



## **Great Basin Bicycles**

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### **Luther Pass – Tahoe Rim Trail South to PCT**

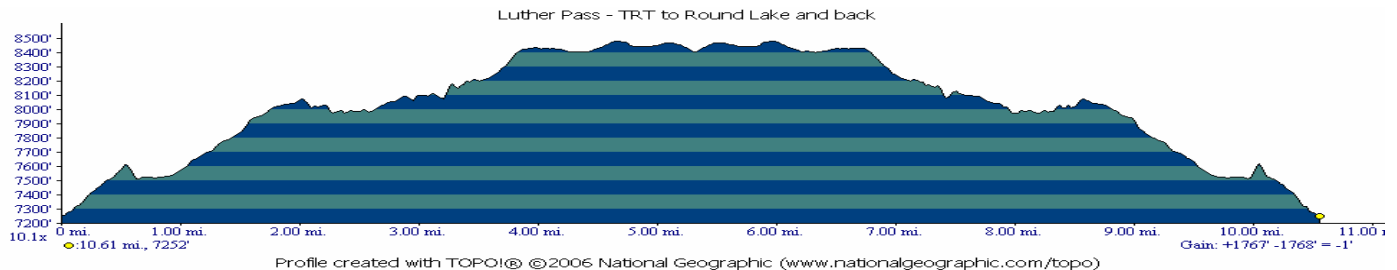
From the Reno Airport, take Hwy 395 through Carson City and take a right on Hwy 50, Spooner Summit. Follow Hwy 50 to the summit at Spooner Lake, and stay left on Hwy 28 – 50. Head south through Stateline, and continue on Hwy 28 – 50 to Meyers. Just past Meyers, you will go through the Agriculture check station, then you have a choice. For just the TRT trail, take an immediate left and head up Luther Pass, Hwy 89. Just before the summit, you will see a forest service parking area on the left for the Tahoe Rim Trail (TRT). Park here. If you are going to do the full loop to include the Christmas Valley Downhill, continue through the Ag. station, and take a left South Upper Truckee Dr. Follow North Truckee road up the pavement, and near the top you will see a Forest service parking area and sign on the right for Christmas Valley Trail.



**All Photos taken by:**  
**Focus On You Photography**  
**Luther Pass – TRT to Round Lake and PCT**

# Luther Pass – Tahoe Rim Trail (TRT) past Round Lake to the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) and back (Strong Intermediate to Advanced) (Red Trail)

10.61 miles 1767 ft. total elevation gain



From Hwy 28 – 50, just past Meyers, turn left – south - on Hwy 89 – Luther Pass. Follow Hwy 89 almost to the top of the pass, and you will see a Forest Service – Tahoe Rim Trail – parking area on the left side of the road. This is your start. Once you take a left, you will have to take your first left again to reach the parking area. One other note, there are bathrooms here. Park here, unload, and head to the south end of the parking area, and this is where the trail starts. Take the trail due south, and almost immediately the trail will cross Hwy 89. This .55 mile section of trail is fairly steep, and has lots of rock steps. I rode about 70% of the trail, but you must have great trials skills to clear the rocky steps. Most people walk 10 yards, ride 30 yards, then off the bike again and on again. This is the most technical part of the entire ride. So once you clear the first ½ mile, the trail gets much smoother. As soon as the trail levels out, you will come to a “Y” intersection. Stay right. The left goes to Scotts Lake. I have not ridden that yet. So stay right, and follow the trail through the west end of Big Meadow. Once across the meadow, the trail will start to climb again. Follow the trail south for 1.14 miles (1.69 miles from the start) where you will crest this section of climb. About ½ way up this climb you will run into a stair step section. It is rideable, but I think it takes more energy to ride than to walk (see picture below right.) Also,



please be aware of hikers and horses. I always ride the TRT with a small cow bell that constantly jingles. Hikers and horses can hear me coming, and are usually off the trail by the time I get to them. I am the rider who usually stops for everyone, but with the bell, I never get a chance. Just remember, we all live in the same world, share it! Once on the top of the climb, roll over the other side and start the down hill. In .55 miles (2.24 miles) you will come to another “Y” intersection. If you go right, you will drop down Christmas Valley Downhill trail. So stay left, and the trail will meander flat for just a second, then it will start

