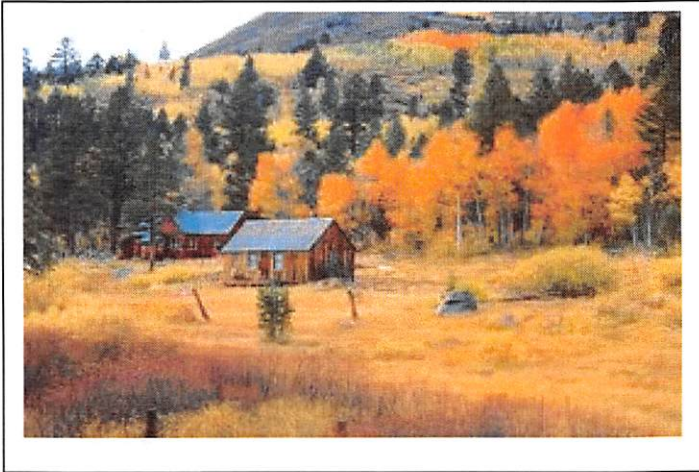


Lincoln Hills Photography Club
Fall Colors, Wildlife, Sunrises, Sunsets
October 16, 17, 18, 2018 to Lake Tahoe Areas
Trip & Information Pack



Pre-Trip Planning and Information Meeting

Trip Information, Maps, Mileage Guidelines, Daily Agenda Suggestions, Fall Colors, Wildlife, Sunrise, Sunset & Galaxy Locations, The Photographer's Ephemeris, Equipment Checklists, Photography Tips plus Resources

Note: See our website: [lhphotoclub.com/activities/field trips](http://lhphotoclub.com/activities/field%20trips) for digital copies of many of items included in this Trip & Information Pack

Another Legendary LHPC Photography Adventure!



<p>Fall Colors Field Trip – 2018</p> <p>Travel Directions – <u>Approximate</u> Mileages</p>

<p>1. Lincoln to Highway 50 – Hazel Avenue - Nimbus Dam area.</p> <p>From SCLH, take best route to Sierra College Blvd., south towards Highway 50, it turns into Hazel Avenue along the way. Stay on this over the American River to Highway 50, and take 50 East towards Placerville/Lake Tahoe.</p>	25
<p>2. Take Highway 50 East to Placerville/Lake Tahoe to the "Y" just north of the <u>McDonald's</u> in South Lake Tahoe (1035 Emerald Bay Road, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150, on right hand side of Highway 50). Total miles from SCLH about 110. There may be some slow traffic or road construction stops on Highway 50; relax and enjoy! We are all in the same traffic lines! If you are driving too slow and leading a line of cars, expect to be run off the road! If you are slow, pull over often and let traffic go. Otherwise expect plenty of "fingers" heading your way. But drive too fast, \$500 radar tickets given at the end of the passing lanes! Best to relax and get there about the same time.</p>	83
<p><u>Important note:</u> <u>Speed laws</u> in the Lake Tahoe area are severely enforced. About 40 bears a year are killed by speeding cars. Radar is used extensively and 35 means 35, not 36. So give the bears and your wallet a break, as in Hawaii "mo' betta go slo".</p>	
<p>3. The "Y" – is 5 miles north of the 1st Junction of Highways 50 and 89 as you finally get down (Echo Summit) the steep mountain road leading into Lake Tahoe. This is the Junction 1 mile west of the California Agriculture Inspection Station (look for Highway Patrol radar speed trap at the Ag Station – 40 mph zone). Somewhat confusing, there is another Junction of Highways 50 and 89 just another 1/8 mile north of the McDonalds. More on this later.</p>	5
<p>4. Hope Valley. Is south of Lake Tahoe. From the "Y", drive south/west about 6 miles to the Junction of Highways 89 & 50 just west of the Ag Inspection Station. Turn left, Hope Valley is about 11 miles south. There are many fall colors on this route.</p>	
<p>5. <u>1st photo stop</u> = 10 ½ miles south on Highway 89, just before Highway 88, use right hand turn outs or off the Highway for old corrals on the right hand side of the road with aspens on the mountains to the west. This is 10 ½ miles south of the Junction of</p>	10 ½

Highways 50 and 89 near the Ag Inspection Station.	
6. <u>2nd photo stop</u> = ¼ mile further south on Highway 89, just before Highway 88, use right hand turn out just before the bridge over West Fork of Carson River. Great ops on the left or east side of the road, over the Carson Creek, meadows and east towards the mountains. Also west towards another mountain range.	¼
7. <u>Junction of Highways 89 & 88</u> . This is the renowned Hope Valley. Turn right, head west. Smelly rest room stop on the right side, about ¼ mile. Photo ops and pull overs on the right hand side of the highway. Stop where ever you want. At 2.4 miles is Blue Lake Road on the left hand side heading south, another smelly rest room is located about ¼ south on this road. No real Fall Colors down this road so avoid it while heading west, but maybe a needed rest room break on the way back?	
8. At 4.1 miles from the Junction of Highways 89 & 88, turn sharp right up a Forest Service <u>Road # 31091</u> . Entrance to this road is well hidden, you need to slow down and look for it or turn around and go back. Drive up a broken road about 300 yards over a cattle gate and then take the left fork about 50 yards and park. Great aspen grove with backlighting, etc. Usually a ranch hand trailer is parked here; don't get too close. Walk up the dirt road to get in the aspen grove.	4.1
9. At 5.7 on your odometer from the Junction of Highways 89 & 88, the <u>famous "Old Cabin"</u> will be on your right hand side. There is a long, paved pull-out on the right hand side here to accommodate the thousands of photographers who stop. Wander all around, be careful to not stand or just hang out too far in the pull-out area or you could be a new hood ornament for someone pulling over at the last second. This is a great place to use your tripod.	1.4 from Stop 7
10. Continue west another 1.2 miles to <u>Red Lake Road</u> . This will be a left hand turn across the highway on a dangerous blind curve. Best of luck! Drive about ¼ mile plus (take fork to the right) and park by the Dam. Wander around, especially down the dirt road for aspens. There may also be some great shots of colors around this lake and mountains in the background.	1.2
11. Exit from Red Lake Road, turn right and head east. There are several potential stops on the right hand side for photos. You may want to stop <u>Sorensen's for lunch</u> and many excellent photos. <u>Sorensen's is about 1 mile east of the Junction of</u>	8

