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United States Department of Agriculture



BIKING

SUNNYSIDE TRAIL #1987

Length: 10 miles one-way (16 km)

Difficulty: Difficult

Trail Use: Moderate

Beginning Elevation: 7,800 feet (2377 m)

Ending Elevation: 7,900 feet (2408 m)

USGS Map(s): Aspen

ATTRACTIONS/CONSIDERATIONS: This trail offers a challenging single track ride and can be made into a loop. Hunter Creek and Van Horn Park can be accessed from this trail. The Hunter Creek section of the trail is heavily used by hikers and mountain bikers. The trail passes through beautiful aspen groves and has good views of Aspen and the surrounding mountains.

ACCESS: There are two options for access to Sunnyside Trail. The first is from Cemetery Lane and the second from Hunter Creek. These directions are from Cemetery Lane. Please follow them in reverse for access from Hunter Creek. Traveling west from Aspen 1/4 mile on Highway 82, turn right at the first light out of town (on the west side of Aspen) onto Cemetery Lane. Continue 1 1/2 miles to the trailhead on the right.

NARRATIVE: The trail starts climbing up Red Mountain. There are great views of the surrounding peaks. The trail continues to switchback along the side of the mountain through scrub oak. At approximately the one mile mark the trail crosses a driveway. In a little less than two miles the trail enters aspen groves. Stay on the main trail through the aspen, there are several faded spurs along the way. The trail follows along the ridge entering areas of spruce and coming out on an old road. Follow the road to a sign marking the Sunnyside Trail off to the right. The trail becomes a single track again and descends toward Hunter Creek. Sunnyside Trail ends at the intersection with 4WD road (the left fork on the road goes to Van Horn Park) but you can pick up the single track Hunter Creek Trail on the other side. The trail descends into Hunter Valley. At the trail junction at the bottom, turn right and continue for about 1/8 mile to the Tenth Mountain Bridge. Cross the bridge and head right following the single track through the meadow. The trail descends steeply through the trees and crosses Benedict Bridge. Keep straight, the trail soon reaches Hunter Creek Road. Take a left and follow Hunter Creek Road to the intersection with Red Mountain Road. Take another left and follow Red Mountain Road into Aspen.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: Before you go out, check on available routes, their condition, ownership of land, posted areas, regulations that apply and the following rules:

- * Avoid running over young trees, shrubs, and grasses - **Stay on established routes.**
- * Avoid wetlands, meadows, steep hills, and streams where the surface is easily scarred by churning wheels.
- * Ford streams at designated sites only.
- * **Sanitation** - Bury human waste 100 feet from water and 6 inches in the soil.
- * A reminder: Wilderness Areas are closed to all mechanized vehicles, including mountain bikes.

PACK IT IN—PACK IT OUT!! LEAVE NO TRACE!!

This map is intended for use as a general guide only, not for actual land navigation. The White River National Forest suggests purchasing a topographical trail map prior to your biking trip.