

North Tahoe

A Rock Climber's Guide

by Josh Horniak

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WARNING! READ THIS BEFORE USING THIS BOOK.

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INTRODUCTION

Situated near the north end of the Sierra Nevada mountain range, the Tahoe region is a dramatic and geologically diverse area that extends from the oak-dotted grasslands of the foothills to the rugged peaks along the crest. High mountaintops, colorful alpine meadows, majestic forests, swift rivers, clear lakes, blue skies, and rocky outcrops await those with an adventurous spirit and a love of nature. Offering activities like skiing, mountain biking, trail running, whitewater rafting, hiking, fishing, camping, and rock climbing, this year-round playground caters to all manner of outdoor enthusiasts. Those coming to climb will be especially delighted by a diverse collection of world-class climbing. The routes range from long, adventurous trad routes to brief, bouldery sport lines. Whether you like moderates, testpieces, overhangs, slabs, or cracks, with more than 1400 routes to choose from, there is something here for everyone.

THE CLIMBING AREAS

This guidebook has been divided into seven chapters, each covering a different climbing area in detail.

AUBURN QUARRY AKA CAVE VALLEY

A newly developed limestone sport-climbing area. Ideal for winter climbing when the rest of Tahoe is under snow. Single- and multi-pitch face climbing in a pleasant locale.

BOWMAN AREA CRAGS

The most extensive sport-climbing area in the guidebook. More than 250 routes with difficulties ranging from 5.6 to 5.13.

I-80 CORRIDOR CRAGS

The largest region in the guide, offering a potpourri of smaller cragging venues with differing elevations, exposures, and styles.

DONNER SUMMIT

The centerpiece of the North Tahoe region. World-class single- and multi-pitch climbs in a beautiful alpine environment overlooking Donner Lake. Novice to expert level sport and trad routes with quick, easy access.

COLD STREAM CANYON

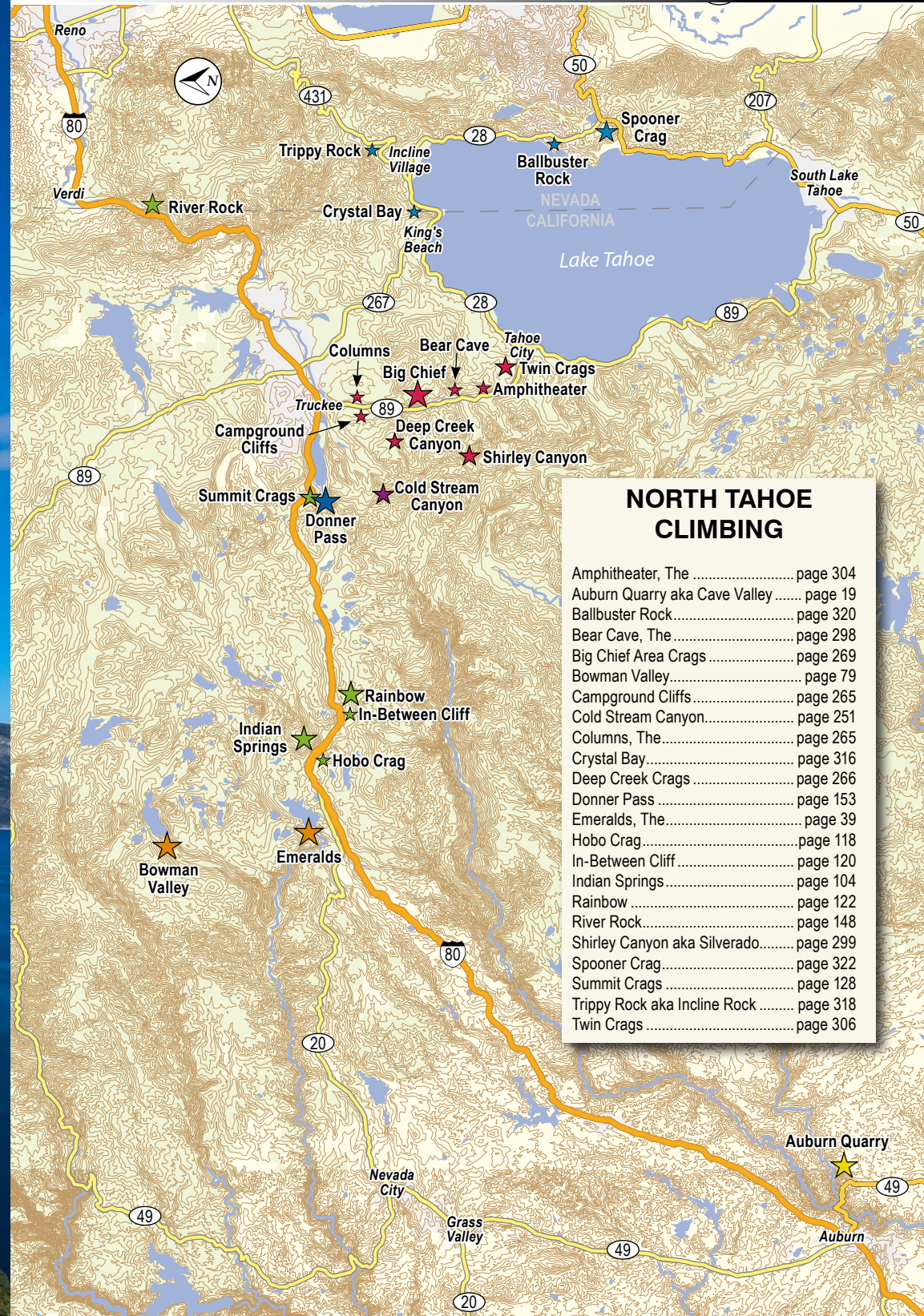
A remote and pristine cragging location with a car-crushing approach. Home to a nice concentration of crack and face climbs. Some of the best 5.11 and 5.12 routes around.

