



8048 S. Virginia St.
Reno, NV 89511
775-825-8258
www.GreatBasinBicycles.com



Tahoe Meadows – The Great Flume Ride – Carson Mountain Range (Mt. Rose Hwy 431 to Spooner Summit Hwy 50)

This section of Mountain Range is called the Carson Range. There are many rides in this section of mountain range that can be tied together. You can start in Carson City and end up on the top of Mt. Rose Hwy, Highway 431. So for this section, I wrote up sections of rides. However, some connecting jeep roads that are not written up can be found on the map as the red lines. For this section you can look at the elevation profiles for each ride, and combine them any way you wish. Many of these trails change rapidly. One minute you will be flying along, then suddenly the trail gets very rocky and loose with many drop-offs. So please be very careful, and please share the trail with others. Always yield right of way to hikers, and horses, as well as uphill riders. Many of the rides in this section start at Spooner Lake State Park which is at the intersection of Highway 50, Spooner Summit, and Highway 28. There is a bike shop within the State Park parking lot. Flume Trail Bikes does daily rentals of very good and great bikes. Flume Trail Bikes also runs a shuttle from late June through November, and will drop you off at Tahoe Meadows on even days only, and or pick you up at Tunnel Creek Road. This shuttle is offered for two rides in this section, **Tahoe Meadows to Tunnel Creek Road (Light Green Trail)**, and **The Great Flume Ride To Tunnel Creek Road (Pink Trail)**. Flume Trail Bikes can be reached at 775-749-5349 or www.theflumetrail.com.

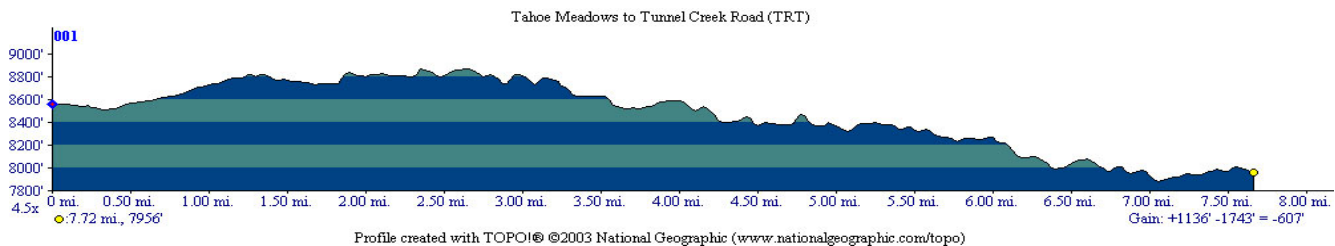


Rich Staley -Focus on You Photography

Tahoe Meadows to Tunnel Creek Road (Light Green Trail)

7.7 miles – 1136 Feet of Climbing (Strong Intermediate)

This section of the Tahoe Rim Trail is open to bicycles on EVEN days only.

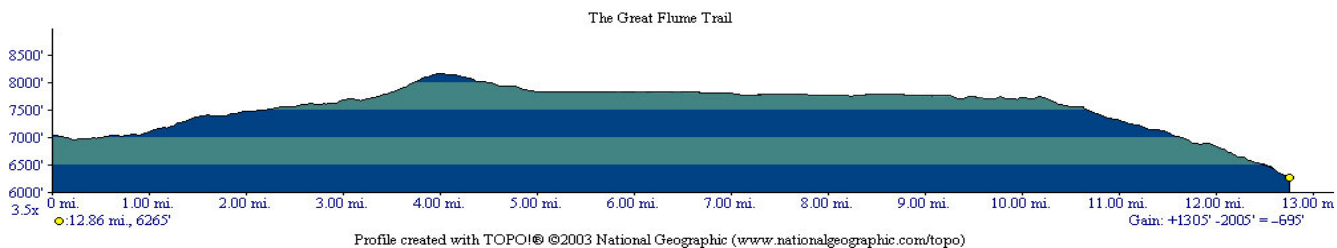


This trail has many sudden obstacles that appear out of nowhere. One moment you will be flying along a great single track, and then take a turn and the trail drops out underneath you. So please be careful when riding this trail. Take extreme care the first time you ride this section of the Tahoe Rim Trail (TRT) trail.

