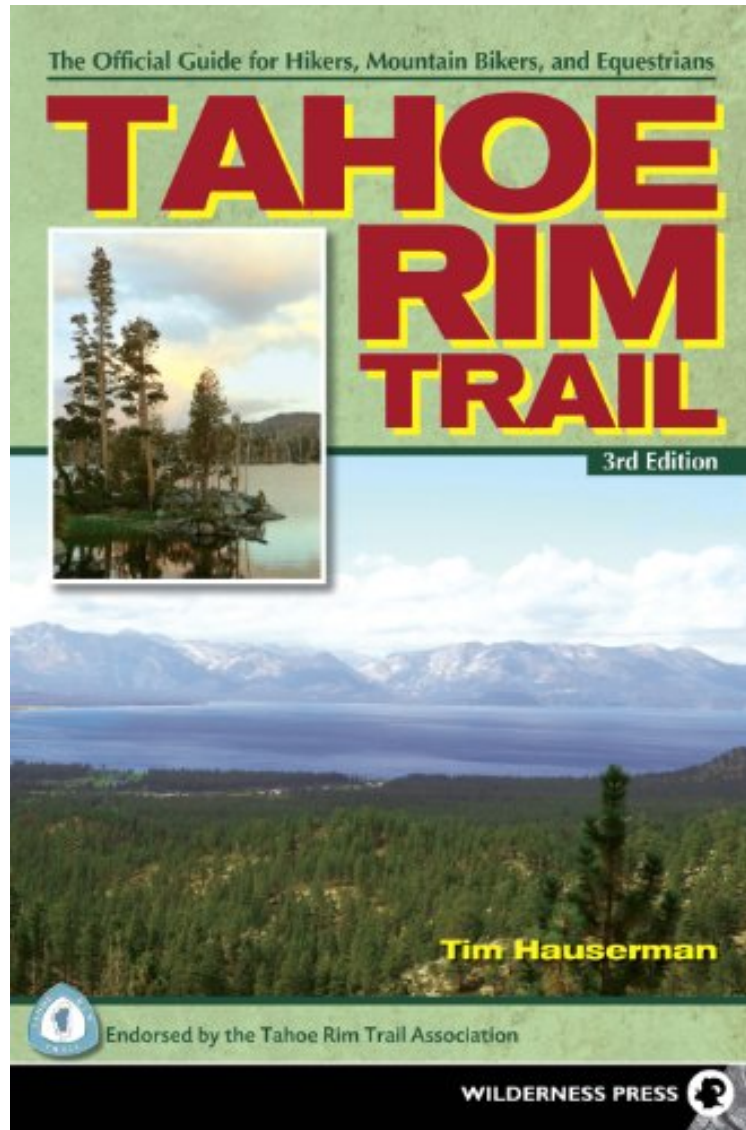


Tahoe Rim Trail: The Official Guide for Hikers, Mountain Bikers and Equestrians

Tim Hauserman

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Tim Hauserman : Tahoe Rim Trail: The Official Guide for Hikers, Mountain Bikers and Equestrians before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tahoe Rim Trail: The Official Guide for Hikers, Mountain Bikers and Equestrians:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. California's Most Accessible (Most Scenic?) Through HikeBy

