



**CONTINENTAL DIVIDE
NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL
DAY & OVERNIGHT HIKES:
COLORADO**



CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL COALITION VISIT COLORADO!

Day & Overnight Hikes on the Continental Divide Trail

THE CENTENNIAL STATE

The Colorado Rockies are the quintessential CDT experience! The CDT traverses 800 miles of these majestic and challenging peaks dotted with abandoned homesteads and ghost towns, and crosses the ancestral lands of the Ute, Eastern Shoshone, and Cheyenne peoples.

The CDT winds through some of Colorado's most incredible landscapes: the spectacular alpine tundra of the South San Juan, Weminuche, and La Garita Wildernesses where the CDT remains at or above 11,000 feet for nearly 70 miles; remnants of the late 1800's ghost town of Hancock that served the Alpine Tunnel; the awe-inspiring Collegiate Peaks near Leadville, the highest incorporated city in America; geologic oddities like The Window, Knife Edge, and Devil's Thumb; the towering 14,270 foot Grays Peak – the highest point on the CDT; Rocky Mountain National Park with its rugged snow-capped skyline; the remote Never Summer Wilderness; and the broad valleys and numerous glacial lakes and cirques of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness. You might also encounter moose, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, marmots, and pika on the CDT in Colorado.

In this guide, you'll find Colorado's best day and overnight hikes on the CDT, organized south to north.

ELEVATION: The average elevation of the CDT in Colorado is 10,978 ft, and all of the hikes listed in this guide begin at elevations above 8,000 ft. Remember to bring plenty of water, sun protection, and extra food, and know that a hike at elevation will likely be more challenging than the same distance hike at sea level.

MOUNTAIN WEATHER: Snow can stay in the high mountains long into the summer. Remember that you won't be able to get to the higher trails during the winter and spring. Additionally, mountain weather can change drastically and unpredictably. Be prepared for cold weather even if you're hiking in the summer. Thunderstorms are a very real possibility on the Divide and nowhere is that more true than in Colorado. For hikers, this means the possibility of significant exposure to rain, snow, sleet, hail, and lightning. Before you go, check the weather and plan to reach your hike's high point by or before midday.

NAVIGATION: Download the CDTC mapset at <https://continentaldividetrail.org/maps>. The Guthook Guides phone application also provides a trail map and user-friendly, crowd-sourced waypoint information for the entire CDT. Other phone apps such as Gaia GPS and Avenza Maps offer good options for digital maps as well.

HIKE TYPES:  OUT AND BACK  POINT TO POINT  LOOP



Wildlife on the trail. A porcupine in Arapaho National Forest; a moose spotted in Arapaho National Forest; and a marmot found in Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest. Photos by Matt Berger.



Wolf Creek Pass to Rock Lake

Length: 8.8 miles

Difficulty: Easy

Closest Town: Pagosa Springs or South Fork



A MULE DEER BUCK AT WOLF CREEK PASS. PHOTO BY ROBERT WALKER

At 10,859 feet, Wolf Creek Pass is the low point in the mountains between some of the wildest and most beautiful landscapes in the state. It is one of the few major road crossings on the CDT and is the major access point to the trail in southwestern Colorado. In this beautiful just-off-the-road hike, you get to walk along the longest mountain chain in the Rockies—the San Juans—with views of the South San Juans, a remote range known for landscapes unlike anywhere else on the CDT. Wolf Creek Pass ski area is nearby, and this hike will take you to Lobo Overlook, where you can see the famous and picturesque skiing site. Note that snow can linger in the San Juans until July. However, even in high snow years, this section tends to melt out and be passable by the third week of June. You will climb into the Weminuche Wilderness and about 0.5 miles later, descend to a low point that opens up into a meadow. From here, the CDT closely follows the Divide. Staying on the ridge, ascend back into the trees for about 1 mile. You will climb about 300 feet, sometimes on switchbacks, before contouring around 11,400 feet in elevation through light forest. You may cross a spring that forms the headwaters of a stream heading north. From there, the trail turns northwest, descending before reaching the southwestern shore of Rock Lake. This is a great spot to stop for lunch before returning to the trailhead. Note that this hike crosses into a wilderness area where bikes are not permitted.