TRUCKEE RIVER CANYON

An unusual combination of granite, tuff, and basalt outcrops that offer a variety of mostly single-pitch sport and trad routes. Overall, the steepest climbing in the guide.

NORTH SHORE CRAGS

Home to a number of small and extremely convenient venues with iconic views of Lake Tahoe. Primarily short routes that are generally top-rope friendly, with fast and easy access.



ABOUT THIS GUIDEBOOK

This guidebook covers a broad geographical region in the vicinity of North Lake Tahoe, between Auburn, California to the west and Reno, Nevada to the east. The book describes more than 1400 rock climbs, which span the full spectrum of climbing styles and grades, from multi-pitch traditional adventures to clip-and-go sport climbs. Information on all the classic and previously documented areas, such as Donner Pass, Big Chief, Rainbow, and Indian Springs, has been thoroughly researched and expanded, to include pitch length, grade, gear recommendations, and a description of each climb, as well as detailed approach and descent options. The new and previously undocumented areas of Bowman Valley, The Emeralds, and Cold Stream Canyon – each area alone containing hundreds of climbs developed by dedicated locals during the last ten years – are included for the first time in print.

The information in this guidebook has been compiled from first-hand experience during my 25-plus years of climbing in the Tahoe area. To bring the climbing community a full and accurate accounting of the many exceptional routes the area has to offer, I have personally climbed nearly every pitch in this book. It is my hope that this guide will not simply chronicle North Tahoe's climbing but also will inspire a greater appreciation and love for this exceptional region.

Supporting material for this guidebook can be found at the website www.tahoecimbing.com. This material includes interactive maps, route and area updates, access issues, alerts, and guidebook corrections.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This guidebook builds on the work and contributions of previous guidebook authors as well as numerous climbers. The accuracy and detail of this guide could not have been achieved without those important resources.

