

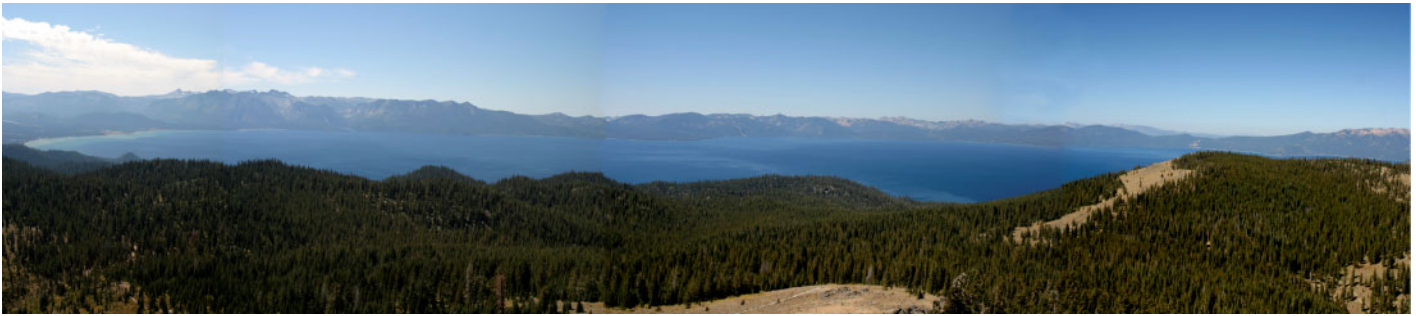


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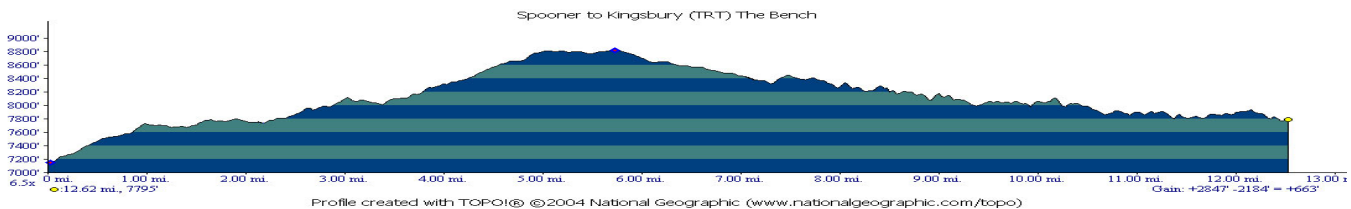
Spooner Summit to Kingsbury Grade

From Reno, take Hwy 395 South to Carson City. Drive South through Carson City to Hwy 50, Spooner Summit. Take a right on Hwy 50 West towards Lake Tahoe. Follow Spooner summit west to the Spooner Lake Recreation Area picnic ground. This will be on your Left side just before you crest the summit, or reach the junction of Hwy 28. Park at the picnic ground and get ready for a lot of climbing. This can be done as an out and back if you like to punish yourself. If not, have someone park on the Kingsbury Grade side and shuttle.



Rich Staley
Focus on You Photography

Tahoe Rim Trail (TRT) AKA: The Bench (Green) 12.62 miles 2847 Ft of Climbing (Expert)



Once in the Spooner Summit Recreation Area, look for the TRT trailhead to start at the far south end of the parking lot. The trail starts here as a single track and immediately starts to climb. At 2.1 miles you will cross a jeep road and will have climbed 750 feet. Cross the jeep road and the trail picks back up and continues in an easterly direction. In 1.2 miles (3.3 miles from the start) you again will cross the same jeep road you crossed before. You have now climbed an additional 395 ft. (1145 ft from the start). Cross over the jeep road and follow the TRT to the west. In 2.5 miles (5.8 miles) you will come to "The Bench". This is one of the most scenic sections of the trail. Take a rest on the man made bench that has been placed into the rocks and gives you a 180 degree unobstructed view of Lake Tahoe. At this point you will have climbed an additional 800 feet from the jeep road for a total of 1945 feet from Spooner Lake Recreation Area. This is the end of the continuous climbing, and from here the trail still has some short climbs, but nothing like you went through before. This is also the

