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Upper Hidden Valley Loop (Expert Only)

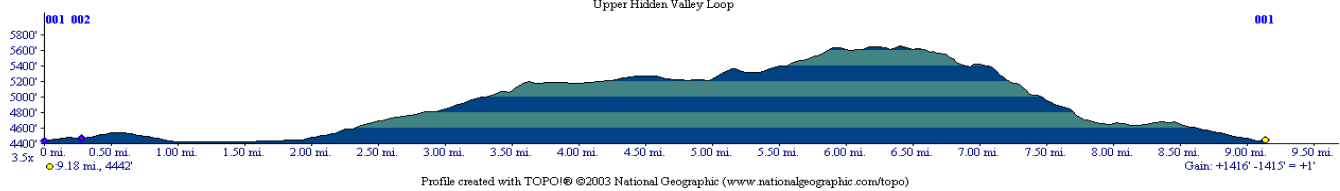
This ride is one of the most attention demanding rides of the area and is for the most advanced riders only. **It is best done in a counter clockwise direction.** The first half of the ride is simple, just jeep road. The second half is quite demanding. Once you hit the single track, you have to be on your game. If you look at the picture below, you can see the single track you will be taking down hill. This is one of the few rides where the consequence of a fall is quite dire. So please, if you do not feel comfortable riding on a very narrow single track with quite a drop on your left side, skip the ride, or WALK the upper section of the single track. You are going to follow this single track for 2 miles and drop 1100 feet with some very tight switchbacks, and a couple of blind corners. Two of these corners take an unknown tight right turn. The problem with these right turns is that you have a comfortable speed, and suddenly the trail cuts hard to the right. If you do not make these right turns, you have a long drop into the canyon below. I am pretty sure that you will have to be Search and Rescued out of the canyon. So again, BE CAREFULL and ride slow the first time on this trail.



Rich Staley Focus on You Photography

Upper Hidden Valley Loop (Red)

9.18 miles 1416 ft. total elevation gain (Expert +)



From south Virginia Street, take McCarran Blvd to the east. Follow McCarran Blvd. past Longley Ln., and continue east on McCarran Blvd. Take a right on Mira Loma Dr. Continue east on Mira Loma Dr. and take a right on West Hidden Valley Dr. W. Hidden Valley Drive will head south, then it will curve to the east. Right at this curve there is a road and dirt parking on your right. Park here on Hidden Highlands Dr. This is the start and finish of your ride.

From this dirt parking at the intersection of Hidden Highlands Drive and West Hidden Valley Dr., you have an option. Directly in front of your car is a chain link gate. There is a singletrack here that cuts strait along the hill side and drops you out above on Hidden Highlands Drive. This section gets rocky, but is completely rideable. If you would rather bypass the rocks, follow Hidden Highlands Dr. to the east, then it turns right, south, and quickly turns to dirt. Just up the road you will cross a cattle guard, and the singletrack from below will enter the road just past the cattle guard 0.4 miles from the start. Continue on the dirt road and it will crest the ridge, then drop down the other side. In .5 miles (.95 miles from the start) you will come to a "T" intersection. At this intersection, take a right and follow what is now Mira Loma Road again to the south. As you ride south you will see a gravel pit mine on your left, and about ½ way along the gravel mine you will see a dirt road on your left. In .95 miles (1.9 miles) you will take a left on this dirt road. Continue up this dirt road hill to the east. From this intersection you will climb for .8 miles (2.6 miles) where you will see a jeep road heading off to the right. Continue strait east up the jeep road, and in .51 miles (3.11 miles) you will see a jeep road that heads off to the left. This is a short cut that will take more time and effort to intersect the trail above. If you follow the green trail on the map you will have a miserable rocky climb that you usually have to walk. I recommend staying to the right. Follow the jeep road up the hill to the right for .37 miles (3.48