I thank my family for all their help and encouragement with this undertaking. In addition, I offer my special thanks to the following people: Jerry Handren, who inspired me to begin this project and guided me with invaluable support through the long process; Mike Carville and Gary Allan, whose enthusiasm, knowledge, connections, and friendship kept me from throwing in the towel (numerous times); Maisie Ganz, whose tireless input, editing, marketing savvy, and patience were matched by her sympathetic ear – I could not have done this without her; Ian Teixeira, whose counsel, editing, and technical review helped me focus my ramblings into intelligible prose; Roger Rosenbaum, for his painstaking edit of 348 pages of 8-point Arial Narrow font (a medal of valor is in order here); and Todd Lane, whose friendship, encouragement, and design sensibilities are worth more than I can express. I am also grateful to Jim Laywer, Mike Manis, Eileen Morley, Troy Corliss, and Reuben Shelton for their assistance with this undertaking. And to the many unnamed friends who helped me bring this project to fruition, please accept my sincere thanks.

WHEN TO COME

The optimal climbing season varies at each climbing area, depending on the elevation and orientation of the cliffs. Generally, the summer and fall offer the most favorable climbing conditions, followed by spring and then winter. See area introductions for more specific details.

SPRING

Early spring weather can be variable. However, as summer approaches, expect sunny, clear skies and pleasant, cool temps. At the higher elevations, winter usually relents sometime in late April to early May, but it is not uncommon for significant snowpack to remain until early June. South-facing crags with roadside access, of which there are many, are good early-season venues. The lower-elevation crags, like Auburn Quarry and River Rock, are also good options at this time of year. Higher in the mountains, the climbing areas of Twin Crags, Road Cut, Black Wall, Indian Springs, and The Emeralds tend to be the first to come into condition.

SUMMER

During the summer months, clear, sunny weather is almost guaranteed. As the summer progresses, however, temperatures can rise above the mid-80s, exceeding comfortable climbing conditions. Fortunately, as most climbing areas reside between 5,000' and 7,000' in elevation, a light breeze can keep a shady crag comfortable (or downright chilly) even at the height of summer.

In the late summer, severe thunderstorms can form over the Lake Tahoe region. Usually forming in the afternoon, the storms bring gusty winds, hail, flash floods, and lightning. Always get the latest forecast before departing for a climbing area. If thunderstorms do develop, get off the mountaintop and seek shelter.

FALL

Autumn is a stellar time to visit Tahoe. The temperatures, cool and crisp, are perfect for sending, and the weather is fairly stable. Summer vacation is over, the crowds have left, and the mountains become tranquil. One can expect excellent, dry conditions until late October.

WINTER

Nearly all of the annual precipitation recorded in the North Tahoe region comes between the end of October and the beginning of May. Fortunately, the storm periods are generally brief, lasting from a few days to little more than a week, and are interspersed with fair conditions that can prevail for as long as three or four weeks. During these breaks, lower-elevation crags such as Auburn Quarry and River Rock are good options. At the higher elevations, much of the precipitation falls as snow, which sticks around until the spring. However, during drier winters, Twin Crags, Road Cut, Black Wall, Indian Springs, or The Emeralds may be in good climbing condition.

WHERE TO STAY

The Tahoe region is a popular destination with many hotels, cabins, B&Bs, as well as campsites. Due to the vast assortment of options and the ever-changing landscape of availability, lodging information and recommendations are beyond the scope of this book.

CAMPING

There are numerous established campgrounds in the North Tahoe region, which are readily found on the Internet. This guide offers recommendations in some of the chapter or area introductions regarding dispersed camping when appropriate.

The camping season in Tahoe National Forest runs from Memorial Day through Labor Day, although some campgrounds remain open for public use outside of this period. With few exceptions, camping is limited to fourteen days per year within each campground. Dispersed camping (camping outside of developed campgrounds) is limited to fourteen days per Ranger District. Dispersed camping is not available on all forest land. For example, dispersed camping is not permitted in the Lake Tahoe basin. Check the local Ranger District to inquire about permissible locations.

Campfire permits are not required in designated recreation sites. However, a permit is required for all camping and cooking fires on undeveloped National Forest land. In periods of high fire danger, fire restrictions will be in effect. Check on current fire conditions with a Ranger Station before your outing.

