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United States Department of Agriculture



HIKING

CATHEDRAL LAKE TRAIL #1984 **To ELECTRIC PASS**

Length: 5.2 miles one-way (8.3 km one-way)

Trail Use: Heavy (to Cathedral Lake)

Beginning Elevation: 9,880 feet (3011 m)

USGS Map(s): Hayden Peak

Difficulty: More Difficult

Ending Elevation: 13,500 feet (4115 m)

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 strenuous day hike to the highest trail pass in Colorado with breathtaking views of the Elk Mountain Range. For backpackers and overnight stay at the camping area below Cathedral Lake is recommended. **This hike is for strong hikers who are willing to start early in the day as electrical storms often hit the pass in the early afternoon. You should return from the Pass and be below the saddle by noon. Beyond the pass an unmaintained trail into the Conundrum Valley exists, but IS NOT recommended because of loose scree fields and afternoon weather.**

ACCESS: From the Hwy 82 roundabout just west of Aspen, turn onto Castle Creek Road. Drive 12.2 miles just past the ghost town of Ashcroft. Turn right onto a gravel road and continue ½ mile to the trailhead.

NARRATIVE: Follow the Cathedral Lake Trail to the first Electric Pass fork and go right. This is the ½ way point from the trailhead to Electric Pass. The trail climbs a ridge and comes to another intersection, stay right for Electric Pass, left will go to Cathedral Lake. The trail wanders through meadows of wildflowers above the treeline. While in meadows the trail turns right and climbs through a series of switchbacks to the ridge on the right. From the saddle at the top of the ridge, the trail climbs the ridge on the left to a scree field. *Continue across the scree field with caution.* The pass is at the end of the field. For the most spectacular views of the Elk Mountain Range, turn right at the pass and begin a 5 minute ascent of the adjacent peak.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: The Cathedral Lake/Electric Pass Trail is within the Maroon Bells-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 size 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
- **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
 CATHEDRAL LAKE TO ELECTRIC PASS #1981

