

# Self Guided Tour – 1

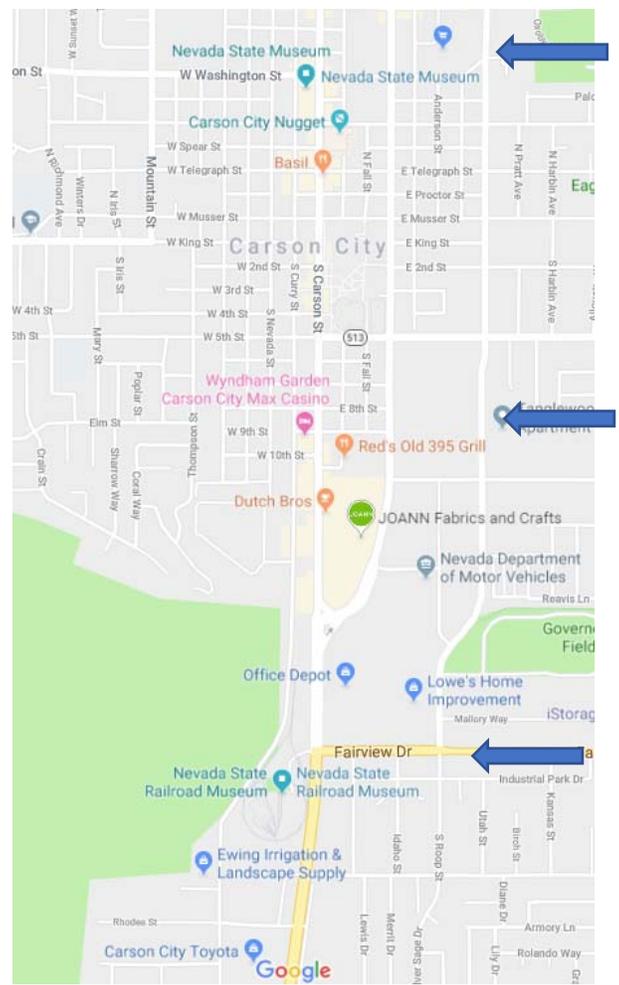
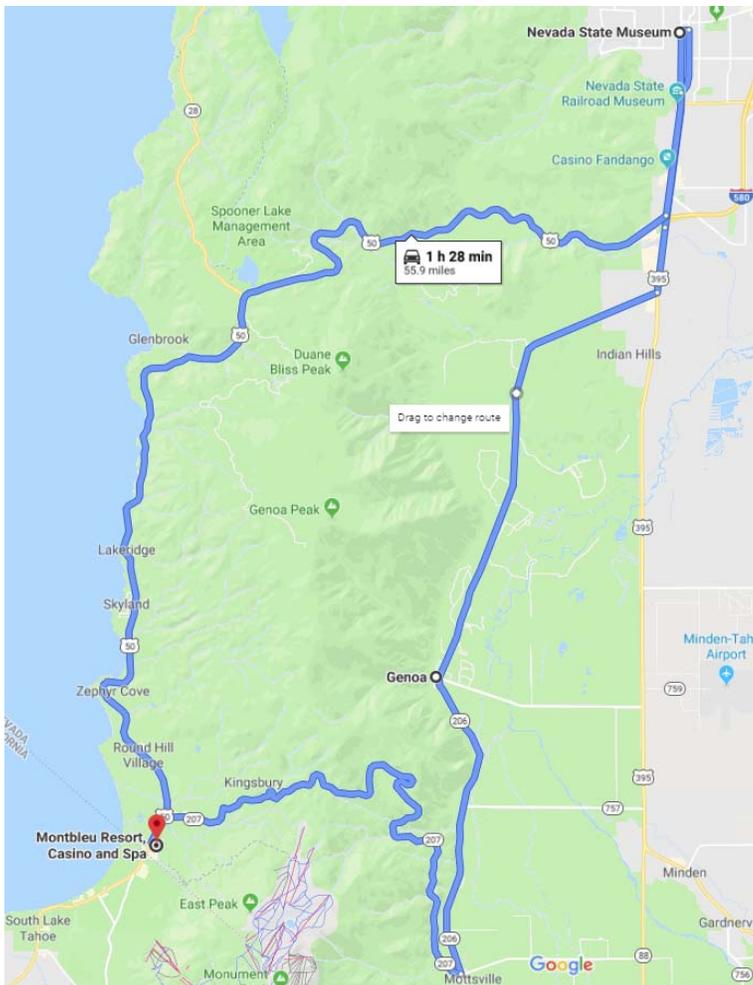
## Half Day Trip: Genoa, Carson City, Nevada, and return via Spooner Summit