<p>Highways 89 & 88, or about 8 miles east of Red Lake Road. Best photo ops = go east (past) Sorensen's about 3 miles, turn around and head back west, use the turn-outs on the right hand side of the road. A great place to spend time wandering near the river with aspens everywhere. There are also aspen groves behind Sorensen's.</p> <p>Sorensen's usually has good food; however, the wait staff from the summer usually quit and service can be <u>really slow</u> for lunch. Outside seating is pleasant, depending on the weather. Inside seating is claustrophobic.</p>	
<p>12. Drive back to the oft-noted Junction of Highways 89 & 88, turn right and head north to Highway 50 (11 miles), turn right on H 50, go 5 miles and just <u>past McDonald's</u> 1/8 of a mile to the <u>Stop Light, drive straight ahead</u> and you are back on Highway 89 heading towards Emerald Bay. In about 1+ mile on the right hand side you will find the <u>Fireside B&B</u>. It has a restored Red Pickup Truck in front so it is easy to spot.</p> <p>If you are lost, you probably turned right at the stop light and are back on Highway 50 heading east toward the casinos.</p>	17
<p>13. <u>Taylor Creek</u>. From Fireside B&B, drive about 2 miles north (turn right) on Highway 89, past Camp Richardson to the <u>USFS Visitors Center at Taylor Creek</u> on your right hand side. This is where we will find the Kokanee salmon and wildlife. There are also excellent groves of aspens.</p> <p>There are more groves of aspens nearby, we will see if we need to visit these for more yellow images – most likely we will go on to Emerald Bay.</p> <p>At the Visitor Center building, there is a gift shop and most importantly, this is the last chance for <u>clean, non-smelly rest rooms</u> so you really want to stop in and say "hi". Otherwise there are several smelly pit restrooms on the way.</p>	2
<p>14. <u>Emerald Bay</u> is one of the most photographed places on the west coast. 1st stop at Emerald Bay can be at <u>Inspiration Point</u> on the right hand side of the highway 5 miles from the Taylor Creek Visitor's Center road. This is just past the famous "OMG White Knuckle" road framed atop a high glacial lateral moraine between Cascade Lake and Emerald Bay. Best wishes to the squeamish! There are many places to drive and stop and wander for photographs including Eagle Falls and Vikingsholm. This could be the best area for Sunrise. There are 3 or 4 very good pull overs/out in this area over about 2 miles around the end of the Bay. See the Map included in this Trip Pack.</p>	5

15. Tahoe City is north of Emerald Bay and is on the way to Highway 80 if you are going home on this route. Be careful to turn left at the light in Tahoe City to continue on Highway 89 north. There are many places to stop along this area for aspens on the Truckee River.	
16. Squaw Valley is on Highway 89 as you head north from Tahoe City; this famous ski resort has many aspen trees for great fall colors and rugged red & black volcanic peaks for backgrounds.	
17. <u>Truckee</u> is 14 miles north of Tahoe City.	14
18. Head west on Highway 80 at Truckee. <u>Lincoln</u> is 80 miles west. It will be great to be on this fun-filled trip and also great to be home. Now for editing all those world class photos!	80

Fall Colors – Lake Tahoe Field Trip

Mileages Guide

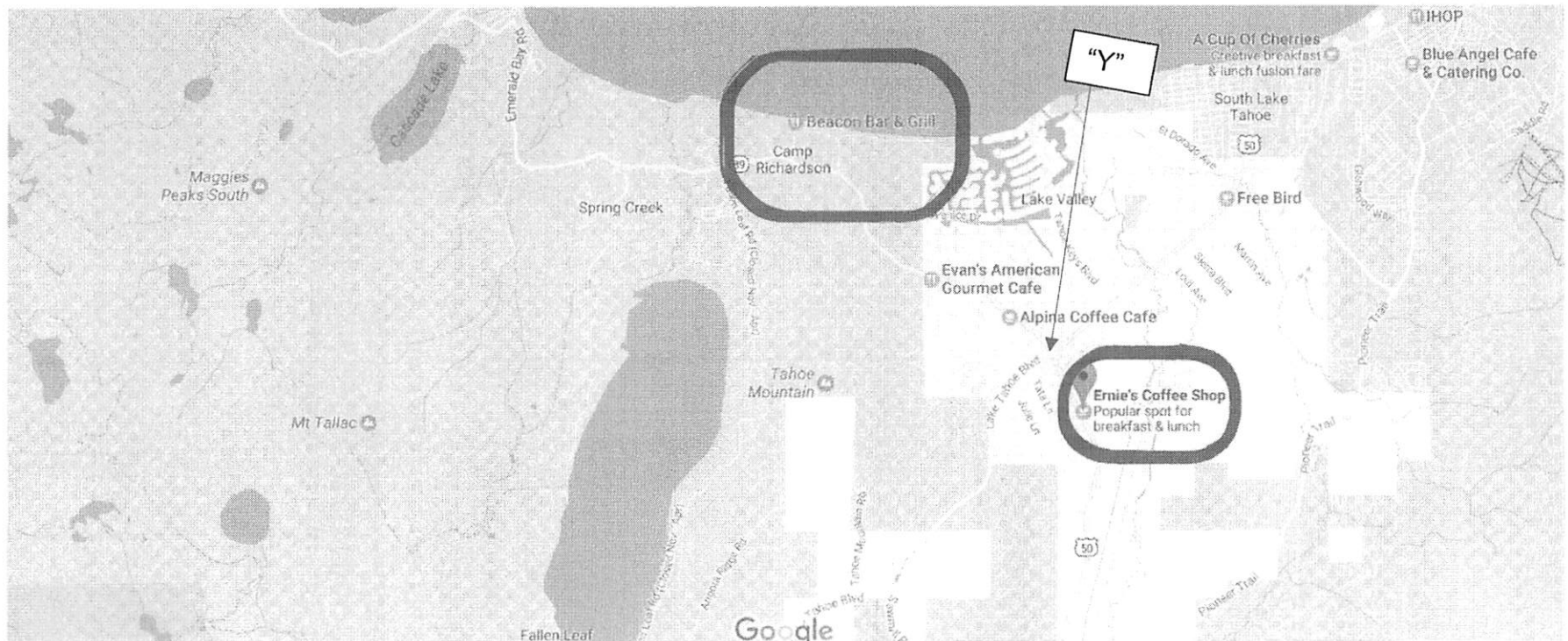
The “Y” is the Tahoe local’s point of directional reference

