



SUMMIT RESTAURANT AND BAR

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The Lincoln Highway on Donner Summit

Donner Summit is the richest historical area in California and maybe the entire Western United States. Native Americans summered on Donner Summit for thousands of years leaving behind the evidence of their presence in the many mortars, metates, cupules, and petroglyphs.

The first wagon trains to reach California with wagons came over Donner Pass as did the first transcontinental railroad, first transcontinental highway, first transcontinental telephone line, and the first transcontinental air route. Except for the highway, those are all stories for future menus.

The first transcontinental highway was the Lincoln Highway and it was the first national commemoration of Abraham Lincoln. That route went right past the windows here and then up the dirt road just across the street.

Today highways are built from scratch but that first national highway was put together in 1913 from already existing stretches of roadway to create a route from coast to coast. It produced the first national standards for highways. It was a completely private endeavor using no public money. The money for the project was raised through subscription with the campaign aimed at the public's patriotism.

The new highway standards enabled automobiles to travel on the best spots, which were graded gravel, at the continuous speed of 35 MPH. Trucks could travel at 10 MPH. Only half of the cross-country route was graded gravel. The 1914 official guide to the Lincoln Highway said it would take 19 days to cross the country traveling 10 hours a day at an average of 18 MPH. Imagine seeing the country with the wind whistling in your ears and your hair flying at the incredible speed of 18 MPH!

The highway was a success and met the growing needs of the public, which having newly acquired automobiles, wanted to use them. The most adventurous "autoists" wanted to travel all the way across the country in their automobiles. In 1913 there were about 150 transcontinental travelers per year. By 1923 there were between 20 and 25,000 cross-country travelers.

Donner Summit Lodge Open Every Day

Summer Hours: Sat/Sun 8 A.M. - 8:30 P.M. MTTTF Noon-8:30 P.M.
Taco Tuesday: 4 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. The bar is open until the crowd is gone.

Donner Summit Lodge, A Short History

Ever since the Dutch Flat Wagon Rd. was built in the early 1860's to service the building of the Transcontinental Railroad, there have been hostleries along the route over Donner Pass.

The first auto to cross Donner Pass crossed in 1901 and the first motorcycle in 1903. The first successful "transcontinentalists" crossed the country using Donner Pass in 1903. With the arrival of the automobile, lodges began to spring up to service automobiles and provide relief for the "autoists".

By 1913 the first transcontinental highway, the Lincoln Highway, was in operation and auto traffic increased considerably. Small lodges and service stations were built along the route and early automobiles would have gone right past what is now Donner Summit Lodge. Once the highway was open in winter the lodges offered accommodations for snow sport enthusiasts.

Donner Summit Lodge was built in 1938 to take advantage of the growth of traffic over the, by then, year-round Highway 40. The lodge was expanded twice from the picture above, first just after World War II and then in the 1970's. Additions were made to both ends of the original lodge. The sign on the lodge above says, "Donner Summit Lodge Fine Food Ski Dormitories Cabins.."

Summit Restaurant does catering too.

Call 426-3904

Breakfast

EGGS

Good Morning Summit Special:

two eggs any style, bacon or sausage, potatoes and toast 9.00

Choose from the following - omelets all are accompanied with potatoes & toast

Bacon, Swiss & Tomato 12.00

Chili & Cheese 11.00

Mushroom, Sausage & Cheese 10.00

Salmon, Cream Cheese & Scallions topped with Parmesan Cheese
& drizzled hollandaise 13.00

Spinach, Avocado & Pepper Jack Cheese 12.00

Joe's Special: (a San Francisco Tradition comes to the Summit)

Scrambled eggs / ground beef / garlic / spinach / mushrooms /
peppers & onions 11.00

Corned Beef & Eggs: two eggs, any style / served on top of fresh roasted
corn beef / bell peppers & potatoes 11.00

Eggs Benedict 12.00

Steak n Eggs 15.00

Breakfast Burrito: flour tortilla / scrambled eggs / cheese /
jalapenos / potatoes & refried beans with your choice of
ham / bacon or sausage 10.00

Breakfast Tacos: two corn tortillas filled with eggs / cheese /
tomatoes with your choice of veggies / bacon / sausage or
ham 8.00

Breakfast Sandwich: eggs / cheese and
your choice of ham / bacon or sausage 9.00

Machaca Con Huevos: carne asada / onions / jalapenos /
scrambled eggs served with refried beans & tortillas 11.00

Huevos Rancheros: flour tortilla / beans and eggs any style topped with jalapenos
/ pico de gallo / guacamole / sour cream / cheese & our own rancho sauce 11.00
Parties of 6 or more will have a gratuity of 18%

Take-out

After a full day outdoors save yourself the trouble
of cooking - We can prepare appetizers, platters,
pizzas, entrees, and full meals.

