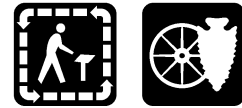


# Boca Townsite Trail

## Truckee Ranger District

### Tahoe National Forest



### General Information

Mileage: 0.5 mile loop  
Elevation: 5,600 feet  
Facilities: Accessible restroom and parking  
Difficulty: Easiest, however persons with walking impairments may require assistance along portions of the trail as some sections exceed 5% slope

Use Level: Low  
Topographic Map: Boca

**Motorized vehicles are prohibited on this trail**

### Access:

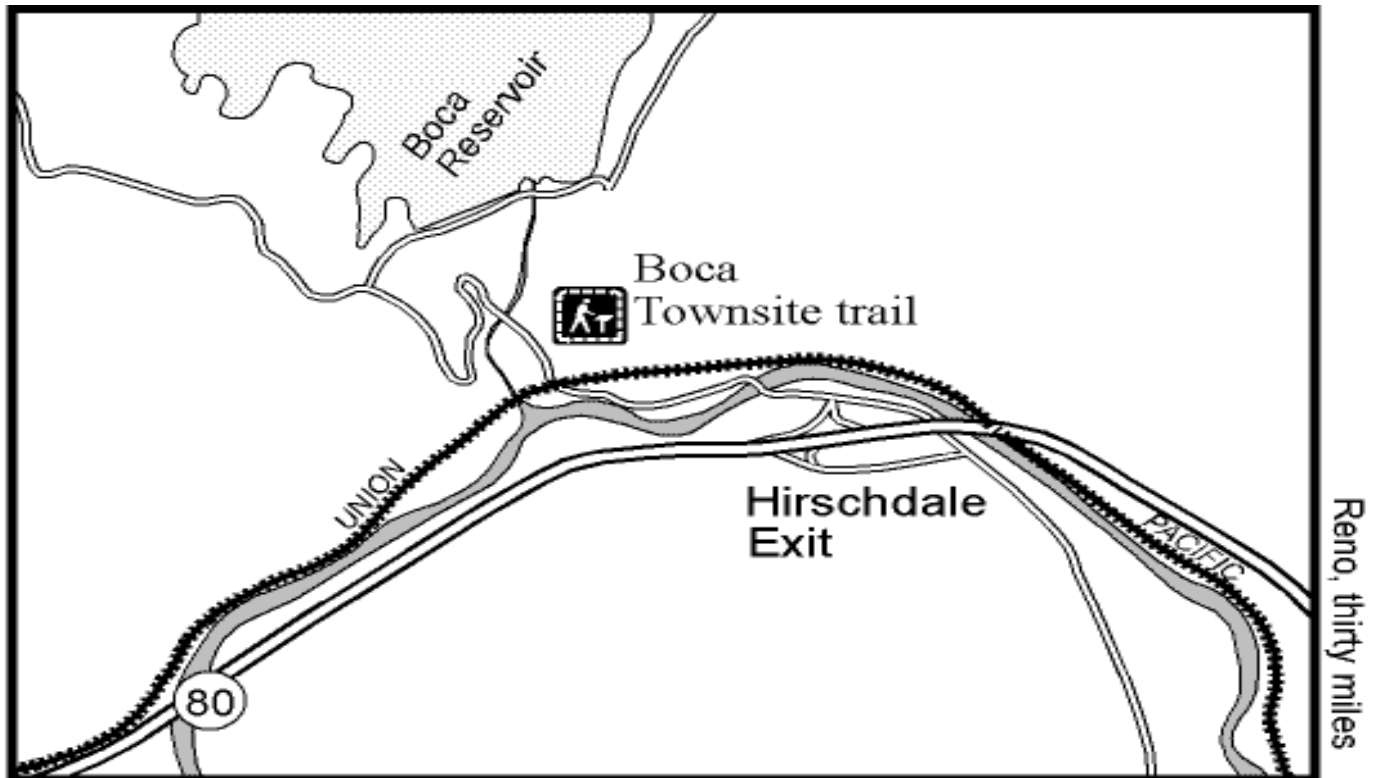
Take Interstate 80 to the Hirschdale exit, six miles east of Truckee. Follow the sign toward the Boca/Stampede Recreation Area. Go north 0.3 miles and turn right on the road immediately after the railroad tracks. The trail begins next to the restroom.

### Trail Description:

This trail meanders up a hill where the small town of Boca once stood. Signing along the trail discusses the history of this bygone town. At the top of the hill is a small cemetery.

### Historic Overview

Boca began as a construction camp along the route of the Central Pacific Railroad in 1867. Boca means “mouth” in Spanish, which is fitting because the town sits at the mouth of the Little Truckee River. Because of the proximity to the railroad and nearby stands of fine timber, Boca was a natural site for lumber mills that supplied lumber for railroad snowsheds and towns from Sacramento to Virginia City.



Truckee, six miles

Reno, thirty miles



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



Forest Service  
Pacific Southwest Region  
[www.fs.usda.gov/r5](http://www.fs.usda.gov/r5)

Tahoe National Forest  
[www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe](http://www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe)

A planing mill at Boca manufactured siding and flooring. In 1877, the mill was capable of producing 35,000 linear feet of lumber per day. A narrow gauge railroad supplied logs to the mill from timber stands upstream in the Little Truckee River watershed and other locations.

After the railroad was completed, the town became one of several locations along the line where ice was harvested for commercial use. In addition to providing ice for the wealthy from San Francisco to Boston, commercial ice was used to refrigerate produce being shipped by rail. Thousands of tons of ice were also used in silver mines in the Comstock (Nevada) to counter the brutal heat in some of the shafts.

An early reservoir here was used as the ice field. During cold winter months, large blocks of ice were cut from the surface and stored in insulated ice houses until they were shipped on rail cars to many destinations. Concrete footings near the road and railroad tracks are the foundation piers of one of the ice houses.

Technological advancements made artificial ice production more efficient than ice harvest, and widespread use of artificial refrigeration became common. The need for natural ice had ended, and Boca became obsolete. The last ice harvest here was in 1927.

## **Boca Beer**

The Boca Brewery became internationally known for the quality of their beer. Boca Beer was shipped to Mexico, Central & South America, China, Japan, and proved to be quite popular at the 1883 World's Fair in Paris. The brewery, however, burned down in 1893 and was not rebuilt. Today, Interstate 80 crosses the brewery site. A spring in the hillside south of the freeway supplied water to the brewery. An aspen grove south of I-80 visible from the trail indicates where the spring is.

## **For More Information**

**Tahoe National Forest  
Truckee Ranger District**  
10811 Stockrest Springs Road  
Truckee, CA 96161  
530-587-3558 (voice)  
530-587-6907 (TDD)  
[www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe](http://www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe)

## **All Are Welcome**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



**Boca Hotel**