

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



United States Department of Agriculture



**HIKING**

## **AVALANCHE LAKE TRAIL #1959**

**Length:** 11 miles one-way (17.7 km)

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Trail Use:** Heavy

**Beginning Elevation:** 7,310 feet (2228 m)

**Ending Elevation:** 10,695 feet (3260 m)

**USGS Map(s):** Capitol Peak, Redstone

**PERMIT INFORMATION:** In order to provide quality recreation experiences and to protect the wilderness lands the Forest Service must gather data regarding visitor use and travel patterns. Each **party overnighiting** in the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness is **required to self-register at the Trailhead and to carry a copy of the registration with them** during their visit. There is no fee charged and no limit to the number of permits issued.

**DAY/BACKPACKING OVERVIEW:** A good backpacking hike with access to the Hell Roaring Trail, East Creek Trail, West Fork Trail and Capitol Lake. This area is popular with horseback riders, hikers and backpackers.

**ACCESS:** Drive south 12 1/2 miles on Highway 133 from Carbondale. Turn left at the sign for Avalanche Creek and follow the road for 2 1/2 miles past Avalanche Campground to the parking area at the southeast end of the campground.

**NARRATIVE:** The trail begins from the parking lot and ascends through aspen reaching the intersection with the Hell Roaring Trail in 2 1/2 miles. Keep straight, the trail will cross Hell Roaring Creek and then descend toward Avalanche Creek. At the 5 mile point it crosses a meadow called Duley Park. The trail continues through aspen and reaches an intersection with the East Creek Trail about 7 miles from the start. Keep straight, the trail ascends, steeply in parts, to the intersection with Capitol Creek Trail at about 10 1/4 miles. Bear right to Avalanche Lake.

**ETHICS/REGULATIONS:** The Avalanche Lake Trail is within the Maroon Bell-Snowmass Wilderness, please educate yourself about Wilderness Ethics and the following rules:

- \* **DOGS MUST BE LEASHED** out of consideration for both other people and wildlife.
- \* Limit group sizes to 10 people and 15 stock/pack animals.
- \* **SANITATION** - bury human waste 100 feet from water and 6 inches in the soil.
- \* **No fires above 10,800 ft.** Lightweight campstoves are recommended and required above the timberline.
- \* **BEAR CANISTERS REQUIRED** for all overnight visitors. Approved bear canisters must be capable of holding all scented items (food, toiletries, dog food, garbage, etc.) and should be stored on the ground, out of sight and no less than 100 ft. away from any camp.

**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 hiking trip.

# ASPEN-SOPRIS RANGER DISTRICT WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST AVALANCHE LAKE TRAIL #1959

