



Destination: Broken Top

Elevation: 9175ft

Route: Northwest ridge via Green Lakes TH

Distance: ~12.5mi (round trip)

Elevation gain: 3700ft

Rating: R1, Grade II

Date: Sept 10, 2023

Leader: Christopher Leesman

Observing Leader: Mason Smith

Assistant: TBD

Driving mileage: 310(round trip)

Roster: Up to 12

Description

(From summit post) As stated in "Fire Mountains of the West" Broken Top is a Pleistocene composite cone comprised of basaltic andesite. Ravaged by the collapse of its magma chamber and subsequent razings by glaciation; the resulting mountain is one of the more rugged and picturesque of the Three Sisters Wilderness in central Oregon. With a summit elevation 1000 feet lower than the adjoining Three Sisters Broken Top has just two dwindling glaciers remaining, the Bend Glacier on the north side and the Crook Glacier within the crater. Although geologically this is one of the older cascade peaks, according to the USGS website Broken Top is younger than North Sister but has likely not seen an eruption in the last 100,000 years. Climbing Broken Top: The Northwest Ridge route is the easiest and can be done within a day from the Green Lakes / Fall Creek trailhead, or the Broken Top trailhead a short distance north of Todd Lake on FS380. Once you've reached the climbers path up the Northwest Ridge you will find sections with significant exposure, however the most difficult climbing involved is fourth to low fifth class. With that stated, do not be surprised to find climbers protecting the entirety of the route up and across the summit block.

Expectations:

Be proficient hiking up steep talus. Some rock will be unstable.

Be proficient with tying a prusik loop to ascend a fixed line

Route will be 4th class with exposure. No snow should be expected.

Be able to rappel. Consider a backup.

Logistics:

We will plan for the 9th, but may need to use the 10th depending on availability of permits. Some may consider camping nearby as leader will be. We will discuss closer to the climb.

Directions (see next page for details)

22 West, merge on 20 west

In Bend, merge on 97 South

Colorado Ave Exit in Bend, navigate onto Century Dr towards Mt. Bachelor.

Cascade Lakes Highway West to Green Lakes TH.



Route Description:

Most climbers choose to summit Broken Top via the Northwest Ridge and are presented with several choices at the landing below the summit block. Many climbers opt to protect this last section to the summit as exposure anywhere around the summit block is significant, use best judgment and be safe. Catwalk Route Probably the most popular route on the summit block is via the catwalk. The first obstacle along this route is a 10-15 foot tall solid basalt band with a five inch vertical crack that offers a fairly straightforward approach to the series of ledges and catwalks that can be scrambled most of the way to the mountaintop. Parts of this route are described as 5th class and should not be taken lightly. This initial band of basalt is technically the most difficult part of this path, but the following ledges are very exposed. After climbing that first band of rock, you will find yourself on a wide ledge followed by a much narrower ledge that leads within several feet of the summit. The final 15 feet of this route is a rock-climb with significant exposure off the west face, leading to a smallish summit. Seen in the pictures below, left to right is the initial band of rock at the landing, the catwalk, and the final 15 feet to the summit.

Itinerary

6:45 AM – Arrive at Trailhead (Green lakes @5443ft)
7:15 AM – Depart Trailhead
8:15 AM - @2.0mi Moraine Lake Trail
9:45 AM – @4.5mi Green Lakes
12:00 PM Start technical climb/traverse
12:30 PM – Summit! Pics and lunch
1:00 PM - Rappel
1:30 PM – Begin descent
2:30 PM – Green Lakes
4:15 PM – Trailhead and more high-fives, summit certificates, and cheers!

