

Split Mountain (14,058)

Route 1. West Side. Class 3-4 up ribs and chutes.

Route 2. Northwest Shoulder. Class 2.

Route 3. North Side. From Lake 11,599 (northwest of the peak) climb to the saddle between Prater and Split; then ascend class 2 talus to the summit.

Route 4. From the East. Class 3. From Red Lake walk northwest to the ridge between the two northern glaciers shown on the topo map. Follow this ridge to the saddle north of the peak. Then follow Route 3.

Route 5. Southeast Side. From a point high in the cirque east of Peak 13,803 climb the slope to the south summit of Split. A class 3 descent is made into the notch between the peaks—the north summit is an easy walk from here.

Peak 13,803 (0.5 SSW of Split Mm.)

A steep class 3-4 couloir lies on the southeast wall.

Cardinal Mountain (13,397)

From Taboose Pass climb either the southwest spur or a chute to its right. Class 2.

Peak 12,851 (1 SW of Cardinal Mtn.) The ascent from Taboose Pass is very easy.

ROPER pg 252 (and forward) HIGH SIERRA Pinchot Pass Area

Arrow Peak (12,958)

The northeast spur provides an enjoyable class 3 route; a few knife-edge ridges must be traversed en route. The southeast slope has been climbed: from the false summit to the south climb a knife-edge ridge to the true summit. Another route begins from Bench Lake and ascends to the saddle 0.4 mile east of the top. A talus slope leads upward from here.

Arrow Ridge (12,188) Class 1 from Arrow Peak.

Peak 12,000+ (0.5 SE of Bench Lake)

A low-angle apron on the northwest side of this peak has many technical-climbing possibilities. One route, called Bench Lake Boogie, has been done so far. Start climbing in a deceptively easy-looking, left-facing open book and follow it for two pitches. A few more pitches lead to the unroping point. III, 5.9.

Peak 12,285 (0.75 NW of Goodale Mtn.)

From the lake a mile southeast of Taboose Pass climb the class 3 west slope.

Goodale Mountain (12,790)

The class 3 summit rocks of this peak can be reached via the east slope (class 1) or from the saddle to the west (class 2).

Striped Mountain (13,120+)

The northeast and east slopes, reached from Taboose Pass, are class 2. The west ridge is class 2.

Peak 12,720+ (1 SW of Striped Mtn.)

Both the northwest ridge and the southeast ridge have been climbed; the latter is class 3.

Peak 13,259 (0.6 S of Striped Mtn.)

The south slopes and east ridge combination is class 2. The north face has been done and is class 3.

Peak 4043m 13,259ft;
0.6 mi S of Striped Mountain

First ascent September 26, 1965 by Ed Lane and Gary Lewis, via the class 3 north face. The class 2 east ridge from Goodale Creek was climbed June 9, 1968 by Tom Ross, Ellen Siegal, Bill Schuler, and Andy Smatko.

Peak 3905m 12,720 ft+;
0.9 mi SW of Striped Mountain

First ascent July 23, 1939 by Madi Bacon and Tom Noble, via an unknown route. The northwest ridge is class 3. The class 3 east face was climbed by Tom Ross, Bill Schuler, and Andy Smatko on September 13, 1970.

Striped Mountain (4017 m; 13,120 ft+)

From *Taboose Pass*. Class 2. First ascent July 1905 by George Davis. First winter ascent late 1960s by Tom Ross. Head southeast from Taboose Pass to the cirque between Striped Mountain and Goodale Mountain. Climb the northeast slope to the summit.

West Ridge. Class 2. First ascent August 1, 1948 by Fred L Jones. This ridge is most easily climbed on its northern side.

From *Goodale Creek*. Class 2. First ascent August 11, 1948 by Fred L. Jones. Climb to the saddle between

Striped Mountain and Goodale Mountain from Goodale Creek. Ascend the east slope of the peak to the summit. This route was originally climbed from the Woods Creek drainage, which crosses the Sierra crest east of Peak 4043m (13,259 ft); this variation is class 3.