Directions: Take US-160 north from Pagosa Springs for 23 miles to Wolf Creek Pass, or take US-160 south from South Fork for 20 miles. Note that US-160 is steep (6.8 percent grade) and often icy or snowy. There is a large covered kiosk at Wolf Creek Pass describing the history of the Divide and the CDT. Just east of the pass, on the north side of the road, there is a gravel road, accessible to two-wheel-drive cars, that will take you to the Lobo Overlook. There is ample parking near the microwave tower. From the Lobo Overlook, walk west of the microwave tower to find the trailhead for the spur trail to the CDT heading north. The trail is well worn and easy to follow. Generally head west and slightly downhill until the trail meets the CDT, which is marked by a post, 0.25 miles later. Turn right onto the CDT and head north to continue on your hike!

Maps: USGS 7.5 Quadrangle: Wolf Creek Pass; Trails Illustrated #140; CDTC Map Set: Maps 126 and 127, Section CO04.

For More Information: Rio Grande National Forest, Divide Ranger District: (719)-658-2556.

Did You Know?

- Colorado became the 38th state in 1876, getting the nickname “The Centennial State” because it was established 100 years after the U.S. Declaration of Independence.
- The state bird is the lark bunting, the state flower is the white and lavender columbine, and the state animal is the Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.
- Many people think Colorado is rectangular in shape, but it really has 697 sides making it a hexahectaenneacontakaiheptagon.

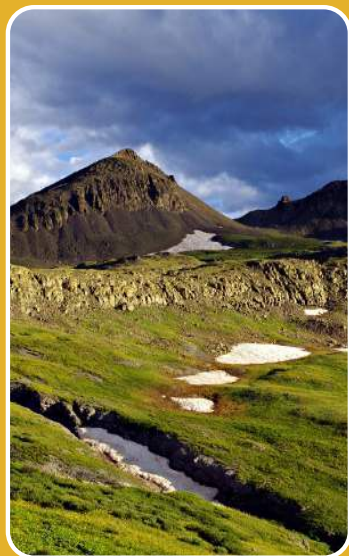


Cataract Lake

Length: 17 miles

Difficulty: Difficult

Closest Town: Lake City



VIEWS SOUTH OF CATARACT LAKE.
PHOTO BY PAUL MAGNANTI

Travel on the CDT between the beautiful Weminuche and La Garita Wilderness areas at the westernmost turn of the Continental Divide. Shared with the Colorado Trail, this section of trail overlooks the headwaters of the Rio Grande, offers views of the San Juan Mountains, and does not dip below 11,000 feet. The Cataract Lake Trail leads to beautiful Cataract Lake and provides access to the CDT. As you climb into Cataract Gulch, you will cross Cottonwood Creek. Then, after hiking for about 1 mile, you will be following the mild grade of Cataract Creek. The trail follows and crosses Cataract Creek for the next 2 miles, then ascends moderately to 12,000 feet. As the trail enters Cataract Basin, you will find many dispersed camping spots. Continue south. At the first intersection, you will hit the CDT. Turn right onto the CDT/East Fork Middle Pole Trail. Continue southwest for almost 5 miles until you reach Cuba Gulch Trail. Head north for 5 miles until you arrive at the Cuba Gulch Trailhead. Finally, turn right and head east on County Road 30 to Cataract Gulch Trailhead. To do this hike without the road walk, you will need one car at Cataract Gulch and one at Cuba Gulch Trailhead. A 4WD vehicle is recommended.

Directions from Lake City: Drive 2 miles south on CO-149 and turn right on the Cinnamon Pass Road (County Rd 30) toward Lake San Cristobal. Continue following Cinnamon Pass Road for 12.1 miles. Take the left fork (County Rd 35) for 1.2 miles. The marked Cataract Gulch trailhead is approximately 0.5 miles after the bridge. To reach the Cuba Gulch Trailhead, continue east on County Rd 35 for approximately 3 miles and the trailhead will be on the south (left) side of the road.

