

Opinion: People of color missing from backcountry

By Nina Revoyr, Los Angeles Times

Last month, two friends and I backpacked for a week in the Sierra Nevada. We hiked through meadows dotted with wildflowers, slept beneath snow-draped peaks and met plenty of other hikers: the dad and son whose Green Bay Packers caps sparked a conversation about our mutual ties to Wisconsin; scientists from UC Santa Cruz studying flowers and rock formations; five recent college grads from Kentucky who were hiking the John Muir Trail before they scattered to begin their adult lives.

But as the days passed, I grew increasingly troubled by the people we didn't meet.

There were a few Asian hikers, including a couple of hapas like me (I'm half Japanese and half Polish) and one of my friends was half-Iranian, but not a single backpacker who was Latino or African American.

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