For information regarding public campgrounds, use the following two phone numbers:

California State Parks 800-444-7275

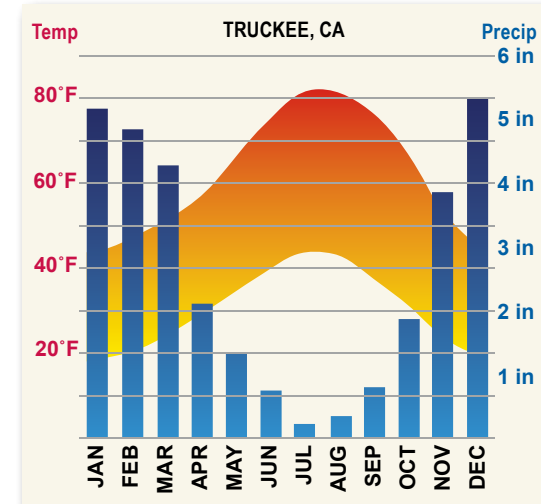
The U.S. Forest Service 800-280-2267

Contact the local Ranger District for dispersed camping information and current fire restrictions.

Truckee Ranger District
10811 Stockrest Springs Road
Truckee, CA 96161
(530) 587-3558

Tahoe National Forest
631 Coyote Street
Nevada City, CA 95959
(530) 265-4531

American River Ranger District
22830 Foresthill Road
Foresthill, CA 95631
(530) 367-2224



View from the summit of Black Wall.

ACCESS

Never before has access been such an important issue; participation in the sport of rock climbing has been increasing rapidly. The impact is visible: fixed protection on the cliff, trampled vegetation at the base, trail erosion, packed parking lots, garbage, human and pet feces, and noise. It is extremely important that climbers act responsibly and not abuse the access granted. Always keep an eye open for current details about crag access and restrictions: on the Internet, on signs, and from the climbing community. When relevant, detailed access information is included in each area's introduction and should be strictly observed. There is no formal access agreement for many of the climbing areas included here. Inclusion of a crag in this guide does not guarantee right of access but merely represents a description of the climbing history of that particular area. It is your responsible behavior and respect for existing access guidelines that will ensure future access.

LAND OWNERSHIP

The North Tahoe area is made up of a patchwork of both public and private lands. Most of the climbing described in this book lies within the boundaries of Tahoe National Forest, an area of more than 850,000 acres northwest of Lake Tahoe that is managed by the US Forest Service. The Lake Tahoe basin itself is not included within the Tahoe National Forest and is instead managed by the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. Both agencies are responsible for the conservation, preservation, and restoration of this area. However, it is your responsibility to leave the crag and surrounding area in the condition you found them, or better.

CLIMBING ADVOCACY

Get involved and help preserve future access by supporting organizations such as CRAGS, The Donner Land Trust, and The Access Fund. These organizations have a long history of supporting the Tahoe area through advocacy, land acquisition, conservation, and education. Take the time to learn about the issues facing the areas in which you recreate. Educate others on the importance of minimizing impact and respecting wild places. Volunteer or donate whenever possible, your participation and generosity are essential in preserving and protecting the Tahoe landscape.

BIRD RESTRICTIONS

Large vertical cliffs are favored nesting habitats for peregrine falcons. In order to protect nesting birds from inadvertent disturbance or harassment, please refrain from climbing routes near an active aerie. The nesting period begins in early spring and ends in midsummer. Official cliff closures will be delimited by markers at the base of a crag, but pay attention to bird behavior first and foremost. Peregrines are territorial birds and will defend their nesting region aggressively by vocalizing, circling overhead, and diving at (and sometimes striking) intruders. If nesting activity or behavior is encountered, you should abandon the route you are on and climb elsewhere.

TOILETS

A growing problem is the lack of sanitary facilities near most of the climbing areas; try to plan ahead before heading out. Whenever possible, make the effort to use the available toilets. If an emergency arises, please go far from the cliff and bury your business well. Follow the "leave no trace" principles (www.lnt.org) and deposit solid waste in catholes 6 to 8 inches deep, at least 200 feet from water, camp and trails. Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.