It is the “Y” formed by the intersection of Highway’s 50
and 89 in South Lake Tahoe (see map)

Mileages from the “Y”:

	<u>Miles</u>
<u>The “Y” =Raley’s/TJ Maxx corners intersection</u>	0
North to Camp Richardson & Beacon Bar & Grill	2.4
North to Fallen Leaf Lake road	3.0
North to USFS Taylor Creek Visitor Center	3.1
North to Emerald Bay – Inspiration Point	7.5
North to Emerald Bay Sunrise site #3 (map) Eagle Falls parking on left side of Hwy 89	8.6
North to Emerald Bay Sunrise site #4 (map) Vikingsholm State Park – parking lot	8.8
North to Barker Pass/Blackwood Canyon	~ 23
South to Ernie’s Coffee Shop, on the left	~ 1/3rd
South to Bert’s Coffee Shop, on the right	~ 1/4th
South to Hope Valley -Highway 89 & 88 Junction	~ 15.6
South to Woods Lake Recreation Area – USFS via Hwy 50 to 89 to 88 via Hope Valley	26.4
South to Caples Lake	~ 30
South to Silver Lake	~ 35

Google Maps Ernie's Coffee Shop



Ernie's Coffee Shop – locals favorite for breakfast. Extensive menu with some exotic blending of cultures. Highly recommended. Opens at 6 am. Also recommended for a casual lunch. Not open for dinner. Located at 1207 Emerald Bay Rd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150. Also recommended is the Lake Tahoe Pizza Company, across the street about a block north from Earnie's, if you are craving a great pizza or salad. Very crowded with locals. Has a back room where we could meet as a larger group.

Beacon Bar & Grill – located right on the beach at Camp Richardson. Get there early 11:15 am for 11:30 am opening and get a table right on the beach. Like Hawaii without the airfare! When you drive into Camp Richardson, you will need to pay ~ \$10 for parking...this is refunded to you, in cash, if your table spends a minimum of \$25 for lunch. Located at 1900 Jameson Beach Rd., SLT, CA 96150.

Fall Colors Field Trip to Lake Tahoe Areas - October 2018

Main Attractions – Where to spend your time

Fall Colors - Leaves change color primarily because nights grow longer and cooler and the biochemical processes in the leaves begin to decrease the green chlorophyll color to expose the reds, orange and yellows in the leaves. In the Lake Tahoe areas, imported maples and ambers plus mountain maples start to turn at the end of September. At the beginning of October, the aspens, willows and other trees turn. The height of the colors are usually mid-October.

Wildlife – The Kokanee Salmon start to spawn at the start of October. The main spawning creek is at the Taylor Creek Visitor Center. The spawn brings many birds to Taylor Creek including mergansers, gulls, ducks, eagles, osprey, ravens, etc. Also joining the party are bears. There are about 10 bears working the spawn and they may show up at anytime but are more frequently sighted at dawn. Use a polarizing filter because you are photographing on the creek and you need to avoid the water's glare. Some years we find bears and get great photos, some years we don't find any. The staff at the Visitor Center see bears just about every day.

Sunrises – Emerald Bay is a famous location for sunrises. Arrive and set up about 45 minutes before sunrise. Clouds in the East are a special treat for many colors. On October 16, (See the Included chart from The Photographer's Ephemeris) sunrise is 7:11 a.m. so you need to be on-site and set up by 6:24 a.m. Thus, leave from the "Y" about 6 a.m.

Sunsets – The south and eastern shores of Lake Tahoe are best. Clouds overhead provide spectacular colors framed over the mountains to the west.

Food, snacks and water – Bring a cooler to carry extra food and snacks. Always carry extra water in your car. It's fun to eat at restaurants but it may be wise to bring some of your own food as you'll be in field most of the time. Bringing some of your food will free you up from having to leave a great photo area for several hours to find a place to eat. There are many places to get sandwiches & food to go including Raley's, Subway, etc. or pack your own at home. There are many good places to have dinner after the sunsets.

Restrooms – Not everyone just wants to "take a walk in the woods". There are many "facilities" in the field areas, we call these "aerobic restrooms" because it's best to hold your breath while inside. Get the "SitOrSquat" fee app from Charmin to locate restrooms.

