

“Across California on Skis”



Introduction

Ski regions

When to ski

Where to stay

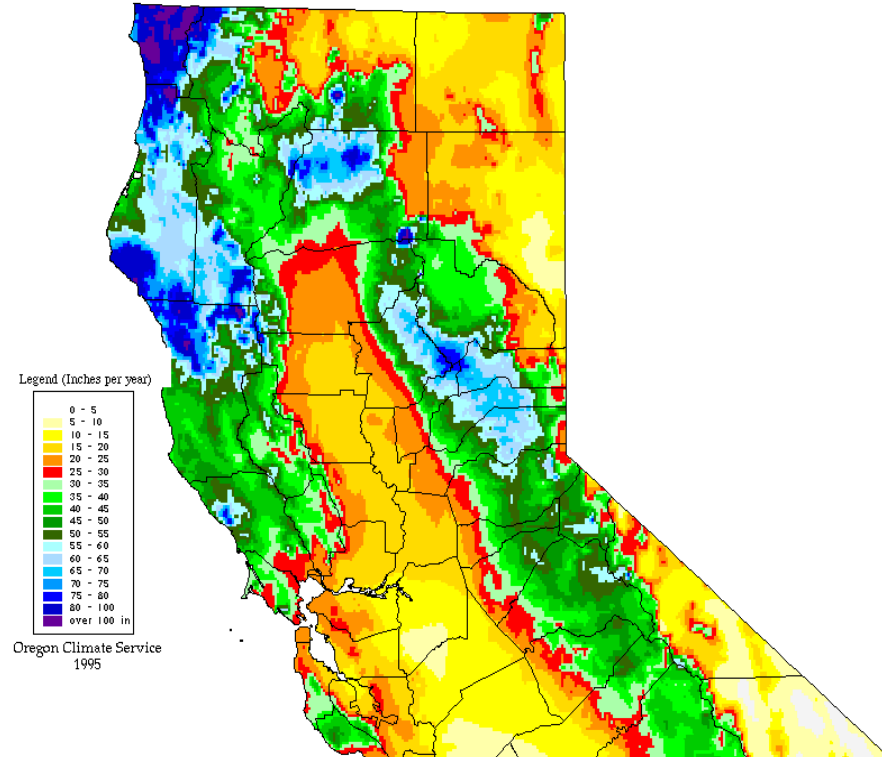
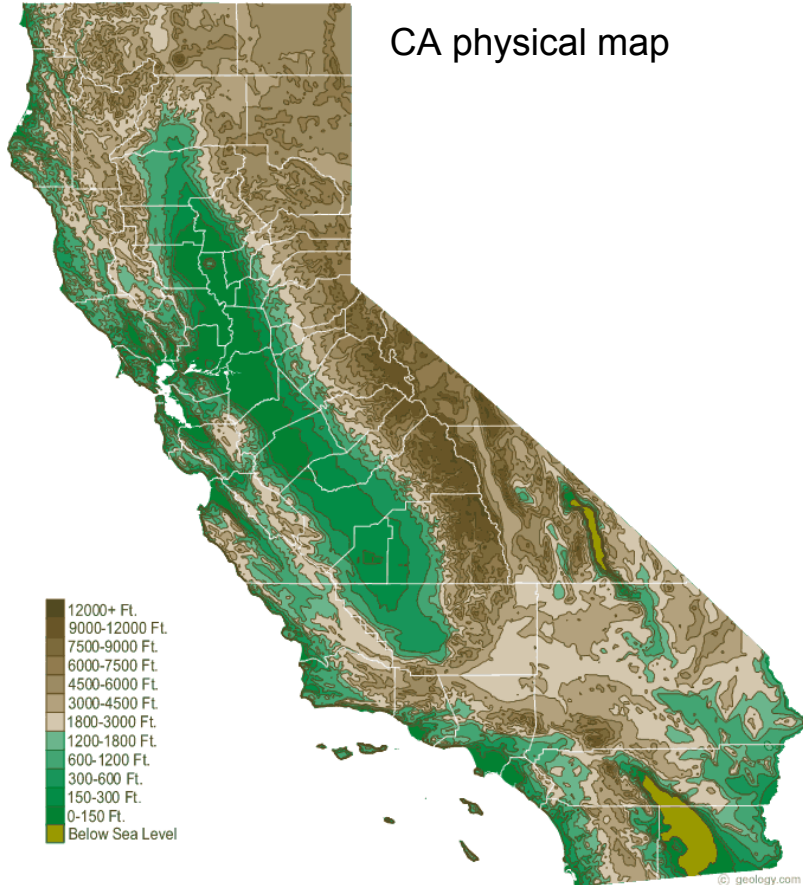
What to do: the traverses, peaks and tours

Where else to find information



Places to go skiing in CA?

