

Aspen Ranger District
806 W. Hallam
Aspen, CO 81611
(970) 925-3445—Voice
(970) 925-5277—Fax



United States Department of Agriculture



BIKING

SMUGGLER MOUNTAIN—HUNTER CREEK #130

Length: 5.5 miles one-way (8.8 km)

Difficulty: Moderate

Trail Use: Very Heavy

Beginning Elevation: 7,900 feet (2408 m)

Ending Elevation: 7,900 feet (2408 m)

USGS Map(s): Aspen

ATTRACTIONS/CONSIDERATIONS: Smuggler Road is used heavily by mountain bikes, runners and hikers. Smuggler Road provides a short (1 1/2 mile) work out with great views of Aspen. The section of trail through Hunter Creek is not as heavily used, but is popular with hikers, mountain bikers, and cross-country skiers in the winter.

ACCESS: Travel east on Highway 82 into Aspen and turn left (north) onto Mill Street. Travel 1/4 mile and turn right after the bridge onto Gibson Street. Follow Gibson 1/8 mile to a "Y" intersection and bear left onto South Avenue. Turn right onto Park Circle and follow it 1/8 mile to the Smuggler mountain Road on the left. There is parking on the right.

NARRATIVE: Smuggler Road is a fairly well maintained 4WD road. It immediately begins a steep ascent. The switchbacks get longer and in about 1 1/2 miles the road curves behind Smuggler Mountain. There is a short steep path on the right leading to a platform which is good for viewing Aspen. To continue to Hunter Creek, take the left fork just after the platform (the right goes to Warren Lakes). There are several side roads; please stay on the main route. The road has some moderate ups and downs. There is a gate at the two mile mark, go around it and continue up the hill. At about the 3 1/2 mile mark there is an old bridge, from which there are several options: 1) You can cross the bridge and turn left following the trail along the west side of the river and cross back over the Tenth Mountain Bridge; 2) Turn left (don't cross the bridge) and follow the single track on the east side of the river; 3) Cross the bridge, turn left and follow the river along the west side and continue right along the fence line to access Van Horn Park, Sunnyside Trail or Lenado; and 4) Cross the bridge, turn left and follow the trail along the west side of the river and turn right onto the single track Hunter Creek Trail which leads to the Sunnyside Trail, Van Horn Park, and Lenado. These directions are for options (1) and (2), which converge above the Tenth Mountain Bridge. The single track continues through the meadow and descends steeply through the trees and crosses Benedict Bridge. Keep straight, the trail soon reaches the paved road of Hunter Creek. Take a left and follow the Hunter Creek Road to the intersection of Red Mountain Road. Take another left and follow Red Mountain Road back to Aspen.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: Before you go out, check on 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.