Maps: USGS 7.5 Quadrangles: Howardsville and Pole Creek Mountain; CDTC Mapset: Map 138, Section CO10.

For More Information: Rio Grande National Forest, Divide Ranger District: (719)-658-2556.



Boss Lake Reservoir

Length: 4.8 miles

Difficulty: Moderate

Closest Town: Salida



BOSS LAKE RESERVOIR FROM THE DAM.
PHOTO BY FRANCESCA GOVERNALI

This hike starts with a moderately graded walk up Forest Road 230. Depending on the season, you will get views of the mountains above the lake through the trees as you ascend towards the Hunt Lake Trail for the first 1.4 miles. Turn left onto Hunt Lake Trail, which overlaps with both the CDT and the Colorado Trail all the way to Boss Lake Reservoir. The remaining mile up to the reservoir is steep, but includes a few sections of relatively flat terrain to give you a break. Enjoy the beautiful views at the reservoir and if you want, continue on the trail past the dam and across the bridge to reach a high point on the east side of the reservoir.

Directions from Salida: Take US-50 W/W Rainbow Rd for 3.9 miles to Poncha Springs and turn right to continue onto US-50 W. Drive 12.8 miles and turn right onto Forest Rd (FR) 230. You will pass a snowmobile rental shop and find the trailhead parking just beyond that. It is possible to drive the first 1.5 miles up FR 230, however, a high clearance or off-road vehicle is highly recommended. Most hikers choose to start at the lower parking area.

Maps: USGS 7.5 Quadrangle: Garfield; CDTC Mapset: Map 157, Section CO19.

For More Information: San Isabel National Forest, Salida Ranger District: (719)-539-3591.



Twin Lakes and Interlaken

Length: 4 miles

Difficulty: Easy

Closest Town: Twin Lakes or Leadville



A VIEW OF MT. ELBERT. PHOTO BY FRANCESCA GOVERNALI

As the trail wraps around Twin Lakes, the largest glacial lakes in Colorado, be sure to visit the historic Interlaken resort and Dexter House which are located on the south side of Twin Lakes. This spectacular area once attracted the rich and famous to its resort and hotel in the late 1800s. People traveled from all over the country to witness the beauty and splendor of the Lake Creek Valley. Today you can still revel in breathtaking scenery with amazing views of 14,000+ ft peaks including Mt. Elbert, the highest peak in Colorado. The Twin Lakes area is also popular for camping, boating, and fishing.

Directions from Twin Lakes: Take CO-82 E for 5.6 miles before turning right onto County Rd 25. Continue for 1 mile before reaching the Interlaken Trailhead. There is dispersed camping available nearby. The road to the trailhead can be bumpy.

Directions from Leadville: Take US-24 E/Front St south for 14.3 miles. Turn right onto CO-82 W and continue for 0.9 miles. Turn left onto Country Rd 25 and continue for 1 mile before reaching the Interlaken Trailhead.

Maps: USGS 7.5 Quadrangles: Mt. Elbert and Granite; Trails Illustrated Map #110; CDTC Mapset: Map 166, Section CO23.

For More Information: Pike and San Isabel National Forest, Leadville Ranger District: (719)-486-0749.



Tennessee Pass to Timberline Lake

Length: 13.6 miles

Difficulty: Moderate

Closest Town: Leadville



THE CDT AFTER CROSSING WURTS DITCH RD. PHOTO BY FRANCESCA GOVERNALI

Heading south from the Tennessee Pass Trailhead, this section of the CDT overlaps with Segment 9 of the Colorado Trail. The path is mostly level as it winds gently up and down. After 2.5 miles, you will cross a stream and two bridges, and shortly after you'll cross Wurts Ditch Road. The trail is well marked with both CT and CDT blazes across the dirt road. After 4 miles, the trail climbs into a valley where you'll find a few camping options, and after 6.7 miles, you'll enter the Holy Cross Wilderness. The second half of this hike passes by a number of lakes, including Bear Lake, and after popping above treeline, makes the long descent to Timberline Lake Trailhead. Note that this hike crosses into a wilderness area where bikes are not permitted. You can bike on the first 6 miles of this trail before reaching the Holy Cross Wilderness.