From Reno, take Hwy 431 Mt. Rose Highway west towards Lake Tahoe. Once over the summit, drop into Tahoe Meadows (also known as Mt. Rose Meadows.) Once in the meadows, you will notice that all pine trees are gone. As you pass through the meadows you will see the start of pine trees on the south end. Park there. The trail will start immediately in the start of the trees on the left (east) side of the road. This is the start to the Ophir creek trail, and also the Tahoe Rim Trail (TRT). One quick note, the Ophir Creek Trail is very steep, rocky, and extremely difficult to ride down. It has many drops, and the lower half of the trail is in a tight drainage that is full of basketball sized rocks. This is a much better hiking trail than biking trail. Once you start the trail just off of Mt. Rose Highway, follow the jeep road for .3 miles to the east. Very quickly you will come to an intersection where you will

take a right on the TRT. If you continue east you will drop into the Ophir Creek Trail. Once you take a right, the single track gradually climbs up to the ridge. In 4.4 miles (4.5 miles from the start) you will be looking down on Diamond Peak Ski Resort on your right (west). From this point, you will cross over the ridge a couple of times and be able to look down on Washoe Valley and beyond. This single track will continue back over the ridge, and in 3.2 miles (7.7 miles) you will drop down onto Tunnel Creek Road. From Tunnel Creek Road you can cross the road and continue on the TRT to Marlette Lake (always open to bicycles), or take a right down Tunnel Creek Road to The Great Flume Ride, or drop all the way down Tunnel Creek Road to Lake Tahoe Hwy 28. You can also take a right and do the Red House Flume to Hobart Lake, then climb over the ridge back to Marlette Lake.

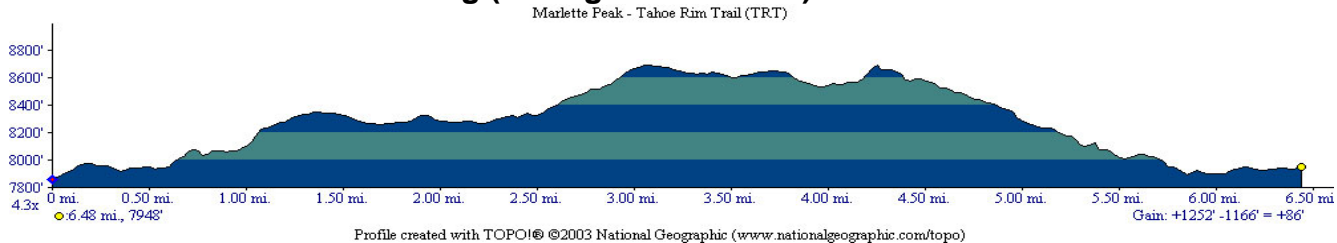
The Great Flume Ride To Tunnel Creek Road (Pink Trail) **13 Miles - 1300 Feet of Climbing (Intermediate)**



The Great Flume ride is for the intermediate rider, and will require that the intermediate rider do some short hike-a-bike sections. The Great Flume is known for its spectacular views. However, if you are afraid of heights, this trail is not for you. You will be riding a single track trail with some hike-a-bike sections that place you almost 2000 feet above Lake Tahoe on a steep exposed slope. It is highly recommended that you watch the trail while you are riding, and stop to take in the views. From Reno, take Hwy 395 south to Carson City. Pass through Carson City and take a right on Hwy 50 Spooner Summit. Follow Hwy 50 west to the summit, and just after the summit take a right on Hwy 28 heading north. In just under a mile you will come to Spooner Lake State Park on your right. You should park inside the state park. There is a parking fee, but the fee goes towards trail maintenance, so it is worth it. You will also find a bike shop in the parking area, or the south end of the parking lot. This shop offers a shuttle service that will pick you up at the bottom of Tunnel Creek Road and take you back to Spooner Lake State Park so that you do not have to ride back if you do not want to. Once inside the park, you can park anywhere, and follow any of the walking trails to the North West and you will end up on North Canyon Jeep Road which is your main road that will take you to the Great Flume Trail. So, drop down onto North Canyon Road and follow the road uphill (north) for 3.6 miles where you will come to the base of a pretty steep section of the trip. This section is about ½ of a mile, and 300 ft. of vertical gain. This is the steepest section of trail, and once done it is down hill to Marlette Lake and the start of The Great Flume Trail. Just before the top of this climb you will see a road on your right that will take you to the top of Snow Valley Peak. This climb is for the expert rider only. It is very loose, and steep. It is a 1.5 mile climb with 1100 ft of climbing to the top. The view is spectacular, but difficult to get there. Continue due north on North Canyon Jeep road and you will drop .7 miles (4.8 miles from the start) where you will come to a 4 way intersection. If you go strait, you will go out onto a point that overlooks Marlette Lake. This is a great spot to go swimming on a hot summer day. If you go right you will head up to the Tahoe Rim Trail section that goes over Marlette Peak (purple trail), or continue on to Hobart Lake. However, to do the Great Flume Ride, take a left and follow the trail around the south end of Marlette Lake. Follow this road for 1.5 miles (6.3 miles) where the road will drop you directly onto the single track of the Great Flume Ride. This section is very technical, and many riders walk this section. It is very short, and once you clear it, the ride gets much easier. From

