

Aspen Ranger District
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Aspen, CO 81611
(970) 925-3445
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United States Department of Agriculture

SNOWMASS MOUNTAIN 14,092 feet (4295 meters)

LENGTH: 3 miles from Snowmass Lake

ELEVATION GAIN: 3,000 feet

AVERAGE HIKING/CLIMBING TIME:
3-4 hours one-way

USGS MAP(S): Capitol Peak;
Snowmass Mountain

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

RECOMMENDED SEASON(S):
Late spring and summer/ Early fall

ATTRACTIONS/CONSIDERATIONS: Snowmass Mountain is one of the most enjoyable 14ers to climb. It is named for the snow in the East Bowl that remains year round. The view from the summit is outstanding.

ACCESS: Snowmass Lake (the base) is reached by trail from three directions: 1) Up Snowmass Creek- 9 miles and 2,100 feet elevation gain; 2) Over Buckskin Pass- 9 miles and 3,000 feet elevation gain; 3) From Geneva Lake- 5 1/2 miles and 2,000 feet elevation gain.

NARRATIVE: After reaching camp at Snowmass Lake by any of the three routes, get a good rest and start out early the next day. Cross the outlet and find the trail that circles the shore on the south side of the lake. Follow this to the other end and pick your way up the talus slope to the left of the gully, which is the center of this bench. About 2/3 of the way up the left side, cross the creek to a grassy slope. Cross where the water runs over slabs. Once on the grass, climb to the top of the bench and pick a line that puts you left of the summit. Climb the summit ridge and follow it to the top. Return the same way. The basin may require an ice axe.

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

