

ICE LAKE BASIN



BACKPACKING TRIP

FYI: The map on the reverse side is not intended for navigation, but rather for general orientation.

P.S. More trail maps available at www.oriconline.org

Location: San Miguel Pk Roadless Area
 San Juan National Forest
 8 miles West of Silverton

Contact Info: Columbine Ranger District
 970-884-2512
www.fs.fed.us/r2

Length: 3.02 miles one-way (estimate using Nat'l Geo Mapping Software)

Time: Overnight backpack. The avg. person hikes apx. 2 miles an hour. Adjust your time based on terrain, trail and weather conditions and your skill and fitness level.

Elevation Gain/Loss: +2435' -31' = +2404'

Difficulty: Moderate to Strenuous

Season: July through September

Trail Users: Hikers, backpackers, pikas, marmots and Mountain Goats

Dogs: On hand-held leash

Permits: None required

Getting There From Denver: Take I-25 S. to US Hwy 160. Go W. to Durango. Take US Hwy 550 N. to Silverton. From Silverton drive about 2 miles W. on US Hwy 550 to the left hand turn for Forest Rd 585 which follows S. Mineral Creek. Drive 6 miles on the good gravel road to S. Mineral Campground. The trailhead is located on the N. side of the road.

Maps: NG Trails Illustrated #141W, Latitude 40° Telluride•Silverton•Ouray Trails Recreation Topo Map and or the Ophir USGS 7.5 topographic map.

IMPORTANT: Stay found with the aid of a topographic map, a compass, a GPS receiver and the skill to use them.

Safety Considerations and Supplemental Info: ■ Watch for rapidly deteriorating weather conditions to include thunderstorms and lightening ■ Treat water drawn from sources along the trail ■ Challenging stream crossings in the Spring and early Summer ■ Check www.oriconline.org for fire restrictions ■ Be prepared for mosquitoes from July thru September ■ All antiquities including mining relics, are protected by law ■ Toilet facilities available at campground

Trail Description: The trail begins with a nearly 2,500 ft. climb thru moderate to strenuous grades. The route takes you thru forests and open meadows. The trail eventually reaches a rocky area, above which is Lower Ice Lake Basin. From the Lower Basin, the trail then climbs a final 500 ft. in less than a mile to reach Ice Lake Basin. **TIP:** Contact the Columbine Ranger District for trail updates.

Highlights: ■ Majestic bowl-shaped glacial valley with craggy and colorful 13,000 foot peaks, lakes, streams and waterfalls ■ Dotted with permanent snowfields ■ Stream fishing for brook and rainbow trout ■ Wildflowers in July and August ■ Ramshackle mining cabins and equipment ■ Volcanic-like Island Lake

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