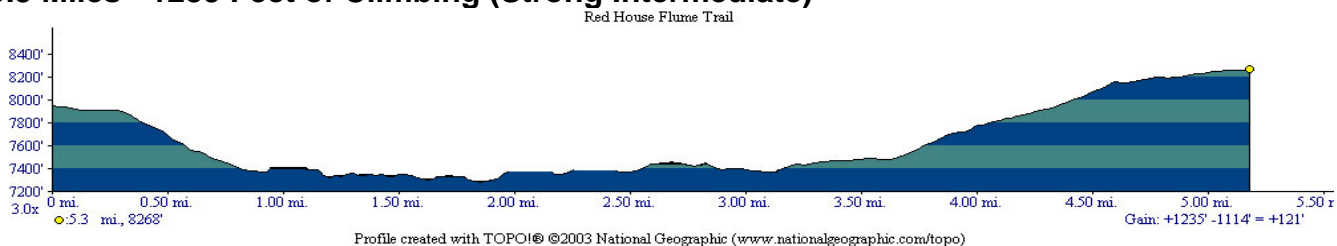
here the single track swings out on the side hill and gives you a great view of Lake Tahoe. Follow the single track north for 4.2 miles (10.5 miles) where you will intersect Tunnel Creek Road. From here you could go right and intersect the Tahoe Rim Trail north (light green trail) or south (purple trail), or intersect with the Red House Flume trail (brown trail), or just turn around and retrace your path back to Spooner Lake State Park. From here, take a right and follow Tunnel Creek Road down to Lake Tahoe Hwy 28. This road seems to be very fast, but be very attentive. This road has sudden turns, hidden bumps, and loose gravel in the turns. So be attentive and watch your speed. This section of road is 2.5 miles long (13 miles one way.) Here is where you wait for the shuttle for your return trip to Spooner Lake State Park.

Marlette Peak Tahoe Rim Trail (TRT) to Tunnel Creek Rd (Purple Trail) 6.5 Miles - 1250 Feet of Climbing (Strong Intermediate)



Follow the directions for **The Great Flume Ride To Tunnel Creek Road (Pink Trail)** to Marlette Lake which is 4.8 miles from Spooner Lake State Park. Once you are at the Marlette Lake intersection, take a right. This jeep road will climb for just over a mile, then level out. In 1.6 miles from the Marlette Lake intersection you will see a Forest Service sign that marks where the Tahoe Rim Trail (TRT) crosses the jeep road that you are on. The TRT to the right (east) is closed to bikes, so take a left. Here the TRT is a single track and will climb 1.45 miles (3.05 miles from the Marlette Lake intersection) to the top of the ridge which overlooks Lake Tahoe and Marlette Lake. This is a great photo opportunity. Here the TRT singletrack takes a hard right and heads north. From this point on the single track has some very technical sections that come up on you quickly, so be careful. From the ridge, follow the TRT north for 1 mile (4.05 miles) where you will drop into a small valley. Here the trail climbs up to the next ridge, and has a couple hike-a-bike sections. So, from the small valley you will climb .2 miles (4.25 miles) where you will crest the ridge then drop down the other side. Follow the TRT downhill through some tight and technical turns and rock drops for 1.7 miles (5.95 miles) where you will drop into another small valley. This is almost the end. Follow the single track for another .53 miles (6.48 miles) where the TRT will drop you out on Tunnel Creek Road. From here you can cross the road and head due north and ride the Tahoe Meadows trail to the top of Mt. Rose Meadows, take a left and head all the way down Tunnel Creek Road to Lake Tahoe, or just drop a little ways down to The Great Flume Trail and ride it back to Spooner Lake State Park, or take a right and do the Red House Flume Trail.