Directions from Leadville: Tennessee Pass: From town, head north on Harrison Avenue/US-24 W. After 1 mile, turn left at the stoplight to continue on US-24 W. Continue for 8.7 miles and turn left into the CDT trailhead across the road from Ski Cooper. You will find the southbound trailhead in the southeast corner of the parking lot (closer to US-24). Timberline Lake Trailhead: From town, head west on 6th St. At the T-intersection, turn right onto County Rd 4/McWethy Dr. After 2.6 miles, continue on County Rd 4. At the three way fork in the road, stay right to continue on County Rd 4 and keep right at the second fork to turn onto Turquoise Lake Rd. The trailhead is on the left.

Maps: USGS 7.5 Quadrangles: Leadville North and Homestake Reservoir; CDTC Map Set: Maps 169, 170, and 171, Sections CO25 and CO26.

For More Information: Pike and San Isabel National Forest, Leadville Ranger District: (719)-486-0749.



Herman Gulch to Herman Lake

Length: 6 miles

Difficulty: Moderate

Closest Town: Georgetown



HIKING UP HERMAN GULCH AMONG WILDFLOWERS. PHOTO BY JANELLE PACIENCIA

On the way up to Herman Lake, the wildflowers are especially lovely in July and August. Due to the diversity of species of wildflowers along the trail, plant enthusiasts refer to the trail as a “100 wildflower” or “century” hike. Herman Gulch was formed by Herman Creek, which eventually flows south-southeast to Clear Creek. Herman Gulch ends when the trail starts ascending switchbacks and becomes steeper, and you reenter the woods. Herman Lake, nestled in the shadow of Pettingell Peak, is just west of the historic mining town of Georgetown. You don’t have to walk to Herman Lake or even the end of the gulch to enjoy the beauty of the area. At any time, just turn around and retrace your steps back to the trailhead.

Directions from Georgetown: Take I-70 W to exit 218 and follow signs to the north side of the highway. Take a sharp right into the parking area and you’ll find the trailhead and a kiosk.

Maps: USGS 7.5 Quadrangles: Loveland Pass and Grays Peak; Trails Illustrated #103 and #104; USFS: Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest; CDTC Mapset: Map 181 and 182, Sections CO30 and CO31.

For More Information: Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest, Clear Creek Ranger District: (303)-567-3000.



Berthoud Pass to Mt. Flora

Length: 4 miles

Difficulty: Moderate

Closest Town: Winter Park



SKIING ON THE CDT ON MT. FLORA. PHOTO BY FRANCESCA GOVERNALI

From the easily accessible trailhead at Berthoud Pass, you will find views of smooth, bald mountaintops alternating with craggy terrain, rocky knolls, and wildflower patches as you climb towards Mt. Flora. The trail leaves from the parking lot on the east side at the top of the pass. The ascent is steep, but many consider hiking from Berthoud Pass a quintessential CDT experience with the expansive views above treeline. Berthoud Pass is a popular backcountry skiing area in the winter. In fact, it was once a functioning commercial ski area in the 1930s and 40s. You can ski on the CDT going either direction - up Mt. Flora, or across the road to the west. Be aware of avalanche risk and be prepared for winter conditions.

Directions from Winter Park: Drive south on US-40 E for 11 miles. You will see a large parking lot on your left at the top of the pass. For this hike, head up the trail on the east side of the pass. Check out the panel display about the CDT near the visitor’s center before starting your hike!

Maps: USGS 7.5 Quadrangles: Berthoud Pass and Byers Peak; Trails Illustrated #103 and #104; USFS: Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forest; CDTC Mapset: Map 184, Section CO32.

For More Information: Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest, Clear Creek Ranger District: (303)-567-3000.