Daily Agenda - Suggestions

Flexible for Your Special Photo Interests & Individual Stamina

Photographers are like cats: independent, don't like to be hurried, do most everything on their own terms, eat whenever they want and will not follow the crowd. Thus, we can suggest where to best spend your time, but everyone can go their own way on this field trip.

Mornings:

Sunrise at Emerald Bay or Taylor Creek Visitor Center for wildlife and fall colors.
Hope Valley for early morning sun for backlighting on leaves or direct light on landscapes.

Mid-morning to late afternoon:

Best for fall colors in the Hope Valley, Carson River east of Sorensen's, Carson Pass mountains and lakes, Taylor Creek anytime, Fallen Leaf Lake road for fall colors.

Dusk:

Best for sunsets at South Lake Tahoe or East Shore beaches.

Planned Meet-Up times and places (optional):

Tuesday, October 16:

8:00 am – Taylor Creek for bears. We will see you on the Rainbow Trail near the creek areas. Remember the trail may be slippery with frost or ice, be careful.

11:30 to 1:00 pm – Lunch at Ernie's, sit in small groups. See map in the Trip Pack.

2:00 pm - **Meet at 2 pm** in the parking area just south of Raley's gas station (toward Taco Bell) for updates and travel to either Hope Valley or Taylor Creek. **We plan on leaving just after 2 pm.** The Raley's center is just north and across the street from Ernie's.

6:00 pm – Set up for sunset photos at one of the beaches noted in your "Trip Pack". If the clouds are over the western mountains, the sunset could be spectacular. If not, just check in to your hotel and go out for a casual dinner. We don't have any meet up plans as a group but you may want to get together with others on the trip.

See the following page 

Wednesday, October 17: Sunrise is at 7:11 am.

6:00 am – Meet Les at the “Y” parking lot not later than 6 am. Meet near TJ Max on the NE corner of the “Y”. Drive to Emerald Bay for Sunrise. We need to be set up at 6:24 am for the sunrise which is at 7:11 am.

8:00 am - Meet Les at the Taylor Creek Visitor Center to walk the “Rainbow Trail” to see if we can find bears, we may be in this area all morning. Or, visit nearby areas like Fallen Leaf Lake for fall colors. Or if no bears are found, head out to the Hope Valley areas.

11:30 am – If you are still in the South Lake Tahoe area, Meet at Ernie’s for lunch. Sit in small groups for best service.

Drive to the Hope Valley areas for Fall Colors.

Dinner on your own. Set up small groups to go with others.

Thursday, October 18:

6:00 am – Meet Les at the “Y” parking lot not later than 6 am. Meet near TJ Max on the NE corner of the “Y”. Drive to Emerald Bay for Sunrise. We need to be set up at 6:24 am for the sunrise which is at 7:11 am.

8:00 am - Meet Les at the Taylor Creek Visitor Center to walk the “Rainbow Trail” to see if we can find bears, we may be in this area all morning. Or, visit nearby areas like Fallen Leaf Lake for fall colors. Or if no bears are found, head out to the Hope Valley areas.

Or drive to the Hope Valley areas for fall colors in the morning light.

Or visit the Fallen Leaf Lake area for fall colors after Taylor Creek or Emerald Bay.

I recommend driving back to Lincoln to see the fall colors along the Truckee River and the Squaw Valley Ski Resort areas. This route takes you north on Highway 89, through Tahoe City to I-80. See details in the Trip Pack.

Taylor Creek at Lake Tahoe

Fall Colors, salmon spawn, waterfowl, bears

The USFS Taylor Creek Visitor Center is one of the best places to explore during the mid-October time frame for your photography field trip. It is located on Highway 89, about 3 miles north of the “Y” in South Lake Tahoe. As you drive north from the “Y”, it is on the right-hand side of the highway and has ample parking. There is an information and gift shop which is open most days during October. There are walking paths, viewing platforms and an underwater “chamber” where you can observe fish and marine life as they pass through. The restrooms are “flush” style (a luxury) and clean.

Kokanee Salmon Spawn

At the very end of September, the Wildlife Rangers open the dam at Fallen Leaf Lake and this new water flows into Lake Tahoe. The kokanee salmon are biologically triggered to spawn as they come across this new water which has microscopic elements of minerals from the spawning areas. This spawn lasts about 3 to 4 weeks.

Wildlife feeding frenzy When the salmon head up Taylor Creek from Lake Tahoe, their skin starts turning pink to bright red. Many animals feed on the salmon: eagles, gulls, mergansers, osprey, hawks, ravens, mallards, crawfish, racoons, coyotes, etc. and our favorites: bears.

If the spawn is heavy, about 100,000 salmon, it creates a visual of “wall to wall” red in Taylor Creek and many animals turn out to feed. If the spawn is lighter, the animals may not be as plentiful. We will monitor the spawn and have updates on the conditions before we arrive on our field trip.

