



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



United States  
Forest Service

Pike and San Isabel  
National Forests

Cimarron and Comanche  
National Grasslands

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Welcome to the Leadville Ranger District of the San Isabel National Forest.  
We hope you enjoy the beautiful surroundings by taking one of the suggested day hikes below.

## Suggested Day Hikes

### TURQUOISE LAKE AREA

#### **Bear Lake - #1 is 3.5 miles (one-way), 1370 feet gain / #2 is 1.5 miles (one way), 400 feet gain**

The trailhead can be accessed 2 ways: #1 via Timberline Lake trailhead on the west side of Turquoise Lake or #2 via Forest Service Road 107, which is north of Lake County Road 9. Both hikes ascend the southern foothills of Galena Mountain (12,893 feet), traveling through lodgepole pine forest along the Colorado Trail. From the top of the ridges, you can see a large part of the upper Arkansas Valley and Colorado's highest peaks. The trail then drops into spruce-fir forest, wandering past several little ponds and lakes. Idyllic Bear Lake sits on a wide flat bench bordered by big boulders on its west side.

#### **Colorado Trail: Segment #10 – 13 miles (one way), 2000 feet gain**

Segment #10 can be accessed from the parking lot of the Timberline Lake trailhead, located at the west end of Turquoise Lake. From the Timberline Lake parking area, Segment #10 trends 13.0 miles into Halfmoon Creek, traveling along the east side of Mt. Massive and through Mt. Massive Wilderness and the Leadville National Fish Hatchery. Special group limits and fishing restrictions apply in this section; please check trailheads for specific information.

#### **Midline Trail Loop – 5.5 miles (round trip), 400 feet gain**

Moderately easy loop in the Hagerman Pass area; to reach the trailhead, take the Hagerman Pass Road (Forest Road 105) 3.5 miles to the shared parking area with Native Lake & Windsor Lake trailheads. The last 1/2 mile above this meadow to the trail is recommended for high clearance vehicles.

#### **Native Lake / Highline Trail – 4.2 miles / 9.4 miles (one way), 1100 feet gain + 600 feet loss**

The trailhead is 3.5 miles up the Hagerman Pass Road (Forest Service 105), with parking area on the south side of the road just before it reaches the meadow. The trail immediately enters Mt. Massive Wilderness: please be sure to follow all posted Wilderness guidelines. Although the first part of the trail is below timberline, there are segments above timberline with high exposure. Be aware of afternoon thunderstorms common in the area. Native Lakes is 4.2 miles from the trailhead and fishing is catch and release only. Continue SE on the trail an additional 5 miles and you arrive at Leadville Fish Hatchery.

#### **Timberline Lake – 2.2 miles (one way), 700 feet gain**

The trailhead is at the west end of Turquoise Lake, just northwest of Mayqueen campground. The trail enters Holy Cross Wilderness soon after intersecting with the Colorado Trail. Wilderness regulations apply, as well as special fishing regulations. The native Greenback Cutthroat Trout has been reintroduced into the lake and Lake Fork Creek. Check with Colorado Division of Wildlife for regulations.

#### **Windsor Lake – 1.1 miles (one way), 1000 feet gain**

A short, steep hike in the Hagerman Pass area – it is a more strenuous hike than the distance implies. To reach the trailhead, drive 3.5 miles on the Hagerman Pass Road (Forest Road 105) and park in the meadow to the north of the road. The trail begins on the south side of the road and immediately crosses the Busk-Ivanhoe Tunnel and enters the Mt. Massive Wilderness. This is a popular fish and camping site.



## TWIN LAKES AREA

### **Big Willis Gulch – 5.5 miles (one way), 2400 feet gain**

This is a moderate hike with an end destination of Willis Lake and a mine just beyond the lake. The trailhead is shared with Little Willis Gulch, with hiking access to Hope Pass. The trailhead is found two miles west of Twin Lakes Village on Highway 82. Look for a signed parking lot (Willis Gulch Trailhead) to the south. The trail is accessed south across the bridge over Lake Creek. Follow the road to the trail on the left side. The first part of the trail is fairly steep.

### **Colorado Trail: Segment #11 – 21.1 miles (one way), 1520 feet gain**

Segment #11 begins at Halfmoon Creek at the Mt. Elbert trailhead and ends 21.2 miles later at the Clear Creek Road (Chaffee County Road 390). The trail hugs the eastern base of Mt. Elbert (highest mountain in Colorado) and then skirts the east side of Twin Lakes. The trail then climbs and crosses Lost Canyon before linking with a re-route completed in 2007 and dropping into Clear Creek. The section provides a good example of the typical forest ecosystems between 9,500 and 11,000 feet. Be sure to notice the remnants of old-growth Douglas-fir trees just south of Twin Lakes.

### **Independence Pass – 0.25 miles (one way), minimal gain/loss**

A short, scenic walk to Independence Pass overlook, this paved trail offers spectacular views of the peaks and ridges of the Continental Divide.

### **Interlaken – 2 miles (one way), minimal gain/loss**

This popular trail offers an easy walk to the historic resort cabins of Interlaken. The trailhead is located 0.7 miles W of Highway 82 on County Road 25 before Twin Lakes. From the southeast side of the dam, follow the trail along the lakeside or continue up Hope Pass (approximately 10 miles).

## CLEAR CREEK AREA

### **Colorado Trail: Segment #12 – 18.5 miles (one way), 4520 feet gain**

Segment #12 begins at Clear Creek on Chaffee County Road 390 and ends at North Cottonwood Creek 18.5 miles to the south. A re-route completed in 2007 moves the trail off private property, making access easier. The trail climbs out of Clear Creek and enters the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness. Be sure to follow all posted Wilderness guidelines when entering the area. The trail then continues into Pine Creek before dropping into the North Cottonwood drainage. This segment spends a good portion above 11,000 feet and brings you close to three Fourteeners (Mount Oxford, Harvard, and Columbia).

### **Missouri Gulch – 6.8 miles (one way), 3740 feet gain the first 3 miles**

This trail begins at the large parking area south of Clear Creek Road (Chaffee County 390) across the road from the old town of Vicksburg. The Missouri Gulch trail ends at its junction with the Pine Creek Trail in Missouri Basin. The first 3.5 miles are strenuous, with an elevation gain of 3,750 feet. The next three miles has an elevation loss of 1,670 feet. This area is extremely popular with hikers and climbers accessing Mounts Belford & Oxford and Missouri Mountain. Plan your trip for a weekday if you are hoping for solitude.

### ***SPECIAL NOTES ON WILDERNESS***

*When entering Wilderness, be aware of special regulations concerning group size, pets, and permits. No mechanical (bicycles) or motorized vehicles are allowed in the Wilderness and, in keeping with the character of the Wilderness, signage is minimal. Also, keep in mind that the high altitude can effect even the healthiest and fittest of people. Be aware of symptoms of acute mountain sickness, particularly with children who are more susceptible than adults. Weather in the high country is unpredictable and changes rapidly, so it is a good idea to always carry rain gear and cold weather clothes with you, as well as food and water. Have a Safe and enjoyable hike!*

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