ROAD CONDITIONS

Contact the local Ranger District for road closures due to snow. See contact details in the section titled "Where to Stay" on page 9.



Anne Kern at the top of Alvin's Toprope (5.8). Snowshed page 200.

ETHICS

Practicing good conduct demonstrates to landowners, land managers, and the wider community the high value that climbers place on the crag and the environment. The following guidelines are intended as a model for the types of behavior – both for day-to-day climbers and new route developers – that will increase the likelihood that crags remain open and accessible in the future.

CONDUCT AT THE CRAG

- Take all litter home – yours and others'.
- Carefully consider the consequences of your actions on the environment and the enjoyment of future visitors.
- Do not disturb plants or wildlife. Pay particular attention to seasonal bans on cliffs during bird breeding seasons.
- Please keep noise to a minimum, including the use of electronic equipment and radios. Loud behavior is disruptive and inconsiderate.
- Respect areas of geological or cultural interest.
- Use existing trails and avoid any actions that cause unnecessary erosion.
- Dispose of human waste in a hygienic and environmentally responsible manner.

NEW ROUTE DEVELOPMENT

Technical rock climbing, much like its mountaineering predecessor, is deeply rooted in a tradition of exploration and adventure. Although it is an individualistic and free-spirited undertaking, a set of common conventions governing fair practices has evolved. Because geography is a non-renewable resource and rock a dwindling commodity, a philosophy of minimizing human impact is a central tenet of climbing. The following are factors and questions to consider before developing.

- When planning a new route, it is important to consider the existing tradition and climbing style at each locale. New routes should not diminish established practices or values but rather should remain in keeping with locally established ethics. Speak with the "locals" and area pioneers to determine acceptable new routing practices.
- Is the crag already fully developed? Another line squeezed between two others is, in most cases, not an asset, particularly with sport routes, on which bolt lines become confusing.
- Does the line add value to the crag? Is it something that will provide enjoyment for others? Traditionally, routes have followed a line of weakness, ascending cliffs by following cracks or other features. Develop these features first, then fill in the blank space.
- Can you climb it from the ground up without fixed protection? Excellent: don't bolt it!
- When placing fixed protection, equip routes with appropriate, climbing-grade hardware. Use only stainless steel bolts and hangers. Plated steel hardware is not acceptable; it will not age well in this environment.
- Always attempt to reduce visual impact.
- Eager to aid the climbing community? Consider upgrading old and unsafe fixed protection on existing routes. Please note: Do not add bolts to existing climbs or to boulder problems. Aside from hardware upgrades, existing routes should not be changed without the permission of the first ascensionist.
- Finally, think twice and don't take the opportunity lightly. Be sure the line is worthy of bolting before sinking in some hardware – you can't undrill holes. If proceeding, take your time and do a good job. Thoughtful new routes add value and enjoyment to a crag; poor practices, however, will do the opposite.

SAFETY

Rock climbing is a dangerous activity with the possibility of personal injury or death. Participants in this activity should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement. This guidebook is not a "how-to" book and is not a substitute for experience and good judgment. Always be aware of your own ability, condition, and skill level.

Rock, although permanent in appearance, does change – holds break, fixed protection ages, and conditions vary. Without exception, it is extremely important to assess the safety of existing in-situ equipment, including pins, slings, bolts, anchors, and other fixed protection. The Tahoe area has had a long history of climbing and route development during which ethics and acceptable practices have changed significantly. For older routes, this meant placing as few bolts as possible and using hardware that is considered unsafe by today's standards. Routes employing 1/4" bolts (indicated with an exclamation icon **!** beside the route's name) should be approached with extreme caution. If a bolt exhibits rust or visible wear, it should also be considered suspect. Until such time as these bolts can be upgraded with new 3/8" to 1/2" stainless-steel replacements, top roping or simply not climbing these routes is strongly recommended. With few exceptions, the sparse bolting standard will remain after any retro-bolting/retro-fitting. Pay close attention to the route's length and bolt count when deciding to lead a route. The modern definition of "sport climbing," with its bomber, closely-spaced fixed protection, does not hold in older climbing venues such as Donner Pass and Rainbow. This is particularly true in the moderate grades, where it is routine to have ground-fall potential at every clip. Those looking for well-protected sport climbing should look to the more newly developed areas such as Auburn Quarry, Big Chief, The Emeralds, and Bowman Valley.

