

The Horseshoe Slabs are a series of small buttresses at the west end of Horseshoe Lake situated at 9,000ft in the Lakes Basin above Mammoth Lakes. They are one of the few cliffs that are suitable for top roping and it's a great place to take beginners to experience the basics of moving over stone. It isn't that great for leading however.

WHERE

Turn off Highway 395 and drive into Mammoth Lakes. Drive up Main Street to stop lights at the junction off Minaret Road (the way to the Ski Resort) and Lake Mary Road. Drive up Lake Mary Road all the way past Tamarack Resort to Lake Mary, the road follows the shore. Take this road all the way to Horseshoe lake parking area, about a five mile drive from town.

Hike west around the lake on a good trail (anti-clockwise) to the west end of the lake and a series of small buttresses in the woods just after a bridge and creek inlet. A ten minute flat hike. This trail is also a popular mountain bike single-track.

WHEN

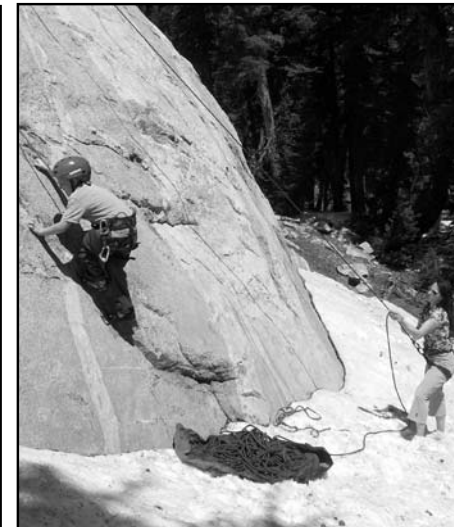
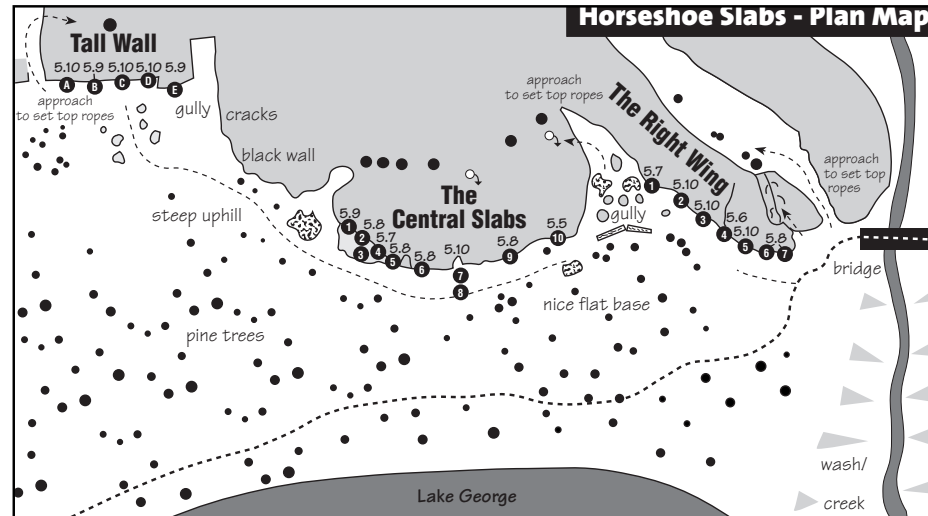
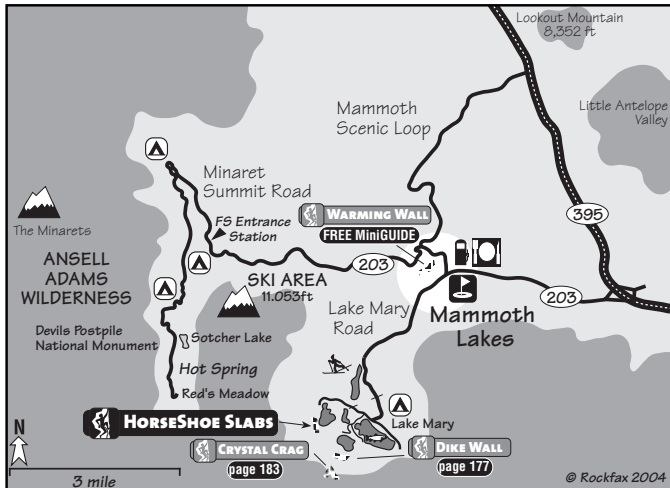
Horseshoe Slabs are situated at 9,000ft and the season runs from late June to late November. Early in the season expect a snow bank along some of the buttresses. The slabs get early morning sun, and then a mixture of shade and sun until late afternoon.