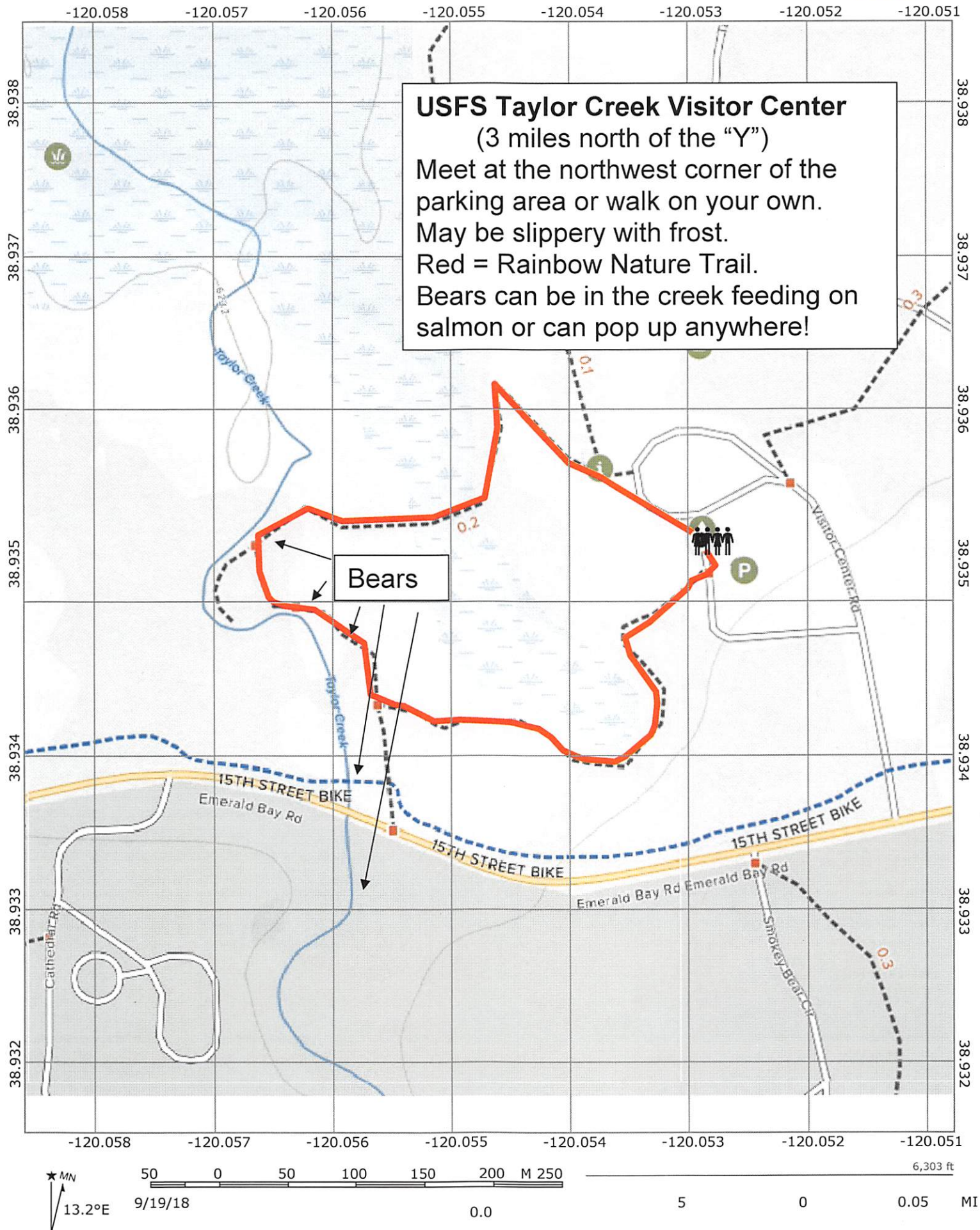
Fall colors are also excellent at Taylor Creek as there are many aspen groves, willows and some mountain maples along the pathways.

The best time to be there is early morning. More animals are feeding in the early morning but bears and many other animals may be found throughout the day, although perhaps not as active. If you arrive at 7 am there is enough daylight to see and you will encounter only a few other photographers. There may be ice on the pathways this early so be alert.

Bears feed on the spawning salmon but can be difficult to find and photograph. Some years we have found the bears and some years not. There are no guarantees and you should feel very fortunate if you find them and get some great photos. You likely will need to invest some time in the area and be patient.

See the accompanying maps which indicate areas where I have found wildlife in prior years. Some information on the bear locations will not be in writing, this prevents some “secret” locations from being overrun by people. Please keep this information private.

Monopod or hand held tips. There are often many people on the trails and the bears may be moving so tripods are usually not practical. Most professionals shoot either handheld at fast shutter speeds or use a monopod.



Taylor Creek Bears

Red dots = bears in prior years

Path to Visitor Center & Parking

Emerald Bay & Fannett Island – Famous Sunrise

One of the most famous photographic sunrise locations in the world.

Color, sun “star bursts”, waterfall & pool reflections, rugged mountains and clouds over the eastern Carson Range mountains make for a dramatic setting.

- Get there early, at least 45 minutes before actual sunrise to set up and capture the morning glow and color changes. You may want to scout out a favorite place the day before to avoid stumbling around in the dark. You will not be alone early in the morning, serious photographers from around the world are usually setting up at the same early hour. Wish upon a star for some clouds in the east with breaks for the sun to radiate through. A small flashlight (red light) is recommended. Footing is uneven and you need to avoid falling or making others angry.
- There is plenty of open parking early in the morning but if you wait until 8 am you may have no place to park plus you will have missed the sunrise. Don't drive too fast getting to the area; there are many bears early in the morning and you don't want to hit a bear, the locals will shoot you and your car will be damaged.

Map points – see map page:

Inspiration Point = a very famous spot at the top of the grade; however, don't waste your time here as the trees have grown up to obscure much of the view.

Pull Outs = there are 3 or 4 pull outs on the right-hand side of the highway, any of these are good vantage points. Drive slowly, if you miss one it takes some time to drive to the bottom of the grade, turn around and go back to the top and start over.

Eagle Falls dirt parking on the west side of the highway. A great place to park and just walk a few feet back towards Emerald Bay for many good vantage points.

“Over the Wall” = walk to the end of a stone wall on the lake side of the highway and work your way down a few steep stairs and rocks where you will find “Lower Eagle Falls”. These areas provide a reflection from pools and the waterfall for the changing sunrise colors. Many serious photographers set up here.

Very dangerous – many people are hurt and killed here; rocks are polished, slippery with sand & moss and powerful rushing water. Use extreme caution.

