

# CHICAGO 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](http://www.facebook.com/oriccolorado)

**Location:** Mt. Evans Wilderness  
Arapaho National Forest  
Near Echo Lake

**Contact Info:** Clear Creek Ranger District  
303-567-4382  
[www.fs.fed.us/r2](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2)

**Length:** 4.24 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. GPS drive time is approximately 1 hour from the REI Flagship Store-Denver.

**Elevation Gain/Loss:** See trail profile on reverse side

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Trail Users:** Hikers

**Season:** July through October

**Dogs:** On hand-held leash

**Permits:** Free use permit at Wilderness Boundary

**Getting There from Denver:** Take I-70 west to Idaho Springs. Get off on exit 240 and head south on CO Highway 103 until it intersects with CO 5 at Echo Lk. There are several social trails in the area, simply head toward the southwest corner of Echo Lk. Follow CO 103 to Echo Lk and the Chicago Lks Trailhead.

**Maps:** National Geographic Trails Illustrated #104E and or the Idaho Springs, Georgetown and Mount Evans USGS 7.5 topographic maps. **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:** ■ Afternoon thunderstorms and lightning ■ Trail blazes on the trees along the way will point the way to the Chicago Lakes ■ Prepare for mosquitoes from July through September

**Trail Description:** Up valley hike with outstanding views of the Mt. Evan massif. Start hike at parking area at the end of a short dirt road on the west side of Echo Lake. The Chicago Creek Trail #52 goes downhill for the first mile. Here Chicago Creek is dammed to form the Idaho Springs Reservoir. This will be the easy part of the hike for the trail then climbs uphill the rest of the way. You pass through an old burn area where 400 acres burned in the 1978 Reservoir Fire. Abundant wildflowers stand out against the burned trees. The first Chicago Lake sits just at treeline. The trail to the second lake, above treeline, is difficult to follow at times and is very steep. Both lakes offer excellent views of surrounding peaks.

**Highlights:** ■ Alpine scenery ■ Valley hike ■ Waterfall cascades ■ Basin surrounded by high cliffs ■ Fragrant pine forest ■ Dramatic rock walls ■ Large meadows around the lakes ■ Good views of Sugarloaf Peak and Gray Wolf Mtn