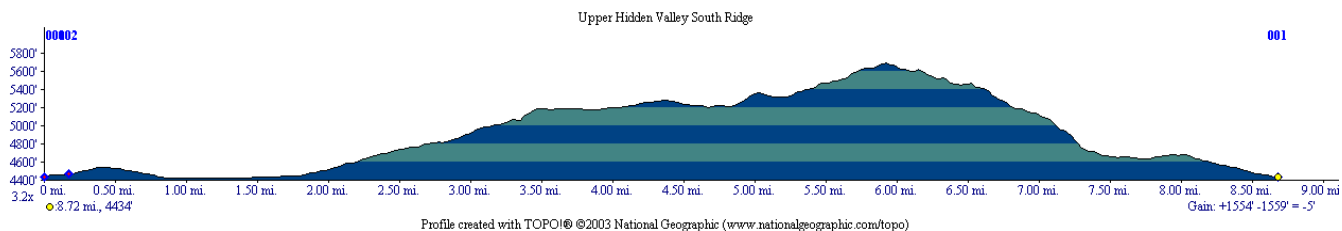


miles) where you will come to a "T" intersection. At this intersection, take a left up the hill and eventually paralleling the power lines. Head left (north) up the hill and along side the power lines and in .63 miles (4.11 miles) you will pass a jeep road on your left. This is the longer short cut mentioned previously. Continue strait north on the main jeep road .2 miles (4.31 miles) you will see another jeep road head off to the right. Continue north, and in .69 miles (5 miles) you will have a choice. You can take a right up a rocky, difficult, but challenging climb, or continue up to the saddle to the north. The climb is clearable, and I usually make it 50% of the time. My only rule is that if you don't make it up, you

have to clear at least 5 rocks from the trail. If you decide to go strait, climb up to the saddle and drop down the other side. Then take your first right that will travel around the north side of the little peak and meet back up with the rocky climb road on the north west side of the hill. From the intersection of

the two roads, turn or head north. From here the jeep road heads easterly into the canyon, then turns back to the east on the other side of the canyon and heads up to the saddle. In .94 miles (5.94 miles) you will be at the saddle and the top of the climb. Just past the saddle you will see a jeep road on your left that climbs strait up to the south. This is **Route "B"** (See trail description below.) From the saddle, continue west towards Reno, and you will come to a "Y" in the road. Stay to the left, which is more like going strait, and keep an eye out for the start of the singletrack on the right. This short section of singletrack is the newest piece of singletrack, and is a little rough, but not bad. Continue north and follow this singletrack around the mountain and in .83 miles (6.77 miles) you will encounter some tight switchbacks. Right after the switchbacks are 2 very sharp blind corners. Two of these corners take an unknown tight right turns. The problem with these right turns is that you have a comfortable speed, and suddenly the trail cuts hard to the right. If you do not make these right turns, you have a long drop into the canyon below (see picture above.) I am pretty sure that you will have to be Search and Rescued out of the canyon. So again, BE CAREFULL and ride SLOW the first time on this trail. At the 7.87 mile mark you will see a barrage of trails heading everywhere. The jeep road that heads south goes up hill, turns into another singletrack, continues along the contour of the mountain to the south then just dies. So the best bet here is to head west, downhill towards Reno. So turn right or west and head down hill on the jeep road and in .12 miles (7.99 miles) you will have to go through a green gate. You are now in the upper part of Hidden Valley Park. Take an immediate left on the singletrack and follow along the fence for .7 miles (8.69 miles) where you will hit pavement. Stay strait on the pavement heading west, down hill for .25 miles (8.94 miles) where you will take a left on Hidden Highlands Dr. Take this left and follow the road back to the car.

Upper Hidden Valley Loop South Ridge (Red to Green to Red) 8.72 miles 1554 ft. total elevation gain (Strong Intermediate)



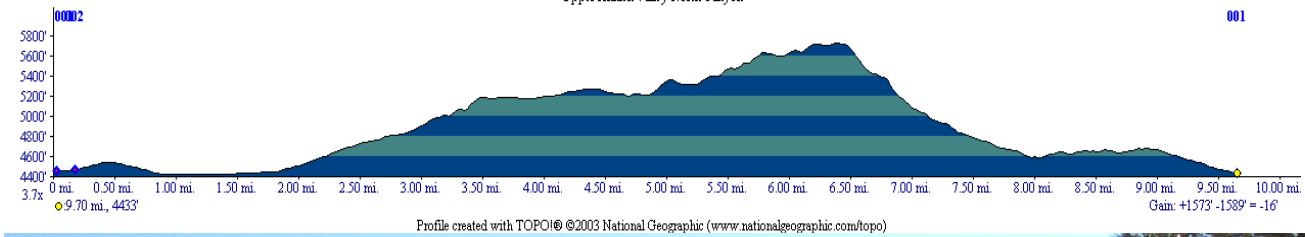
The start of this ride is the same as **Upper Hidden Valley Loop** above. Once you hit the ridge at 5.94 miles you will drop down into the little valley and almost immediately you will see a jeep road on your left. So, take a left on this jeep road heading up a short but rocky climb to the south. Follow this jeep road .1 miles to the top of the hill. From here the trail drops south down the hill, and you will see a large rock outcropping in front of you. Here you need to cross directly over the jeep road and ride around to the back side of the rock outcropping. The singletrack will start on the back side (south side) of this rock outcropping. From here it is impossible to get lost. There is only one choice, and that is the singletrack. This singletrack is relatively easy. Nothing too technical, but in .63 miles (6.57 miles) you are going to start a technical rocky downhill.