Vikingsholm – Emerald Bay State Park parking lot. Free parking here until about 8 am when the staff arrive. There are at least 3 excellent vantage points here.

1. At the south/east edge of the parking area next to a rock wall.
2. On top of a large rock mass just east next to the parking lot requires a little scrambling to get to the top with no trail, just go up the rock like a lizard.
3. Bench and rock wall viewing area just to the east and below the large rock mass.

Some serious photographers also walk down the trail to the Vikingsholm beaches to get the Emerald Bay water reflections. This is a 1.2 mile walk but also a 1.2 mile hike back up a 400 foot elevation gain (equivalent to a 40 story building).



(<https://photoephemeris.com>)

THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S EPHEMERIS ([HTTPS://PHOTOEPHEMERIS.COM](https://photoephemeris.com))

Wednesday, October 17, 2018



Emerald Bay, Lake Tahoe



Wed 17 Oct 2018 12:08 America/Los_Angeles -0700

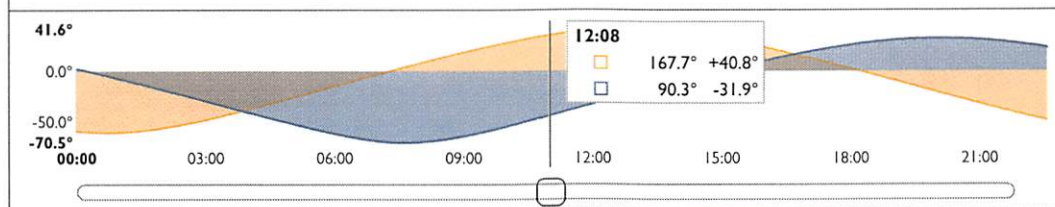
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Moonset ↓	Astro start	Nautical start	Civil start	Sunrise ↑	Moonrise ↑	Sunset ↓	Civil end
00:15	05:43	06:14	06:45	07:12	14:58	18:18	18:45
243.8°	87.5°	92.4°	97.2°	101.5°	114.8°	258.3°	262.6°
Waxing gibbous					Waxing gibbous		



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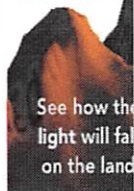
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Support TPE

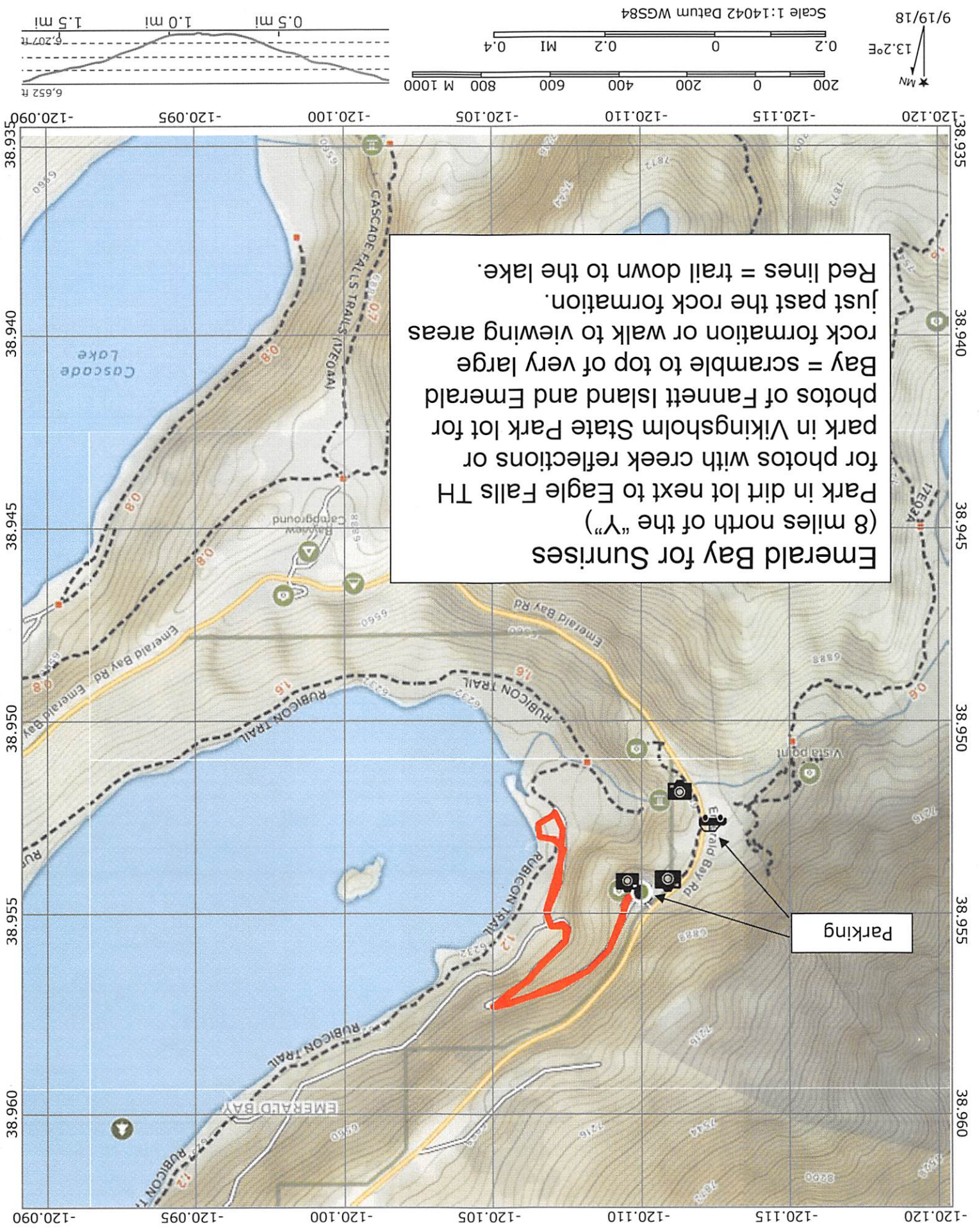


Sponsor

TPE 3D



Spasmodic
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Sunset Photo Locations

For the most dramatic sunsets, find a beach or rock or wildflowers for the foreground with Lake Tahoe or some other lake in the mid-ground with the Desolation Wilderness mountains also in the mid-ground. These locations are on the southern or the eastern sides of Lake Tahoe. Dramatic cloud formations are often present to the west.

