

SNOW TRAILS



Ski Touring & Snowshoeing

WEST SHORE

Blackwood Canyon: The meadows in Blackwood Canyon offer a great place to get into the wilderness off Highway 89 on the West Shore. Follow Highway 89 south from Tahoe City and park at the Kaspan Recreation Area. Skiers can glide along the road (not plowed in winter) or through the meadows. For a longer outing, head up the mountain to Barker Pass. This area also is open to snowmobilers. **Level: Moderate to Strenuous.**

Meeks Meadows: Farther down the West Shore, Meeks Meadows, also off Highway 89, offers a vast area to ski. The trailhead is across from the Meeks Bay Fire Station on the right side of the highway; look for the log cabin with red trim. Follow the U.S. Forest Service road or meander through the meadow and down to Meeks Creek. **Level: Easy.**

McKinney/Rubicon: Following the road along McKinney Creek, this trail has a 700' elevation gain and is unmarked. Moderate trail to McKinney and Lily Lakes. From Highway 89, head south of Tahoe City and turn right onto McKinney-Rubicon Springs Road. Go left on Bellevue and the second right on McKinney. Bear left on McKinney-Rubicon until you reach the parking area. **Level: Moderate.**

Sugar Pine Point State Park: The Ed Z'berg/Sugar Pine Point State Park is a spectacular spot to cross-country ski or snowshoe among the dense forests of the West Shore or along Lake Tahoe's shores. The park offers more than 18 km of marked ski trails. Two trails begin at the campground, nine miles south of Tahoe City, with the other two trails on the lake side of the park. Parking is available only on the campground side during the winter and there are trailhead signs from the parking area. Red trails are for intermediate skiers, with all other trails for beginners. No dogs allowed.

The park also offers a number of guided tours throughout the season including full moon snowshoe tours, ski tours of the 1960 Olympic cross country trails, historic snowshoe tours and the family Junior Ranger program. Call for dates. Winter camping is not available. Parking \$8. **Level: Easy to moderate. (530) 525-525-7982.**

TRUCKEE

Cabin Creek Trail: A marked route of 3 to 6 miles follows old logging roads and Cabin Creek Road. This is a nice area for downhill practice while cross-country skiing. The terrain has gentle, rolling slopes. From Interstate 80, take Highway 89 south 3 miles, then turn right on Cabin Creek Road. The unmarked trailhead is 1 mile from the highway. Limited parking is available in a road cut, when plowed. There is moderate snowmobile use in the area. **Level: Easy to moderate.**

Donner Memorial State Park: The park is mostly flat and open year-round. Skiers can enjoy the forests and boulder fields, glide down to the lake and meander through the park. There is an unmarked 9.6-km skier-packed trail starting near the Emigrant Trail Museum. For the more adventuresome, glide over the hills into Coldstream Canyon. **\$8 parking, \$7 62+. Level: Easy. (530) 582-7892.**

Peter Grubb Hut/Castle Peak: A marked Nordic ski trail begins at the Castle Peak/Boreal interchange on Donner Summit off Interstate 80, west of Truckee. Take the Castle Peak exit and follow it for one-quarter mile to the intersection for the trailhead to the north that goes up Castle Valley and over Castle Pass. Follow unmarked trail to Peter Grubb Hut. For overnight stays at Peter Grubb Hut call (530) 426-3632 for reservations. **Level: Moderate to strenuous.**

Pole Creek Trail System: Unmarked trails follow roads along Pole Creek and Silver Creek Drainages. Trailhead 6 miles south of Truckee on Highway 89. Some parking on west side of highway. Trails follow U.S. Forest Service roads. Several loops. **Level: Easy to strenuous.**

Sagehen Summit: An unmarked route follows the road up to the creek bottom. Lateral roads offer many side trips. Trailhead at Sagehen Summit on the west side of Highway 89, 8 miles north of Truckee. Limited parking. **Level: Easy to moderate.**

NORTH SHORE

Brockway Summit: Brockway Summit off Highway 267 offers an abundance of areas to ski. Between Northstar and Kings Beach there are turnouts on both sides of the highway where Nordic skiers can follow logging and utility roads. **Level: Easy to strenuous.**

Page Meadows: Ski or snowshoe along an old road that meanders through a forest and into a cluster of meadows. Take Highway 89 south from Tahoe City, then turn right on Pine Avenue and right on Tahoe Park Heights Road. At the crest of the hill, take the middle fork, which becomes Big Pine Road, then take a left on Silver Tip. The parking area is at the top of the road. **Level: Easy to moderate.**

Tahoe Meadows: On Mount Rose high above Lake Tahoe, Tahoe Meadows offers an expansive area where skiers can stretch their legs. Head up Highway 431 from Incline Village until you reach the meadows before the summit. This is a busy area on the weekends for skiers, snowshoers and snowmobilers, so try skiing during the week. **Level: Easy to strenuous.**

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE

Taylor Creek: Developed for the beginner, this well-marked series of trails allows skiers to explore the area. Terrain is mostly flat and is good for the entire family. Take Highway 89 south around Emerald Bay to the Fallen Leaf Lake Area. Turn on Cathedral Road and park in the Sno-Park. Marked trails start at the parking lot with three trails near Fallen Leaf Lake. On the Lake side of Highway 89, follow the road to the Visitor Center to access the Tallac Historic Trail. **Level: Easy. Sno-Park Permit required. \$5. (530) 573-2600.**

Ski Resorts

Resorts offering Snowshoeing: Clair Tappaan Lodge, Granlibakken, Mt. Rose, Northstar-at-Tahoe, Resort at Squaw Creek, Royal Gorge, Spooner Lake Cross Country, Tahoe Cross Country and Tahoe Donner Cross Country.