USING THIS BOOK

This guidebook has seven chapters that cover seven different climbing areas within the North Tahoe region. The areas are covered in rough geographical order, running from west to east and north to south, and include cliffs that share a common access road. Each chapter begins with information specific to that area, including an area overview, a locator map, the climbing season, where to stay, access information, and general driving directions. Within each chapter, the crags and cliffs are described in further detail, including any access issues, parking and approach information, and a detailed approach map.

The sport of rock climbing requires a number of skills, of which the information contained in this guidebook is only a small part (see Safety section above). This is not a "how-to" book and shouldn't take the place of learning from proper sources.

I have attempted to provide both detailed and accurate information in this guidebook; however, it is always up to the climber to equate what is on the page with the terrain that is in front of her/him. Although I took painstaking steps to avoid them, be assured that there are errors. Do not rely solely on the information provided in this book. Always assess each situation and follow your better judgment. Resources such as local climbing shops, other climbers, this guidebook's website (www.tahoecimbing.com), and other online sources can provide additional, up-to-date information.

TOPOS

In order to maximize clarity, this guidebook uses photodiagrams instead of hand-drawn crag topos. Each photodiagram is composed of a cliff photo on which route lines have been superimposed. Where appropriate, approach and descent options also are shown. When a natural feature obscures a route, the accompanying written description should suffice to clearly indicate where the route begins and where its intended line is. For cliffs having a large number of obscured routes or a complex and extensive cliff line, an additional drawn diagram has been included. These diagrams depict the cliff from an aerial perspective and are intended to assist with route finding by describing the overall shape of the cliff, the surrounding terrain, and the spatial relationships between routes. A key describing the layout and symbols used in the crag topos can be found in the section titled "Route and Photodiagram Key" on page 17.

MAPS

Topographical overview maps have been included for almost every climbing area. They are based on 1:24,000 scale USGS maps and should contain enough detail to navigate to and from the crags. For accuracy, the maps were drawn using national GIS data, personally recorded GPS data, and satellite imagery. Each map depicts some or all of the following details: terrain contours, topographical elevations, summits, rivers, lakes, roads, and trails. A map legend can be found in the section titled "Map Key" on page 16.

ROUTES


The routes on a cliff are described from right to left or left to right, depending on how the cliff is first approached. The convention used at each cliff is specified after its overview description.


A typical route entry is constructed as follows: route number, name, grade, length, and quality; first ascent party; suggested gear and descent options; route description; variations and pitches, if any. An example route entry can be seen in the section titled "Route and Photodiagram Key" on page 17.

ROUTE NUMBERS


All the routes in this guide have been assigned a number. This number is intended to identify the route on the photodiagrams and/or overview maps of that area. When a route is not depicted, that will be indicated in the route's description. This infrequent occurrence happens in the following cases: the route's distance from the bulk of the area's climbing make including it in a single crag photo impractical; the route is obscured by a feature or is hidden because of the camera's viewing angle; the route is a link-up of a number of routes already clearly depicted; or the route crosses over other routes and depicting it would result in an overly complicated photodiagram. In these cases, the route's description should be enough to determine its location and path.


TRADITIONAL CLIMBING

Traditional climbing, or "trad climbing," is a style of rock climbing in which the climber is protected by hand-placed gear or a combination of hand-placed and fixed gear. Traditional routes are indicated with a red square  around the route's number.



Never blindly rely on fixed gear. Use your own judgment and back up any questionable fixed gear with hand-placed protection. Routes with substandard fixed protection are indicated with an exclamation icon  beside the route's title.

SPORT CLIMBING


Sport climbing involves the use of fixed, permanent protection in the form of bolts. Sport routes are indicated with a blue square  around the route's number.