Just give us a call: 530-426-3904



Beauty of Donner Pass, 1914

Crossing the Sierra "turned out to be the toughest one-hundred miles I have ever driven...the road was narrow... we had to resort to constant carburetor adjustments...There were dangerous unfenced gaps..and no warning signs..."

"I don't believe I have adequate words to describe the real beauty of Donner Pass. As we stood looking down I had a floating sensation...I lost all fear as I looked at one of the most beautiful blue lakes [Donner Lake] I had ever seen. Everything below us seemed suspended in shimmering light."

Thornton Round, 1914

Thornton Round's father took him and the rest of the family across the country and back in 1914.



Driving Was Fun in Those Days

Pull out block and tackle, wade around in the mud, get soaked to the skin and chilled from the effects of the deluge, make fastenings to the fence or telephone post and pull. Pull hard, dig your heels into the mud and exert every effort at command. The machine moves, your feet slip and down in the mud you go full length. Repeat the dose and continue the operation until the machine is free from the ditch and again upon the road.

Coast to Coast by Automobile



OFF THE GRIDDLE

French Toast: fantastic multigrain bread dipped in our secret batter served with bacon or sausage 8.00

Summit Pancakes: two house made buttermilk pancakes served with your choice of bacon or sausage 9.00

Snow Park Special: we call it the works! Two piping hot pancakes / two eggs any style served with your choice of bacon or sausage 11.00

A LA CARTE

Biscuits & Gravy 7.00

Half Order 5.00

Two Eggs 3.00

Country Potatoes 4.00

Hot Oatmeal served with milk / brown sugar / nuts & cranberries 6.00

Bacon or Sausage 4.00

Turkey Bacon 5.00

Toast 3.00

Bagel & Cream Cheese 4.00

MORNING BEVERAGE TREATS

Orange Juice / Cranberry Juice or Apple Juice 3.75

Milk 3.75

Coffee / Tea or decafe 2.25

Hot Chocolate 3.75

Mimosas 7.00

Champagne 6.00

Tequila Sunrise 7.00

Summit's Famous Bloody Mary 8.00

All Bloody Marys are made with our own secret recipe...

By Motor Bicycle over Donner Summit

George Wyman went to the Reno motorcycle races in 1902 and thought about crossing the Sierra by motor bicycle. The next year he embarked on his cross country journey in May. An average of 34 feet of snow falls on Donner Summit each winter and it does not melt by May.

George floundered in the snow and resorted to traveling 18 miles through the snowsheds for seven hours. At the top he visualized that it would be downhill to Truckee all the way so after he left the more than 1600' long Tunnel 6 which was "dark, damp, and dismal," he went out on to the snow. "I tried to walk, Where the road should have been was a wide expanse of snow - deep snow. As there was nothing else to do, I plunged into it and floundered, waded, walked, slipped, and slid to the head of Donner Lake."

George, left, did make it to New York in 50 days.

Advice for travelers from the Official Guide to the Lincoln Highway

Don't wait until your gasoline is almost gone before filling up. There might be a delay, or it might not be obtainable at the next point your figured on.

Don't wear wool next to your skin

Don't allow your water can to be anything but full

Don't carry a loaded firearm

Don't ford water without first wading through it.

Don't allow the car to be without food

Don't forget the colored goggles [sunglasses].

Don't drive more than 15 mph - springs break

Don't carry good clothes - ship them

Don't forget the camphor ice. The dry air of the west will crack your lips and fingers without it.

Don't drink alkali water

Don't wear new shoes



Lunch & Dinner

APPETIZERS

Mountain Nachos 9.00

Quesadilla 8.00

add chicken/ beef or pork 3.00

Sweet Potato Fries 8.00

Beer Fries 8.00

Onion Rings 8.00

Chili Fries 8.00

Wings: Hot n Spicy/ Honey Mustard/ Teriyaki 9.00

Calamari: lightly breaded served with dill aioli & cocktail sauce 13.00

Soup Cup 5.00 Bowl 7.00

All of our soups are created and prepared fresh here at The Summit...

