



Colorado Mountain Adventures

Hiking & Camping

Ice Lakes (Silverton, CO) – Located in the San Juan Mountains in South Mineral Campground.

. Hiking or backpacking. Hiking into Ice Lake is a strenuous 7 mile roundtrip hike, but the scenery is well worth the effort. Ice Lake is well known for its' brilliant blue color and the mountain peaks that surround it. This is a perfect spot for lunch, take your time and enjoy all Ice Lake has to offer. Trek another $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to Island Lake and from there follow the trail another $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to Fuller Lake, which is surrounded by three 13ers and the remnants of an old mining cabin. The total roundtrip distance to Fuller Lake and back is 9 miles. Start your trip at South Mineral Campground, which has access to a vault toilet, potable water, and 26 camp sites. Dispersed camping is also available along Forest Service Road 585. Dog friendly.

May Queen Camp Ground & Timberline Lake Trail (Leadville, CO)

. Hiking or backpacking. Make it a weekend trip and stay overnight at the May Queen Campground, which is right next to Turquoise Lake. There are several other campgrounds around Turquoise Lake, but May Queen is a great spot with access to fishing, boating, biking, or hiking. If you want a little exercise, there is a walking loop that goes around the campground, or you can take the Turquoise Nature Trail. This trail is an out and back trail, and if you do the whole trail it is 6.4 miles round trip, but it makes for a perfect short walk to get views of the lake and watch the sun set. Just a mile past May Queen is the trailhead to Timberline Lake, which is a moderate 4.5 miles round trip to the lake, but add on an extra mile if you walk all the way around the lake. This trail is part of the Holy Cross Wilderness area, so backpackers must obtain a permit to camp overnight and dogs should be leashed. Once you make it to Timberline Lake, you can easily find a quiet rock or log to eat some lunch and take in all the scenery. May Queen Campground has access to water, electric, and vault toilets. No restroom at Timberline Lake TH.

Silver Jack Reservoir & Camp Ground (Cimarron, CO)

. Camping at Silver Jack has plenty of outdoor recreation opportunities from hiking to fishing and water sports. Silver Jack Campground has 60 sites with access to vault toilets and potable water. There is also dispersed camping available in the National Forest. Need a quick hike? Make your way down to the lake and across the dam. Follow the forest service road past the reservoir and there are a few options for day hikes, including a short hike to a waterfall along the Middle Fork section of the Cimarron River. The East Fork follows a primitive trail, perfect for a long day hike or backpacking trip. Bring your pooch! Your dog will love playing in the lake and the streams.

Mt. Sneffels (Ouray, CO) – Located south of Ouray in Yankee Boy Basin

. Hiking or Backpacking. Sneffels is rated as an easy class three 14er, with the summit sitting at 14,150 feet. The best route starts at the Yankee Boy Basin, which is well known for its wildflowers during the months of July and August. If you have a high clearance 4WD vehicle, you can drive to the upper trailhead, making the route 2.5 miles round trip, however once you get passed the lower trail head, the road gets pretty rocky. The hike in from the lower trail head is 6 miles round trip. On my trip, I drove past the lower trail head by ½ mile before I felt it was too rocky for my vehicle. Turn it into an overnight and backpack into the base of Sneffels, a campsite that will have a beautiful front door view looking down into Yankee Boy Basin and Wright's Lake. Get an early start, and after setting up camp you can do a bonus day hike over the ridge and down to Upper Blue Lake; this is a moderate hike down into Blue Lake, but will be steep and strenuous to head back to your campsite. The final climb to the Sneffels summit from the base should take a little over an hour for an advanced hiker, or two hours for someone not as acclimated to the altitude. When climbing a 14er it is important to be aware of afternoon thunderstorms, plan to be off the top of the peak by noon. While this trail is dog friendly, the route leading past the base of Sneffels up to the summit is very rocky and may cause strain to your dog's paws or legs.

Ridgeway State Park (Ridgeway, CO) – Located 5 miles north of downtown Ridgeway, CO

. Hiking, biking, fishing, swimming, boating, paddling, and camping. When visiting Ridgeway State Park, plan to stay a few days so you can experience all the many activities available. There are 258 campsites for campers and RVs and 25 walk in tent sites. Ridgeway has flush toilets, coin operated showers, and each site has electric, and potable water. Elk Ridge Campground is surrounded by juniper trees with access to a hiking trail that leads down to the lake, take this trail before dusk for an amazing sunset and a chance to see lots of little critters. Bring your bike along and enjoy some casual biking around the campground or access adventure with neighboring mountain bike trails, check our RAT (Ridgeway Area Trails) for a complete map and trail description for mountain biking. Make time to play in the water, whether you enjoy fishing, waterskiing, or paddle boarding. Winter also presents opportunities for recreation, with yurt camping and plenty of Nordic trails. Downtown is only five miles away; Ridgeway has everything you need with plenty of shops, galleries, restaurants, an ice cream shop, liquor store, and a grocery store. Visitors can also access several forest service trails by driving south of the state park for a variety of hikes in difficulty and length, and may with spectacular mountain views. For a complete list of trails visit the State Park and Forest Service websites.