



Hwy 40 Scenic Bypass

The 20 Mile Museum •

"...inexpressibly comprehensive, grand, and picturesque. After congratulating ourselves upon the safe achievement of our morning feat, and breathing our mules a few minutes, we proceeded on our journey. A mile brought us to a small dimple on top of the mountain, in the centre of which is a miniature lake, surrounded by green grass."

What I saw in California Edwin Bryant 1849 upon reaching Donner Summit

Donner Summit is unique. You can stand where Native Americans crossed for thousands of years and near where their petroglyphs are incised into the granite.

In the same place you can see the route of the first wagon trains carrying emigrants to their dreams. You can see the first transcontinental railroad; the first transcontinental highway, The Lincoln Highway; and you can see the modern Interstate. The first transcontinental telephone line went over Donner Summit, and overhead was the first transcontinental air route. Buried under your feet are fiber optic cables, the latest to cross the Summit.

If you listen closely you may even hear the stories of the many people who have come before. You may hear their adventures, their dreams, their fears and bravery, and their wonder as they came to Donner Summit.

The Donner Summit Historical Society's 20 Mile Museum shares our Summit history from Nyack to below Rainbow Bridge. Interpretive signs, placed along the route of Old Highway 40, explain the history, display historical photographs, tell good stories, and list activities in which you can engage.

You can pick up a map and brochure in our museum in downtown Soda Springs.

We hope you enjoy your visit to Donner Summit.

Sponsors:



Hwy 40 Scenic Bypass

Rainbow Lodge

History
Rainbow Lodge was built in 1877 by the Helder family who also built the Rainbow Tavern. The lodge was built by the Helder family who also built the Rainbow Tavern. The lodge was built by the Helder family who also built the Rainbow Tavern.

A Good Story
The lodge was built by the Helder family who also built the Rainbow Tavern. The lodge was built by the Helder family who also built the Rainbow Tavern.

Things to do right here
Visit the Rainbow Lodge and Tavern. See the original Rainbow Tavern building. Take a walk on the Rainbow Lodge grounds.

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Red Mountain

History
Red Mountain is a prominent landmark on the west side of Donner Summit. It was named by the first wagon trains who crossed the mountain in 1846.

A Good Story
The mountain was named by the first wagon trains who crossed the mountain in 1846.

Things to do right here
Visit Red Mountain. See the original Red Mountain building. Take a walk on the Red Mountain grounds.

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Sugar Bowl

History
Sugar Bowl is a prominent landmark on the east side of Donner Summit. It was named by the first wagon trains who crossed the mountain in 1846.

A Good Story
The mountain was named by the first wagon trains who crossed the mountain in 1846.

Things to do right here
Visit Sugar Bowl. See the original Sugar Bowl building. Take a walk on the Sugar Bowl grounds.

Interpretive Signs, 2011

- Nyack
- Red Mountain
- Meadow Lake
- Forest Gift Shop at Cisco Grove
- Lincoln Highway view from 40
- Big Bend
- Rainbow Lodge/Tavern
- Donner Summit Lodge
- Pahatsi Road wagon train route
- Ice Lakes
- Original Soda Springs Store
- Soda Springs Hotel
- Soda Springs Ski Area
- Summit Valley overlook
- Tri Lodges
(Clair Tappaan Heidelman and Cal Lodge)
- Clair Tappaan Lodge
- Hutchinson Lodge
- Sugar Bowl
- Roller Pass
- Transcontinental Railroad
- Central Pacific Snowsheds
- Norden Station
- Charlie Chaplin's "Gold Rush"
- Magic Carpet
- Lodge at Sugar Bowl
- Donner Ski Ranch
- Transcontinental air route & weather station
- Sugar Bowl Academy building
- Tunnel 6 – first transcontinental railroad's Summit tunnel
- 6 Donner Lake overlook
- Rainbow Bridge
- Petroglyphs
- China Wall

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