

Blanco Ranger
District
220 E Market Street
Meeker, CO 81641



United States Department of
Agriculture



CHINESE WALL TRAIL # 1803

Difficulty: More Difficult **Trail Use:** Moderate **Length:** 18 miles
Elevation: Starts at 10,282 feet and ends at 11,347 feet (highest point 11,821 feet)
Elevation Gain: +2,805 feet – 1,740 feet = +1,065 feet

Access:

The Chinese Wall Trail is located 45 miles east of Meeker. From Meeker, take State Highway 13 east for 1 mile. Where Highway 13 turns north, turn east on Rio Blanco County Road 8 for 44 miles. The Chinese Wall Trailhead parking lot is on the west side of the road, 4/10 of a mile from the summit of Ripple Creek Pass. The trail begins across the road to the east of the parking lot.

Trail Highlights:

Leaving the road the vegetation varies from stands of spruce, fir and dead spruce to open, grassy meadows. After one mile you enter into the Flat Tops Wilderness. Two miles later you come to Picket Pin Park at about the same elevation as the trailhead. You skirt along the edge of the park for 1/2 mile, then leaving the park, you climb for one mile to the ridge dividing the White River and Williams Fork drainages. From this divide you climb two miles to the top of Lost Lakes Peaks. Vistas to the north reveal the Dunkley Flat Tops and the Elk Head Mountains with Lost Lakes Basin directly below. To the southeast are the alpine meadows of the high Flat Tops, while in the basin to the south lies Trappers Lake. Continuing across the rolling tundra the trail is defined by wooden posts and rock cairns. After 4.5 miles you come to the junction of the Devils Causeway Trail. The Devils Causeway, 1 mile to the north, is a narrow strip of land connecting two major portions of the Flat Tops. On both sides are 60' to 80' cliffs with steep talus slopes dropping for 600' to 800' into the drainage below. The rough and rocky three-foot wide crest can be crossed on foot, but it is impassable for horses. From the Devils Causeway the trail continues south 7 miles across the alpine meadow to its terminus at the Island Lakes Trail.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: Chinese Wall is in the Flat Tops Wilderness, please educate yourself about Wilderness Ethics. Know the following rules:

- **DOGS:** Possessing a dog or other animal that is harassing wildlife or people or damaging property is prohibited. There is no leash law in the Flat Tops, however dogs must be kept under verbal control at all times.
- **TRASH: PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT** -- even biodegradable items like fruit peels!
- Limit group size to 10 people and 15 stock/pack animals or less
- **SANITATION** - bury human waste 100 feet from trails and water and 6 inches in the soil or pack it out along with toilet paper.
- Above tree line camp stoves with a shut-off valve are the only fire sources allowed. Do not plan on using a campfire for cooking or warmth! Pack accordingly.

WILDERNESS AREAS are in a delicate state of natural balance, they are not renewable resources. Any careless act upsets this natural balance and destroys the beauty found in the Wilderness. By following Wilderness ethics and regulations you can protect and preserve the natural qualities of the Wilderness for future visits. **PLEASE, RESPECT THE LAND AND RIGHTS OF OTHERS!**



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