Red House Flume Trail (Brown Trail) 5.3 Miles - 1235 Feet of Climbing (Strong Intermediate)

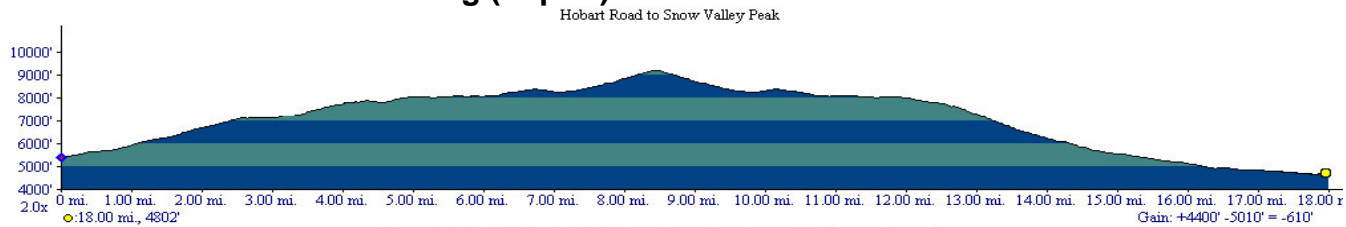


From the intersection of the **Marlette Peak Tahoe Rim Trail (TRT) to Tunnel Creek Rd (Purple Trail)** take a right on Tunnel Creek Road. You will follow Tunnel Creek Road downhill (east) for 1

mile where the road will run right into the Red House Flume single track. Follow the single track for 2 miles (3 miles from the intersection of the TRT and Tunnel Creek Rd.) At this point you will come to a “y” in the trail. If you take a left you will drop quickly onto the “Red House”. This is where a carpenter and metal smith would stay to maintain the flumes in the area. Interesting history is that this flume would take water from Marlette Lake and it would be pumped up to the top of the Carson Range ridge. Here the water would plummet in a pipe down into Washoe Valley. Just the water pressure from the water heading down into the valley would push the water up the Virginia Range to Virginia City. This Flume was created during the gold and silver rush, and is still used today. Back to the trail, if you take a right (more like straight) you will travel relatively flat for .3 miles (3.3 miles) where you will have to cross over Franktown Creek. This crossing requires you to get off your bike and carry it over a thin concrete dam. If this makes you uncomfortable, go down to the Red House and cross there. Once you cross the dam, you will drop out on a jeep road. If you take a left you will quickly drop down to the Red House. From here take a right and follow the jeep road for .36 miles (3.66 miles) where you will come to another intersection. If you go strait, you will end up at Hobart Reservoir. Take a right and follow the jeep road up Sunflower Hill for 1.2 miles (4.86 miles) where the road will level out. This is a pretty steep and loose climb, so just gear down and push through it. Once on top, you will be rewarded with a fast but sandy down hill with some hidden ruts, so be careful. Follow the jeep road mainly south for .44 miles (5.3 miles) where you will be back to the **Marlette Peak Tahoe Rim Trail (TRT) to Tunnel Creek Rd (Purple Trail.)** From here you can go strait south and end up at the Marlette Lake Intersection, or take the TRT to the right and end up on Tunnel Creek road.

Hobart Road to Snow Valley Peak (Orange Trail)

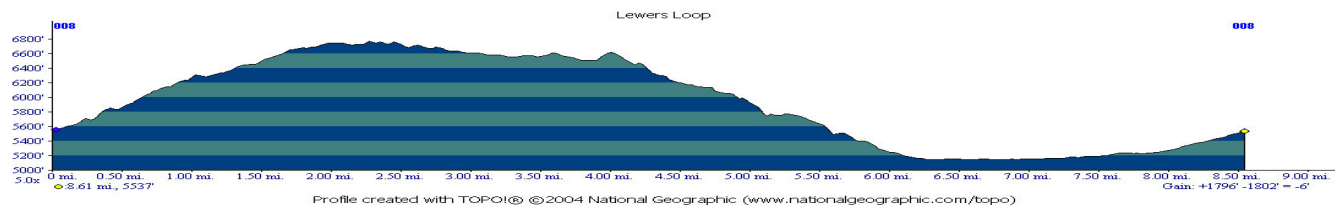
18 Miles - 4400 Feet of Climbing (Expert)