CA precipitation map



Annual Average Precipitation (Inches),
Northern California

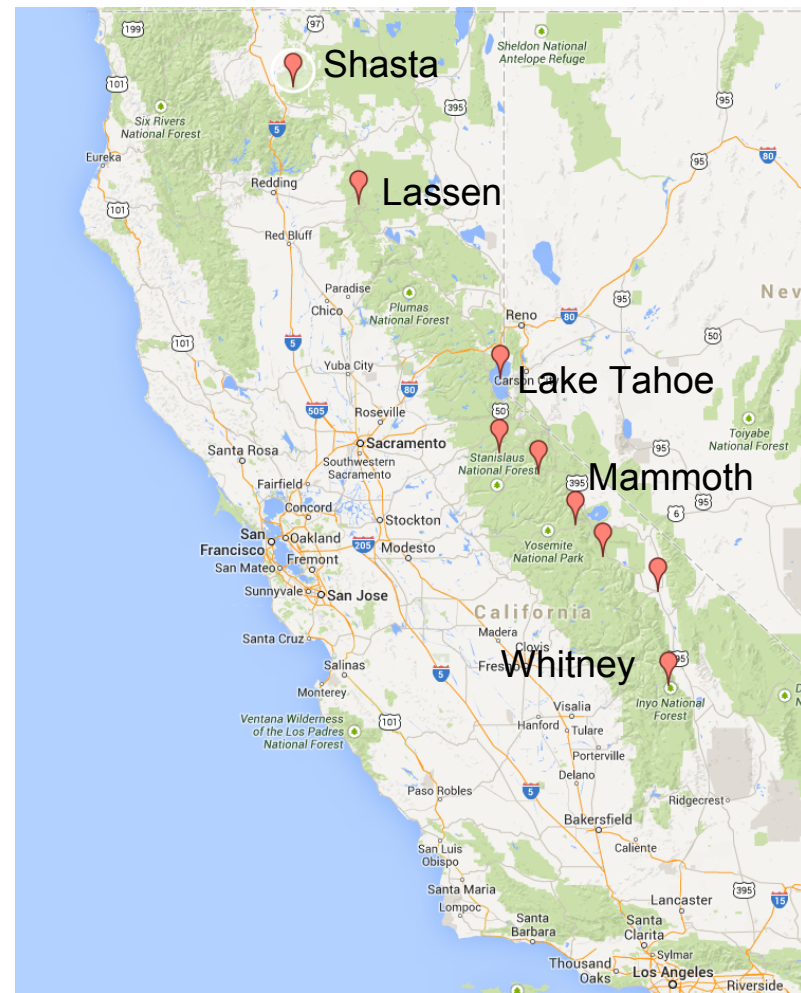
Period: 1961-1990

Ski regions

The mountains in California span a significant distance nearly 800 miles in total length, and several major ranges. Because of this, we have chosen to break the presentation into sub regions of California.

From north to south they are:

- The volcanos - Shasta and Lassen
- Lake Tahoe - Tallac, Castle Peak, Mt Rose, Rubicon, Waterhouse, Carson Pass
- Sonora Pass
- Tioga Pass - Mt Dana, White Mountain
- The Eastern Sierra - Mammoth, the Sawtooths, Rock Creek, Bishop, the Palisades, Mt Whitney



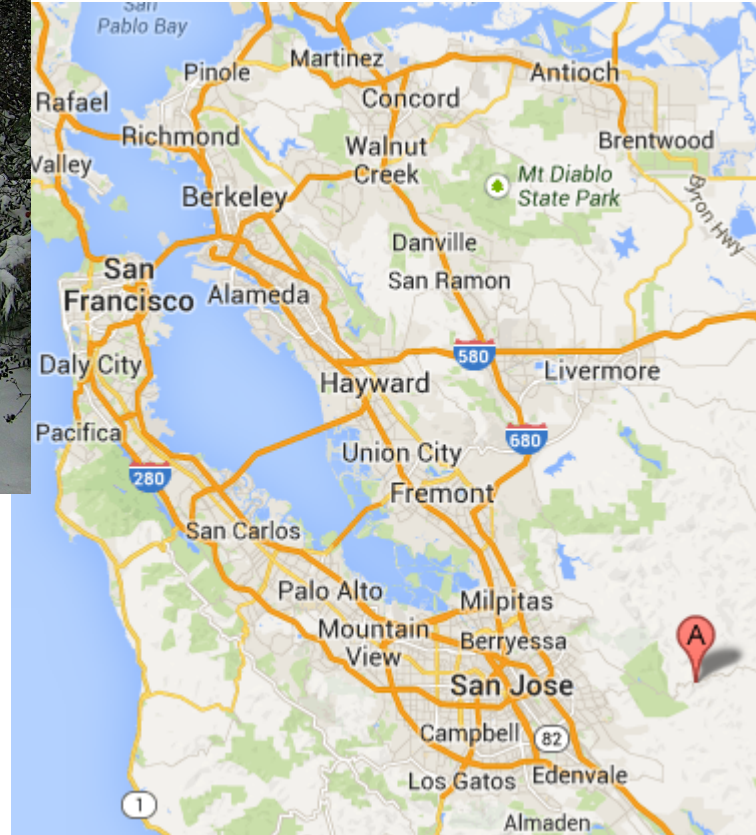
Or you get lucky in the Bay Area

Rachel skiing on
Mt. Diablo



Lick observatory
winter 2011

http://attitudeofgratitude.typepad.com/attitude_of_gratitude/2011/02/winter-wonderland.html



When to ski?

Year round, best December until June

Access to places limited due to winter road closure

Lassen Peak

Sonora pass

Tioga Pass

The above are best skied as soon as the road opens

Shasta in August

Lassen end of May

Mt Dana

Nov. & Sept.



What to do?

- Traverses
- Peaks
- Tours



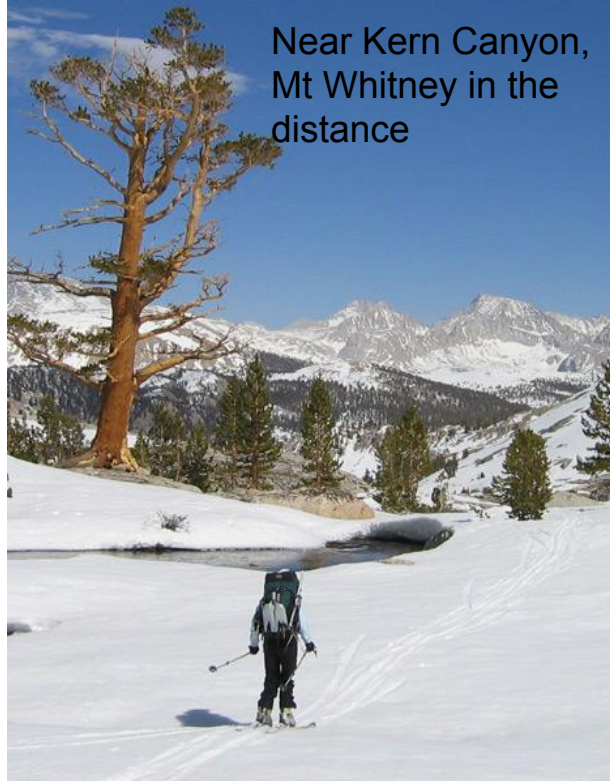
Traverses - The High Route

A trans-Sierra, the High Route is a 50 miles east to west or west to east, ski tour. Most skiers take 4-6 days to ski it, although it has been done in a day! Start/End - Sequoia National Park and Symmes Creek on the east side of the Sierra. It takes a high line, never dropping below 10,000 ft.