Goodale Mountain 3893 m; 12,790 ft *West Slope*. Class 2. First ascent July 23, 1939 by Norman Clyde, Allan MacRae, and Albion J. Whitney. First winter ascent January 12, 1969 by Jim Jenkins, Art Wester, and Ed Lane. Climb to the saddle between Goodale Mountain and Striped Mountain from either Taboose Pass or Goodale Creek. The summit block is class 3.

East Slope. Class 2. This is a long climb from the Owens Valley. The starting point is between Taboose Creek and Goodale Creek.

Peak 3744m 12,285ft;
0.8 mi NW of Goodale Mountain

The class 3 west face of this peak was climbed on September 18, 1970 by Andy Smatko, Bill Schuler, and Tom Ross.

Taboose Pass is the shortest of the three trails leading to the Sierra crest (6¼ miles, 5,972 feet of gain), but it seems to be in the desert all the way to the summit of the pass. On the other hand, the view from the summit is outstanding, and it will rejuvenate any hiker who has just ascended its barren east side.

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Peak 3917m 12,551 ft; 1.0 mi SW of Cardinal Mountain

First ascent August 5, 1945 by A. J. Reyman, via the class 1 southeast ridge.

Cardinal Mountain 4083 m; 13,397 ft

First ascent August 11, 1922 by George Downing, Jr. Ascend a chute on the south side of the mountain from the vicinity of Taboose Pass. The chute is class 2, and it is filled with disagreeably loose rock.

The east ridge from Stecker Bench is class 2, and was first climbed February 7, 1971 by Tom Ross.

County *Line*. Class 2. First ascent 1993 by Paul Richins and his daughter, Sierra Richins. Head northwest from Taboose Pass to the spur ridge that is to the east of Lake 3620m+ (11,840 ft+). Follow this ridge to the north and then to the northeast to some towers. Move to the southern side of the ridge crest, then traverse across three or four gullies before climbing back onto the crest. Follow the ridge to the summit.

Peak 4180m+ 13,803ft;
0.5 mi SSW of Split Mountain

Southeast Couloir. Class 4. First ascent October 3, 1965 by Gary Lewis and Ed Lane. Hike up the south branch of Red Mountain Creek and head for a huge pillar on the southeast side of the peak. Ascend the couloir just west of this pillar. The couloir is blocked at one point; this obstacle is easily bypassed by a short class 4 move on its right side. The couloir goes

west and then southwest to the summit rocks.

Horseshoe Ridge. Class 4. First ascent August 28, 1989 by Steve Porcella and Cameron Burns. Gain the crest of the northwest ridge immediately west of Lake 3650m (11,599ft) and follow it south, southeast, and east to the summit. Most of this ridge is class 3, but a few class 4 sections are encountered where the ridge gradually turns to the east. The first-ascent party traversed the peak and continued on to Split Mountain via its south ridge.

Split Mountain 4280 m+; 14,058 ft This mountain was once known as "South Palisade." It is easily identified from the Owens Valley by the large East Couloir, which leads to the notch between its two summits. The north summit is the high point. After Mount Whitney, this is the easiest 14,000-foot peak in the Sierra. First ascent July 1887 by Frank Saulque and party, via an unknown route.

Further Reading: Stephen F. Porcella and Cameron M. Burns. *Climbing California's Fourteeners*. Seattle: The Mountaineers Books, 1998, pp. 134-147.

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Split Mountain (14,058)

This peak was formerly known as the South Palisade. Information collected by Chester Versteeg reveals that Split Mountain was climbed in July, 1887, by Frank Saulque and four others, probably by Route 1.

Route 1. North ridge. Class 2. First recorded ascent July 23, 1902, by Joseph N. LeConte, Helen G. LeConte and Curtis M. Lindley. From Lake 11,599 proceed east to the saddle north of the peak. The U.S. Geological Survey took horses and mules to the saddle in 1943. Ascend the easy north slope to the summit.

Route 2. Northwest shoulder. Class 2. First ascent by Norman Clyde, date unknown. He states only that the shoulder is class 2.