Fritz R. Ward California is blessed to have spectacular scenery and lots of open space where distance hiking trails can be constructed. There is of course the famous Pacific Crest Trail, which traverses the mountainous backbone of the state for some 1700 miles, and the even more well known John Muir Trail which shares 170 of its 220 miles with the PCT. The Lost Coast Trail is another stunning hike. But sadly, most of the distance trails in California exist mainly in the imaginations of their proponents. Trail "advocates" will ask the government to create a trail and note various existing routes that could be used, and progress towards completing these trails comes mostly in fits and starts, as government budgets allow. Advocates hope to eventually have a full route, but never actually deal with the very real obstacles (urban areas or wilderness restrictions) that need to be addressed for "their" trail vision to be completed. The California Coastal trail is an example of this sort of wishful thinking. But the Tahoe Rim Trail (TRT) is an exception to this rule. Why? Because the communities around Lake Tahoe did more than just ask for a trail; they actively worked to build and maintain it. And now, years after the first route was completed, the Tahoe Rim Trail Association continues to re-route, maintain, and support the trail. They also endorse an excellent guide to the trail, Tim Hauserman's Wilderness Press book, now in its third edition. The first edition of Hauserman's book came out in 2002 and after reading it, I was immediately inspired to attempt a through hike of this trail. As it happened, I was able to complete the California portion of the trail, over 100 miles, but never did get around to the Nevada portion. Time constraints, severe afternoon thunderstorms, and a lack of water along the route prevented me from finishing the trek. In the intervening years, however, the trail has been rerouted, water supplies added or upgraded (a pump at Marlette Lake campground prominent among these) and single track tread has been added to bypass roads which the old route followed. All of these changes and more have found their way into the third edition of this book. As with previous editions, the route descriptions are surprisingly detailed and the accompanying maps adequate. Hauserman has also included numerous side route descriptions for those who have the time to take them (and I would urge hikers to make the time: Tahoe is a beautiful area and deserves extra time). These are conveniently printed in side bars and easy to follow without distracting from the main text. Finally, this book, like previous editions, discusses the user groups allowed on the trail, and relevant restrictions and permits. In all, I am even more impressed with this edition than I was with the first. The material is so well organized that it is considerably lighter than the earlier editions and those planning a through hike of the whole trail will easily be able to afford the weight of this book in their pack. But through hiking may not be the best approach to this trail. Many sections of the trail can be completed as long day hikes or overnight backpacks. And with Lake Tahoe's extensive public transportation system, you could easily access different portions of the TRT at different times of the summer or as you find the opportunity. Indeed, the TRT is clearly the most readily accessible of all of California's distance trails with many points of easy access. As my wife and I have recently purchased a timeshare in Tahoe, I hope to use this guide to finish the Nevada portion of the trail next summer. You should use it too to see some of the most spectacular scenery in the northern Sierra. And as you walk the trail, be sure to give thanks to the many trail advocates who did more than just dream about and ask for a trail. They actively went about creating one, and it is a true gem.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. the maps there are just as good, and there's more information. By Backcountry Family Decent trail narratives and has interesting side trip suggestions that pique interest...but this was published in 2012 and has no elevation profiles, and no specific water postings. If you look at my other reviews of guidebooks, I am not a reader who minds cross-checking information in other books to piece together a trip tailored to our interests, but I find that this book is no different than what exists at the Tahoe Rim Trail Association's website. In fact, the maps there are just as good, and there's more information...and it's free. I love using guidebooks to inspire a trip, and I don't necessarily need it along with me on the trip, but for a trail like this, there really should be elevation profiles, water charts and suggestions for campsites. In the back, there is an index for mileage, but that's it. For a loop trail of this size that has proximity to roads and civilization, I guess I expect more, but maybe that's because I'm biased, living next to the Superior Hiking Trail along the north shore of Lake Superior in Minnesota, where the Superior Hiking Trail Association has written one of the best guidebooks for any long distance trail that exists, and it's about 150 miles longer than the Tahoe Rim Trail. I'm keeping the book for a resource, but not that impressed.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... effort put into writing this book and might be good if you have never hiked (and you have chosen ... By Buddha Plenty of effort put into writing this book and might be good if you have never hiked (and you have chosen the TRT as your first hike?!?!). If you have hiked greater than 3 days anywhere, this book just doesn't provide any details that are useful or helpful that you can't find in more detail elsewhere. Very generic/common sense "hints" that feel chastising. The humor feels very juvenile. The author seems like a novice "backpacker" in general, but maybe an expert to the local area? I would do my own research online before buying this book again -- no disrespect meant, just one person's opinion.

The 165-mile Tahoe Rim Trail is considered one of the world's premier trails. Accessible by hikers, equestrians, skiers and mountain bikers (for the non-wilderness portions), it winds completely around spectacular Lake Tahoe, the highest and largest alpine lake in North America. The trail crosses through six counties, three national forests, and two states and was completed in 2001 largely by volunteer labor. The best-selling Tahoe Rim Trail has been revised to reflect the latest conditions and routing of the trail and includes information for over 20 miles of new trail. Updated topographic

maps depict the entire route, along with the easy (and fun) to read trail directions, the book includes fascinating information on the plants and animals you'll see along the trail, plus essential advice for planning a hike on the TRT, whether it's a day's outing or a 2-week circuit of the entire lake. The first and only how-to guide to this popular trail, it is the official guidebook of the Tahoe Rim Trail Association, whose mission is to improve, maintain and promote the trail.

Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. SECTION 3 Tahoe Meadows to Spooner Summit (23.1 miles) Difficulty--This section is strenuous, mostly due to the length, but also because of elevation gains. While the trail starts at 8740 feet and ends at about 7140 feet, there are two portions of the trail where you encounter climbs of over 700 feet. In the opposite direction, the climb from Spooner Summit to just below Snow Valley Peak is about 1800 feet. Best Seasons--It is best to hike this section of the trail between mid-June and late October. The segment between Spooner Summit and Snow Valley Peak may be open as early as mid-May in years with light snowfall. However, the section between Twin Lakes and Snow Valley Peak may hold snow well into July. Highlights--There are spectacular vistas of Lake Tahoe along much of this section of trail. Some of these are the most stunning views to be found anywhere along the Tahoe Rim Trail. In particular, the Christopher's Loop (Herlan Peak) spur trail offers especially remarkable vistas. The trail provides views on both sides of this north-south oriented ridge, of Lake Tahoe to the west, and of the Great Basin to the east. While the thin decomposed granite soils along the trail limit wildflower growth, in several locations flowers can be found in abundance. This is especially the case if you take a sidetrip down to Marlette Lake, where the wildflower display is one of the best to be found anywhere. If you are looking for yellow and orange aspen leaves, it is hard to beat the bounty of leaves at Snow Valley, Marlette Lake, and Spooner Lake. Much of this section of trail can be covered on a mountain bike, and, for the experienced rider, affords some of the best mountain biking at Lake Tahoe. This section of trail is home to the Tahoe Rim Trail 50Km/50Mile/100Mile run that occurs in July. As their slogan says, it truly is a glimpse of heaven and a taste of hell. Heads Up!--Very little water is available on this section of trail. Bring some along for Fido. About 0.7 mile beyond the Tahoe Meadows trailhead, you cross Ophir Creek, a beautiful little stream. At around mile 3 you pass two unreliable seasonal springs. At about 9.5 miles from the trailhead you reach the Twin Lakes. These two small, very shallow, lakes may dry up by late in the summer; as they shrink, the water becomes less attractive, and takes on a green hue. The Marlette Campground, 13.8 miles from Tahoe Meadows has a hand pump well providing the best source for water on this section. Another source for water is Spooner Lake, near Spooner Summit. If you're thru-hiking you should know that there are no trailside sources of water on the next 12 miles south of Spooner Summit. Obtain water at Spooner Lake unless you have made prior arrangements for water to be provided to you. While Spooner Lake's water itself looks marshy, you can also walk over to the Spooner Lake parking lot above the lake. Here you will find tapwater and, during the summer months, the small store sells ice cream, snacks, and drinks. You will see Marlette Lake from the trail. If you are thirsty and/or looking for a swim, it may be a worthwhile detour. From the intersection of the TRT and Hobart Road, it is 1.75 miles to the lake, mostly steep downhill. About 0.75 mile down, where two gullies converge, there is a usually reliable stream. Most of the trail is exposed to the sun and wind so bring extra water, extra clothing and lots of sunscreen. Camping is only allowed in two locations: One site, Marlette Peak Campground, is along the TRT near Marlette Peak, about 13 miles south of the Mt. Rose trailhead; the second campsite is along North Canyon Road. At a minor saddle, just before you reach Snow Valley Peak, take a dirt road 1.2 mile steeply down to North Canyon Road. Turn left and go about 1 mile south down to North Canyon Campground, just east above the road. All you will see is an outhouse, with camping sites behind it out of view from the road. Get water from the stream just to the west of the road. You can also continue on the TRT, past Snow Valley Peak an additional 1.7 miles, to a signed junction with a connector trail, which heads downhill 1.4 miles to the campground. Tips for Mountain Bikers--For the experienced mountain biker this section of trail is perhaps the finest section on the entire Tahoe Rim Trail. It is best to ride from north to south. The Forest Service has ruled that mountain bikers should only use the northernmost 9.2 miles of this section of trail (from Mt. Rose Highway to Tunnel Creek Road) on even days of the month so that hikers may experience the trail without bikers on the odd days of the month. On an "even" weekend day in the middle of the summer, be prepared to see as many as 100 bikes. After an initial fun ride across the meadow and then along the old Ophir Creek Trail, you turn right and climb to a saddle. Then it is a wonderful, sometimes challenging ride, mostly downhill, for the next 8 miles to Tunnel Creek Road. The trail is sandy and soft in some sections, but in most places it is firm and a real pleasure to ride. Some will feel challenged by portions of the trail; for most, the trouble is well rewarded. At Tunnel Creek Road you can turn right and ride downhill 3 miles to Highway 28 where you can have a shuttle awaiting you. Or you can cross the Tunnel Creek road and head a short distance to Twin Lakes. The next few miles after Twin Lakes are a challenging steep uphill ride, but well worth the effort since they eventually lead to spectacular views of Marlette Lake and Lake Tahoe. When you reach Hobart Road, turn right. Bikes are not allowed on the rest of this section of the TRT. Hobart Road takes you down to Marlette Lake, where you follow North Canyon Road out to the parking lot at Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, where fees are required for parking, or for riding through the park. (Mt. Rose Highway)--From Tahoe City you travel 27 miles east on Highway 28 to reach the junction with Highway 50. Turn left on Highway 50 and drive 0.7