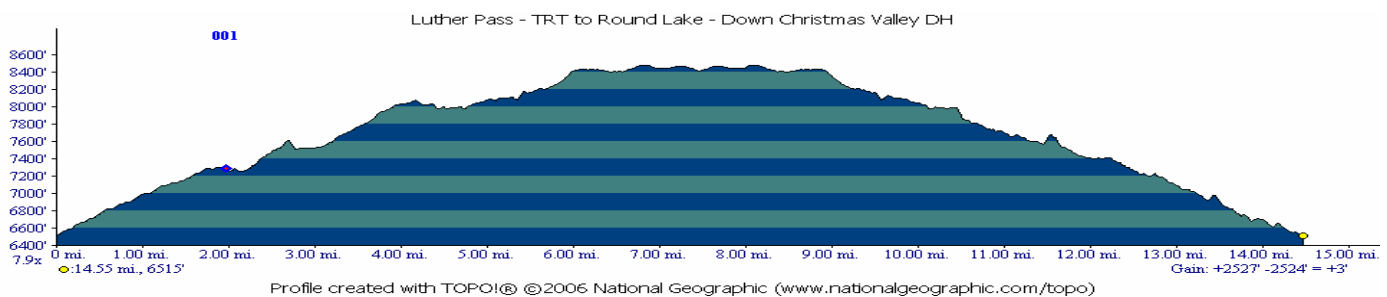
another climb. It is a little loose, but totally rideable. Follow the trail for .58 miles (2.82 miles) and you will be atop another climb. Just below you is Round Lake (See picture above left.) Drop down to round lake, and now you have an option. You can continue around the right side of round lake and take the trail 2.5 miles (5.3 miles) to the PCT where bikes are not allowed, so



you would have to turn around and head back. This last section of trail starts out a little steep and loose and climbs for .6 miles, then quickly mellows out and just rolls up and down all the way to the PCT. So if you head out to the PCT, turn around there and retrace your path back to Round Lake. Just past Round Lake you will come to the turn off for Christmas Valley Downhill. Go right to retrace the TRT to Luther Pass, or head left down Christmas Valley Downhill. This downhill is an expert only trail. For this Downhill, see the write up below.

## **Luther Pass – Tahoe Rim Trail (TRT) past Round Lake to the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) and down the Christmas Valley Downhill (Black to Red to Purple Trail) (Advanced)**

**14.55 miles 2527 ft. total elevation gain**



For this ride, follow the above directions to Meyers. Just past the agricultural check station, take a left on South Upper Truckee Dr. and follow the road south until you see a large Forest Service Sign and parking for Christmas Valley Trailhead. Park here, and you will ride up South Upper Truckee Dr. In .9 miles, South Upper Truckee Dr. will cross over Hwy 89 – Luther Pass. Cross the highway, and continue up the pavement for 1.26 miles (2.16 miles from the start.) This climb is steep, but paved, the avg. gradient for this section is 9%, but steeper in sections. At the 2.16 mile marker, you will be in the Forest Service parking area for the Tahoe Rim Trail (TRT). There are bathrooms here for public use. From here, follow the above directions to Round Lake, and out to the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) Just for a quick note, if you decide to take the TRT to the Christmas



Valley downhill, and cut out the rest of the ride, you will cover 8.26 miles, and 1790 ft. of climbing. So, let's assume that you take the trail all the way out to the PCT, then retrace your path back just past Round Lake to the Christmas Valley Downhill. Take a left here, and start your downhill. At first the trail is nice and smooth, but quickly that all goes away. There is only one way down. You can't get lost, just follow the trail down. Anyway, very quickly the trail will get very rocky with many small drops. I rode the trail on a Cannondale Scalpel and cleared the whole thing, but a 5" travel bike would have been much more fun. So, from the turn the Christmas Valley Downhill trail is 4 miles, and 1539 feet of loss. The trail also takes you through the upper section of the Angora Fire.