EQUIPMENT

A 50 metre rope and some long slings to set up top ropes. There are some leads, some bolted, others not. It's not an ideal place for beginner leads, Area 13 at Clark Canyon is more suited for that. You must be a competent climber to set up top ropes.

ACCESS INFORMATION

This area is managed by the Inyo National Forest. Pack out all trash and stay on the trails.



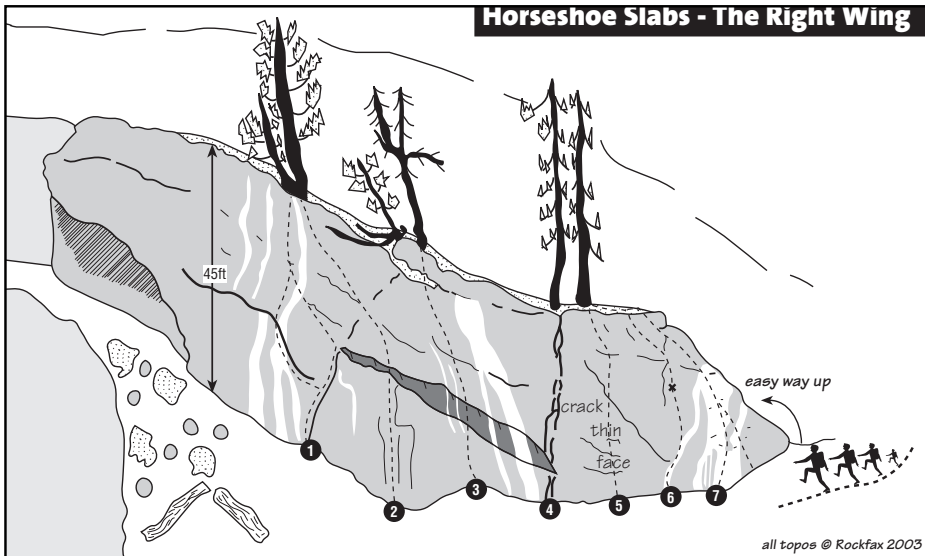
Gabriella Fritelli and Xavier Ryan climbing around Horseshoe Lake. photo: Mick Ryan

A DAY OUT

One way to enjoy the Lakes Basin with the family is to hike the trail around Horseshoe Lake. Stop for a spot of bouldering at the Horseshoe boulder a few hundred yards into the pines from the lake's east shore, do a spot of boulder hopping on the lake itself, then finish off with some climbs at the Slabs. Then back down to Mammoth Lakes for a delicious sandwich from Schat's bakery which will satisfy the hungriest appetite. A great day for all the family. Don't forget sunblock, water and some snacks.



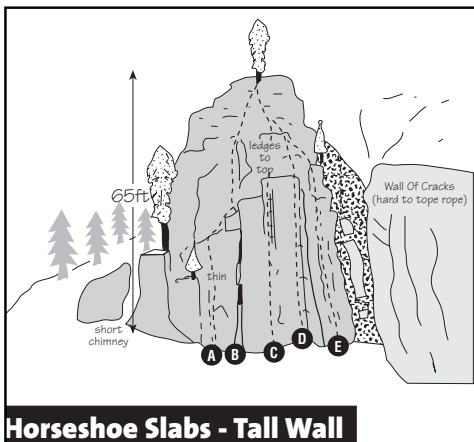
# ROUTES	RANGE	ANGLE	ROCK TYPE	SUN EXPOSURE	BEST TIME	APPROACH	ELEVATION
21	5.5 to 5.10	Slabby	Granite	Sun and shade East	June to November snow bank can persist in spring	HIKE 15 min DRIVE Bishop: 48 miles Mammoth: 7 miles	8,600ft ENVIRONMENT Alpine



The Right Wing
 The first route on the Right Wing starts on its left side a short way up the slope at a diagonal crack at the end of an overlap. For a competent climber top ropes are easily set up on these routes by scrambling up ledges to the right. Use the trees as top rope anchors by using slings. **(DO NOT directly sling the trees with your rope: it kills them)**