Descent of Milestone Pass, elevation 13,000 ft.

Traverses - Sierra High Route



Peak descents - not for the faint of heart!

Barnard peak, 13,990 ft. Eastern Sierra



Kearsarge Peak, 12,598 ft - Eastern Sierra

Peak descents need peak climbing!



Triple Divide pass, el 12,160,
Sierra High Route

Y couloir, el ~12,000 ft, Mt
Conness, Tioga Pass



Ski tours - no crowds, no dirt, no trails, no problem



Mammoth
backcountry

Where to stay (ski in)

Huts

Lake Tahoe: Sierra Club Huts - Peter Grubb,
Benson, Bradley, Ludlow

Yosemite: Ostrander, Snow Creek

Sequoia: Pear Lake

Snow camping - anywhere there is snow!

Sierra Club Huts - Peter Grubb



Sequoia National Park - Pear Lake Hut



Snow camping

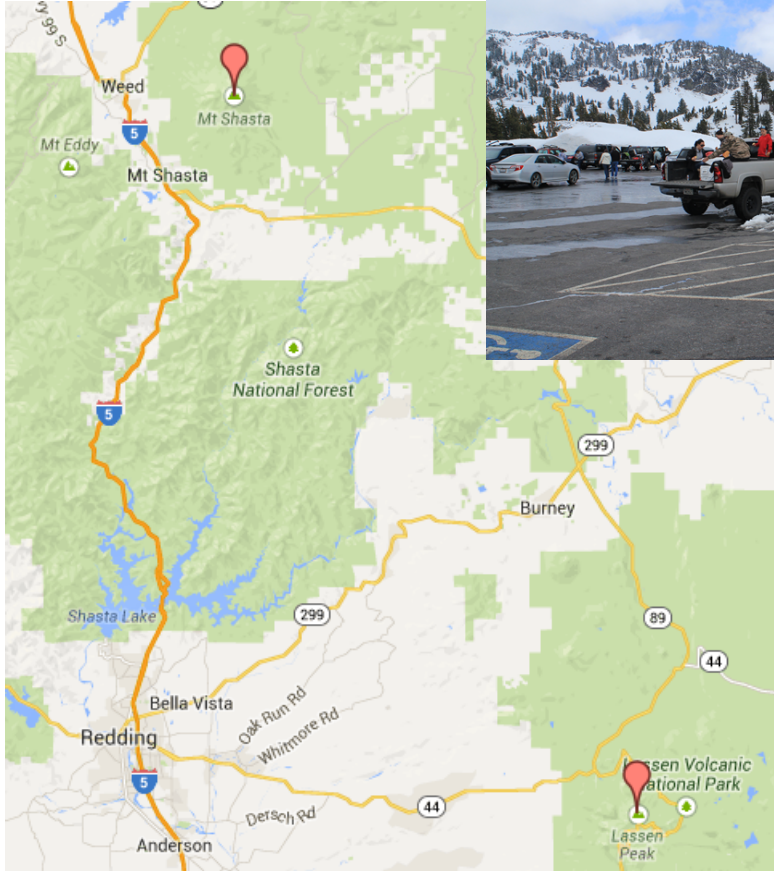


California's northern Volcanos

Mt. Shasta
14,179 ft



Lassen
10,463 ft



Mt. Shasta

Year-round skiing
opportunity - fun at
higher altitude



Lassen peak

Great skiing terrain

360deg descent possible

Easy access once road is cleared (May/June)



Tahoe area

Easy access, reliable snow, and many areas to ski

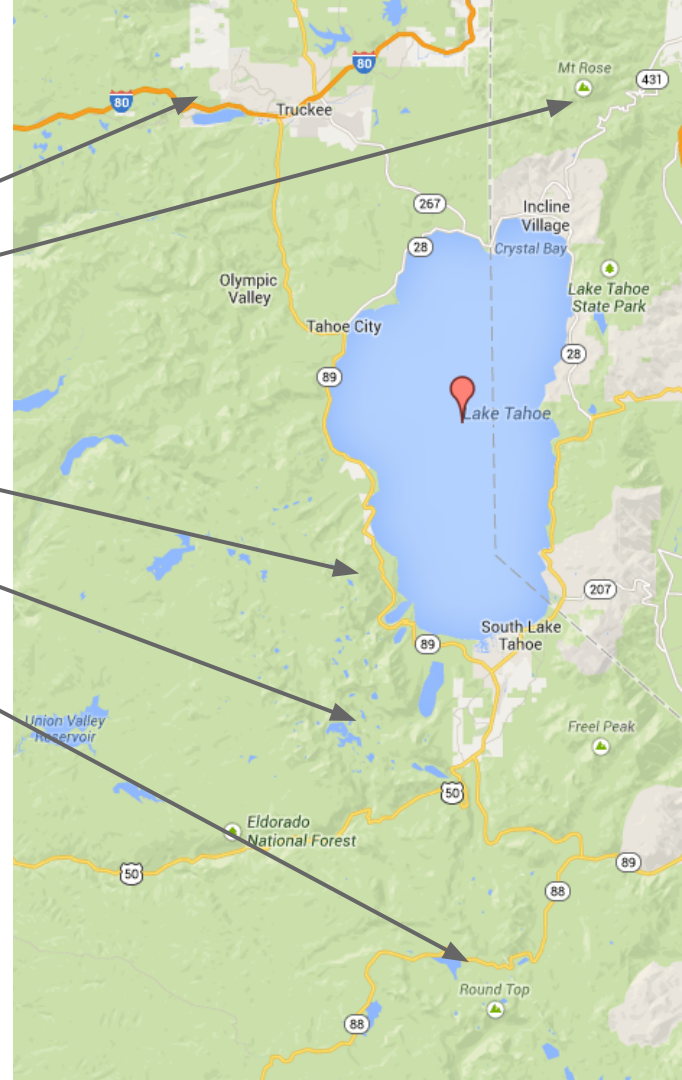
Donner Pass area (I-50)

