

Hike Descriptions:

6/16 Lost Lake

Join us for our season kickoff hike to Lost Lake, a relatively flat, and moderate hike along a ridge to a beautiful montane lake. This hike features montane forests and open meadows with potential for early season wildflowers, and beautiful views of the Gore Mountain Range. Lost Lake is one of our easier Mountain Lakes hikes.

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 6.5 mi / 1,085 ft / 10,253 ft

Highlights: Lakes / Mountain Views

6/18: Meadow Mountain

Hike 4.5 miles through the open meadows & aspen groves of Meadow Mountain to the Line Shack—an old & primitive hut at just under 10,000 feet. This hike features panoramic views of the Eagle River Valley, Vail Mountain, and the Gore Range.

Length: / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 9 mi, 1,900 ft, 9,750 ft.

6/23 Piney Lake

Starting at Piney River Ranch, on the shores of the picturesque Piney Lake, this moderate hike follows the Piney River Valley towards the jagged peaks of the Gore Range. The Piney River Trail takes you through Aspen & Spruce forests to the top of Piney Falls, where you can enjoy the view of the valley below or scramble to the base of the falls for the full waterfall hike experience!

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 6 mi, 600 ft, 9,763

6/25 Red & White Mountain

One of the best early season summits in Eagle County. Climb through lodgepole pine forests on 4x4 roads, before breaking into a sub-alpine meadow and completing a final, steep off trail climb to panorama views of Vail, Beaver Creek, and the Gore Range. Continue down in a loop on 4x4 roads & trail, finishing at Walking Mountains Science Center on Buck Creek!

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 9 / 2,500, 11,175

6/30 Whitney Lake

This short and sweet hike in the Holy Cross Wilderness climbs steeply from the trailhead to Whitney Lake, nestled at the base of Whitney Lake. While the trail is steep at times, it is only 2.5 miles to the lake, and features fields of wildflowers, aspen forests, and constant views of Homestake Creek and Homestake Peak.

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 4.8 / 1,963 / 10,958

7/2 Kokomo Pass

Beginning at the historic Camp Hale (just across the valley from the Camp's shooting ranges), this hike follows the Colorado & Continental Divide Trails up to a high mountain pass. A local's favorite, this is a great and not too difficult, hike to experience Colorado's alpine zone!

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 10 / 2,600 / 12,260 (GPS)

7/7 Beaver/Turquoise Lakes

This 'backyard' hike starts at the base of Beaver Creek and climbs to 3 gorgeous mountain lakes. The hike to Beaver lake is mostly moderate. Once at Beaver Lake, we have the option of continuing 3 miles further (and many more vertical feet up) to Upper & Lower Turquoise Lakes.

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 13, 3,200, 11,300.

7/9 Notch Mountain

A favorite of Walking Mountains' hiking club, Notch Mountain is the perfect introduction to climbing Colorado's higher peaks. The trail starts on undulating terrain, contouring high above Fall Creek. As soon as you take the turn towards Notch Mountain, however, the climbing begins! The well-maintained trail switchbacks through subalpine forests, quickly breaking out of the forest into the Alpine zone. Your destination is not Notch's true summit, rather a historic hut perched at 13,000 ft directly across from Mt. of the Holy Cross's namesake couloir.

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 10.5 / 3,064 / 13,094 (GPS)

7/14 Iron Edge

This hike leaves from the Fullford Caves campground, past Yeoman Park near Eagle. Climb through a mixed conifer forest to the Peter Estlin Hut, with views towards Aspen & the Roaring Fork Valley. From the hut, the trail climbs above treeline with the option of returning back down the same trail or making a Loop to Lake Charles, and back to the trailhead.

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 8 / 3,000 / 10713

7/16 Booth Lake

This hike begins only a couple miles from the heart of Vail. While the first portion of the hike to Booth Falls is one of the most popular sections of the trail in the Vail area, after you leave the falls (and the crowds) behind, the hike only become more

spectacular. A long and strenuous climb takes you to one of the most spectacular alpine lakes in the Gore Range, surrounded but jagged peaks.

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 10, 3,000 , 11,415.

7/21 Nolan Lake

The Nolan Lake Hike is a moderate hike to a gorgeous Alpine Lake. Starting from Fulford, near Eagle, this hike follows a gorgeous creek for just over 3 miles to the Lake. This trail is a great place to see a variety of wildflowers in all seasons, and is one of the more moderate alpine lakes hikes on our schedule.