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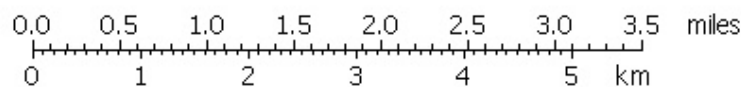
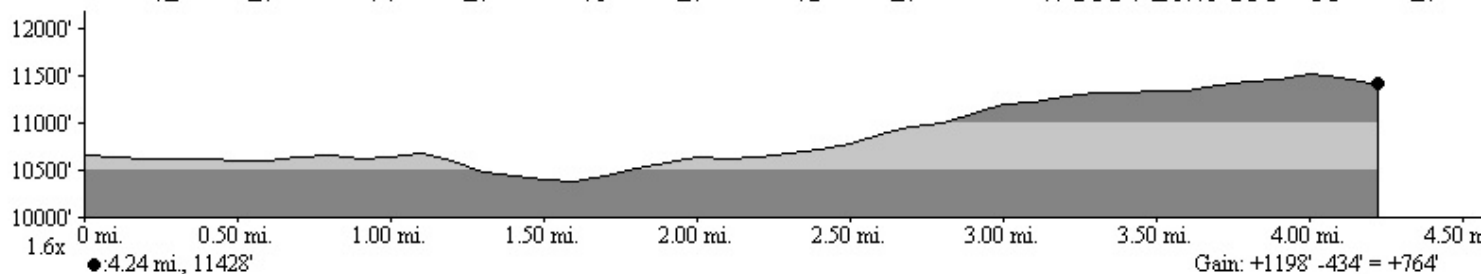
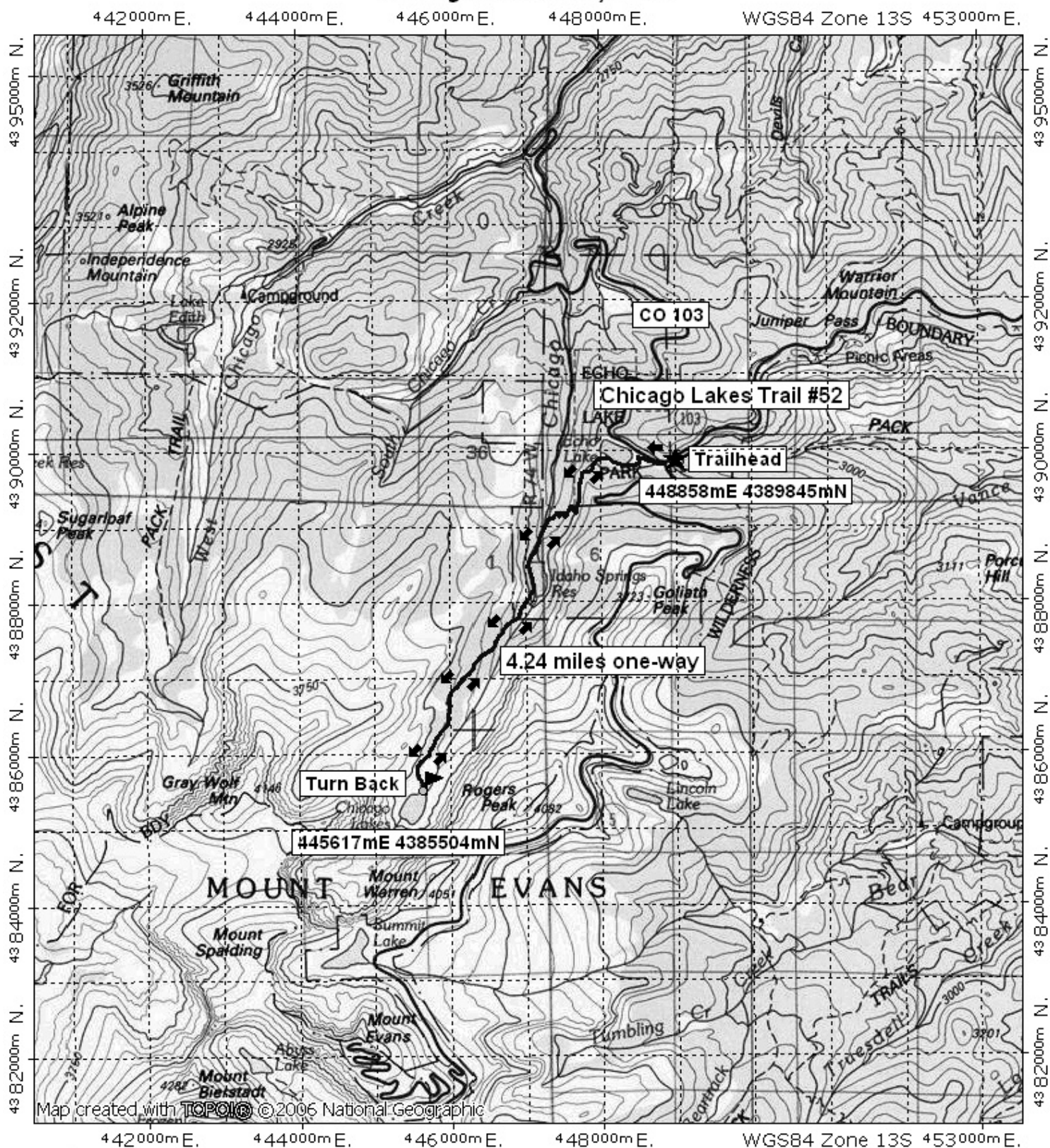
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