

Aspen Ranger District
806 West Hallam
Aspen, CO 81611
(970) 925-3445
(970) 925-5277- Fax



United States Department of Agriculture

CAPITOL PEAK 14,130 feet (4306 meters)

LENGTH: 4 miles round trip from camp

ELEVATION GAIN: 3,200 feet

AVERAGE HIKING/CLIMBING TIME:
6.5 hours round trip

USGS MAP(S): Capitol Peak

SKILL FACTOR: All 14'ers within the Aspen District are for experienced mountaineers only.

RECOMMENDED SEASON(S):
Late spring and summer

ATTRACTIONS/CONSIDERATIONS: The climb up Capitol Peak is exciting and exposed in spots. There are areas of loose rock. It is wise to climb the mountain with someone else who has been there before. However, if you are experienced, the route is fairly straightforward. A guide is recommended.

ACCESS: Drive north of Aspen on Highway 82 for 14 miles to Old Snowmass (not Snowmass Village). Turn left at the Conoco Station and continue for 2 miles to a fork; this is the Capitol Creek Road. Take a right and follow the pavement for 7 ½ miles. Follow the dirt road approximately 3 miles to the trailhead sign and park nearby. The road is very rough and not recommended for low clearance vehicles.

NARRATIVE: After parking at the trailhead, follow trail #1961 down to the creek, where it crosses the creek and follows the east side almost the entire way to the lake- approximately 6 ½ miles. There are good campsites in the trees ¼ mile below the lake. From camp, walk up to the lake, turn left (east) and follow a path to the Capitol-Daly saddle (approximately ¾ miles and a 1,400 foot gain). From the saddle drop into the basin and walk south and west up into the broad basin to bypass the rough section of the ridge until you get to an elevation of 13,664 (known as K-2). Contour around the northwest side of K-2 and down to the ridge. There are three sections of knife ridge but the route is quite secure. After crossing the ridges the rock becomes loose. You must stay close to the ridge and not wander into the gullies. A rope should be taken along with you!

It is your responsibility to know the hazards involved in your activities and to use the proper safety procedures and equipment to minimize the inherent risks and hazards related to your activity. As a user of National Forest System Lands, you have significant responsibility for your personal safety during any activity you might pursue. The Forest Service installs signs and other information devices at various locations where conditions limit placement of signs or other specific warnings and necessitates the use of more general education efforts. Hazards are not limited to, but include: changing weather conditions, snow, avalanche, landslides and falling rock, caves, overlooks, falling trees or limbs, high or rushing water, contaminated water, wild animals, becoming lost or over exerted, hypothermia, remnants of mining and other activities involving excavation, tunnels, shafts, decaying structures and a variety of equipment, and changing road and trail conditions. You may also be exposed to unreasonable acts of others. **The Forest Service does not manage or control all of these occurrences.**

The peaks in the White River National Forest do not have designated routes to the top. The Forest Service is currently studying the present, user-created trails to determine the feasibility and desirability of designated routes. For further sources on information and routes to the peaks, please call the office at (970) 925-3445.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL - PITKIN COUNTY SHERIFF - 920-5310