The best places for beaches (without a long walk):

Reagan Beach at the southern end of Lake Tahoe, good parking but not a lot of items to include in your foreground.

Commons Beach also at the southern end of Lake Tahoe. Parking can be good or a short walk of several blocks. Lots of people. Can get the beach in the foreground.

Zephyr Cove Beach. Excellent location and can get trees, bushes, boat and dock, rocks in the foreground. Eat dinner here at the Zephyr Cove Restaurant and walk onto the beach after dinner. Or just drive into the parking areas which may be free at that time of day. This is perhaps the best location of all for Sunset photos. Zephyr Cove is on the East Shore, about 6 miles north on Highway 50 from the Casinos.

Logan Shoals. This "Vista Point" is about 2 miles north of Cave Rock (Highway 50 goes through tunnels in the Cave Rock). Good roadside parking and a short walk to many rock view areas. Great foreground subjects with granite boulders, trees, etc. for framing. There are small beach areas here but don't bother, they are too difficult to get up/down from the rocks.

If you are interested, go ahead and "google" the map locations.

EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

Camera:

- _____ Primary Camera and Manual for fixing problems in the field – check all settings in advance
- _____ Backup Camera and Manual – check all settings in advance
- _____ Extra memory cards – CF + SD/ & extra fully charged batteries for all cameras
- _____ Format each memory card in the camera where it will be used
- _____ Chargers for all camera batteries – charge in advance and each night
- _____ All lenses for both cameras (telephoto, wide-angle, macro)...clean in advance
- _____ Lens extender for long telephotos
- _____ Filters: Polarizer for day. Clean in advance
- _____ Lens hoods for all lenses
- _____ Camera setting checklist sheets for night, pre-dawn, daytime scenes
- _____ Lens cleaning kits, lens wipes, etc.
- _____ Tripod with attachment clips for each camera & long lenses
- _____ Remote shutter release
- _____ Laptop + card reader + flash drives to copy all photos to flash drives each day
- _____ Electric power strip for recharging all batteries & equipment in your room
- _____ Camera backpack plus shoulder bag for lens hoods, etc.

Other:

- _____ Cell phone and charger for room and car
- _____ Polarized Sun Glasses
- _____ Flashlight + headlamp with red light for predawn or night walking + extra batteries
- _____ Warm clothing + very warm clothing, layers (it WILL be cold and possibly snowing)
- _____ Warm gloves, knit hat, neck gaiter, warm boots for cold early & evening
- _____ Chemical hand warmer packs are really nice! Last up to 8 hours
- _____ Water resistant layered clothing and camera protection
- _____ ID tags and labels for everything
- _____ Emergency rescue whistle + cell phone in camera bag, consider emergency beacon
- _____ Knee pads for low-level work
- _____ Portable food container/cooler for water/food/snacks

Information:

- _____ Telephone numbers, list of participants with cell numbers
- _____ Trip packet as provided: maps, schedules, checklists, etc.
- _____ Your hotel reservation information
- _____ Most recent daily itineraries + changes

Car Needs

- It's wise to carry chains or have AWD or 4x4 with all-weather tires, can snow in October but may not be needed at all. Check weather forecast just before the trip.
- Know how to put on the chains yourself (gloves, tools & trash bag), front or rear tires?
If not certain, refer to your car manual
- Carry a window "Ice Scraper"
- Gas up, don't go below ½ tank
- Carry emergency supplies: blanket, water, food, etc.
- Keep cell phones charged
- Anything else? Are you sure?

Fall Colors Field Trip at Lake Tahoe – October 2018

Tips for the October 2018 Fall Colors Field Trip

**** Do your photography technical research before we leave! Read the handout articles, do research online, read books or anything else you need to do before the trip. Recheck all your camera and accessory equipment while you are packing.**

1. **Lenses** = telephoto, wide angle, macro. The ones you leave at home are what you will want!
2. **Polarizing lens filters** for color saturation, rivers and lakes and required for the Kokanee salmon which are in a stream that may have glare from the sun.
3. **Lens hoods** to avoid glare and sunspots.
4. **Shoulder bag** to carry extra lenses, back up camera, accessories, etc. (Note to men, it's not a purse, so it's O.K. as long as you have your camera!) Attach a "Rescue Whistle" to this bag as you may slip and get hurt or need to summon help if you get lost, etc. Some people carry "Pepper Gel" for self-protection.
5. **Tripod and/or monopod** = always on the list; required to help get crystal sharp images! Also consider using remote shutter release or timer to minimize hand shake. Take your time and set up a tripod for a smarter way to shoot some "trophy keepers". You want to get about a dozen "keepers" from shooting hundreds, so take your time and set up right. This is a quality game, not a numbers or quantity game. It's not how many but the quality of a few that make the trip a great success!
Field Tip = Scout out the photo op area first, chose your subject or view, then mount your camera on the tripod. If you set up the tripod first, then you tend to just stay "anchored" in that area, potentially missing a better op.
6. **Sun.** Carefully consider the position of the Sun to your subject. Backlighting the aspen trees can be great but watch out for glare, sun spots and exposure problems.
7. **Footing.** Watch where you are walking; this is a rugged mountain area.
8. **Camera settings.** **Re-check all your settings** when you are on site and ready to shoot. Many great opportunities have been ruined because your pre-settings have been changed by the "bad elf" between when you leave home and taking your first pictures. Make a "field card" or field checklist for all important settings you prefer such as manual, automatic, landscape, macro, stabilization, ISO, RAW, saturation, image size, memory card in the camera, etc.
9. **Composition.** Use all the great tips demonstrated in our "Learning Series" for Composition. Remember, it's not the camera so much as your "eye" for creating a work of art.
10. **HDR or High Dynamic Range.** Now is the time and place to experiment with HDR if your camera has this capability. These Lake Tahoe areas are featured prominently in HDR classes and "how to" articles.