Total Distance: ~ 50 miles

- Leave the Montbleu hotel. Turn east on US 50
- Right turn at the traffic light onto Nevada 207 (Kingsbury Grade). Go up over the grade and down to the Carson Valley.
- Turn left (north on Nevada 206. Proceed 6 miles to Genoa. (4 miles on right before Genoa is Walley's Resort, Hot Springs & Spa & restaurant)

**Genoa** is Nevada's Oldest Settlement. Genoa is a quaint settlement on the edge of the Sierras surrounding Lake Tahoe. It is home to Mormon Station State Park, and displays antiques and relics of the pioneering days to settle the Old West. A stroll through Genoa will leave the feeling that this town has not changed much since its original existence. Genoa features the oldest bar in Nevada. Scenes from Charlie Varick, starring Walter Matthau were shot here.

- From Genoa continue North on Nevada 206. Turn left (North) onto US 395.
- **Additional alternate stops.** There are two nice museums in Carson City, the Capital of Nevada. The **Nevada State Railroad Museum** (2180 S Carson St, Carson City, NV), and the **Nevada State Museum**, (600 N Carson St, Carson City, NV). **Red's Old 395 Grill** is a great place for **lunch**. (1055 S Carson St, Carson City, NV). They are only a few miles away.
- To visit these museums / lunch, instead of turning on 50 west to South Lake Tahoe (per instructions below), continue down Carson St. When you are ready to return, go back to Hwy 50 and turn right to South Lake Tahoe.
- **Return to Montbleu**
- At the traffic light, turn left, west on US 50 to south Lake Tahoe and cross Spooner Summit and return to S. Lake Tahoe and Montbleu thru Cave Rock and views of Lake Tahoe.



# Self-Guided Tour #2

## Half or Full-Day Trip: Kirkwood Resort/Jackson/Gold Rush Country

### Total Distance: 69, 124 or 185 miles

Leave MontBleu turning west on US 50 towards California/Sacramento.

Turn left at the third traffic light onto Pioneer Trail.

Proceed approximately 7 miles to the end of Pioneer Trail. Turn left (west) on US 50 (Use of Pioneer Trail eliminates the need to drive through South Lake Tahoe, California).

Continue west on US 50/89 for two miles to the roundabout @ the intersection of 50 and 89. Turn left (south) onto California 89. Travel over Luther Pass and into Hope Valley.

Turn right (west) at the "T" intersection of California Route 88.

Proceed 34.5 miles up Carson Pass (el 8652 ft) to the Caples Lake Resort (el 7802) for breakfast or lunch or go past the Caples Lake Dam and stop for lunch at the historic Kirkwood Inn on the right. There is a gas station at the Kirkwood Inn.

The next left is the entrance to the Kirkwood Ski Resort. Great views and several restaurants.

Proceeding west on California 88 up Carson Spur (el 7980 ft) will take you to Jackson (47.7 miles).

At Jackson. take California Route 49 North through Sutter Creek, Amador City, Drytown. Plymouth and other Gold Rush sites and pick up US 50 at Placerville (32.5 miles).

Take US 50 East through the Sierras and over Echo Summit to South Lake Tahoe and the MontBleu. This is a historic trip and Route 49 is full of antique shops.

### Shorter Full Day (124 Miles)

After Kirkwood Resort, proceed west on California 88 up the Carson Spur (el 7980 ft) and proceed about 12 miles on 88, then turn right on Morman Emigrant trail (narrow winding road). Turn Right on SlyPark Road, then right (east) on Hwy 50.

