

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



United States Department of Agriculture

RICHMOND HILL ROAD #123

Length: 12 miles one-way (19.3 km)

Difficulty: Moderate to 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 route runs southeast from the top of Aspen Mountain to Taylor Pass, a gentle rolling route among evergreens until you reach the open meadows beyond McArthur Mountain. It is rated difficult to moderate because of the steep sections found at the beginning and end of this road and because of its exposure. The last 5 miles are above timberline and are very exposed. Beware of avalanche danger. Great views of the Castle Creek Valley are provided.

ACCESS: Travel 1/2 mile west of Aspen on Highway 82 to the Roundabout. Go around the Roundabout and turn right onto Castle Creek Road. Then there are 3 options to access this route:

1) Express Creek Road: Drive 11 miles to the intersection with Express Creek Road (look for the road sign). Follow this route about 5 1/2 miles to Taylor Pass.

2) Little Annie Road: Drive approximately 7 miles to Little Annie Road (look for the road sign) on the left. Follow this route about 4 1/2 miles up the back side of Aspen Mountain.

3) Midnight Mine Road: Drive approximately 2 1/2 miles to Midnight Mine Road (look for the road sign) on the left. Follow this road about 5 1/2 miles up the back side of Aspen Mountain.

NARRATIVE: These directions are from the top of Aspen Mountain. If you are starting from Taylor Pass, please follow the directions in reverse. Travel east behind the gondola onto the Richmond Hill Road heading south. The road begins with rolling hills. In about 1 1/4 miles there is a fork at the bottom of a steep hill. Bear left and in a short distance go straight at the next fork. Keep straight toward the trees. The road continues in a rolling pattern until it reaches a long downhill with some steep sections at approximately the 4 1/2 mile mark ending with a steep uphill. The last section of the road switchbacks up, then descends to the top of Taylor Pass. You can take Express Creek Road to Castle Creek Road to return to Aspen.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: Motorized vehicles are not allowed within adjacent Wilderness Areas. Before you go out, check into available routes, their conditions, ownership of land, posted areas, regulations that apply and the following rules:

- * **Respect private property.** Ask permission before entering.
- * **Be considerate** of other winter back-country travelers. Remember, we're all out to enjoy the outdoors.
- * **Wilderness areas and Primitive areas are CLOSED to motorized recreational vehicles.** If in doubt, inquire at a local Forest Service office. Obey all signs.
- * **BEWARE OF AVALANCHES!** Avalanches may occur at any time during the winter. Avoid mountainous terrain after heavy snowfalls or prolonged periods of high wind. Stay on the windblown side of ridges. Avoid crossing steep hillsides and entering narrow, steep canyons.

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 snowmobile trip.