From Reno, take Hwy. 395 south towards Carson City. You will pass through Washoe Valley, and on the south side of the valley, take the Hwy 428 exit. At the bottom of the exit, take a left, then take a right. Follow Hwy 428 south to the top of the hill, and take a right on Hobart Rd. Follow Hobart Road to the right for less than a mile, and you will come to a dead end. Park here, this is the start of your ride. Head west through the gate, and you are immediately at a three way intersection. Don't go right. This road goes strait up to a water tank and dead ends. If you go strait, you will end up on a very short single track that drops you above on the road which is on to your right. So, go strait, or right. The road will slightly climb for the first .2 miles. That section was your warm-up for the climb ahead. After this it is pretty much strait up hill. The road will turn to the right and circle around to the west. The road then climbs up a small canyon, then comes to your first breather at 1.1 miles (1.3 miles from the start). Here the road continues west, then turns back to the east, and starts your next climb. Here the road continues east, then turns back again to the west and still continues strait up. The climb gives you another breather in .9 miles (2.7 miles). You now have climbed 1740 feet. The road continues relatively flat in a westerly direction for another .7 miles (3.4 miles), then comes to a fork in the road. The right fork (the road is marked as Pipeline Rd, but on the map is called Tanks Rd) will take you down to Franktown Rd. At this fork, take a left and follow the road south up hill. This section of the climb is .8 miles (4.2 miles) where it crests the ridge (you have now climbed 2450 feet) then starts to drop down the west side. Again, you immediately come to a fork in the road. If you continue strait, you will end up at Hobart Reservoir. Take a left at this intersection and follow the road south past the Forest Service gate for .65 miles (4.85 miles). From the intersection, the road will stay relatively flat until it comes around the bend and heads east. Here you have many options. However, every road ends up at the same intersection. If you stay to the left, you will drop down Ash Canyon. This is your return to Carson City. Stay to the right you will continue your climb to Snow Valley Peak. Look at the bright side, ½ of your climb is now completed. This section of road is not too bad compared to the first 4.2 miles. Continue to follow the road to the right for 3 miles (7.8 miles) and 670 feet of climbing for a total gain of 3210 feet from the start. Here the road crosses over a small trickle of water which pops out of the ground just above you to the right. Continue on this road and it will drop into the opening in front of you. The road then cuts to the left side of the grassy bog and continues to the south. The road is still rideable for now (foreshadowing). At the south side of the field, the road turns to the west and starts to climb again. Here the road is very loose with many small marble sized rocks mixed in the dirt. The consistency is about that of buttermilk. This is about where you start a .4 mile hike a bike up to the ridge. From the spring crossing, this whole section is just under a mile long (8.6 miles), with ½ of it rideable. Just past the ridge you come to your last fork in the road. If you go strait, west, you will drop down on North Canyon Rd. If you take a left you will end up at Spooner Lake State Park, or take a right and end up at Marlette Lake (The Great Flume Ride. At this fork, take a left, and the road will climb .4 miles (9 miles) to the top. This vantage point gives you quite a breath taking panoramic 360 degree view of Carson Valley, Washoe Valley, and all of Lake Tahoe at once. The best part is that it is mostly down hill from here. Retrace your steps back down to Ash Canyon Road 4.15 miles (13.15 miles). Once at Ash Canyon road, take a right (east) and start the last part of your descent into Carson City. This road was torn up by fire fighting