### Half Day Trip ( 69 or 80 miles)

On leaving the Kirkwood resort, turn right (East) on California 88. You can return to South Lake Tahoe by back-tracking via California 89 over Luther Pass (69 miles).

Or continuing east on 88 through Woodfords and onto Nevada Route 88 into the Carson Valley. Look for signs directing you to Lake Tahoe.

Turn left (west), on Mottsville Lane. This will take you to Kingsbury Grade and a return to US 50 just above MontBleu. (80 Mile)

## Self Guided Tour – 3

**Half or Full-Day Trip: Markleeville/Monitor Pass/ Bridgeport/ High Desert**

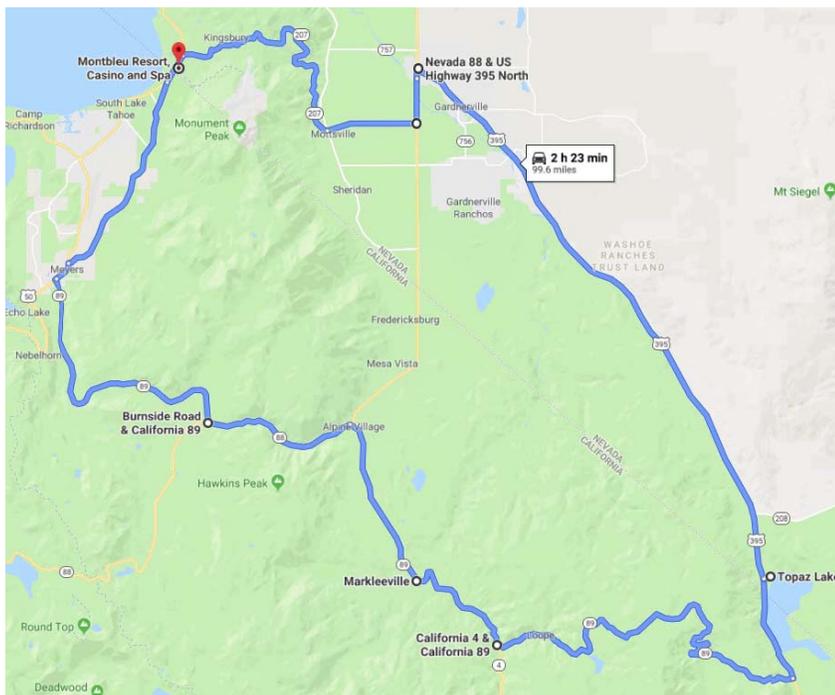
**Total Distance: 100 miles Lake Topaz or 187 miles High Desert**

Go to “T” intersection of California Routes 89 and 88 In the Hope Valley as described in Self-guided Tour #2

- Turn left (east) on 88/89.
- Optional stop at Sorensen's Resort 1 mile down on 88 on the right for breakfast or lunch.
- After two miles, turn right (south) on 89 and continue toward Markleeville (33.6 miles) There are several places for lunch.
- In Markleeville, turn right (west) on Grover Hot Springs Road. There is a picnic area. Grover Hot Springs State Park is in a beautiful valley surrounded by granite-topped mountains. Best known for its mineral hot springs, the park also has a variety of hiking trails and fishing areas along Hot Springs Creek.
- Return to Lake Tahoe on California 89 to make this a **half-day** trip.
- Continue south on 89 for twelve miles to intersection of California Route 4. Go left on 89 and over Monitor Pass (8313 feet). This a steep slog. Don't get in back of a camper. Good views.
- At the US 395 intersection on the other side of the pass, turn left (north) and follow US 395. Optional stop at Stop at Topaz Lake, Nevada for sandwiches and gas. Or continue on 395 for 27 miles through Gardnerville and Minden.
- Turn left (south) on Nevada 88 for approximately 4 miles and then turn right on Mottsville Lane and return to MontBleu over Kingsbury Grade. (This tour is about 100 miles)