mile to the trailhead on the north (left) side of the road (approximately 14 miles northeast of South Lake Tahoe on Highway 50). There is a small paved parking area on the north side of the highway, situated across from a larger paved parking lot, which provides access to the southbound TRT. It is important to realize that Spooner Summit is not the same as Spooner Lake. Spooner Lake is about 0.5 mile west of the junction of Highways 50 and 28 on Highway 28. Entrance to the popular Spooner Lake area (with access to The Flume Trail) requires a fee, and is reached by driving 0.6 mile northwest from the junction. Trail Description From Highway 431, known locally as the Mt. Rose Highway, the southbound TRT runs parallel to the highway and descends past several streamlets and then crosses through the middle of Tahoe Meadows, a large subalpine area that can be muddy in June or a wonderful wildflower romp in July. Stay on the trail to avoid damaging the fragile meadow ecosystem. Near the south edge of the meadow, cross Ophir Creek, a charming year-round stream that is bordered by elephant heads, lupines, and other wildflowers. Except for the fact that you just left the trailhead 0.75 mile back it would be the best source for water on this section of trail. After crossing Ophir Creek on the wide bridge, the trail heads into a forest of lodgepole and whitebark pines, and meets the Ophir Creek Trail, where you turn left (south). For information on the network of trails heading out from the Ophir Creek Bridge refer to Sidetrip, Tahoe Meadows Sidetrip, Tahoe Meadows. Three interconnected loop trails provide access to the beauty of Tahoe Meadows. They are popular easy hikes for families and people with dogs. The longest is 3 miles, with about half in the trees using the TRT and Ophir Creek Trails, and the other half on the edge of the meadow where you can hear and see the creek. A section of the trail near the TRT bridge is on boardwalk, protecting the fragile meadow from damage while allowing walkers to get very close to the narrow, but deep creek. A connector trail leads along the east side of the creek from the TRT directly to Highway 431, providing a shorter route to the Meadow trails. A map of the different routes is located adjacent to the bridge. For the next 0.2 mile, you are on a smooth, wide trail, walking past lodgepole pines. Soon to the left you see Tahoe Meadows and the radio towers atop Slide Mountain, before the trail meets a junction at 1 mile from the trailhead. Straight ahead is the Ophir Creek Trail. It starts out level in the lodgepole forest and then heads downhill, sometimes steeply, past prolific groves of aspen trees and western white pines to the backside of Slide Mountain. In 3 miles on the Ophir Creek Trail you reach what remains of Upper Price Lake, which was significantly reduced in size by a landslide in 1983. This is a great trail for fall colors and to see how Slide Mountain got its name. It also seems to be a very popular area for hang gliders. One beautiful fall day I sat mesmerized by the antics of eight gliders riding the thermals above Slide Mountain. Eventually you reach Davis Creek County Park in 7 miles, although most will find the venture to Upper Price Lake and back a better way to spend their time. The TRT turns right and starts a gentle climb south up the sandy surface past more scattered lodgepole pines, and occasional western white pines and whitebark pines. Exposed to high winds and heavy snows on this north-facing slope, the trees are smaller than those you will see later on the south-facing side of the ridge. To the north you can see the rose-colored top of Mt. Rose. At 1.7 miles from the trailhead you reach a saddle, about 250 feet above the Ophir Creek Trail. Here you get your first views of Lake Tahoe through the vegetation. The views will just keep getting better and better as the miles go by. Now your pathway is along a long north-south oriented ridge for the next 7.5 miles, going in and out of the tops of east-west oriented gullies. Along the route you will experience numerous gentle ups and downs, and from the saddle will have an overall drop in altitude of about 900 feet to Tunnel Creek Road. The first mile past the saddle is a gentle, sandy contour along the western slope of the ridge. You pass scattered white granite boulders, appearing as if they were tossed there haphazardly by a giant playing with rocks. Lodgepole pines are now fewer and larger, and some impressively large western white pines are seen with their long narrow cones hanging from the top. Some may mistake the western white pines for sugar pines, but the sugar pine cones are quite a bit larger, and sugar pines are usually found at lower elevations. At 2.5 miles from the trailhead you cross the head of a gully; here the trail changes from its eastern direction to a southern direction. You see a wide view of the lake, looking toward Emerald Bay and Mt. Tallac. Several large, flat granite boulders lie just below the trail making this a great spot to sit and enjoy the views.