Rollins Pass and Rogers Pass to James Peak

Length: 13.2 miles

Difficulty: Difficult

Closest Town: Winter Park



A CLOUDY DAY AT ROLLINS PASS. PHOTO BY JOHNNY CARR

Despite its location just 50 miles west of Denver, many long-distance hikers call James Peak and its surrounding area the “most magical part of the entire CDT.” The alpine traverse to James Peak gives hikers top-of-the-world exposure and big views into Rocky Mountain National Park and the James Peak Wilderness. This hike starts right on the Divide, at almost 12,000 feet, so the elevation gain over the course of the trip is relatively manageable, in spite of the high elevation of James Peak. Some of the hike lacks a clear trail and requires you to follow posts and cairns, but there is a clear line of sight to where you need to go above treeline. For those without a 4WD vehicle, starting at the East Portal Trailhead near Moffat Tunnel and following the Rogers Pass Trail up Boulder Creek and past Rogers Peak Lake is a good way to access James Peak and enjoy a pleasant overnight trip.

From Rollins Pass, walk on the dirt Corona Pass Road/Road 80 south, ignoring Road 501 on your left. After 0.5 miles, you will see a trail/two-track on the east (left) side of the road. Follow this trail, climbing 400 feet over the next mile to a high point near a radio beacon. While it may look like the trail splits many times, ultimately, all paths lead to the same destination. If the path disappears, stay on the western side of the Divide. For the next 2 miles, stay along the ridge, where the route tracks the physical Continental Divide. There are minor undulations, but the trail generally sticks around 12,000 feet. Be gentle as you walk as the vegetation can be sensitive and has a short growing season.

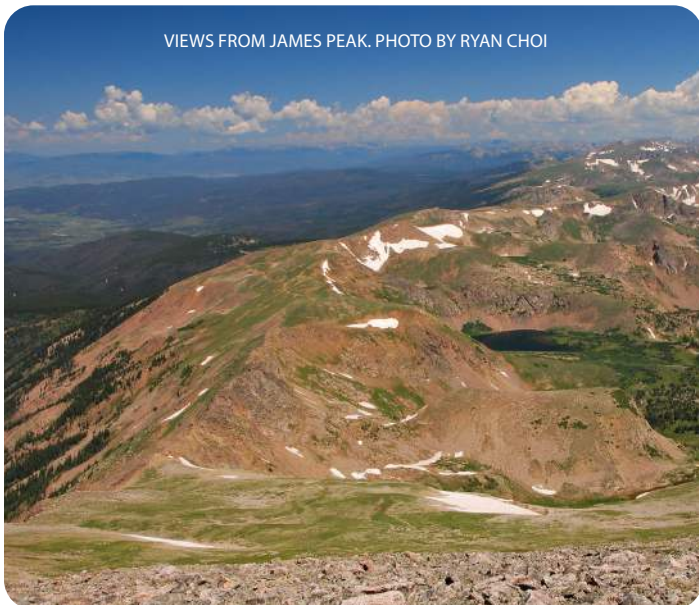
4.9 miles south of Rollins Pass, you will see a trail join the CDT from the west (right). Ignore this trail and continue straight for a mile as you descend to Rogers Pass (11,949 feet), ignoring another wide trail that joins from the west (right). About 0.2 miles after the intersection with the wide trail, make a slight right, leaving the wide trail and entering a single-track trail. After 0.1 miles, you will reach a 4-way intersection of trails at Rogers Pass. Stay straight (south) to continue on the CDT on the west side of the Continental Divide, heading south for 0.7 miles. The trail then turns left (east) along the Ute Trail and crosses over the Divide. Now on the eastern side of the Divide, you will find the slope less steep. Here, the trail's elevation is almost 13,000 feet, and snow can stick here late into the season. Pay special attention for an intersection with a narrow trail heading south (right) 1.3 miles after Rogers Pass. Turn right onto this trail and ascend as it heads slightly east before you hit switchbacks 0.1 miles later. Follow the switchbacks along the northern face of James Peak for 0.5 miles until you reach the rocky summit. From the summit, you can see Fraser to the north-northwest, Rocky Mountain National Park and Longs Peak to the north-northeast, and Winter Park to the northwest. The view to the south is the most impressive, though—the Continental Divide dotted with four other 13,000 foot peaks: Mt. Bancroft (13,250 feet) connected by a narrow ridge to the south; Parry Peak (13,391 feet) to the southwest; Mt. Eva (13,130 feet); and Mt. Flora (13,132 feet). Retrace your steps to return to the parking lot. Note that this hike crosses into a wilderness area where bikes are not permitted.