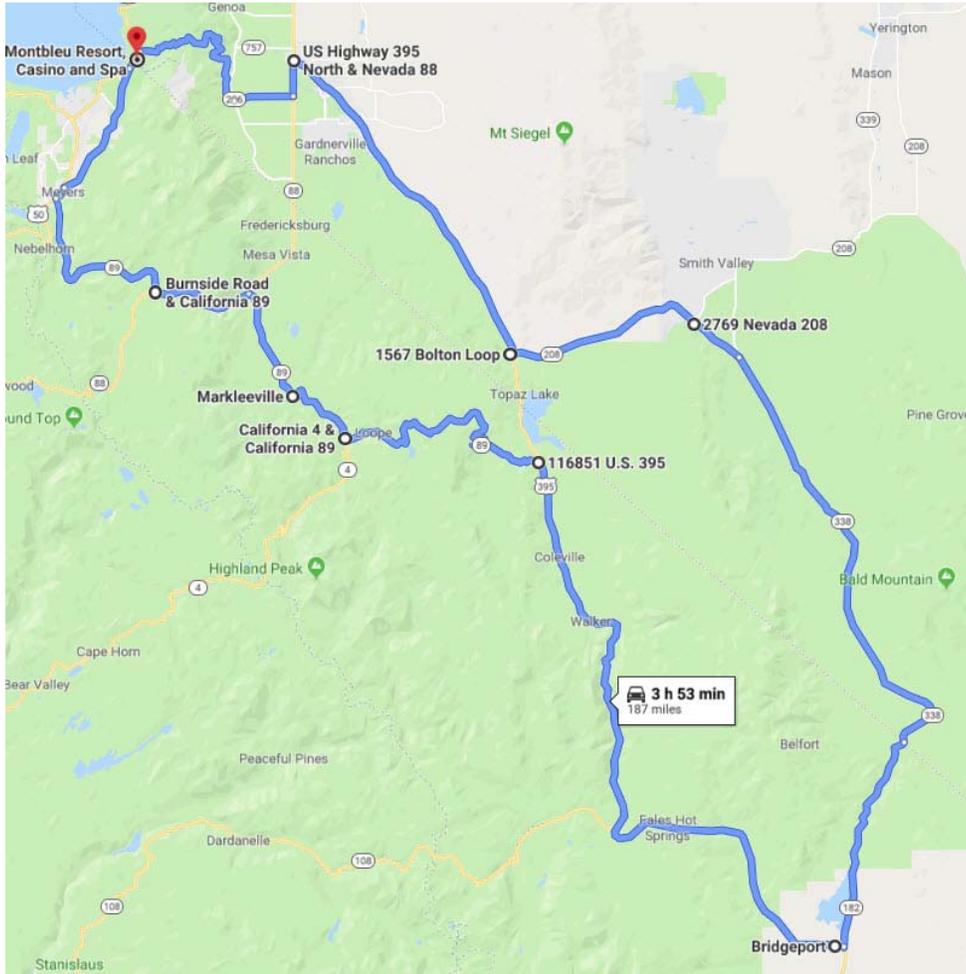
### High Desert Loop

- If you want the longer drive, turn right (south) on US 395 after you come down off Monitor Pass instead of going to Lake Topaz above.
- Go south 41 miles to Bridgeport. Turn Left (east) on California 182 to Nevada 338 to Nevada 208. This is a 43-mile run that takes you through the High Desert and back to US 395 just above Topaz Lake.
- Use the instructions above to go thru Gardnerville and Minden on 395 and return to MontBleu via 88, Mottville Lane and Kingsbury Grade.



100 mile Lake Topaz loop

# Self Guided Tour – 3



187 Mile High Desert Loop

## Self-Guided Tour #4

### Full Day Trip: Mono Lake or Scenic Return to Southern California

- Leave MontBleu; Turn east on US 50 to the second traffic light. Go right on Nevada 207 (Kingsbury Grade). Continue straight ahead at the 4-way stop at the bottom of Kingsbury Grade. Turn left (north) on Nevada 88.
- Approximately 2 miles turn right (South) on US 395.
  
- Follow US 395 South 87 miles to Mono Lake. Stop at Conway Summit (8138 feet) for a magnificent view of the Mono Lake and the Owens Valley. Return to MontBleu is the reverse of the above directions.

On the way to Mono Lake, facilities are available at:

#### TOPAZ LAKE

Topaz Lake is feed by the famous West Walker river. well known for it's great fishing from the last Saturday of April through the last day of October.

