



## LAKE TAHOE HIGHLIGHTS: INN-BASED WALKING/HIKING TOUR

- GUIDE:** Matt Brown
- MEET:** Cedar House Sports Hotel - Truckee, California
- VISIT:** Truckee, Donner Lake, Squaw Valley, Lake Tahoe, Desolation Wilderness
- ACCOMMODATION:** Cedar House Sports Hotel, Plumpjack Squaw Valley Inn, Sunnyside Lodge
- LENGTH:** Five nights and six days
- HIKE RATING:** Moderate to Strenuous

The Lake Tahoe area is where it all began for Marieta and me and for Rubicon Outdoors. In 1997 Marieta and I crossed our personal Rubicon when we met near South Lake Tahoe at the Strawberry Lodge. A year and a half later we started Rubicon Outdoors while we lived on the West shore of Lake Tahoe, in an area called Tahoma. The rest is history.

Our hiking tour starts in Truckee, California near Donner Lake, where I first attended Camp as a young boy and learned to climb as a young adult. We will spend two nights at the The Cedar House in Martis Valley minutes from Historic Downtown Truckee. Our hike will take us far above the shores of Donner Lake, where the Transcontinental Railroad was painstakingly blasted and eventually completed to connect the Eastern and Western United States. It is also where the Donner Party, a group of California bound settlers, met their fate in the winter of 1847.

We then travel upstream via shuttle along the Truckee River taking a detour to Squaw Valley, the home of the 1960 winter Olympics. We will be staying at PlumpJack

Squaw Valley Inn. Our hike will take us along part of the Pacific Crest Trail, which links Canada and Mexico, sum- mitting Granite Chief over 3000' above the valley floor.

Again our shuttle follows the Truckee River upstream eventually reaching it's headwaters at beautiful Lake Tahoe. Measuring 22 miles long from North to South and 12 miles wide, 191-square mile Lake Tahoe is the country's largest mountain lake. The next two nights will be spent on the West Shore at Sunnyside Resort. One of our hikes will take us six miles along the West Shore of Lake Tahoe from D.L. Bliss State Park on the Rubicon Trail to Emerald Bay and a visit to Vikingsholm Castle, a Scandinavian inspired summer home completed in 1929 and now part of the Emerald Bay State Park.

On our final day we will enter the 100 square mile road- less Desolation Wilderness. Our goal is the 9,735 foot Summit of Mt. Tallac. Incredible views persist along the entire route to the summit of this peak, which domi- nates the Southwest shore of Lake Tahoe. The summit affords without question the best panorama in the Tahoe Sierra.

A typical day starts with breakfast at our hotel or a nearby restaurant. Each morning, you will be handed a lunch to carry, and at a mid-point along the way we will choose a beautiful spot to stop and enjoy a picnic. We get a lot of compliments on our imaginative lunches - making them something to look forward to as well!

We should finish our hikes each day around 4 pm, giving you time to wash up and relax. After that, we will enjoy dinner together at our hotel or a local restaurant known for its delicious local fare and warm atmosphere.



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While hiking in the Lake Tahoe Area, we have literally dozens of hikes to choose from. We have described some of our favorite hikes here, but expect your own tour to vary slightly.

### DAY ONE

Arrive in Reno and transfer by a short 45 minute shuttle to our meeting point at The Cedar House, which is nestled in the Martis Valley, just minutes from Historic Downtown Truckee. You might have a chance to check out the town or enjoy the wonderful outdoor spa before settling in for our welcome dinner at a favorite local restaurant. (The Cedar House)

### DAY TWO

Our first day of hiking takes us along the newly completed Donner Lake Rim Trail. Many options await us as the route wraps around the east end of the sapphire expanse of Donner Lake, rises up Schallenberger Ridge to the granite escarpments of Mount Stephens, then weaves through steep hills and dales to the north of Donner Summit. (The Cedar House)

### DAY THREE

Today we travel to Squaw Valley, home of the 1960 Winter Olympics. We might choose to ride the cable car 2,000 vertical feet to High Camp (el. 8200') or choose to ride it back at the end of the day. From High Camp we climb towards Emmigrant Peak and then to the Summit of Granite Chief. The views are quite rewarding with

Desolation peaks to the South and Castle Peak near Donner to the North. From here we descend to Shirley Lake and either hike back to High Camp or follow Squaw Creek to the valley floor. (PlumpJack)

### DAY FOUR

The West Shore of Lake Tahoe is our destination today hiking over six relatively level miles along the Rubicon Trail to Emerald Bay. We will see Fannette Island, the only island in Lake Tahoe, and tour Vikingsholm Castle. We also have an option to hike above Emerald Bay, past Eagle Lake Falls to Eagle Lake. (Sunnyside Resort)

### DAY FIVE

The 9,735 foot Summit of Mount Tallac is our destination today, considered by many to be one of the finest hikes in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Initially our ascent is through Jeffrey Pines and soon passes two small lakes, Floating Island and Cathedral Lakes. This wooded section is fairly gradual and provides us with comfortable shade. Cathedral Lake marks the spot where our ascent begins. We soon reach a saddle and the trail becomes more exposed and rocky. Eventually we reach the summit and are awarded a spectacular view of Pyramid Peak and the Crystal Range to the West and all of Lake Tahoe to the East. (Sunnyside Resort)

### DAY SIX

After breakfast we will say our good-byes and leave for our post-trip destinations.