Directions from Winter Park: Head southeast on CO-40 S before turning left onto Arrow Trail for 0.1 miles. Turn right to stay on Arrow Trail for 0.5 miles and then turn right onto FR 128 and stay left for 2.3 miles. Turn right onto County Rd 80 / FR 149 and continue for 7.5 miles until you reach Rollins Pass. A 4WD vehicle is recommended for this road.

Maps: USGS 7.5 Quadrangles: East Portal and Empire; CDTC Mapset: Maps 185, 186, and 187, Sections CO33 and CO34.

For More Information: Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest, Sulphur Ranger District: (970)-887-4100.

VIEWS FROM JAMES PEAK. PHOTO BY RYAN CHOI



HIKING FROM JAMES PEAK. PHOTO BY MIKE HENDRICK

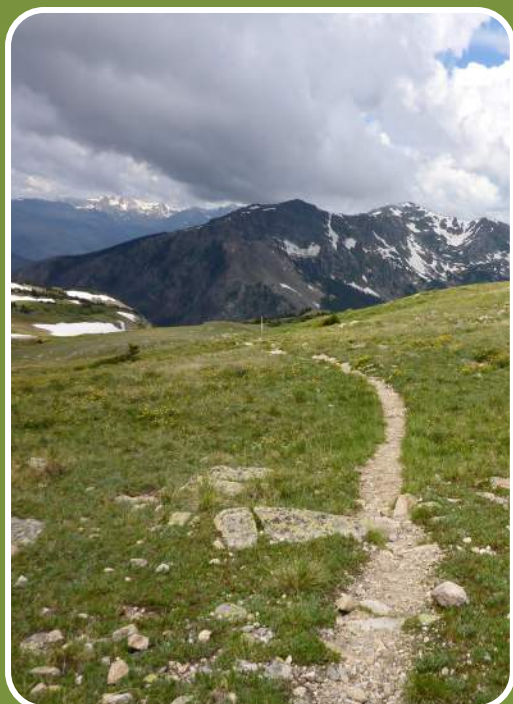


Rocky Mountain National Park CDT Loop

Length: 28.8 miles

Difficulty: Difficult

Closest Town: Grand Lake



TONAHUTU CREEK TRAIL. PHOTO BY WHITNEY LARUFFA

One-third of Rocky Mountain National Park is above tree line, rising above verdant valleys, twisting rivers, and glistening lakes. Just over 28 miles of the CDT passes through the park, providing hikers incredible high-altitude views through the montane and subalpine ecosystems at elevations of 8,000 to 11,500 feet. West of the Divide, lodgepole pines dominate the lower elevations, while aromatic Douglas and subalpine firs, as well as Engelmann spruce, adorn higher points.

Follow the Green Mountain Trail, which overlaps with the CDT, east to the Tonahutu Creek Trail; continue east to the junction with the North Inlet Trail while gaining over 2,000 feet of elevation. Where these two trails meet about 12 miles into the trip, the route touches the Divide at 12,324 feet with beautiful, unspoiled views to the west. Follow the North Inlet Trail southwest toward Grand Lake until reaching the Tonahutu/North Inlet Parking Area and continuing north on the Tonahutu Creek Trail back to the junction with the Green Mountain Trail and returning to the trailhead. Designated campsites are prevalent along the trails and permits may be purchased at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center. Note that there is a fee to enter Rocky Mountain National Park.

Directions from Grand Lake: To reach the Green Mountain Trailhead, head north on US-34 E/Trail Ridge Rd towards W Portal Rd. After 1.7 miles, you will pass through the toll station and enter Rocky Mountain National Park. Continue into the park for 2.6 miles and turn right at Green Mountain Trailhead.

