

Aspen Ranger District
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United States Department of Agriculture



HIKING

LOST MAN TRAIL #1996

Length: 8.8 miles one-way (14.2 km)

Difficulty: Moderate

Trail Use: Moderate

Beginning Elevation: 10,507 feet (3203 m)

Highest Elevation: 12,800 feet (3901 m)

Ending Elevation: 11,506 feet (3507 m)

at Lost Man Pass

USGS Map(s): Independence Pass, Mt. Champion

DAY/BACKPACKING OVERVIEW: This is a moderate climb with a couple of steep sections. This trail is good for hiking and backpacking. Fishing is fair in Independence Lake, Lost Man Lake and Lost Man Reservoir. The trail is not a complete loop—it is a good idea to set up a shuttle.

ACCESS: There are 2 ways to access Lost Man Trail

- 1) From Lost Man Campground: Drive 14 miles east of Aspen on Highway 82 to the parking lot directly across from Lost Man Campground. The trailhead begins on the left (north) side of the road.
- 2) From the last switchback before Independence Pass: Drive 18 ½ miles east of Aspen on Highway 82 to the parking lot at the last switchback before the top of Independence Pass. The trailhead is on the left (north) side of the road.

NARRATIVE: This narrative is from the parking lot opposite the Lost Man Campground. Follow in reverse if starting from the last switchback. The trail begins to the left of the bulletin board and quickly crosses a wooden bridge. At the ½ mile mark the trail forks. Take the right fork (the left goes to Midway Pass) and continue to Lost Man Reservoir. Keep left around the reservoir. At approximately the 3 ½ mile mark there is a junction, turn right (left goes to South Fork Pass). The trail gradually ascends to Lost Man Lake. From the Lake, the trail ascends steeply to the top of the pass and then descends steeply to Independence Lake. The trail descends gradually to Highway 82 about 4 miles from your starting point.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: Lost Man Trail is within the Hunter/Fryingpan Wilderness. Please educate yourself about hiking ethics and the following rules:

- * Out of consideration for others and wildlife - **DOGS MUST BE ON A LEASH.**
- * Limit group sizes to 15 people and a maximum combination of 25 people and stock/pack animals.
- * **SANITATION** - bury human waste 100 feet from water and 6 inches in the soil.
- * Lightweight campstoves are recommended and required above the timberline.

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 LOST MAN TRAIL #1996

