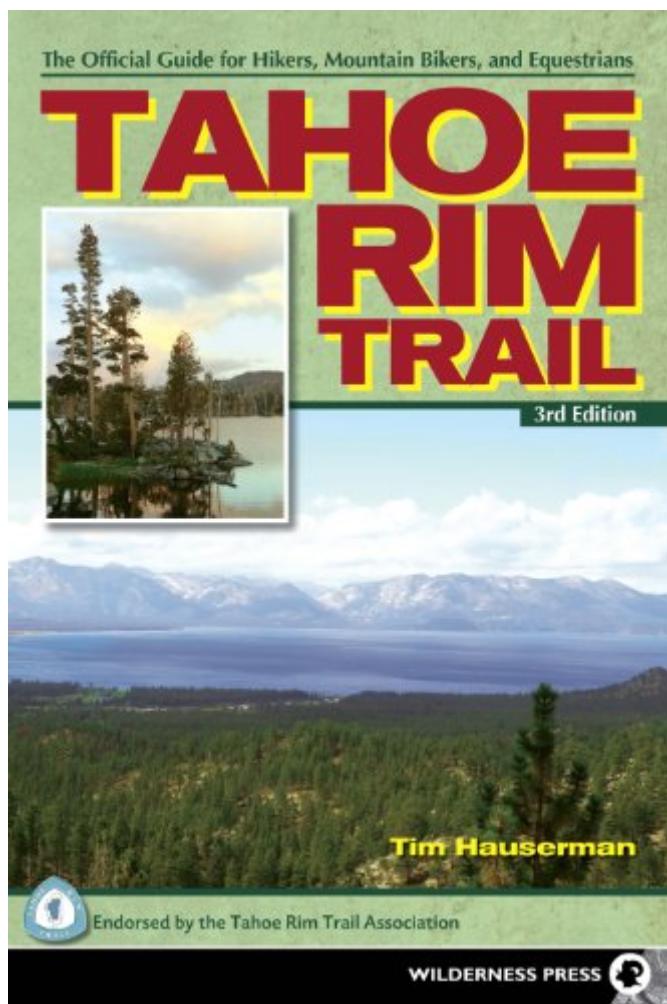


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# Tahoe Rim Trail: The Official Guide For Hikers, Mountain Bikers And Equestrians



## **Synopsis**

The 165-mile Tahoe Rim Trail is considered one of the world's premier trails. Accessible by hikers, equestrians, skiers and mountain bikers (for the non-wilderness portions), it winds completely around spectacular Lake Tahoe, the highest and largest alpine lake in North America. The trail crosses through six counties, three national forests, and two states and was completed in 2001 largely by volunteer labor. The best-selling Tahoe Rim Trail has been revised to reflect the latest conditions and routing of the trail and includes information for over 20 miles of new trail. Updated topographic maps depict the entire route, along with the easy (and fun) to read trail directions, the book includes fascinating information on the plants and animals you'll see along the trail, plus essential advice for planning a hike on the TRT, whether it's a day's outing or a 2-week circuit of the entire lake. The first and only how-to guide to this popular trail, it is the official guidebook of the Tahoe Rim Trail Association, whose mission is to improve, maintain and promote the trail.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

California is blessed to have spectacular scenery and lots of open space where distance hiking

