

Lone Mountain Route

Time: 1 hour, 40 minutes

Distance: 110 miles roundtrip

Please note, after leaving the Elko area, there are no gas stations along this route.

Description:

With the rugged Ruby Mountains soaring above Elko to the south, this ride offers another view of the region's beautiful wide valleys and high sage plateaus. One of the most scenic portions of this route will be the return ride when you'll be facing stunning mountain vistas.

Directions:

Take Idaho Street west to Mountain City Highway (Hwy 225) north. You'll be heading into the foothills, surrounded by wide expanses of mostly barren sage scrublands, dotted with occasional ranches. Entering Adobe pass brings you into several miles of winding turns before you reach it's summit (elevation 6,549 ft). As the elevation gains, you reach high desert plateaus ringed by mountains. At Mile 25, you'll pass the historic stone Dinner Station on your left, a reminder of Nevada's boom period when stage coaches and eventually automobiles stopped at this popular inn on their way north.

At Mile 27, turn left on to Highway 226, heading towards the Independence Mountains. At this junction, you'll find a welcome oasis at the Lone Mountain Station Restaurant and Bar. The establishment has a big fireplace, billiard tables, a vintage wrap-around bar and tasty bar foods including wings, burgers, fries and sandwiches.

Continuing west on Highway 226, vistas are hilly as the valley narrows with outcroppings along the road before widening again. You'll arrive at the ghost town of Taylor where about all that remains is the Taylor Canyon Club. Amenities here include a rustic saloon, dance hall and store as well as an attorney should the need for legal services arise. The terrain now becomes Big Sky Country surrounded by mountains, plains and ranches. This route ends at the Tuscarora turn-off.

Detour: Unfortunately for bikers, the road to the ghost town of Tuscarora is not paved and therefore not recommended. If you decide to risk it, you'll find a tiny community and the world-renown Tuscarora Pottery School that attracts students from around the world for its summer workshops. The town is also home to a jeweler, painter and other artists, some of whom have open studios if they happen to be home.