11. **Clean your lenses often.** We are outdoors in dusty & breezy areas, check your lenses often.
12. **Camera Review function.** Use your camera's review function often, especially when you are shooting in a world class setting like on this trip. It's far better to adjust camera & lens settings on the spot and take better pictures in the field than waiting to get back home and agonizing about a lost opportunity.
13. **Weather.** Blue skies, overcast, clouds, rain or snow can be photographic obstacles or opportunities. Pick either of these attributes to match your individual personality.
14. **Security.** Don't leave your expensive equipment and valuables in plain view in the car while you are out of sight. Secure them in the trunk or cover them up. Once at the destination stop, it may be too late to put them away! Lock them in the car or bring them with you to lunch, etc.
15. **Group etiquette.** We are free to spend as much time as we want individually to take some world class pictures. We will have a lot of fun as a group, but you are free to eat when you want, go where you want, etc. but if you are traveling with others in the same car, consider their time as well. Feel free to go on and do whatever you want but please let others know if you had pre-planned a meal, carpool, or meeting together and will not be on time (refer to the cell phone list if necessary). This will help prevent irritating others and calling out the Search & Rescue dog teams.
16. **Car caravanning.** **We are not tethered to one another on this trip.** One thing we have learned over the years of going on group field trips: photographers are like cats – very independent, don't like to be controlled or herded, will lash out if disturbed from their day dreams, are on their own internal schedules, etc. Thus we don't even try to car caravan as a large group. We will try to be together but it is more important for you to have as much time as you want to take pictures. Others who are Type A can charge ahead without feeling restrained by a free spirit who has wandered off and is lost in the wonder of nature. Refer to the Agenda and maps for places to meet and regroup by this is totally up to each individual.
17. **Pack and be ready.** Make certain you are fully outfitted and packed before leaving on this trip. There are limited places to shop and we will not have much time to stop and pick up a few things on the way. There are no Costco's or Wal-Mart's in the mountains.
18. **Kneepads** are very handy for getting down for close ups of leaves and other subjects. Only cost \$10 at Big 5 in Lincoln on Amazon. Brand = McDavid #645, Large for men, Medium for women.

Other suggestions:

Why Leaves Change Color...as featured on weather.com

The Splendor of Autumn

Every autumn we revel in the beauty of the fall colors. The mixture of red, purple, orange and yellow is the result of chemical processes that take place in the tree as the seasons change from summer to winter.



During the spring and summer the leaves have served as factories where most of the foods necessary for the tree's growth are manufactured. This food-making process takes place in the leaf in numerous cells containing chlorophyll, which gives the leaf its green color. This extraordinary chemical absorbs from sunlight the energy that is used in transforming carbon dioxide and water to carbohydrates, such as sugars and starch.

Along with the green pigment are yellow to orange pigments, carotenes and xanthophyll pigments which, for example, give the orange color to a carrot. Most of the year these colors are masked by great amounts of green coloring.

Chlorophyll Breaks Down

But in the fall, because of changes in the length of daylight and changes in temperature, the leaves stop their food-making process. The chlorophyll breaks down, the green color disappears, and the yellow to orange colors become visible and give the leaves part of their fall splendor.

At the same time other chemical changes may occur, which form additional colors through the development of red anthocyanin pigments. Some mixtures give rise to the reddish and purplish fall colors of trees such as dogwoods and sumacs, while others give the sugar maple its brilliant orange.

The autumn foliage of some trees show only yellow colors. Others, like many oaks, display mostly browns. All these colors are due to the mixing of varying amounts of the chlorophyll residue and other pigments in the leaf during the fall season.

Other Changes Take Place

As the fall colors appear, other changes are taking place. At the point where the stem of the leaf is attached to the tree, a special layer of cells develops and gradually severs the tissues that support the leaf. At the same time, the tree seals the cut, so that when the leaf is finally blown off by the wind or falls from its own weight, it leaves behind a leaf scar.



Most of the broad-leaved trees in the North shed their leaves in the fall. However, the dead brown leaves of the oaks and a few other species may stay on the tree until growth starts again in the spring. In the South, where the winters are mild, some of the broad-leaved trees are evergreen; that is, the leaves stay on the trees during winter and keep their green color.

Only Some Trees Lose Leaves

Most of the conifers - pines, spruces, firs, hemlocks, cedars, etc. - are evergreen in both the North and South. The needle- or scale-like leaves remain green or greenish the year round, and individual leaves may stay on for two to four or more years.

Weather Affects Color Intensity

Temperature, light, and water supply have an influence on the degree and the duration of fall color. Low temperatures above freezing will favor anthocyanin formation producing bright reds in maples. However, early frost will weaken the brilliant red color. Rainy and/or overcast days tend to increase the intensity of fall colors. The best time to enjoy the autumn color would be on a clear, dry, and cool (not freezing) day.

Enjoy the color, it only occurs for a brief period each fall.

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