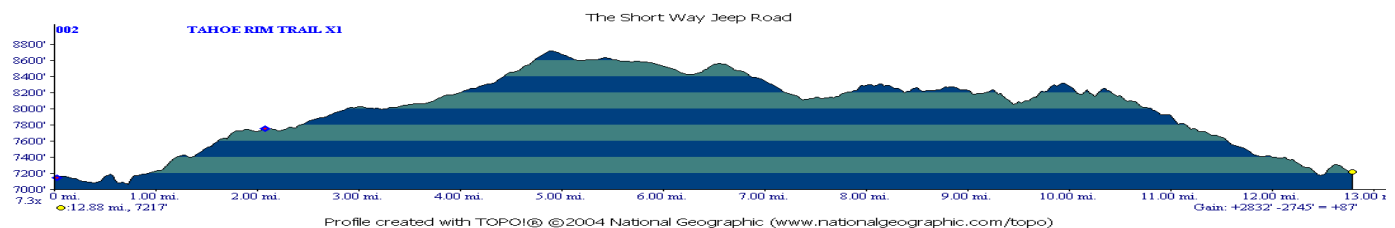
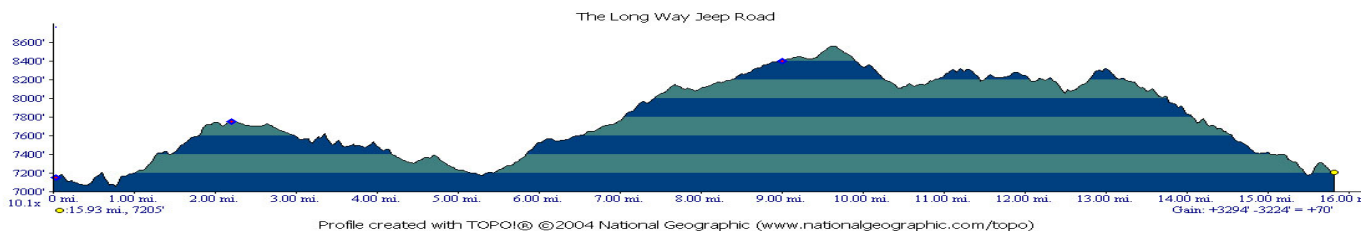
technical portion of the trail. From here be very careful when coming around blind corners. There are many hidden small rock drops and steps. The closer to Kingsbury Grade you get, the more technical the trail gets. So continue south on the TRT, and in 1.3 miles (7.1 miles) you will again cross the jeep road. Here is where you can take a slight detour up Genoa Peak if you want to be on the highest peak in this section of mountains. If you choose to do Genoa Peak, it is a 1.8 mile climb (3.6 miles round trip) from this jeep crossing, and an additional 750 feet of climbing. The problem is that most of the climbing comes in the last $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. To get to the top of the peak, you literally have to hike the last 50 yards to the top. However, you have an unobstructed 360 degree view of Lake Tahoe, and Carson Valley. Retrace your path back to the TRT. Cross over the jeep road and follow the TRT south. This is the most technical part of the trail. Continue for 5 miles (12.1 miles) where you will see a single track on your right. This trail takes you out for another vista. This vista is not even close to the vista you saw at "The Bench". I would skip it. So continue on the TRT and it will turn to the west. Yet again, this is your last section of trail, and also the most technical. Be careful. Follow the trail for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile where you will drop out into a parking area for the TRT on North Benjamin Road.

The Long Way Jeep Road (Red)

15.75 miles 3294 ft of climbing (Expert)

The Short Way Jeep Road (Red to Purple to Red)

13 miles 2832 ft of climbing (Expert)