3 hr 11 min (155 miles)



via OR-22 E/Santiam Hwy SE and US-20 E

Fastest route now due to traffic conditions

Salem Motor Pool

1100 Airport Rd SE, Salem, OR 97301

- > Take Airport Rd SE to Mission St SE

1 min (0.3 mi)

- > Follow OR-22 E/Santiam Hwy SE and US-20 E to NW Colorado Ave in Bend. Take exit 138 from US-97 S/Bend Pkwy

2 hr 33 min (129 mi)

- ✓ Follow SW Century Dr and Cascade Lakes National Scenic Byway to your destination

41 min (25.8 mi)

- ➔ Turn right onto NW Colorado Ave

0.9 mi

- 🌀 At the traffic circle, take the 2nd exit onto SW Colorado Ave

0.3 mi

- 🌀 At the traffic circle, continue straight to stay on SW Colorado Ave

0.4 mi

- 🌀 At the traffic circle, take the 3rd exit onto SW Century Dr

0.3 mi

- 🌀 At the traffic circle, take the 2nd exit and stay on SW Century Dr

5.0 mi

- ↑ Continue onto Cascade Lakes National Scenic Byway

⚠️ Parts of this road may be closed at certain times or days

18.7 mi

- ➔ Turn right

0.2 mi



Green Lakes Trailhead

Fall Creek Trail, Oregon 97703



<https://www.gaiagps.com/map/?loc=14.5/-121.7089/44.0820&pubLink=Z3E6hT6AmF83Yk9YQp63io2U&trackId=b9ebe397-c8fc-4b8a-b80d-0055c0ee65d8>

Red Tape

Permits are released daily at 0700 PDT in a 10 and 2 day rolling window in advance of the hiking date. Permits are \$1. I will be getting all for the group when available. A Northwest Forest Pass is required to park at the trailheads, or a one day pass can be picked up at the trailhead for \$5.

<https://www.recreation.gov/ticket/300009/ticket/2003>

Weather:

<https://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=44.0829&lon=-121.6998#.ZAUPqC2B0UE>

<https://www.mountain-forecast.com/peaks/Broken-Top/forecasts/2797>

Back Up Plans:

If weather, fire, or smoke forces us to cancel, I will try and offer a backup climb somewhere we can find good conditions.

Personal Gear Required

Helmet	GPS and/or Map	Headlamp (extra set of batteries)	10 essentials not noted elsewhere
Harness	Prusiks-Waist & Leg	Personal Pro	Belay/rappel device
3 Lockers	3 Non-lockers	Sunglasses	First aid kit, Blue bags, Sunscreen, lip balm
Water - 3L (can get water at GL, but be fast!)	Food - snacks and lunch		
Sun hat	Base layer top/bottom (weather)	Mid layer top/bottom	Waterproof shell top
Warm jacket dep on weather			
IF CAMPING			
Cooking gear (stove/fuel)	Tent or bivy	Sleeping bag	Sleeping pad

Personal Gear (Optional)

Trekking pole(s)	Gaiters	Camera	Light gloves
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Group Gear: Leader will bring or delegate to others:

Rope(s) 60m	Radios (dependent on team size)	Trad rack	
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Climb Team:

Name	Status	Phone	Emergency Name	Emergency #
Christopher Leesman	Leader (provisional)	541.602.5281	Tara Helland	541.602.6224
Mason Smith	Leader (observing)	(971) 218-4289	Matt Smith	458-292-6784
Tracy Lenee Bluhm	Climber	541-220-0658	Britt Crawford	415-666-6523
Patrick Riley	Climber	971.279.6640	Katie Riley	360 391 8837
Deeshi Donnally	Climber	503-572-9864	Tom Donnelly	503-572-9866
Kaitlin S	Climber	503-804-0089	Mary Lockamy	503-539-7082
Theresa Palid	Climber	715.587.3594	Jayne Villamizar	503.961.0099
Anna Kawa	Climber	3014615053	Laurie Kawa	3012548844
Shonee Langford	Climber/Assist	503-807-2082	Sierra Langford	503-803-0459
Chris Salaz	Climber	(503) 871-0288	Josie Salaz	503-999-0825
Adam Paszkowski	Climber	971-252-8651	Piotr Paszkowski	48-660-407-138

Contact

Information Center:	Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District 63095 Deschutes Market Road Bend, OR 97701 (541) 383-5300
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Map