Mt Rose Area (HW 431)

West shore of Lake Tahoe (CA89)

Desolation wilderness

Carson Pass (CA88)



Skiing off Castle Peak



Castle Peak summit towards lake Tahoe

Donner pass

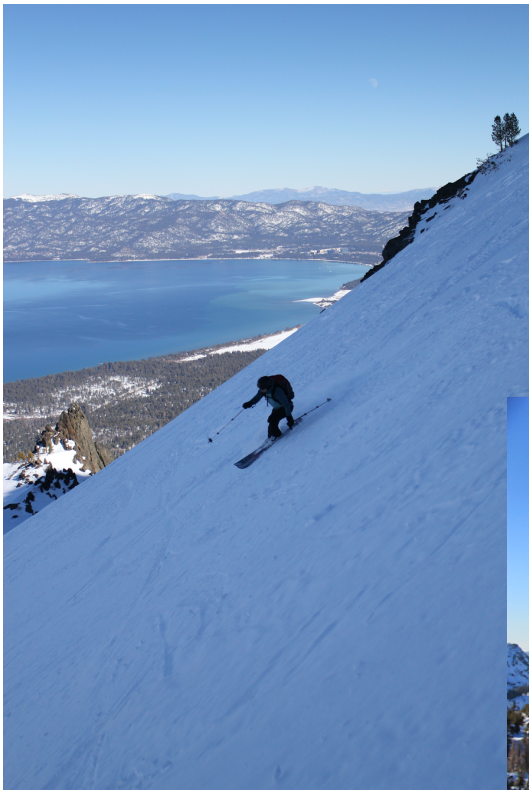
Mt. Rose area

Right:
Mt. Rose Knob Jr.

Bottom:
Skiing the hour glass on Tamarak



Tahoe area west rim



Skiing off Mt. Tallac



Bliss and Rubicon peak from Jake's



South face of Jake's
above Emerald bay

Desolation Wilderness

Left: Summit bowl of Ralston and view towards Mt. Tallac



Pyramid peak and Dick's from Mt. Tallac

Tahoe area South / Carson pass

Carson pass has easy access, a high trailhead and reliable snow.



Above - skiers above Crater Lake
Right - skier above Red Lake



Carson Pass



Left - Skiing powder in Crater Lake bowl.
Right - Castle Peak and Crater Lake bowl.



Roundtop Mountain

10,381 ft

Crescent Moon Couloir



Sonora Pass

This pass allows easy spring-time access to the high country

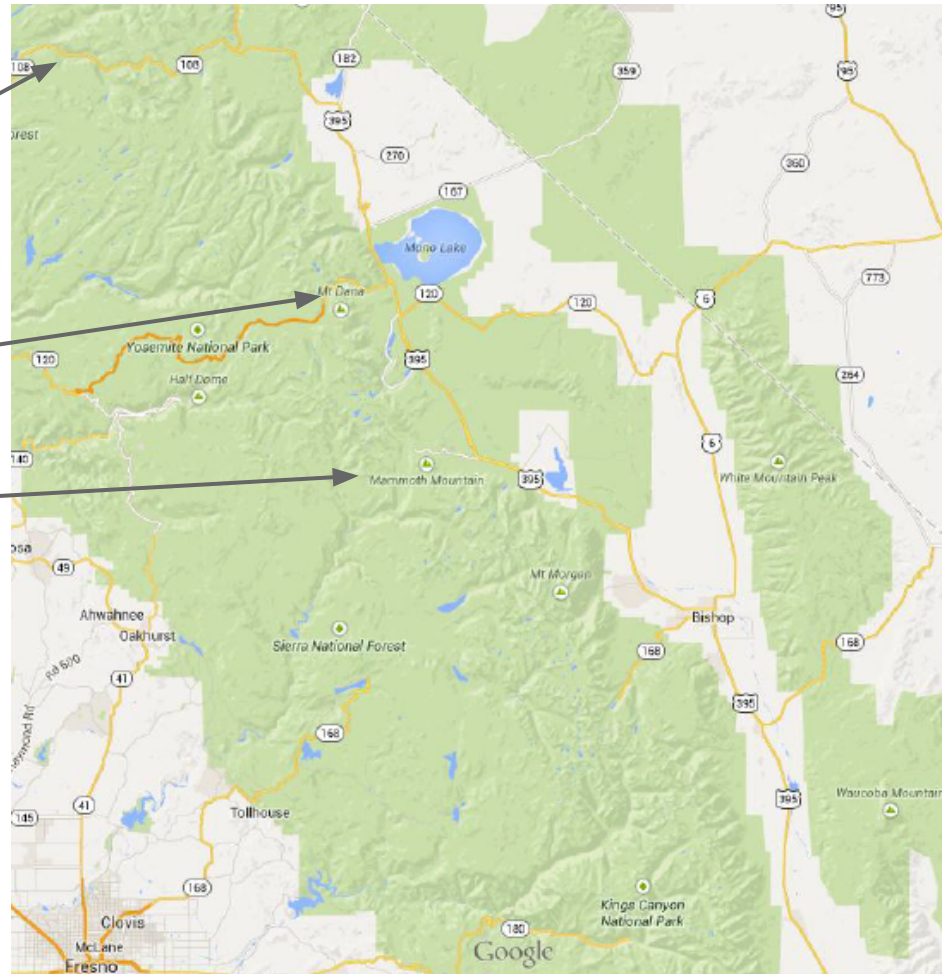


**Sonora Pass, Tioga
Pass, Eastern Sierra**

Sonora pass

Tioga pass

Mammoth



Tioga Pass

Beautiful views of Mono Lake

Difficult access when road is closed



Top: biking for some turns

Left: Mt. Dana summit

Tioga Pass



Kidney Chute, south of
Dana Plateau, May

Big powder weekend, Gaylor peak, el 11,004 ft, January



Tioga pass

Car access in the winter is restricted! January powder



Mammoth backcountry



The Mammoth area has good access to great peaks and tours.