Calling all Chili Lovers... Cup 6.00 Bowl 8.00

Ask about our award winning Chili!!

Salads:

House Salad sm 5.00 lg 7.00

Our customers call our house salad "a real" salad,
fresh greens and fresh veggies....

Soup and Salad Combo 9.00

Add Chicken 3.00 or Shrimp 6.00 to any of our specialty salads...

Caesar 9.00

Salmon Caesar 14.00

Spicy Blue romaine lettuce/walnuts/spicy chicken/tossed in

blue cheese dressing 12.00 A must for all blue cheese lovers!

Maria's Salad cranberries/candied walnuts/blue cheese

tossed in raspberry vinaigrette 9.00

Spinach Salad feta/ mandarin oranges/ red onions/

candied walnuts tossed in a bacon vinaigrette 9.00

Wrap any salad with chicken

Ask for an entré salad and make it a wrap/fries 12..00

Parties of 6 or more will have a gratuity of 18%

Children's
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First Auto Crossing of Donner Summit

Motorized vehicles did not have to wait for the Lincoln Highway to cross Donner Summit.

The first crossing by motorized vehicle was in 1901 when Alexander Winton made the first transcontinental attempt in one of his Winton motor cars. It was an ambitious goal which did not take into account that in May, when he made his attempt, there is still a bit of snow on Donner Summit.

He experienced breakdowns, rescues, driving on snow, and sliding off snowbanks. It took the entire day to get from Cascade to Donner Summit, seventeen miles. Just below the summit the car sank into the soft snow and he gave up for the day. The next day men from the Summit Hotel helped dig him out and they were off to Truckee.

It was not until 1903 that a successful cross country trip was made by automobile.



Pizza

Create your own 14" pizza by choosing any three toppings: pepperoni / italian sausage / ham / onions / bell peppers / olives / mushrooms / tomatoes / artichoke hearts / jalapenos or pineapple 16.00 For chicken add 3.00

14" Cheese Pizza 13.00

14" One Topping Pizza 14.00

14" Hawaiian Pizza w/ ham & pineapple 15.00

14" BBQ Chicken Pizza w/ red onions / bacon / tomatoes & chicken 17.00

14" Veggie Pizza w/ spinach / mushrooms / artichoke hearts / tomatoes & olives 16.00

PASTA

Spinach & Cheese Ravioli topped with our marinara sauce 13.00

Penne Pasta served with chicken/broccoli & Alfredo sauce 14.00

Fettuccini Pasta served with pesto/ artichoke hearts / zucchini & sun dried tomatoes 13.00

Classic Fetticini Alfredo 12.00

Add soup or salad for 4.00

The Summit's Famous Burgers

"voted best Burgers in Tahoe"

Teriyaki Chicken Burger with melted swiss cheese 11.00

Tuscan Chicken Burger Italian herb chicken balsamic vinegar and provolone 11.00

Chili Burger served open face with our award winning chili and the works 14.00

Western Burger topped with BBQ sauce, bacon, cheddar cheese & onion rings 13.00

Blue Cheese Burger topped with sautéed mushrooms & melted bleu cheese 12.00

California Burger topped with spinach, shredded carrots, avocado & cheese 12.00

Patty Melt grilled marble rye, sautéed onions, and swiss cheese 12.00

All burgers come with our house made fries! See below for customizing options...

