

Aspen Ranger District
806 W. Hallam
Aspen, CO 81611
(970) 925-3445—Voice
(970) 925-5277—Fax



United States Department of Agriculture



MAROON CREEK ROAD

Length: 6 miles one-way (11.27 km)

Difficulty: Easy

Trail Use: Heavy

Beginning Elevation: 7,903 feet (2409 m)

Ending Elevation: 9,580 feet (2920 m)

USGS Map(s): Aspen, Highland Peak, Maroon Bells

ATTRACTIONS/CONSIDERATIONS: Maroon Creek Road leads to Maroon Lake and the Maroon Bells, the most photographed mountains in the country. This route is good for an all day trip with a picnic stop either at Maroon Lake or somewhere along the road.

ACCESS: Take Highway 82 1/2 mile west of Aspen to the Roundabout. Go around the Roundabout and turn right onto Maroon Creek Road. The road is closed in winter at the T-Lazy 7 Ranch. There is adequate parking just past the Ranch.

NARRATIVE: Going up the valley you see one of the most prominent peaks in the area, the rugged 14,018 foot Pyramid Peak, directly ahead of you. The road follows Maroon Creek on the left. As you ski up the road you may see some signs of avalanches that have come down from the steep valley walls; trees will be flattened and wide paths will be cleared by the tumbling snow. Some of these avalanches may even come across the road, forcing the trail to close. The road is usually open but be aware of the danger of avalanches. The road follows Maroon Creek to Maroon Lake. Immediately after kilometer marker 7 you will see the Maroon Bells directly ahead of you in all their beauty. This alone is worth the trip.

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

- * **Respect private property.** Ask permission before entering.
- * **Be considerate** of other winter back-country travelers. Remember we're all out to enjoy the outdoors.
- * **Avoid disturbing wild animals** by staying out of elk and deer wintering areas. Detour if you spot wildlife.
- * **Wilderness Areas and Primitive areas are closed to motorized recreational vehicles.** Inquire at a local Forest Service office if in doubt. Obey all signs.
- * **BEWARE OF AVALANCHES!** Avalanches may occur at any time during the winter. Avoid mountainous terrain after heavy snowfalls or prolonged periods of high wind. Stay on the windblown side of ridges. Avoid crossing steep hillsides and entering narrow, steep canyons.
- * Remember to notify a responsible person of your travel plans.

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 cross-country/snowshoe trip.