COMANCHE-VENABLE LOOP



BACKPACKING TRIP

FYI: The map on the reverse side is for general orientation, not for navigation. **P.S.** Get and post trail updates at www.facebook.com/oriccolorado

Location: Sangre de Cristo Wilderness San Isabel Nat'l Forest Near Alvarado Campground Contact Info: San Carlos Ranger District

719-269-8500 www.fs.fed.us/r2

Length: 12.79 mile loop (estimate using Nat'l Geo Mapping Software)

Time: Overnight backpack with options for a longer stay. The average 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: See trail profile on the reverse side

Difficulty: Strenuous

Trail Users: Hikers, pikas and marmots

Season: June through September

Dogs: Under owners control

Permits: None required

Getting There from Denver: I-25 south to Pueblo. At Pueblo turn right on to State Highway 96 and travel west to Westcliffe. From Westcliffe 3 ½ miles south on CO 69 to CO 140 (Schoolfield Road). West on CO 140 6 ½ miles to the trailhead (note: CO 140 is left @ the T junction 4 ½ miles from CO 69

Maps: National Geographic Trails Illustrated #138S, Sky Terrain Sangre de Cristo & Sand Dunes Trail Map (lower right corner on North side of map) and or Horn Peak 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 & Supplemental Info: ■ Afternoon thunderstorms and lightening ■ Check <u>www.oriconline.org</u> for fire restrictions ■ Comanche Lake is favored by some for overnight camping since it is more wooded ■ Be prepared for mosquitoes from June through September

The Trail: Start at the Comanche & Venable Trailhead. Follow Comanche Trail #1345 SW +/- 6 miles, past Comanche Lk to Comanche Pass. Turn right (north) at Comanche Pass and follow the trail to the Phantom Terrace +/- 2 miles. Turn right at the Venable Lks Trail #1347. Follow this trail NE +/- 4 ½ miles back to your starting point. **TIP:** Contact the San Carlos Ranger District for trail updates.

Highlights: ■ Comanche Lake ■ Venable Lakes ■ Venable Falls ■ The views from the top ■ Other loop options ■ Lush greenery ■ Mushrooms ■ Great rock formations ■ Last, but not least, the Phantom Terrace

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