Maps: USGS 7.5 Quadrangles: Mount Richthofen, Bowen Mountain, Grand Lake, and Shadow Mountain; CDTC Mapset: Maps 192, 193, 194, 195, and RMA, Section CO36.

For More Information: Rocky Mountain National Park (970)-627-3471; RMNP Backcountry Office: (970)-586-2371.



Shadow Mountain Lake to Monarch Lake

Length: 2 - 11.3 miles

Difficulty: Easy - Moderate

Closest Town: Grand Lake



VIEWS ACROSS SHADOW MOUNTAIN LAKE.
PHOTO BY JOHNNY CARR

This hike can be a point to point or an out-and-back depending on what distance you would like to hike. The trail has a gradual incline as it winds along the lakes for the first 4 miles. Then, it climbs over 700 ft in the next 2 miles and descends back down to the shoreline before ending with the last 1.5 miles on the road to Monarch Lake Trailhead.

Directions from Grand Lake: CDT Trailhead on Shoreline Way: From the center of town, take Cairns St south for 0.4 miles. Turn right onto Lakeside Dr before turning left onto Jerico Rd after 0.1 miles. Continue for 0.4 miles and take a slight left onto Shoreline Way. The trailhead is on the right after 270 ft. Monarch Lake Trailhead: Follow US-34 W south for 9.1 miles. Turn left onto CO-6 and continue for 9.6 miles. The trailhead is on the right at the end of the road.

Maps: USGS 7.5 Quadrangles: Monarch Lake, Strawberry Lake, and Shadow Mountain Lake; CDTC Map Set: Map 190, 191, and 192, Sections CO35 and CO36.

For More Information: Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest, Sulphur Ranger District: (970)-887



Parkview Mountain

Length: 9 miles

Difficulty: Moderate - Difficult

Closest Town: Granby



VIEWS FROM THE TOP OF PARKVIEW
MOUNTAIN PHOTO BY JOHNNY CARR

Parkview Mountain's peak rises 2,656 feet above the trail and hikers can view North Park, Rocky Mountain National Park, the Never Summer Range, and the Indian Peaks. At 12,396 feet, Parkview is the highest and most massive mountain in the Rabbit Ears Range. In fact, the building on the top of Parkview, erected in 1916, may be the highest-elevation fire observatory ever built in the US.

This section of the CDT utilizes old road beds, jeep trails, and new singletrack, so the navigation can sometimes be confusing. However, the trail is marked with CDT blazes at all intersections, so be observant and you'll discover the true navigational adventure that makes the CDT so wild. As you get closer to the mountain, the route is marked only with posts, which are not always easy to see. Bring your map and compass and be prepared to use them. Snow can accumulate on Parkview Mountain and stick until July. The mountain is especially susceptible to avalanches in the spring. Bring plenty of water, especially if you are hiking the trail in late summer or early fall, as there is only one likely water source on the hike. When you reach the summit, you can luxuriate in the ultimate reward: the view from the top looks out on the Flattops, the Gore Range, the Ten Mile Range, the Collegiates, and the Front Range.

Directions from Granby: Take CO-125 N for 24.4 miles to Willow Creek Pass. The trailhead is just south of the pass, with parking on the east side of the road. From the Willow Creek Pass parking lot, cross to the west side of the highway and follow signs to the CDT trailhead.

Maps: USGS 7.5 Quadrangle: Parkview Mountain; U.S. Forest Service: Routt National Forest; Trails Illustrated #115; CDTC Map Set: Map 198, Section CO38.

For More Information: Medicine Bow Routt National Forest, Parks Ranger District: (970) 723-2700.



