



## Trail 11 – South Skyline Trail

**Duration:** 1.5 hours

**Distance:** 1.3 miles one-way to the Ogden Valley look-out point

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Trailhead:** North Ogden Divide

**Elevation:** North Ogden Divide--6180'; Ogden Valley look-out point (favorite winter stopping point)—7259'; Ridgeline—8100'; Ogden Canyon 4920'

**Avalanche:** Known avalanche paths on the east facing slopes. Get on the ridge quickly and stay there if you go farther than the Ogden Valley lookout point.

**Map:** North Ogden, Utah

**GPS Coordinates:** None

**Dogs:** Allowed

**Introduction:** South Skyline trail, a popular, well used and easily accessed trail, runs 9.5 miles to join with Ogden Canyon. Because engaging upon this complete route is more than most people can do in a day, and because once you pass the Ogden Valley look-out point you head into steep east-facing slopes that have been know to avalanche, I will track this trail to the Ogden Valley look-out point only. If you decide you would like to go farther by continuing up to the ridge line from the look-out point, you can take in as much of the trail as you wish.

South Skyline trail runs through evergreens as it switchbacks up the north-facing mountain. The trail is usually well tracked out to the look-out point, so finding your way is not an issue. As you round the mountain to the east, the trail opens over northern Ogden Valley, to the east, for wide, captivating views of the lower areas. This lookout point is a favorite destination and stopping point for snowshoers.

**How to Get There:** Head north on I-15 past Ogden. Take the Pleasant View exit and head east. When you get to Washington St. turn left and follow the road north to 3100 North. Turn right on 3100 North and follow to the North Ogden divide. The trailhead is at the very top where it flattens out. The parking lot is on the right.

**Trail Description:** South Skyline parking area is found right off a main road and the trailhead is well marked. It's possible that because the trail is so well used you may find it solidly packed to the point that snowshoes become optional. A small tubing run also sits near the trailhead and local families often bring their kids for a quick whoop whoop off the jumps that are spaced down this small path that sits to the side of the trail.

South Skyline trail switchbacks you up the north side of the mountain. Look for a fair deal of elevation gain as you climb. At .74 miles and 6650' the view opens and the city of North Ogden and the mountains to the west become visible. Cruising through the evergreens, the path often feels comfortably secluded. At 1.3 miles, round the north east corner of the mountain and the trail opens completely to the east. The view of Northern Ogden Valley is completely unobstructed. This is the look-out point. To this point you've climbed nearly 1100' in elevation with less than 900 left to the highest point along the ridge. If you want to continue onward you will head for the ridgeline where the trail's main length runs all the way to Ogden Canyon, but you are also entering an area more prone to avalanche slides. Get to the ridge quickly and stay on top, if you continue on. If you enjoy the look out and then return, follow your route back to the parking area.

**Option:** The North Skyline trailhead sits right across the road, to the north, from the parking lot. This trail switchbacks up the south-facing mountain and heads onward for nearly 13 miles as it hooks into North Fork Park, the Ben Lomond trail, Ben Lomond Peak, and Cutler trail. Because it is south facing, there is usually less snow on this first section of the trail than there is on the South Skyline trail. The beginning of this trail has more scrub and fewer trees than the South Skyline trail, but the openness makes for clear views into the valleys to both the east and west, as well as across to the South Skyline trail. After the long switchbacks that lead you to the top, you can traverse the ridge that runs to Ben Lomond Peak at 9712'. Be aware that there can be high avalanche danger once you start into the backcountry toward Ben Lomond. Stay off the steep east-facing slopes. Like South Skyline trail, many snowshoers simply enjoy the trail for a few miles and then return.