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United States Department of Agriculture



HIKING

MAROON LAKE SCENIC TRAIL #2197

Length: 1.5 miles one-way (2.4 km)

Difficulty: Easy

Trail Use: Heavy

Beginning Elevation: 9,580 feet (2920 m)

Ending Elevation: 9,700 feet (2957 m)

USGS Map(s): Maroon Bells

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: This trail is one of the most heavily used trails in the Aspen area. Hikers and picnickers enjoy the wildflowers and views of the Maroon Bells and Pyramid Peak. It is a great family day hike with many photographic opportunities.

ACCESS: From mid-June through September, Maroon Creek Road is restricted to vehicles from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. beyond the T-Lazy 7 Ranch. Take the shuttle from Aspen Highlands Ski Area, which leaves every 20 minutes; dog are allowed on the bus.

The Maroon Bells Scenic Area is a recreation fee area; there is a *mandatory* use fee (cash or check). Interagency, Senior & Golden Access Passes are honored. From the Hwy 82 Roundabout, just west of Aspen, take the Maroon Creek Road turn. In approximately one mile is Aspen Highlands, *turn left here for the shuttle!* If arriving during non-bus hours, continue another 4 miles to the Welcome Station. The use fee will be collected here, or in the fee tube immediately behind the station if un-manned; continue another 5 miles to the parking lot at Maroon Lake.

NARRATIVE: The trail starts at the Maroon Lake parking area traversing through a meadow to the far end of Maroon Lake and a Forest Service bulletin board. Take the trail to the left. There are several bridges crossing the creek. The trail skirts around an active beaver pond and loops back to Maroon Lake. The trail is not a complete loop around the lake so you will have to turn back the way you came.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: Maroon Lake Scenic Trail starts at the Maroon Lake Parking area and leads into 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 sizes to 10 people and 15 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
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