#### BRIDGEPORT

The main attraction of the Bridgeport area is the western flavor. Architecture bears the signature of the pioneers who settled here over a hundred years ago. The vast range lands allow one to get into wide-open spaces, just as in the "old days." Events such as

the Bridgeport Rodeos allow one to experience life in the old west. Recreation in the area includes fishing, hiking, biking, climbing and backcountry skiing.

### SIDE TRIP: BODIE STATE PARK

**(3 miles of dirt road. An entry fee is charged for each vehicle.)**

This is an original California ghost town, and gives you a good idea of what it was like to live in a mining boom town. The California State Park System keeps the town in a state of "arrested decay"-they don't do anything to save the town, but they do keep it from disappearing. Bodie is located 21 miles from Bridgeport (7 miles south on Highway 395, turn left, 10 miles on paved road, then 3 miles on dirt road to Bodie).

Tours of the Standard Mill are available. The museum is open during the summer months

#### LEE VINING

Lee Vining is just past Mono Lake and is the Gateway to Yosemite and nearby Mono Lake. Restaurants, gas, and other facilities.

#### MONO LAKE

Mono Lake is very unique. For starters, it's old--at least 700,000 years old and one of the oldest continuously existing lakes on the continent. Fed by huge glaciers during the last Ice Age. Mono Lake was 60 times larger than the 66 square miles it covers today . Mono Lake is naturally salty and alkaline because it has no outlet. The only way water leaves is via evaporation .

The City of Los Angeles, hundreds of miles to the south, has been diverting water from the Mono Basin since 1941. That diversion has cut the lake volume in half and has doubled its alkalinity and salinity. An extended court fight has finally stopped the water diversion and Mono

## Self-Guided Tour #4

Lake is once again growing--albeit slowly. Mono Lake is a geologist's paradise. It is ringed by volcanoes--new and old. Two of the islands on the lake are volcanic domes. Perhaps the most intriguing of Mono Lake's phenomena are the tufa (pronounced "toofah'?) towers visible along much of the shoreline. Tufa are made from calcium carbonate which makes its way into the lake from underground springs. The calcium and carbonate combine to form limestone which builds up over time around the lake bottom spring openings. Declining lake levels have exposed the tufa towers we see today. The Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Visitor Center is located on US 395, just north of Lee Vining.

### **JUNE LAKE**

Continue South from Lee Vining 5 miles to June Lake Road. Beautiful glacial lakes.

- Return to Lake Tahoe via US 395 to Minden, Nevada 88 south and the Kingsbury Grade to Stateline .

Those returning to Southern California can continue south on US 395 through the Owens Valley through Bishop and Independence and past the Manzanar Historic Site, or take the Tioga Pass turn-off just south of Lee Vining and pass through Yosemite National Park to the Central Valley.

# Self-Guided Tour # 6

## Full Day Trip: Truckee/Quincy /Susanville/Reno

This trip is designed to let you travel as far north as you want and offers five different ways to tour the beautiful area north of Lake Tahoe

### 1. Stateline/Truckee/Reno/Stateline 129.9 miles

Leave MontBleu; Turn east on US 50 to Nevada Route 28 (12.1 miles). Left on 28 through Incline Village and 17.7 miles to Kings Beach. Turn right (north) on California 267 12.6 miles to Truckee (total 42.6miles).

At Truckee pick up Interstate 80 east and go 32.7 miles to Reno. At Reno take US 395 south through Carson City to US 50 West. Go over Spooner Summit and follow 50 back to MontBleu. (Reno to Stateline is 54.8 miles). An alternate would be to take 89 south down the West shore as described in tour #2. This reduces the drive to about 92 miles.