Route 3. West face. Class 3. First descent by Norman Clyde, date unknown. He came directly down the west face, keeping to the ribs instead of the chutes due to drop-offs. Clyde states that the peak can be climbed by this route. It is class 3, with class 4 if the best route isn't chosen.

Route 4. From east. Class 3. From Red Mountain Lake east of Split Mountain go northwest to the ridge east of the saddle. Ascend this, which is rubbly, to the saddle. The last few hundred feet of the ridge are class 3. Red Mountain Lake is reached by a trail following the north slope of the creek from the road end.

The first gendarme south of the summit affords several hundred feet of class 3. First ascended by Norman Clyde and Jules Eichorn, date unknown.

Route 5. South-southeast slopes. Class 3. Ascend the south-southeast slope to the south summit of Split; class 2 to 3. Then descend (class 3) to the saddle between the south and main summit. From there it is an easy walk to the summit.

Peak 13,803 (0.5 SSW of Split Mountain)

First recorded ascent on October 3, 1965, by Ed Lane and Gary Lewis. They found a cairn. The ascent was via a steep class 3 to 4 couloir cleaving the southeast wall of the peak.

Cardinal Mountain (13,397)

Class 2. First ascent August 11, 1922, by George Downing, Jr. From Taboose Pass ascend either the southwest spur or the chute slightly to the east. A narrow, pinnacled stretch, which must be traversed if the southwest spur is followed, is bypassed by using the chute.

Cardinal Mountain can be easily ascended from Stecker's Bench on the north side of Taboose Creek, to which a trail leads from the end of the road on Red Mountain Creek.

Voge/Smatko Pg 250 (and forward) HIGH SIERRA

Peak 12,905 (1.15 SSE of Taboose Pass)

First ascent unknown. The northwest ridge, north slopes and northeast ridge are class 2.

Striped Mountain (13,120+)

First ascent July, 1905, by George R. Davis, route unknown.

Route 1. From Taboose Pass. Class 2. From Taboose Pass proceed southeast to a lake north of the mountain and ascend either the northeast or east slopes. This is probably the route of first ascent.

Route 2. West ridge. Class 2. First ascent August 1, 1948, by Fred L. Jones. In climbing by this route follow the drainage above the twin lakes west of Striped Mountain, keeping well up on the north slope. Any of several chutes on the southwest face of the mountain lead to the summit plateau, though some are more difficult than others.

Route 3. From Woods Creek. Class 3. First ascent August 11, 1948, by Fred L. Jones. From the lake east of Mount Pinchot ascend the west slope of the crest to the junction of the ridge running east between two forks of Goodale Creek. Descend a steep, narrow chute to the head of the north fork of Goodale Creek. Ascend an easy chute to the saddle between Goodale and Striped mountains, from which either can easily be climbed. The route is class 3 to Goodale Creek and class 2 from there.

Peak 13,259 (*0.55 S of Striped Mountain*)

First ascent unknown. Ed Lane and Gary Lewis climbed the north face on September 26, 1965. Class 3. Andy Smatko, Bill Schuler, Ellen Siegal and Tom Ross climbed the south face and east ridge on June 9, 1968. Class 2. The name Snowdrift Peak was proposed because of the prominent snowdrift near the summit.

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Peaks East of the Crest

Peak 12,285 (*0.75 NNW of Goodale Mountain*)

First ascent on September 18, 1970, by Andy Smatko, Bill Schuler and Tom Ross via the class 3 west face. The name Red-wind Peak was suggested because of the mountain's color and the extremely windy conditions of the first ascent.

Goodale Mountain (*12,790*)

Route 1. From the west. Class 2, except for class 3 summit rocks. First recorded ascent July 23, 1939, by Norman Clyde, Allan A. MacRae, and Albion J. Whitney. Apparently they climbed it from the saddle to the west. This saddle can be reached easily from Taboose Pass.

Route 2. From Woods Creek. Class 3. First ascent August 1, 1948, by Fred L. Jones. For details see Route 3 up Striped Mountain. From the saddle to the east the class 2 west slope is followed.

Route 3. East slope. Class 1. The east slope of Goodale Mountain can be climbed from the road ends between Taboose and Goodale creeks, and apparently has been by deer hunters.