While the standard of fixed protection in North Tahoe is generally good, some of the bolts are old and/or inadequate by today's standards. Those routes with substandard fixed protection are indicated with an exclamation icon  beside the route's title. Even when a route is bolted, it is described as a traditional route if any supplemental gear is needed.


AID CLIMBING

In aid climbing, the climber makes upward progress by pulling on fixed or placed protection. Aid problems are indicated with a yellow square  around the route's number. Those routes with substandard fixed protection are indicated with an exclamation icon  beside the route's title.

BOULDERING

The term bouldering refers to climbing on boulders or short rock faces without the use of ropes. Boulder problems are indicated with an orange square  around the route's number.

TOPROPE CLIMBING

Toprope climbing is a style of climbing in which the anchor is already fixed above the climber. The rope runs from the belayer, up the wall, to the anchor, and back down to the climber. This is a good way to initiate new climbers into the sport since the risk of a big fall is greatly reduced. Toprope routes are indicated with a green square  around the route's number.

Important note: Toprope only those routes where the anchor can be safely accessed from above. Areas/routes that are "toprope friendly" are indicated in their descriptions. Even with optimal conditions, setting up a toprope is one of the most dangerous activities a climber will encounter. Use extreme caution at all times.

Please adhere to the following guidelines.

- Never approach a cliff's edge, or attempt to set a toprope, above other climbers.
- Be careful not to dislodge loose rocks. Always assume there are people below.
- Give priority to anyone who wants to lead the route from the bottom up.
- Do not occupy any area of rock for extended periods.
- Avoid running ropes for topropes directly though the existing anchor, as this will cause premature wear. Create your own anchor following best practices for anchor building.

ROUTE NAMES

In writing this guidebook, an attempt was made to track down accurate historical information. This, however, was not always possible as some of the lore has been lost or forgotten. I have taken the liberty of giving names to all the unnamed routes in order to aid in identification at the cliff. When possible, this was done under the guidance of the area's current developers. In most cases, the new names are simply descriptive or related to the theme of the wall or neighboring routes. If you know a route's original name, help me correct these errors by providing feedback at www.tahoecimbing.com/errors-and-omissions/.

PITCH LENGTHS

Care should always be taken, as pitch lengths are rounded to the nearest five feet and are estimates. They reflect the actual length of the climb, not the vertical height of the crag or the amount of rope required to lower back to the ground. For most single-pitch routes, when the length of a pitch is 35 meters or greater, the required rope length for lowering is indicated in the route's description. On multi-pitch routes, the rappel distances are noted. Here, "35-meter rappel" indicates the distance between rappel stations or a rappel station and the ground.

A 50-meter rope is adequate for many of the routes in this guide; however, a longer rope (60 meter or 70 meter) is recommended since some of the pitches are longer than 25 meters. You will need that extra length when lowering off! *For safety, always knot the end of the rope before lowering.*

GRADES

The grading system employed in this guidebook is the Yosemite Decimal System (YDS). The YDS breaks climbing down into classes and grades that can be used to provide a relative sense of a route's difficulty. There are six classes: 1st class indicates hiking on even terrain; 2nd class is hiking on rough terrain or lower inclines; 3rd class indicates scrambling up steep terrain where a fall could be dangerous; 4th class is exposed scrambling where an unroped fall could be fatal; 5th class indicates technical rock climbing that requires a rope, belayer, and protection to proceed safely. 5th class is further divided into a decimal and letter system that more precisely defines a route's difficulty. The grades from 5.0 to 5.9 can be modified by a "+" or "-" sign to indicate that they are either hard or easy for the grade. Grades at or above 5.10 are subdivided by letter grades: a, b, c, or d. When a specific letter grade cannot be decided upon by consensus, the letter is either replaced with a "+" or "-" or omitted completely. For example, a 5.11+ would represent a difficulty grade at the harder end of the 5.11 spectrum. For multi-pitch routes, the given grade reflects the rating of the most difficult pitch.