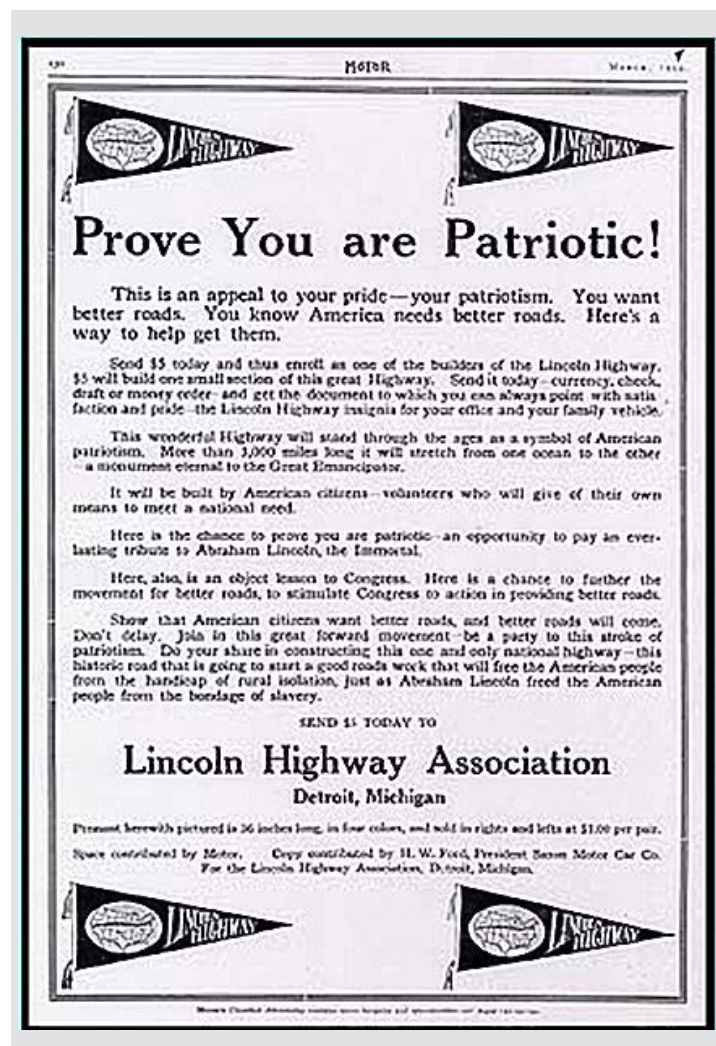
Go for our original and create your own customized burger...

Half-Pound Sirloin Burger, Chicken or Veggie Burger served with fries 10.00

Customizing is our specialty: choose from cheddar, pepper jack, swiss or provolone cheese, bacon, avocado, mushrooms, or caramelized onions all items range between 1.25 to 1.95 - go for it!

Customize your side as well: take away your fries and add sweet potato fries, beer fries, onion rings 3.00 or a salad 4.00.

Parties of 6 or more will have a gratuity of 18%



patriotic call for contributions to the Lincoln Highway



Royal Gorge

Summit Restaurant Catering

We offer catering year-round for big or small events here or at any location in the Tahoe area.

426-3904

California Fresh Grilled Items & More.....

Grilled Salmon on a ciabatta roll/spinach/shredded carrots and a dill aioli 15.00

Fish n Chips 13.00

Pesto Melt on a ciabatta roll/ turkey/ pepper jack cheese & pesto sauce 13.00

Seasonal Veggie Delight: seasonal veggies/ avocado and your choice of cheese 11.00

French Dip created with our own brined roast beef 11.00

Steak Sandwich grilled to perfection topped with mushrooms & onions 15.00

Philly Cheese Steak grilled roast beef/ mushrooms/ bell peppers & onions 11.00

Traditional Ruben served on marble rye 12.00

BLTA served with loads of bacon & Avocado served on multi-grain bread 11.00

Grilled Cheese filled with tomatoes/ avocado/ swiss & cheddar cheese 12.00

Grilled Ham n Cheese served with a spread of honey mustard and all the fixin's 11.00

Traditional Deli Sandwich / Ham / Turkey or Roast beef 10.00

All sandwiches come with fries

Customize your side as well: take away your fries and add sweet potato fries, beer fries, onion rings 3.00 or a salad 4.00.

Add Avocado to any sandwich for 2.00

We purchase all of our breads from a local bread company containing no preservatives or additives, it's a little more work on our part but well worth the flavor! Enjoy...

Parties of 6 or more will have a gratuity of 18%

Inspiration for the Interstate Highway System

It was a trip by Dwight Eisenhower in 1919 that is at least partly responsible for I-80 which also goes over Donner Summit. He was a young lieutenant in 1919 and part of the first transcontinental U.S. Army convoy. The convoy was only able to average 54 miles a day and the experience was so miserable that in his memoirs Eisenhower said that was a motivating factor for his Interstate Highway initiative.



Before the underpass.