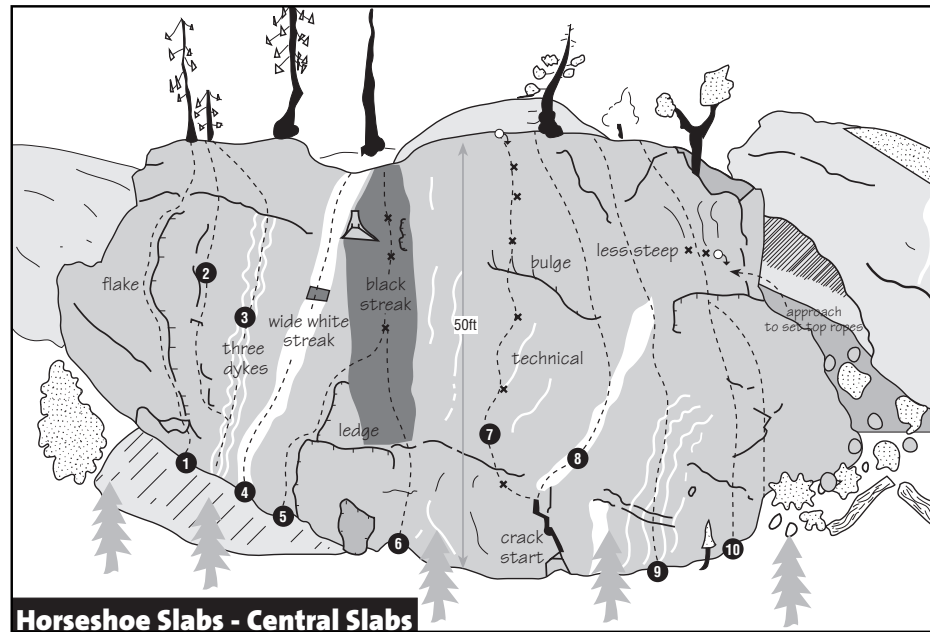
- 1. 5.7
 Climb the diagonal crack to a small ledge (variation: go left at 12ft and follow an undercling crack). Finish up the slab above following breaks and dikes to the tree.
- 2. 5.10
 The thin hairline cracks to the same ledge at the end of the overlap as the previous route. Finish trending left to the tree.
- 3. 5.10
 A hardish eliminate. Climb through the widest part of the overlap left of the crack and up the slick slab above.

- 4. **Classic Crack** 5.6
 The classic crack.
- 5. 5.10
 Just right of the previous route boulder up the thin wall on tiny edges to a more reasonable finish up the slab.
- 6. **White Dike** 5.8
 Climb the snake-like white dike, passing a solitary bolt.
- 7. 5.8
 At the far right side of the slab climb the white band of rock. Surprisingly good holds are encountered and there are several ways to go.



- The Tall Wall**
 This is the tall wall left of the Central slabs.
- A. 5.10+
 The thin hard seam
 - B. **Central Crack** 5.9
 The thin hand seam
 - C. 5.10
 The white wall of flakes to a brown left-facing corner
 - D. 5.10
 The left-facing corner
 - E. 5.9
 The wall.

Horseshoe Slabs - Tall Wall



Horseshoe Slabs - Central Slabs

The Central Slabs
 Slab Central is generally a little steeper than the Right Wing, apart from route #10 which is perhaps the most popular top rope here, especially for children. Top rope anchors are trees at the top of this wall. Great care is needed when setting them up. There are loose branches, dirt and small rocks near the trees. Watch your footing and avoid knocking anything off. **(DO NOT directly sling the trees with your rope: it kills them)**

- 1. **Flake Climb** 5.9
 The continuous left-facing flake.
- 2. **Dog Leg** 5.8
 Start up the three dikes then immediately go left using the dog-legged crack and more cracks to the top.
- 3. **Three Dikes** 5.8
 Climb the three dikes in their entirety.
- 4. **Wide Dike** 5.7
 The wide dike passing a small overlap at three-quarter height.
- 5. **Black Streak** 5.8
 3B's. Use a flake crack to mount a ledge then up a black streak passing three bolts and a prominent but small left-facing flake near the top.

- 6. **Direct Start to Black Streak** 5.8
 3B's. A direct start to Black Streak starting just right of a block climbing to the top. Start up the low crack to gain the slab.
- 7. **Sport Route** 5.10
 6B's. The bolted central line. Technical and delicate slab climbing to the top. Start up the low crack to gain the slab.
- 8. 5.9
 Start up the same crack as the previous route but go right and follow the thick wide crack to just before it peters out, then up the wall above.
- 9. **Dike Route** 5.8
 Climb the beautiful system of wavy white dikes and then direct up the slab.
- 10. **First Steps** 5.5
 The low-angled slab at the right side of this wall. There are several ways to go. There is an anchor (two bolts) on the ledge before the top of the cliff which can be accessed by scrambling up the gully on the right.