

1109

Old Ridge Route

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The old Ridge Route remains closed except for a 7 mile stretch on the north. To access this portion, transition from I-5 onto CA 138 which is located approximately 3 miles S/O Gorman. Shortly after you get onto CA 138 you will pass Quail Lake on your left and then off to your right you will see a large white mansion that looks like it was the house in the movie "Gone with the Wind." After you pass the mansion start watching for the old Ridge Route Road which veers off to your right and heads up hill. At this point it is a well maintained road.

If you acquire information about the history of the area you will enjoy the trip much more. Google "The Old Ridge Route" for info. Also you can refer to a couple of books by Harrison Scott; "Ridge Route, The Road That United California" and "Lost Hotels on California's Historic Ridge Route".

I will be waiting on the Ridge Route Road immediately after the turn off from CA 138. I suggest that each vehicle have an FR radio to maintain contact. We will proceed up the RRR at 9:30 AM. If anyone comes late they can head up the road to catch up with us. There should be no problem of getting lost at that point. I expect that we will stop to view some of the historic sites along the way. When we get to the Tumble Inn we will park and the intrepid hikers can hoof it further up the road.

The road is still maintained almost to the top. You will come to an intersection, Pine Canyon Road but continue straight on the RRR. After you pass Pine Canyon Road you will go another mile or two and off to your right watch for some oak trees with a stone monument beneath them. This is the historic "Sandberg Hotel" site. You will also see a stone wall and parts of the cement slab that the hotel sat on. There is a picture of the hotel on the monument. After you pass the hotel site, the maintained pavement ends but you can continue on with a standard clearance vehicle, just be aware of the pot holes. You can continue south all the way to the historic "Tumble Inn" hotel where you will see a larger stone wall and a stone arch above the steps. The Ridge Route Preservation Organization, (RRPO) recently re-constructed the arch. A photo of the site is located on the rock monument across the highway from the stone wall.

Directly beyond this site is a locked forest service gate where you will have to turn back to exit. You are allowed to walk or hike in or bicycle in, just no motorized vehicles. We are a hiking group, so I don't expect any problems from going on foot for some distance.

We will have our post hike festivities at the Tumble Inn.

For a prevue of the road go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUMzbpEbaCQ>

Of course the weather might scrub the venture, in which case, the trip will be rescheduled for the spring. Those who may prefer not to travel this far are encouraged to plan an alternate hike.