When the Lincoln Highway was first put together from existing road segments it included the old road up Donner Pass. That route crossed the railroad tracks and it was tricky going through the snowsheds (above).

Drivers approached the snowsheds and stopped, turning off the auto engine so they could hear better. They got out of their vehicles and opened one of the sliding doors on the side of the shed. They listened for approaching trains. Hearing none they went back to their cars and restarted the engines and drove across the tracks and then alongside the tracks to the sliding door on the other side.

There were a number of accidents and so the underpass, perhaps the first in the nation for autos under a railroad track, was built (below with the snowsheds on top). You can visit the 1914 underpass. Go up Old Highway 40 to Sugar Bowl Rd. which is opposite Donner Ski Ranch. Go past Tunnel 6 and turn left at Old Donner Pass Rd. Follow that up to the parking area and then walk to a sharp bend in the road. That's the trailhead for the Pacific Crest Trail. Instead of taking that trail which goes right, go straight and follow the trail for a quarter of a mile or so until you get to the underpass and great views. You will pass a monument for the Stephens Party, the first wagon train to reach California with wagons. A fun hike is to follow the old Lincoln Highway to Donner Lake.



Dinner

Scott's Famous Teriyaki Chicken
Tender breast of chicken simmered in Scott's teriyaki sauce accompanied by rice 16.00

Chicken or Egg Plant Florentine
Seasoned chicken breast or egg plant topped with a spinach & fresh vegetables sautéed / house red sauce / melted mozzarella accompanied by pasta 17.00

Marinated Grilled Shrimp served over a Beurre Blanc pasta 18.00

Grilled Steak Selection
Ask your server about our hand-cut steak selection Market Price

Grilled Seafood Selection
Ask your server about our fresh seafood availability Market Price

All dinner entrées come with a seasonal vegetables and your choice of soup or salad...

Last Friday of the month is Prime Rib Night!

Parties of 6 or more will have a gratuity of 18%

Thirst Quenchers:

Coffee, Tea & Decafe 2.25

Pepsi, Diet, Sierra Mist, Root Beer, Lemonade and Ice Tea 2.25

Juices 3.75

Milk 3.75

From the Bar
Ask to see our Specialty Drinks Menu, which includes our Wine List

Coors, Coors Light, Bud, Bud Light, Miller Light 3.50

Choose from our wide selection of Premium Drafts 5.00

We also have a full bar so let your imagination go wild....

Don't forget to try "Our Famous Bloody Mary" you don't want to miss it! 8.00

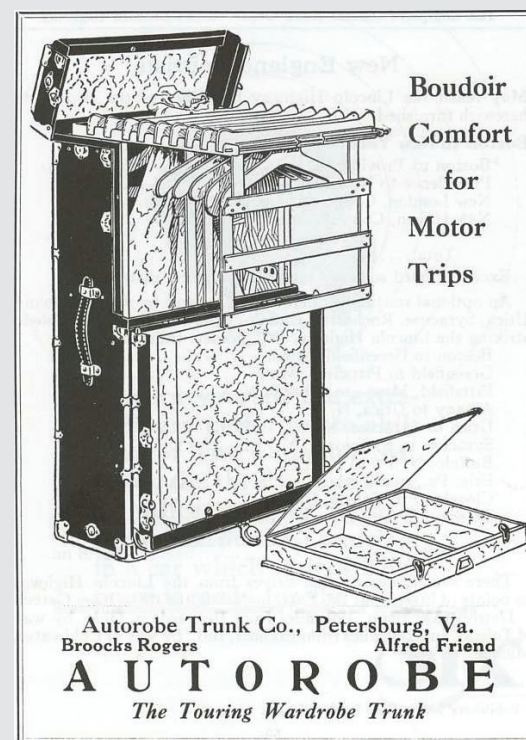
Children's Menu Available on Request



California speed limits

circa 1923 form the Official Guide to the Lincoln Highway:

Speed must be reasonable and proper, not to exceed thirty-five miles in open country where view is unobstructed ahead for a distance of four hundred feet. Restricted to twenty miles speed within residential districts and fifteen miles at intersections....



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Historic photographs courtesy of the Norm Saylor Collection at the Donner Summit Historical Society at the blinking light in Soda Springs
 www.donnertsummithistoricalsociety.org