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United States Department of Agriculture



BIKING

RICHMOND HILL ROAD #123

Length: 12 miles one-way (19.3 km)

Difficulty: Difficult

Trail Use: Moderate

Beginning Elevation: 11,212 feet (3417 m)

Ending Elevation: 11,928 feet (3636 m)

USGS Map(s): Hayden Peak, Aspen

ATTRACTIONS/CONSIDERATIONS: This road is rated “difficult” due to the steep access at the beginning and because of its exposure. Watch for afternoon thunderstorms. Richmond Hill Road connects Taylor Pass with the top of Aspen Mountain. There are great views along the ride.

ACCESS: There are four options for accessing Richmond Hill Road:

1) Express Creek Road- From Aspen go ½ mile west on Highway 82 to the Roundabout. Turn right onto Castle Creek Road from the Roundabout. Drive 11 miles to the intersection with Express Creek. Follow this route about 5 ½ miles to Taylor Pass.

2) Little Annie Road- Follow the above instructions to Castle Creek Road. Drive approximately 7 miles to Little Annie Road on the left. Follow this route about 4 ½ miles up the back side of Aspen Mountain.

3) Midnight Mine Road- Follow the above instructions to Castle Creek Road. Drive 2 ½ miles to Midnight Mine Road on the left. Follow this road about 5 ½ miles up the back side of Aspen Mountain.

4) Summer Road- From Main Street in Aspen, turn onto Aspen Street heading towards Aspen Mtn. This will take you to the bottom of Lift 1A. Summer Road can be accessed from this point.

NARRATIVE: These directions are from Aspen Mountain. If starting from Taylor Pass, follow the directions in reverse. Travel east behind the gondola and chairlift onto Richmond Hill Road which heads south. The road begins with uphill and downhill. In approximately 1 ¼ miles there is a fork at the bottom of a steep hill, bear left and in a short distance there is another fork. Go straight, heading into the trees. The road continues in a rolling pattern until reaching a long downhill with some steep sections at approximately 4 ½ miles. As soon as the downhill ends, the steep uphill begins. The last section of the road switchbacks, then descends to Taylor Pass. You can take Express Creek Road to Castle Creek Road to return to Aspen.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: Before you go out check into available routes, their condition, ownership of land, posted areas, regulations that apply, and the following rules:

- * Avoid running over young trees, shrubs, and grasses - **Stay on established routes.**
- * Avoid wetlands, meadows, steep hills, and streams where the surface is easily scarred by churning wheels.
- * Ford streams at designated sites only.
- * **Sanitation** - Bury human waste 100 feet from water and 6 inches in the soil.
- * A reminder: Wilderness Areas are closed to all mechanized vehicles, including mountain bikes.

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 biking trip.