Upper Hidden Valley South Ridge
Focus on You Photography

This section is best walked by an intermediate rider, but rideable by an advanced level rider. Again, if you don't feel comfortable riding any section, walk! It is always better to walk through a section than to take a trip to the hospital. At .77 miles (7.34 miles) you will be at the bottom of the technical section. Smooth sailing from here. Once at the bottom, you have a choice. If you go right on the jeep road that turns into a singletrack, the singletrack just meanders on the east side of the fence then dies. Then you have to jump the fence to get on the other side. I think that it is better to take a right, drop down the hill, then take a left at the bottom of the hill. Follow this jeep road to the left, east for .23 miles (7.57 miles) where you will hit a green gate. Proceed through the gate, and take an immediate left on the singletrack that parallels the fence. This singletrack will follow the fence line and in .67 miles (8.24 miles) from the green gate, the singletrack will drop you out at the south entrance to Hidden Valley Park. From here follow Take an immediate left on the singletrack and follow along the fence for .7 miles (8.94 miles) where you will hit pavement. Stay strait on the pavement heading west, down hill for .25 miles (miles) where you will take a left on Hidden Highlands Dr. Take this left and follow the road back to the car.

Upper Hidden Valley North Canyon (Red to Black to Red) 9.70 miles 1573 ft. total elevation gain (Expert+)



Focus on You Photography
Upper Hidden Valley North Canyon

Once again, this trail is not for the faint of heart. The climb is the same for all three rides in this chapter. It is just a jeep road climb that is somewhat rocky and best suited for the strong intermediate. However, this downhill is steep, loose, rocky, and once started there is no turning back. So, if you don't feel comfortable putting your chest on your saddle so that you do not flip over the bars on the downhill, skip this ride. This ride is also best suited for a long travel bike with 2.35" tires or wider. I think that 2.5" tires would suite this ride best. However, with that said, I did clear the ride on a Cannondale Scalpel with 3" of travel, and 2.1" tires.

The start of this ride is the same as **Upper Hidden Valley Loop** above. Once you hit the ridge at 5.94 miles you will drop down into the little valley and almost immediately you will see a jeep road on your right. So, take this right and climb almost to the top of the hill. Follow this jeep road up the hill, and in .16 miles (6.1 miles from the start) you will see the jeep road take a 90 deg. left turn and continue to the top of the hill. On your right you will see a faint singletrack follow the ridge. Take this right and follow the singletrack north where it will turn into a narrow jeep road and continue a mild climb along the ridge. In .1 miles (6.2 miles) you will come to another "Y", stay to the right. Continue



south on this jeep road and in .2 miles (6.4 miles) you will come to a "Y" in the jeep road. Take a left and follow the jeep road around the hillside where it will almost immediately drop quickly down the ridge to the saddle in front of you to the north. This downhill is loose, rocky and steep (see picture above.) This is really the point of no return. Once you start down, you will not want to climb back up. You are now committed. So if you hit any area you are not comfortable with, please walk. Continue down the ridge for .41 miles (6.81 miles) where you will hit a saddle at the top of the canyon to your left. This is the canyon you are going to descend. Once in the bottom of the saddle, you will see tracks dropping into the canyon on your left, and around the right of the big rock. This section is very steep and very loose, so be careful. The trail will traverse the left side of the canyon, then in about .1 miles it will drop into the bottom of the canyon (see picture left.) This is where a longer travel bike with wider tires makes a difference. If you can carry enough speed in the canyon, you can ride one side of the canyon, then cross over to the other side. It is a blast, but again, be careful. Follow the canyon downhill for .83 miles (7.64

miles) where the trail will dump you out on the paved road Rough Rock Drive. Continue down Rough Rock Drive, and take your first left in .2 miles (7.84 miles) on Jagged Rock Drive. Follow Jagged Rock Drive for .16 miles (8 miles) you will see an empty lot on your left with some white pea gravel in the lot. Take a left into this lot, go south through the lot, and you will see a singletrack drop off the hillside and go through the fence. Follow this singletrack south and in .55 miles (8.55 miles) you will come to the singletrack of the **Upper Hidden Valley Loop** above. Continue south on the singletrack and follow along the fence for .7 miles (9.25 miles) where you will hit pavement. Stay strait on the pavement heading west, down hill for .25 miles (miles) where you will take a left on Hidden Highlands Dr. Take this left and follow the road back to the car.

These rides are best when ridden counter clockwise.