Left - skier descending Bloody Couloir.

Right - Ascent of Steelhead pass.



Mammoth backcountry



These photos are from a four day tour along the Sierra crest from Mammoth to Rock Creek.

Eastern Sierra



Above - Sawtooth range, Northern Yosemite, May.
Right - Skiers above Mono Lake.

The east side of the Sierra is nirvana for backcountry skiers. Spring is the best time to visit. Warm temps, corn snow, big peaks, great views, hot springs are easy to find.



Eastern Sierra



Above - sunset from Muir pass, JMT, May.
Right- "Sierra Wave", Palisades tour, May.

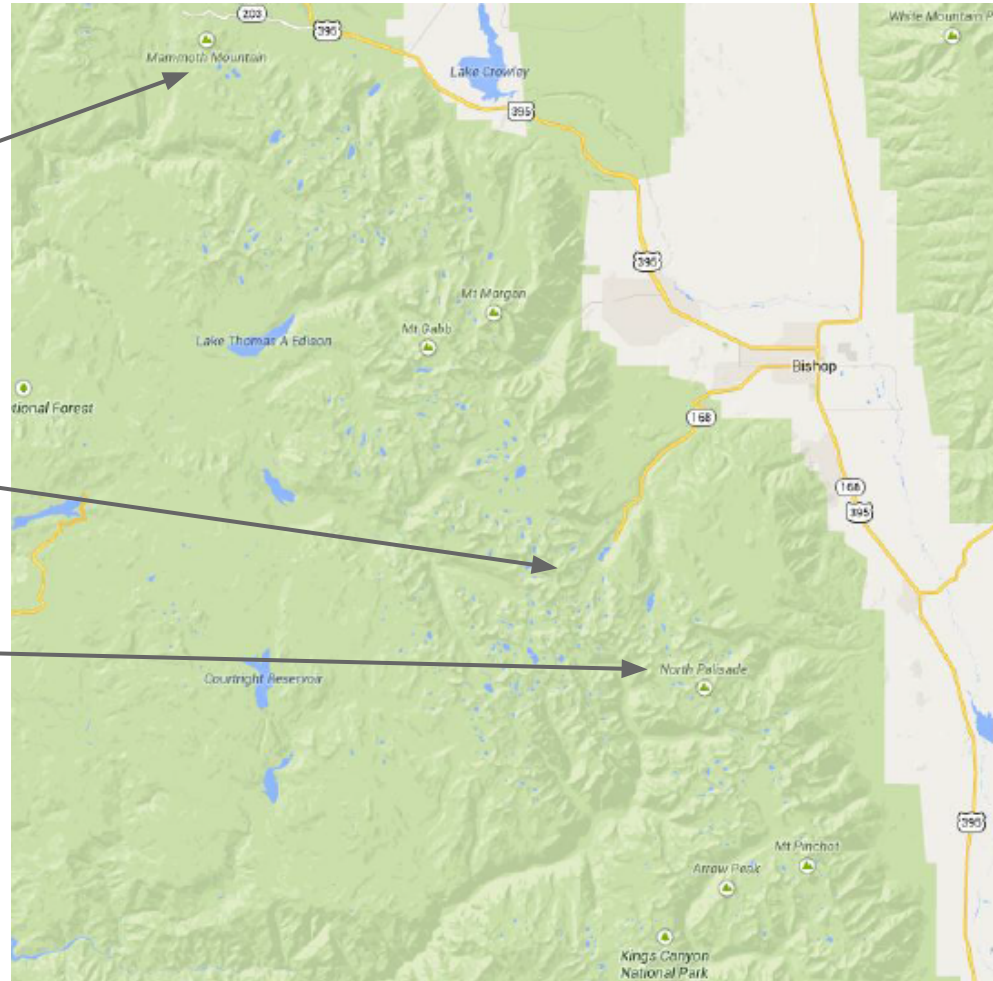


Eastern Sierra

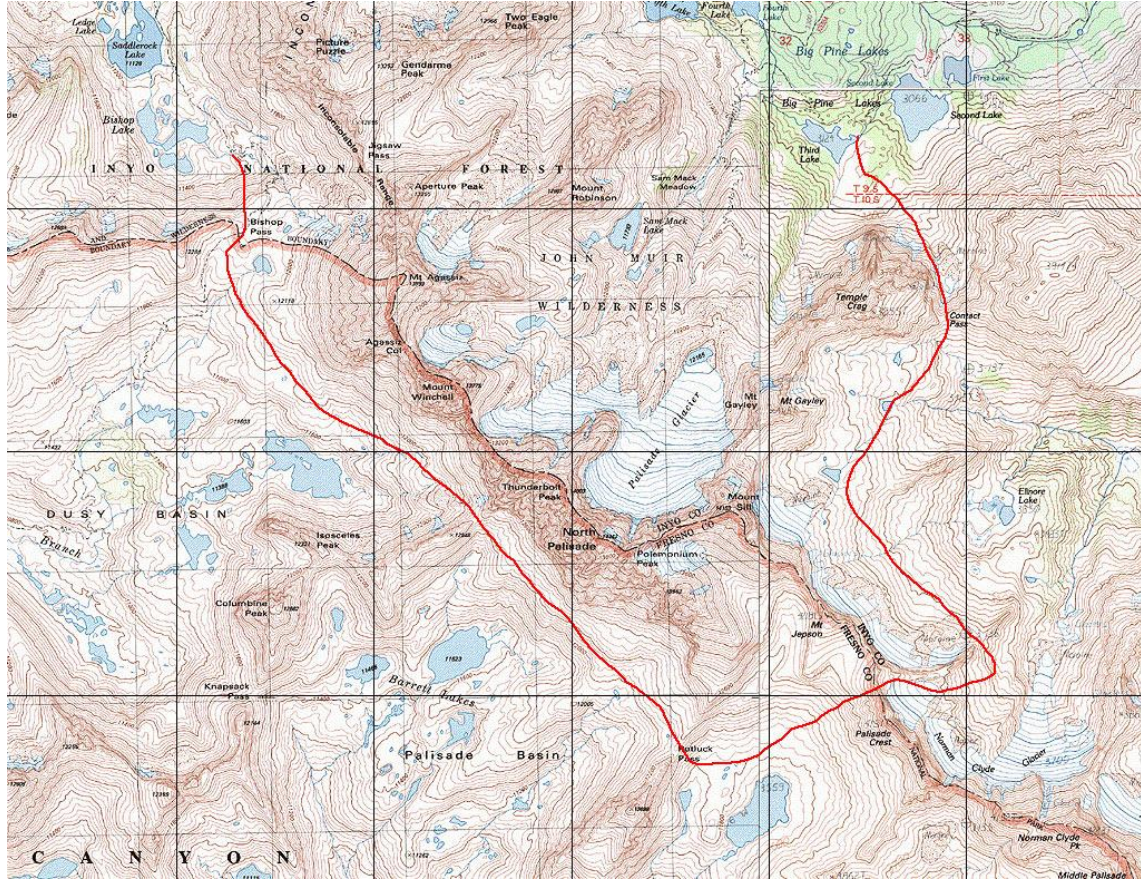
Mammoth

Bishop

Palisades



Eastern Sierra - Palisades Tour



Palisades Tour



The Palisades are a favorite for climbers and features several peaks over 14,000 ft. These photos are from a ski tour around the Palisades in May.