trails can be constructed. There is of course the famous Pacific Crest Trail, which traverses the mountainous backbone of the state for some 1700 miles, and the even more well known John Muir Trail which shares 170 of its 220 miles with the PCT. The Lost Coast Trail is another stunning hike. But sadly, most of the distance trails in California exist mainly in the imaginations of their proponents. Trail "advocates" will ask the government to create a trail and note various existing routes that could be used, and progress towards completing these trails comes mostly in fits and starts, as government budgets allow. Advocates hope to eventually have a full route, but never actually deal with the very real obstacles (urban areas or wilderness restrictions) that need to be addressed for "their" trail vision to be completed. The California Coastal trail is an example of this sort of wishful thinking. But the Tahoe Rim Trail (TRT) is an exception to this rule. Why? Because the communities around Lake Tahoe did more than just ask for a trail; they actively worked to build and maintain it. And now, years after the first route was completed, the Tahoe Rim Trail Association continues to re-route, maintain, and support the trail. They also endorse an excellent guide to the trail, Tim Hauserman's *Wilderness Press* book, now in its third edition. The first edition of Hauserman's book came out in 2002 and after reading it, I was immediately inspired to attempt a through hike of this trail. As it happened, I was able to complete the California portion of the trail, over 100 miles, but never did get around to the Nevada portion. Time constraints, severe afternoon thunderstorms, and a lack of water along the route prevented me from finishing the trek. In the intervening years, however, the trail has been rerouted, water supplies added or upgraded (a pump at Marlette Lake campground prominent among these) and single track tread has been added to bypass roads which the old route followed. All of these changes and more have found their way into the third edition of this book. As with previous editions, the route descriptions are surprisingly detailed and the accompanying maps adequate. Hauserman has also included numerous side route descriptions for those who have the time to take them (and I would urge hikers to make the time: Tahoe is a beautiful area and deserves extra time). These are conveniently printed in side bars and easy to follow without distracting from the main text. Finally, this book, like previous editions, discusses the user groups allowed on the trail, and relevant restrictions and permits. In all, I am even more impressed with this edition than I was with the first. The material is so well organized that it is considerably lighter than the earlier editions and those planning a through hike of the whole trail will easily be able to afford the weight of this book in their pack. But through hiking may not be the best approach to this trail. Many sections of the trail can be completed as long day hikes or overnight backpacks. And with Lake Tahoe's extensive public transportation system, you could easily access different portions of the TRT at different times of the summer or as you find the opportunity. Indeed,

the TRT is clearly the most readily accessible of all of California's distance trails with many points of easy access. As my wife and I have recently purchased a timeshare in Tahoe, I hope to use this guide to finish the Nevada portion of the trail next summer. You should use it too to see some of the most spectacular scenery in the northern Sierra. And as you walk the trail, be sure to give thanks to the many trail advocates who did more than just dream about and ask for a trail. They actively went about creating one, and it is a true gem.

Decent trail narratives and has interesting side trip suggestions that pique interest...but this was published in 2012 and has no elevation profiles, and no specific water postings. If you look at my other reviews of guidebooks, I am not a reader who minds cross-checking information in other books to piece together a trip tailored to our interests, but I find that this book is no different than what exists at the Tahoe Rim Trail Association's website. In fact, the maps there are just as good, and there's more information...and it's free. I love using guidebooks to inspire a trip, and I don't necessarily need it along with me on the trip, but for a trail like this, there really should be elevation profiles, water charts and suggestions for campsites. In the back, there is an index for mileage, but that's it. For a loop trail of this size that has proximity to roads and civilization, I guess I expect more, but maybe that's because I'm biased, living next to the Superior Hiking Trail along the north shore of Lake Superior in Minnesota, where the Superior Hiking Trail Association has written one of the best guidebooks for any long distance trail that exists, and it's about 150 miles longer than the Tahoe Rim Trail. I'm keeping the book for a resource, but not that impressed.

Plenty of effort put into writing this book and might be good if you have never hiked (and you have chosen the TRT as your first hike?!?!). If you have hiked greater than 3 days anywhere, this book just doesn't provide any details that are useful or helpful that you can't find in more detail elsewhere. Very generic/common sense "hints" that feel chastising. The humor feels very juvenile. The author seems like a novice "backpacker" in general, but maybe an expert to the local area? I would do my own research online before buying this book again -- no disrespect meant, just one person's opinion.

Tim nails this. Having a lifetime of experience gives the author the best possible perspective for this series.

Very detailed review of every section of the trail. Information on difficult trail spots should be helpful.

Will have a better feel about the accuracy after this summers trip. I will be backpacking the trail, but the book contains a lot of information for the biker also. He also includes side trips that would be of interest. There are also a couple of good reviews of the TRT on the Internet.

This is a good book on all things of the Tahoe Rim Trail and the official book of the TRTA. I bought it hoping for more inclusive information on "how to" do the thru hike of the TRT. It isn't that but it will provide a fair amount of information for ALL users of the TRT. You should visit the TRTA website for a more inclusive resource for those looking for hiking/backpacking specific information

About worthless for anyone trying to thru-hike the TRT. If you want some casual reading about the trail or a day hike/one or two night trip then maybe this is for you, If you want to thru hike the trail then google and a map will be your best friend.

Great resource for this trail. I put it on my Kindle and would read the next section at night and review the section I had done that day. Great trail that was well maintained with lots of views of the lake.

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