

South Shore Rock



Figure 1: A View From the Top of South Shore Rock.

This hike takes one to the top of the South Shore Rock, which is the prominent rock that runs most of the way up to the top of the ridge on the south side of Pinecrest Lake. A panoramic view from the top of the rock is shown in Figure 1. There are two approaches to the top of the rock. We will describe each of these approaches below.

In Figure 2, a view of the hike track is shown. The South Shore Rock can be seen at the top right of this picture. This track is available as a .kmz file on the FOP website.



Figure 2: The Track of the Hike.

The first approach to the rock is at the intersection of Sugar Pine Avenue, Fir Drive, and Tuolumne Trail. This intersection is 200 yards south of the east end of the Pinecrest Campground. It is labeled in Figure 2 as “(Start)”. This intersection is at the bottom of what used to be called “Karl’s Ski Hill.” One should walk south between the large pile of rocks and a cabin. One will quickly come across a trail that bends to the left and starts heading up. There are several switchbacks on this part of the trail. In Figure 2, one can see that there is a small swale that extends to the northeast. The northern edge of this swale is a small ridge; most of the first part of this hike is along this ridge. However, if one loses the trail, one can continue northeast, keeping the swale on the right, until it ends. The spur to the top of the rock comes off of the trail very soon thereafter. There are many ducks (two or more rocks in a stack) along the trail to mark it.

At .25 miles (from the start of the hike), one should bear left. At .59 miles, one should turn a little towards the left and then go along the top of the small ridge that was mentioned above. At .67 miles, there is a duck on the left that marks a trail coming up from the lake (we will not describe this trail here). At .70 miles, just after a cut-through log, the trail makes a right-hand turn around a cedar tree. At .76 miles, turn left at a three-rock duck and proceed up the rocky ridge. At 1.01 miles, one arrives at the intersection of this trail and the spur that goes to the top of the rock. A photo of this intersection is shown in Figure 3.



Figure 3: The Beginning of the Spur.

Note the stump in the foreground. There are also several small logs that have been placed on each side of the beginning of the spur. This intersection can be seen in Figure 2 at the point where the trail changes direction from east to southeast. In Figure 4, we show the view looking southeast from the intersection. Note that the trail becomes much steeper at this point.



Figure 4: The Trail East of the Intersection With the Spur.

The spur goes north from the intersection and is fairly easy to follow. After a short while, the spur enters a large area of manzanita. The trail has been cleared through this manzanita. In Figure 5, a pair of intrepid hikers is shown traversing this stretch of trail. The spur ends at the top of South Shore Rock.

Upon returning to the intersection, one can continue to the southeast to Dodge Ridge Road. The distance from the intersection to the top of the ridge is .09 miles. At the top of the ridge, one comes across a very large cut-through log. This log is shown in Figure 6.



Figure 5: Through the Manzanita.



Figure 6: The Log at the Top of the Ridge.

If one continues about ten yards past the log, one can see Dodge Ridge Road to the right. The trail angles down towards the road with several ducks along it. When the road is reached, one can see an electrical transmission line crossing the road just to the east. This line provides power to the Dodge Ridge Ski Area. The track in Figure 2 proceeds down the access road that runs along this line. This access road leads to Camp Chinquapin. The track crosses Dodge Ridge Road and goes down Crestview Avenue. It then goes through the forest for about .2 miles and hits Sugar Pine Avenue. From there, it is easy to get to the lake.

The hike described above entails about 600 feet of climbing from the lake. We now describe an alternative that requires much less climbing. One should drive up Dodge Ridge Road past the two switchbacks seen in Figure 2. One should continue another quarter mile, until one sees an electrical transmission line crossing the road. Just before the transmission line is reached, one should park on the right. The view from this parking spot is shown in Figure 7.



Figure 7: The View From the Parking Spot.

One should walk into the clearing shown in Figure 7, and then angle up to the left (there are several ducks along this trail). At the top of the ridge, which is only about 50 feet above Dodge Ridge Road, it should be easy to find the cut-through log shown in Figure 6. If one proceeds to the left through the cut and continues .09 miles, one will find the intersection with the spur to the top of the rock. The rest of this version of the hike is the same as in the first version.