Ionian Basin and the John Muir Trail



A multi-day (5) tour into a remote area of the Sierra- Ionian basin, and a ski along the Muir Trail. Above - view from top of Black Giant, el 13,330 ft. Right - skier approaches the Muir Hut on the JMT, el 11, 800 ft.



Ionian Basin and the John Muir Trail

Below - Darwin Bench, the Hermit is the peak behind the skiers.
Right - Campsite on the Darwin Bench

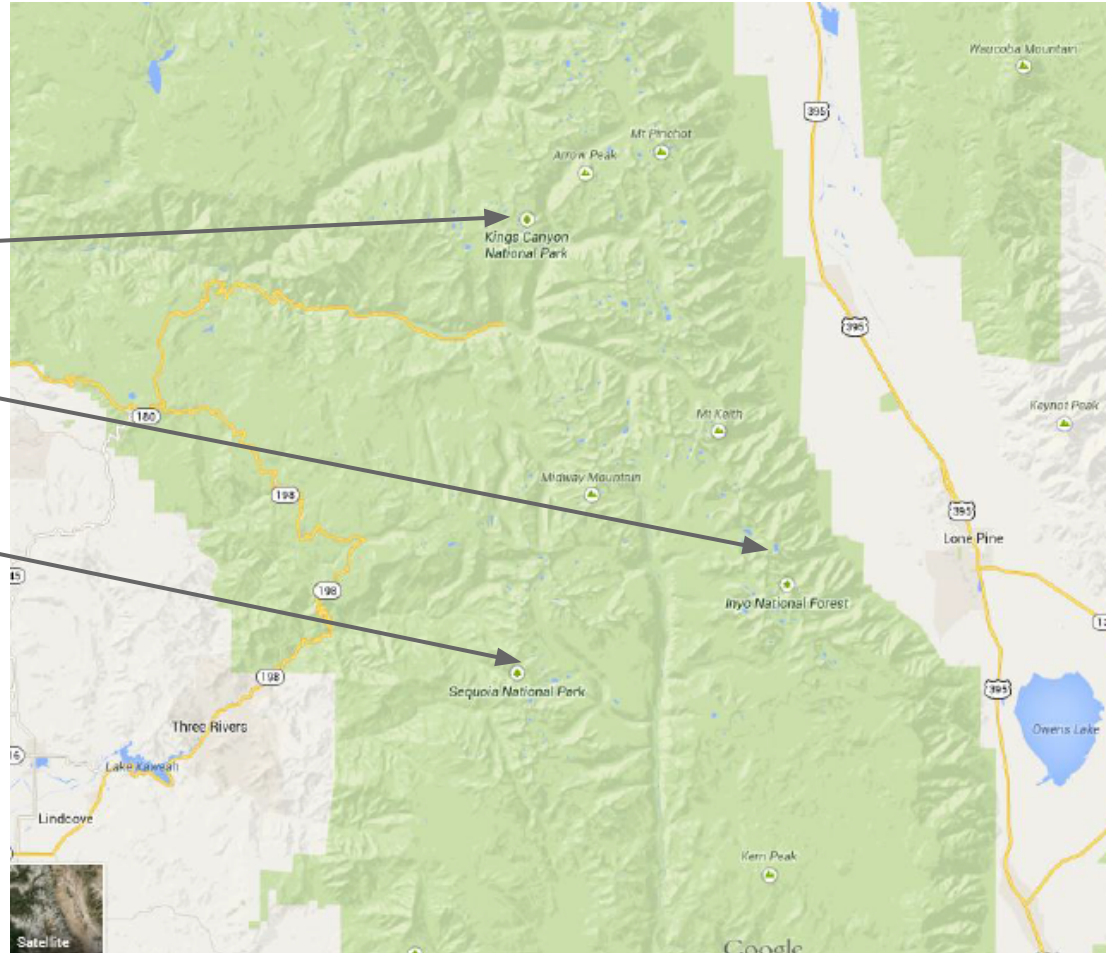


Eastern Sierra

Kings Canyon

Mt Whitney

Sequoia



Mt Whitney (el 14, 494 ft)



Mt Whitney is the highest point in the lower 48 states and it is in California! These photos are from a five day tour around the peak.



Mt Whitney

Below - Russell Carillion pass, (el, 13,280 ft.) Right - ski descent from Trail Crest (el 13648 ft) down from Mt Whitney.



