



BLUE LAKES

DAY HIKE

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

P.S. Get and give trail updates at www.facebook.com/oriccolorado

Location: Mt. Sneffels Wilderness
Uncompaghre Nat'l Forest
Southwest Colorado

Contact Info: Ouray Ranger District
970-240-5300
www.fs.fed.us/r2

Length: 3.34 miles one-way (estimate using the Nat'l Geo Mapping Software)

Time: The average person hikes approximately 2 miles an hour. Adjust your time +/- based on terrain and weather conditions and your skill and fitness level and whether you are hiking or trail running.

Season: July through September

Elevation Gain: See trail profile on reverse side

Difficulty: Moderate to Strenuous

Trail Users: Hikers, backpackers, anglers, foxes and marmots

Dogs permitted: On hand-held leash

Permits: None required

Getting There From Denver: Take US Hwy 285 to US Hwy 50 (apx 139 mi). Turn right (west) on US Hwy 50 and drive west to Montrose (apx 124 mi). At Montrose turn left (south) onto US Hwy 550 and drive south to Ridgway (apx 26 mi). Drive west from Ridgway on CO Hwy 62 apx 4.4 miles west to Dallas Creek Rd (a.k.a. County Road 7 and later becomes Forest Road 851). Turn left at Dallas Creek Rd and drive apx 9 mi. south to the Blue Lakes trailhead.

Maps: National Geographic Trails Illustrated #141W, Latitude 40° Telluride Silverton & Ouray Trails Recreation Topo Map and or the Mount Sneffels and Telluride USGS 7.5 topographic maps. **IMPORTANT:** Stay found with the aid of a topographic map, compass, GPS receiver and the skill to use them.

Safety Concerns and Supplemental Info: ■ Afternoon thunderstorms and lightning ■ Be prepared for mosquitoes from June through August ■ Campfires are not allowed in the East Dallas Drainage which includes the area around Blue Lakes ■ You'll find some sources of water along the trail

Trail Description: Blue Lakes Trail #201 begins just past the locked gate at the trailhead sign. From here the trail rises up a steep valley for apx 3 miles to Lower Blue Lk. The Upper Blue Lks are apx 1 mile further. To get to the Upper Blue Lks you'll have to backtrack to the trail junction just below Lower Blue Lk. Turn right at the junction and cross over the old log bridge across the East Fork of Dallas Creek to reach the Upper Blue Lks. Take a side trip to Blue Lks Pass for the incredible views. **TIP:** Contact the Ouray Ranger District for trail updates.

Highlights: ■ Stunning views from 12,990 ft. Blue Lakes Pass ■ Superb fishing ■ Proximity to 13,000 and 14,000 ft. peaks ■ Stunning wildflowers in season ■ The surreal beauty of the turquoise blue lakes ■ Impressive Mt. Sneffels

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