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Donner Rim Trail Out and Back (Advanced) (Black Trail)



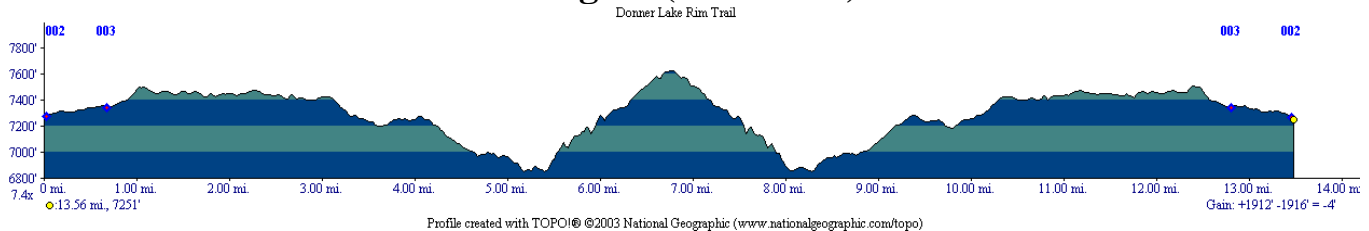
Focus on You Photography
Donner Rim Trail Singletrack: View of Donner Lake
Truckee California

From Reno, take I-80 west through Truckee Ca. Continue west on I-80 to the Boreal Ski Area / Donner Summit exit. Take the exit, and at the bottom of the exit take a right. Left will take you to Boreal Ski Area parking lot. Follow this road to the right and it will climb up the hillside, and then park where the pavement ends. This is the start of your ride. The first ½ of this ride is the most technical section of the

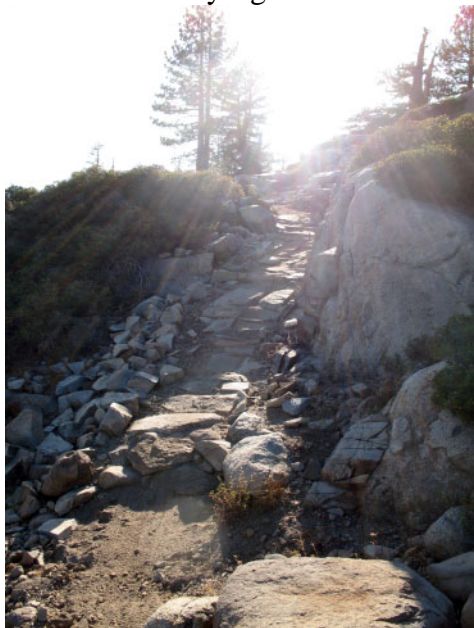
entire ride. This section climbs over a large sections of granite, it is all rideable, but technical. Once you hit Summit Lake, the technical section is done, but this is where the climbing starts. It is not that technical, just steep.

Donner Lake Rim Trail Out and Back (Black Trail)

13.56 miles 1912 ft. total elevation gain (Advanced)



From the dirt parking area head west up the dirt jeep road, and almost immediately you will come to a fork in the road. Stay right and follow the jeep road .35 miles and you will come to another jeep road



intersection. If you go right the jeep road will end at a singletrack that intersects the Donner Lake Rim Trail. Although this trail is not marked, I believe it is the Pacific Rim Trail (PCT) where mechanized vehicles (bicycles) are prohibited. So continue west, up the jeep road and in .258 miles (.6 miles from the start) you will come to another fork in the road. If you go straight you will intersect the **Hole in the Ground Loop**. This intersection is also marked with a wooden post with a small placard on the post that says Donner Lake Rim Trail. Take a right and follow the jeep road .33 miles (.93 miles) where the jeep road will take a hard right. The singletrack to the left is again the PCT, so stay right on the jeep road. Almost immediately you will see another singletrack on the right side of the road. This again is the PCT mentioned earlier. Continue on straight on the jeep road, and in .17 miles (1.1 miles) you will see a jeep road on your right. Continue straight, and in .1 miles (1.18 miles) you will run right into your singletrack. The singletrack here just meanders through the trees, and is fairly fast

and more of an intermediate trail, but in .8 miles (1.98 miles) you hit your granite section. This is where

the trail gets fun (see picture left.) You will be riding down this section, then back up this section on your return. Continue through the granite section and in .55 miles (2.53 miles) you will be out of the granite and you will intersect a 4 way intersection. The left goes to Warren Lake (if I remember the name correctly.) As of 2007, I have not ridden this trail which is supposed to be just over 5 miles one way. Someone did carve in the sign (DON'T GO.) I can only assume that this is more of a hiking trail, but do not know for sure yet. Let you know later. I am also not sure where the right goes, but will again let you know later. However, continue straight, and in .4 miles (2.93 miles) you will be at Summit Lake (see picture right.) The singletrack continues around Summit Lake, and almost immediately turns into a jeep



road. Follow the jeep road west and in 1.13 miles (4.06 miles) you will cut off the jeep road onto the singletrack on the left. This section of singletrack is fairly easy. It has a couple of tight switchbacks, but nothing bad. Continue on the singletrack and in 1.13 miles (5.19 miles) you will drop out onto another jeep road. Take a left and follow the jeep road and in .13 miles (5.32 miles) the singletrack will veer off the jeep road to the right. You can continue up the jeep road heading north, and it just climbs to give you a view of Castle Peak and Euer Valley. The view is good, but the view from the top of the singletrack is better.

So, take the singletrack to the right and in .15 miles (5.47 miles) you will come to another fork in the trail.



If you go strait the singletrack heads down hill to the south and drops you out at the Donner Lake exit on I-80, so take a left and follow the singletrack which climbs strait up the hill side to the ridge. The switchbacks are steep and tight, but rideable (see picture right.) This climb is entirely rideable, and in 1.27 miles (6.79 miles) you will be at the ridge, and you will have climbed 771 ft. Once at the ridge, you will be at the “Drifter Hut” in the Donner Lake cross country ski area. Everything from here is just jeep road. I took the jeep road to the right just to get to the top of the hill. The view is ok, but not great. I would recommend that you just turn around at the ridge and retrace you path back to Donner Summit. So, turn around and drop the down hill back to the jeep road at 1.42 miles (8.21 miles). Take a left on the jeep road, then right back on the singletrack. Follow the singletrack back the previous jeep road at 1.23 miles (9.44 miles) and take a right and follow it uphill back to Summit Lake. Continue around Summit Lake, and here is the tricky part. In 1.56 miles (11 miles) you will come back to a 4 way intersection. You need to go strait around a tree to the singletrack.

The tree obscures your view of the singletrack, and would be easy to miss. So make sure to go strait west around the tree on the singletrack, and back into the granite section. Then just retrace your path back to the car at Donner Summit for 13.56 miles total.

See map on next page.

Donner Rim Trail (Black)

Hole in the Ground (Solid Red)

TOPOI map printed on 09/19/07 from "Hole in the ground.tpo"