Buffalo Pass to Round Mountain Lake

Length: 7 miles

Difficulty: Moderate

Closest Town: Steamboat Springs



CAMPING AT BUFFALO PASS. PHOTO BY JOHNNY CARR

Explore the North Lake to Buffalo Pass section in the spectacular Mount Zirkel Wilderness, which stretches along the Continental Divide for 36 miles in northern Colorado. The Mt Zirkel Wilderness contains over 70 lakes and 15 peaks over 12,000 ft in elevation. From Buffalo Pass at 10,180 ft, you can venture into expansive valleys, high alpine meadows, and beautiful glaciated lakes. This corridor of the Divide is unsurpassed, providing incredible vistas, and scenery often composed of stunted spruce trees, known as Krumholtz. A summer hike on Buffalo Pass is ideal, as spring runoff from the deep winter snow pack provides a bounty of colorful alpine wildflowers. From Summit Lake Campground head north on the CDT. After hiking for 3 miles, take a right (east) at the intersection with the Newcomb Creek Trail and hike another mile or so to the beautiful Round Mountain Lake for a 7 mile round trip adventure. Biking is not permitted headed north from the Summit Lake Trailhead as the trail goes into a wilderness area. If you would like to bike, you can head south on the CDT towards Dumont Lake.

Directions from Steamboat Springs: To reach Buffalo Pass TH/ Summit Lake Campground, from US-40 in Steamboat Springs, drive north on 7th St and turn right onto Missouri Avenue. Follow the road for 2 miles and turn right onto County Rd 38. Drive 11 miles to the summit of Buffalo Pass. (A high clearance vehicle is recommended). Follow a curve to the right away from Summit Lake Campground and you will see a parking lot on the right (additional parking to the south). The trailhead is next to a small creek that runs under the road just before the intersection.

Maps: USGS 7.5 Quadrangles: Mount Zirkel, Buffalo Pass, and Mount Ethel; U.S. Forest Service: Routt National Forest; Trails Illustrated #116 and #117; CDTC Map Set: Map 207, Section CO42.

For More Information: Medicine Bow Routt National Forest, Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District: (970)-879-1870.

HIKING TOWARDS LONE RANGER PEAK NORTH OF STEAMBOAT SPRINGS. PHOTO BY WHITNEY LARUFFA



Recreate Responsibly on the CDT

Tread lightly! Take good care of the trail and help ensure that it remains beautiful and wild for generations to come. We also ask all trail users to familiarize themselves with the Leave No Trace Seven Principles: 1. Plan Ahead and Prepare; 2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces; 3. Dispose of Waste Properly; 4. Leave What You Find; 5. Minimize Campfire Impacts; 6. Respect Wildlife; 7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors. (© 1999 by the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics: www.LNT.org.)

Learn About Land Designations and How They Impact You

The CDT and our country as a whole is a complex tapestry of different land management agencies all with their own rules and regulations, the laws are enforceable the second you step into that area, so it is your responsibility to find this information before heading out. Take the time to look up what type of land your hike will take place on. A quick search on the internet using a map or map application is a great place to start. Then follow up by visiting a website for that area or best yet, give a local land management agency a call. To understand the difference between National Forests, Wilderness Areas, National Recreation Areas and the many other designations, go to <https://www.doi.gov/blog/americas-public-lands-explained>. To learn more about state lands designations, visit <https://cpw.state.co.us/>.

HOW TO SUPPORT THE CDT AND CDTC

CDTC is committed to supporting the trail and the communities it passes through, but we need the help of the public to sustain that mission.

Volunteer

There are always opportunities for individuals, families, groups, and organizations to volunteer with the CDTC. Please visit the Volunteer Opportunities Page and check out the work events. Trail work is a great way to be a part of CDTC and meet others passionate about the trail and public lands.

www.continentaldividetrail.org/volunteer

Become a Member

Members are the core of our organization and its efforts to protect the Continental Divide Trail. By joining or renewing your membership for just \$35 a year, you'll support the protection of the CDT and our work to build a broad-based community of people who love and support the trail. Benefits of Membership include:

- Opportunities to sign up for events and volunteer projects before the public
- *Passages*, CDTC's tri-annual e-magazine
- Discounts from outdoor retail partners and local businesses along the CDT
- Knowledge that your membership helps protect the CDT!

www.continentaldividetrail.org/membership



A PANORAMIC VIEW FROM SHEEP MOUNTAIN. PHOTO BY JOHNNY CARR



Photo by Levi Royals

FIND OUT MORE AT
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710 10TH STREET, SUITE 200 | GOLDEN, CO 80401 | (303) 996-2759