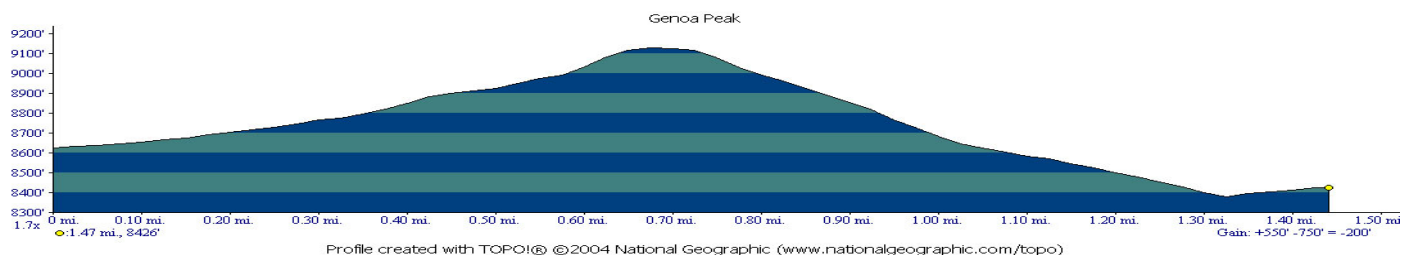


Once on your bike, go to the far left corner of the picnic grounds. You will see a dirt road that goes due east. Follow this road. You will see two roads that cut to the right. If you take the first right you will climb to a dead end. If you take the second, you will climb to a single track that will take you to the road you are supposed to be on. If you continue to the third right, you will be on the main road. This road then curves around and travels back to the west for just a little ways, and then start to climb in a southerly direction. At 2.2 miles you will cross over the Tahoe Rim Trail and will have climbed 766 ft. The road continues .15 tenths of a mile (2.35 miles from the start) where you now have a choice. Both roads go around South Camp Peak and come back together. If you stay to the left you will cover 4 miles (4.35 miles) and 1064 ft. If you go right you will cover 6.75 miles (9.1 miles) and 1580 ft. The left is much easier (The Short Way), and the right (The Long Way) is much more challenging (See the first elevation profile "Spooner-Kingsbury The Long Way). Some of the climbs on The Long Way are so steep that the road is actually paved to help prevent erosion. If chose to

take the right, you will encounter a fork in the road in about .5 miles (2.85 miles). If you go right you will drop down to Hwy 28 at a road maintenance station. Stay to the left to continue the ride. Continue for just over 2.5 miles (5.35 miles) for your next intersection. Again, the right drops quickly to Hwy 28, and the right continues your ride. The road will continue for 3.6 miles (8.95 miles) where you will again cross the Tahoe Rim Trail. This section will gain 1260 ft. Most of your climbing is in this section. In just under .3 miles (9.25 miles) you will merge with the left you wish you would have taken. Now take a right and follow this road due south for about 3 miles (8.35 miles) where you will start a fast technical down hill. Be careful. In another mile (11.35 miles) you will encounter another fork in the road. If you stay to the right, the road will drop you out on pavement at North Benjamin Rd. However, if you want a little more climbing and a great view of Lake Tahoe and Mt Tallac, take the left it climbs quickly and in .7 tenths of a mile you will see a right that climbs to a beautiful vista. Make sure to take a camera, because after all of the climbing you have done, this is the best view of the lake you will get. Back track down to the main road and go right. The road continues for .25 tenths of a mile where it drops you onto Donna St which intersects North Benjamin Road. Take a left and continue to Kingsbury Grade. Now I hope you have a phone so that someone can pick you up and take you down to Lake Tahoe for a swim. This ride should take the expert rider 2-3 hours depending on the route taken.

Genoa Peak Climb (Blue)

1.5 miles 550 ft of climbing (Expert)



Genoa Peak is the highest peak in this section of the Carson Range between Spooner and Kingsbury Grade. Genoa peak is 9100 ft, and overlooks the city of Genoa directly below at 4788 ft. This also gives you a great view of Lake Tahoe at 6229 ft. Only problem is that the last little bit of the climb is a hiking trail only. However, much of the climb is hiking only because it is too steep and loose to ride. However, to make the Genoa Peak Climb, you can access this climb from either of the previous rides, and make this part of the ride without having to backtrack. So, start the climb from the north end, then finish on the south end and tie back to either the jeep road (red) or take the jeep road (red) back to the Tahoe Rim Trail (green) and continue your ride. From the north end, head to the east and you will climb up a very steep and loose jeep road. Half of the climb is easily rideable, and the last half depends on ability and strength. This entire section is .6 miles, and 550 feet. You will come to a parking area, and the only way to the top of the peak is to take the hiking trail to the east. It is worth the view if you have made it this far. Once you return to your bike, retrace your steps down the jeep road, and take your first left. This left is less than .1 miles from the top. Follow this road to the south for .65 miles (1.5 miles from the start which includes your short hike to the top of Genoa Peak.) Be careful, this downhill is loose and rocky. Once you get back to the main jeep road take a left to continue on the jeep road, or take a right and continue .4 miles back to the Tahoe Rim Trail. Once at the TRT, take a left and continue to Kingsbury Grade.