Where else to find information

Avalanche bulletin (incomplete)

<http://www.shastaavalanche.org>

<http://www.esavalanche.org/>

www.sierraavalanchecenter.org

Websites

Marcus Libkind (<http://www.backcountryskitours.com>)

The Backcountry (<http://www.thebackcountry.net/>)

Bob Akka's webpage (<http://bobskiing.com/>)

Transportation

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/>

Local stores

Mammoth Mountaineering
(Mammoth Lakes)

Wilson's Eastside Sports (Bishop)

The Fifth Season (Shasta)

On-line forums

Earn your turns, Teton Gravity
Research, Splitboard.com

Weather

www.opensnow.com

www.wundergrund.com

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov>

Observations Sierra Avalanche Center

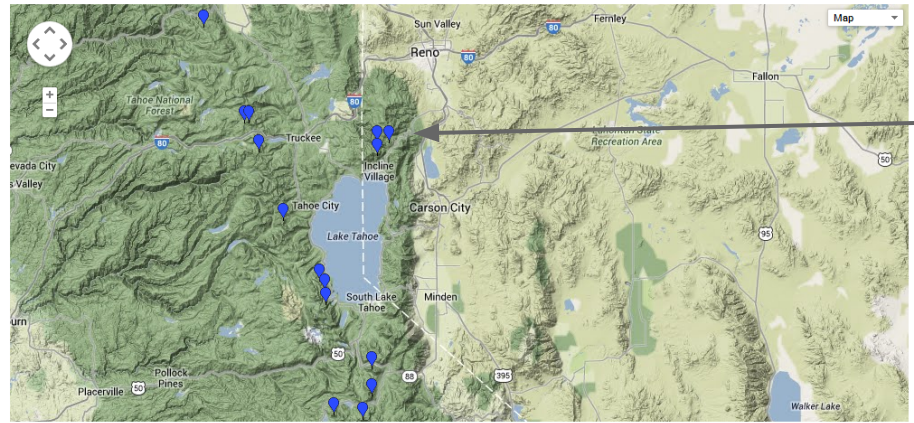


[HOME](#)
[ADVISORY](#)
[OBSERVATIONS](#)
[EDUCATION](#)
[SPONSORS](#)
[DONATE](#)

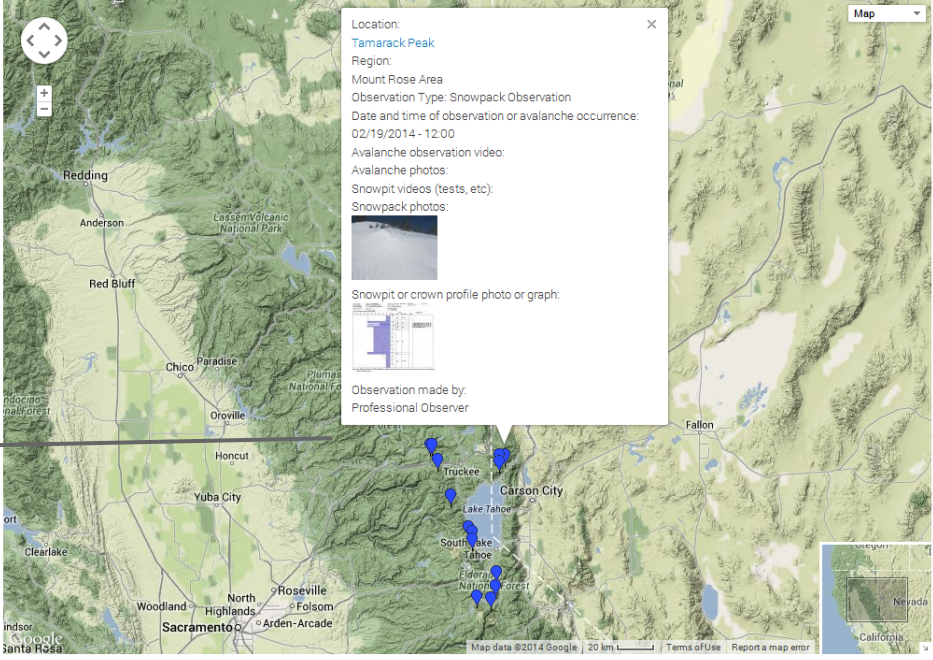
Win a day of heli skiing in Valdez Alaska by supporting SAC!
 Every person that becomes a member of Sierra Avalanche Center during the month of February is entered to win a day of heli skiing with Alaska Snowboard Guides in Valdez Alaska. Check out their website at www.alaskasnowboardguides.com.
[And Discount Lift Tickets to Tahoe's Top Resorts. Click Here](#)

[JOIN](#)

This map displays snowpack and avalanche observations submitted to the Sierra Avalanche Center.
 The snowpack observations are represented by blue markers.
 The avalanche observations are represented by red markers.
 The map displays the most recent 15 observations at a time.



This map displays snowpack and avalanche observations submitted to the Sierra Avalanche Center.
 The snowpack observations are represented by blue markers.
 The avalanche observations are represented by red markers.
 The map displays the most recent 15 observations at a time.



Thebackcountry.net - the bucket list


Places to ski in California x www.thebackcountry.net x

www.thebackcountry.net/bb/viewtopic.php?t=1297

Top [profile](#)

backcountry Post subject: D Posted: Sun Oct 21, 2007 12:42 am

[offline](#)
Site Admin



Joined: Wed Jun 05, 2002 8:44 pm
Posts: 997
Location: Truckee, CA

Mt. Rose

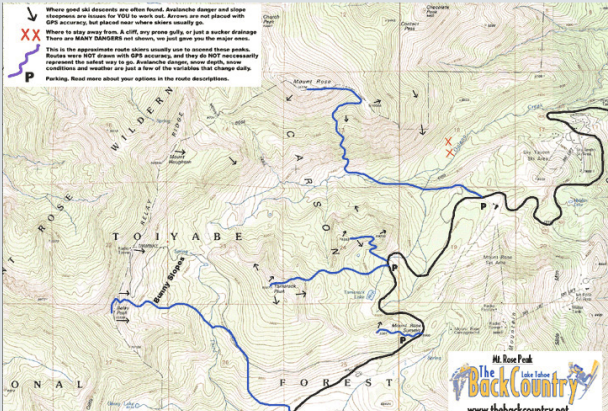
Location: Mt. Rose Wilderness - Lake Tahoe, NV
Duration: 2 - 3 hours
Elevation Change: 2,176' - from 8,600' to 10,776'
Recommended Map: Mt. Rose, Nevada