Climbing grades are inherently subjective. Routes that were previously documented have been graded so that they compare closely to those in earlier guidebooks. New routes have been rated with the consensus reached by the climbing community and are relative to the previously established routes in the same climbing area. The diversity of the climbing covered throughout this guide does not make grading easy. Individual routes and their difficulties vary depending upon such things as a climber's physique, size, strength, preference of rock type, and climbing style. Even exposure can affect one's perception of difficulty. An attempt was made to take these factors into consideration. However, the author expects many debates to ensue, as they always have since a grading system was first proposed.


A grade-conversion chart, with international scales, is provided in "Appendix C – Grade Conversion Table" on page 327.

PROTECTION RATINGS

The protection rating (aka danger rating) indicates the spacing and quality of the route's protection. This assumes that the leader is skilled with gear placement, takes advantage of the available opportunities, and is properly equipped for the route. This guide makes use of the following standard letter codes to convey this information: PG, R, and X. This is a very crude indication of a route's overall danger. It does not take into account how difficult and/or strenuous it is to place the protection, only the security offered by the placements.

No rating	Good, closely-spaced protection. Small falls.
PG	Fair protection. Potential for moderately long falls where injury is unlikely.
R	Poor protection with possible long falls (runout). Falling at the wrong time will likely result in a serious injury.
X	No protection, or such minimal protection that death is a likely consequence of a fall.

ROUTE CONDITION

Some of the routes in this guide have had little or no traffic over an extended period of time. A route that is dirty and overgrown is indicated with a shovel icon  beside the route's title. As can be expected, this may not represent a route's current situation, as conditions will change with time and traffic.

RECOMMENDED ROUTES

A star system has been employed to suggest a route's quality. As every climber knows, this is a subjective measurement that is open to endless debate. I used the following criteria when determining the recommendations in this guidebook: consensus from other climbers, quality of the movement, quality of the rock, attractiveness of the line (i.e. features and path), position, exposure, and general atmosphere of the cliff. The fact that a route does not have a star does not necessarily imply that a route is not worth climbing. Instead, if a route is of particularly poor quality, I have tried to indicate this in the written description.

★	A worthwhile route. Above average.
★★	A recommended climb.
★★★	An excellent route and highly recommended. One of the best in the region.

GEAR SUGGESTIONS

Nearly all of the routes in this guidebook include gear suggestions. These are given to provide a climber who is solidly competent at the route's grade an approximation of what is required to protect the route adequately. Sufficient protection is a highly subjective concept that depends greatly on the leader's climbing ability, skill with gear placement, and confidence. Always use your own judgment when selecting a rack.

For example: *Single rack to 3", double 0.5" - 1"*. This would indicate a full set of wired nuts and a full set of cams from #00 TCU to #3 Camalot, with double cams in the range from 0.5" to 1". This would also include a number of carabiners, slings, and/or quick draws appropriate to the type of climb.

A gear-conversion chart for multiple manufacturers is provided in "Appendix A – Gear Sizes Compared" on page 326.

BELAY AND ANCHOR INFORMATION

Throughout this guide, the following codes are used to describe belay and anchor information.

LO	A bolted anchor from which it is possible to lower off or rappel.
WO	Indicates that a natural anchor must be fashioned. Then walk off to descend the route.
Bolt anchor	A bolted anchor without rings or chain to rappel from. Usually followed by an additional pitch or a walk off.

FIRST ASCENT (FA) INFORMATION

When known, the route's first-ascent information is provided. As a general rule, the first person listed in a multi-person ascent party was the first person to top-out the climb.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

A route's description includes the following: where the route begins, its path (when necessary), and sometimes a few adjectives that describe its character. Route starts are described relative to easy-to-locate features or neighboring routes. In general, specific details outlining a route's path are only chronicled for climbs where the line is not immediately apparent or could vary.

MULTI-PITCH ROUTES

In addition to an overall route description, multi-pitch routes include supplementary information regarding the details of each pitch as well as descent/exit options from the top of the route. A pitch's description includes the following information: pitch number (e.g. P1, P2, P3), grade, length, description, belay stances, exit options (if any), and sometimes per-pitch gear requirements. This information is intended to aid in planning the climb and in route finding during the ascent.