### 2. Stateline / Mt. Rose Highway / Reno / Truckee / West Shore 145 miles

Leave MontBleu; Turn east on US 50 to Nevada Route 28 (12.1 miles). Travel 10.2 miles, turn left on Lake Shore Blvd. Travel 2 miles past the houses on the north Shore, and then turn right on Hwy 28. Travel .5 miles and take the second exit on the roundabout to Hwy 431 to Reno (Mt. Rose Highway). Travel 3.6 miles to the scenic overlook and take in a view of Lake Tahoe and the surrounding area. Continue to Reno and turn left on 580 North. Turn on 80 west , 36.3 miles to 89 South. You can divert to Truckee for lunch, or Donner Memorial Park for a museum tour. Take 89 driving along the Truckee river (only outlet of Lake Tahoe) south to Tahoe City, when you get to the bridge (fanny bridge at the dam), stop for a walk around the dam (east side of the road), tour the basket museum, or continue down the west shore back to 50 and on to Montbleu.

### 3. Stateline/Truckee/Sierraville/Reno/Stateline 177.9 miles

Leave MontBleu as above and drive 42.6 miles to Truckee. Head North from Truckee on California 89 to Sierraville (23.6 miles). Pick up Route 49 north to Route 70 east at Vinton (24.3 miles). Follow 70 east 7.8 miles to Hallelujah Junction and US 395. Follow US 395 south 24.8 miles to Reno. Return to Stateline through Carson City as above (54.8 miles).

### 4. Stateline/Truckee/Sierraville/Quincy/Reno/Stateline 243.3 miles

Drive 42.6 miles to Truckee and pick up 89 North 23.6 miles to Sierraville. Continue North 23.4 miles to Blairsden. Pick up California Route 70/89 at Blairsden and proceed 20.8 miles to Quincy. Return 20.8 miles to Junction of Route 70 at Blairsden. Take 70

East 33.1 miles to Hallelujah Junction and US 395. Return on US 395 to Reno (24.8 miles) and on to Stateline as above (54.8 miles).

### 5. Stateline/Truckee/Sierraville/Quincy/Lake Almanor/Susanville/Reno/Stateline 323.7 miles

Proceed to Quincy as above (109.8 miles). Continue north 13.3 miles on 70/89 to Paxton (past the famous Keddie Wye). At Paxton pick up 89 north and go 20.9 miles to Canyon Dam and California Route 147. Take 147 north 11.8 miles along the east shore of Lake Almanor to the junction of California 36. Proceed east on Route 36 through Susanville (24.6 miles) to junction of US 395 (5 miles). At Susanville take US 395 south to Reno (84.5 miles) and return to Stateline from Reno via 395 and US 50 as above.

# Self-Guided Tour # 6

## **Truckee California**

Truckee is located below the crest of Donner Pass on Interstate 80. A major railroad center during the construction of the first transcontinental railroad, Truckee is surrounded by history and gives you a glimpse of the old west as well as an array of distinctive shops and restaurants. The Donner Memorial Museum is also close by.

## **Quincy California**

Quincy is the Plumas County seat and is tucked at the edge of the lush American Valley midway between Oroville and Reno at the top of the Feather River Canyon. Quincy is known for its attractive downtown buildings that have been made the focus of preservation and restoration. The four-story courthouse building on Main Street is perhaps oddly out of place in this small town of 5000. The Plumas County Museum is located behind the building.

## **Lake Almanor**

The largest lake in Plumas County, Lake Almanor provides good year-round fishing and other forms of recreation. Surface temperatures during the summer rise to about 75 degrees, making the lake ideal for a variety of water sports. In the surrounding area, there are many streams, such as Yellow Creek, a favorite for catch-and-release fly fishermen.

## **Reno**

The World's Biggest Little City. Drive into downtown Reno off 395 and visit the National Auto Museum or check out the downtown area. Reno is growing up fast but it still retains a whiff of the frontier.

## **Carson City**

Nevada's territorial and state capital has a rich and colorful frontier past. Carson City was founded as a community in 1858 and is named for the nearby Carson River, which in turn was named after Christopher "Kit" Carson. The city was soon designated the territorial capital and State Capital. In 1864 when President Lincoln, recognizing the importance of Nevada's silver and gold to the Union's Civil War effort, signed the Nevada statehood proclamation. The United States Mint in Carson City was completed in 1869; it is today the site of the Nevada State Museum.

The Nevada State Railroad Museum, featuring several restored locomotives from the defunct Virginia & Truckee Railroad, are on display as well as rolling stock from that railroad and from other historic railroads in the area.