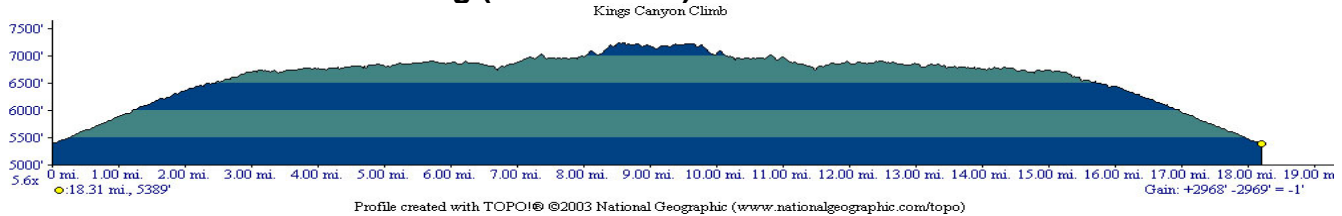
equipment in 2004 due to the Waterfall Fire, so be careful. Once you take this right down Ash Canyon, you will travel 1.3 miles (14.45 miles) down the road. Here you will be traveling south and the road will take a hard right and head east. Be careful here. The road changes from relatively smooth to rocky and broken up. This section has been known to take a couple of collar bones, so watch your speed. From here on down the road is pretty simple. Follow the road east for 4 miles (18.5 miles) where you will drop out into a residential neighborhood. Follow the pavement left or right to Winnie Ln. From here it is up to you to get to your car.

Lewers Loop Climb (Great View of Washoe Valley) (Dark Green Trail) **8.5 Miles - 1800 Feet of Climbing (Intermediate)**



From Reno take Hwy 395 south towards Carson City. You will pass through Washoe City, and the highway will turn to the south. Right before the highway drops into Washoe Valley, take a right on Highway 429 to Bowers Mansion. Stay south on Highway 429 and pass Bowers Mansion. Continue about ½ mile past Bowers Mansion and take a right on Franktown Road. Franktown road will climb uphill, and at the top you will see your return dirt road on your right. Continue south on Franktown Road, and the road will turn to the east. Just after the turn watch for Aspen Canyon Rd. Take a right on Aspen Canyon Rd, and follow it south to Big Canyon Rd. Take a right on Big Canyon and follow it to the locked gate. At the gate, park in the dirt lot on the right side. This is the start of your climb. This climb is very steep, but very strait forward. It just climbs. Follow the jeep road uphill for 1.6 miles, and the jeep road will split. Stay hard right. If you go strait, the road will climb rapidly and then drop you into Little Valley. Stay right and follow this jeep road for another .9 miles (2.5 miles from the start) you will reach the ridge. This entire section gives you a great view of Washoe Valley. From the ridge, the jeep road goes down hill to the west and drops you .4 miles (2.9 miles) into Little Valley. Once in the valley, you will come to the main jeep road that travels north-south. Take a right and follow the jeep road for .7 miles (3.6 miles) where you will have to throw your bike over a locked gate. You are now entering the University of Nevada Whittell Research Area. Continue north for .25 miles (3.85 miles) where you will reach another intersection. Take a hard right at this intersection and climb .4 miles out of the valley onto the ridge. This is the start of your downhill. The downhill is sandy, and one point loose and rocky, so be careful. Continue from the ridge down hill for 1.9 miles (5.75 miles) where you will come to another locked gate. Throw your bike over the gate, and you will be back on Franktown Rd. Take a right on Franktown Rd, and follow it for 1.6 miles (7.35 miles.) Take a right of Aspen Canyon Rd and follow it for .65 miles (8 miles) back to your car.

Kings Canyon Climb (Blue Trail) 19 Miles - 3000 Feet of Climbing (Intermediate)



From Reno, take Hwy 395 south to Carson City. Once in Carson City, take a right on Winnie Ln. Follow Winnie Ln. to ****Correct Streets***Kings Canyon Rd. Take a right on Kings Canyon Road and follow the road until it turns to dirt. Park at the end of the pavement, and start your ride here. Follow the dirt road for 2.6 miles where you will have completed the worst part of the climb. This section is loose, rocky, and steep, but once completed, the rest of the ride is beautiful. Once at the top of the climb, you will see a road coming in on your left. This road takes you downhill into private property and will dump you out ½ way up Highway 50. Continue straight heading west. The rest of the ride is very straight forward. There are no other road intersections into this jeep road. So, all you have to do is ride to the top. Follow this jeep road up and down for 6.9 miles (9.5 miles from the start) where it will drop you out on the top of Highway 50 Spooner Summit. Now just turn around and ride back down to the car. Be careful on the last 2.6 miles.