The Mount Rose Wilderness Area is a backcountry winter wonderland. Access is easy from the top of hwy 431, above the Northeast Shore of Lake Tahoe. With a high elevation start at 8,000', you can count on Mount Rose for producing the deepest and driest snow in the region. Spend the day exploring a number of small sub peaks near the car, or go for the summit for a stark contrasting view of the Tahoe basin and Nevada high desert. The peak itself is often wind scored, and usually a goal for adventure and views. Have a local show you the better routes to wind through this area, or study the map closely to grasp the possibilities. Climbing halfway up the south side of Mount Rose Peak will reveal major ski touring options. Buy a lift ticket at Mt. Rose ski area across the street one day for more views of your backcountry options.

The most popular skiing in the Mount Rose Wilderness is Tamarack Peak. Tamarack offers excellent ski descents on all sides actually, including an impressive steep north side. Hourglass Bowl is the best bang for your buck, but might surprise locals with a huge climax side in 05. There is a nice, low angle and peaceful cruise on the west slope, and plenty of treed ridges in the area if you are not sure of avalanche danger. If you parked near Tamarack Lake, returning to your car may require a glance at a map. You can't see the road at any point through the trees, but there are usually tracks to follow.

For a really long and low angle ski tour, skin from the hwy 431 Tahoe Meadows area to Relay Peak. Your hard work will earn you a huge view of Lake Tahoe, and most of it's surrounding mountains. Look to the East for another awesome view of the greater Mt. Rose area. You will have to share this zone with snowmobiles, so you might want to avoid going on the weekend.

Mt. Rose Peak Proper offers fast growing corn snow on the south side, steep southeast chutes that sometimes fill in, and mellow east-facing trees above Sky Tavern. Avoid getting sucked into the Galena Creek Drainage if you go touring on the east slopes, and remember you'll have to traverse back around the mountain and stay high enough to reach your car. Or, leave a car near the Sky Tavern Ski Area and do a car shuttle for extra vertical.



When good old discounts are often found. Avalanche danger and slope steepness are issues for VED to mark out. Arrows are not placed with GPS accuracy but should read where you're usually go.

Where to stay away from. A cliff, any loose gully, or just a sucker of a change. There are HEAVY SHEDDERS out there, we just gave you the major ones.

This is the approximate route skiers usually use to ascend these peaks. Routes are NOT drawn with GPS accuracy, and they do NOT necessarily represent the safest way to go. Avalanche danger, snow depth, wet conditions and weather are just a few of the variables that change daily.

Parking. Read more about your options in the route descriptions.

Hi Backcountry
www.thebackcountry.net

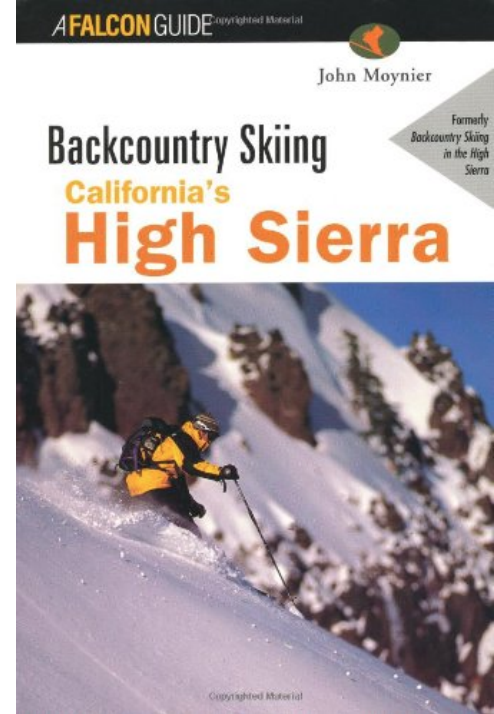
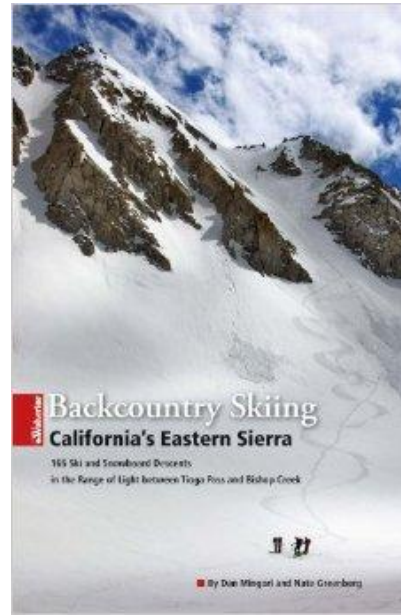
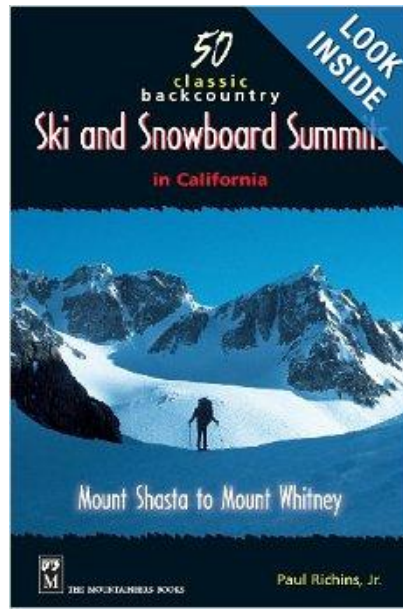
Windows taskbar: EN, 12:03 PM, 2/25/2014

Paper information old school

50 Classic Backcountry Ski and Snowboard Summits in California: Mount Shasta to Mount Whitney - Paul Richins Jr.

Backcountry skiing California's Eastern sierras - Dan Mingori & Nate Greenberg

California's High Sierra - Moynier, Herschalla



Get out and shred the gnar!