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 6.5 / 1,900 / 11,417

7/23 Wilder Gulch/Ptarmigan Pass

Starting high on Vail Pass, this hike has spectacular views from the very start. The first part of this trail follows a beautiful creek, with numerous beaver dams. After joining a forest service jeep road, the hike gets steeper as it climbs to Ptarmigan Pass, with panoramic views of the Colorado's central Rockies.

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 6 / 963 / 11,093

7/28 Bald Mountain

Looming over the town of Vail, Bald is the first mountain you see when driving into Vail from the West. This hike offers the unique experience of starting only minutes from downtown Vail, and hiking to an Alpine summit overlooking the town. A long and challenging day, this hike features some off trail hiking and an optional alpine ridge boulder scramble to reach the summit.

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 10 / 3,566 / 12,133

7/30: Mystic Island Lake

Another local's favorite, a hike to Mystic Island Lake & Lake Charles features a little bit of everything the Colorado mountains have to offer. A mostly moderate trail, this hike begins in a beautiful old spruce & fir forest and climbs to two gorgeous subalpine lakes with intimate views of the surrounding peaks.

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 9.3 / 2,090 / 11,309

8/4: Red Buffalo Pass

This challenging & long hike follows Gore Creek to a high pass between Eagle & Summit County. Be prepared for a long day, however the rewards more than satisfy

the effort! Following Gore Creek to its source, this hike is mostly moderate in grade until the final steep push to the summit of Red Buffalo Pass.

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 14 mi, 3,172, 11,750

8/6 Grouse Lake

Grouse lake starts only 10 minutes from Walking Mountains in the historic town of Minturn. Hike steadily uphill through mixed forests and meadows to a non-glacial lake sitting at the base of Grouse Mountain. Moose are commonly seen along this trail!

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 9 / 2,861 / 10,696

8/11 Missouri Lakes

One of the more moderate Alpine Lakes hikes in the Vail area, Missouri Lakes should be at top of any hikers hit list. This hike takes you into a stunning basin with seven gorgeous alpine lakes. Being less than 8 miles round trip, with only moderate elevation gain, this is a great 'bang for your buck' hike for those not quite up to the more strenuous East Vail lakes hikes.

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 7.7 / 1,630 / 11,523

8/13 Uneva Peak

Uneva Peak is a quick 35 minute drive from Walking Mountains, and is one of the more moderate and accessible high alpine summits on our schedule! Beginning at Vail Pass, we will follow a gentle trail to treeline at 11,500 feet. The final 1,000 feet of the climb continues through easy off-trail terrain, as we attain the peak's west ridge and continue to the summit! This peak puts right on the edge of the dramatic Gore Mountain Range, one of the most rugged ranges in Colorado.

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 6.5 / 1,991 / 12,523

8/18 Fancy & Mulhall Lakes

Fancy Lake is another popular lake in the Holy Cross Wilderness. Beginning from the same trailhead as Missouri Lakes, the trail climbs steeply up to the small and intimate lake, tucked closely into the surrounding peaks. After stopping briefly at fancy lake, we will continue a mile further up the trail to Mulhall Lakes, which features different, but equally gorgeous alpine scenery in a less busy alpine basin.

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 7 mi / 2,136 ft / 11,946

8/20 Mt. Holy Cross

Eagle County's only 14er, and the most challenging hike on our schedules, those up for Mt. Holy Cross will be rewarded by one of the more remote, and spectacular of the 'hikeable' 14ers!

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 11 / 5,500 / 14,009

8/25 Pitkin Lake

The hike to Pitkin Lake begins very steeply, as the trail climbs out of the valley. After the first mile the grade lessens slightly, however the trail continues to climb steadily along Pitkin Creek, and crossing several historic avalanche paths. The trail then climbs up above treeline to Pitkin Lake, nestled between West Partner & East Partner Peaks.

Length/ Climbing / Peak Elevation: 10, 2,921 ft / 11,376

8/27 Mt. Thomas

Starting at Crooked Creek Pass, past Sylvan Lake State Park, this is a beautiful peak climb along the long ridge of Red Table Mountain. Views of Aspen & the Maroon Bells, plentiful wildflowers, and an accessible summit make this hike one not to miss!

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 10.5 / 2,800 / 11,977

9/1 Fancy & Missouri Loop

This loop combines two of our favorite hikes into one spectacular alpine adventure. The first leg of this hike climbs along Fancy Creek to Fancy Lake. From the lake, we will climb steeply up and over Fancy Pass, and drop into Treasure Vault Lake. After taking in the views, we then gear up for one more climb up and over Missouri Pass into the Missouri Lakes Basin.

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 9 / 2,785 / 12,388

9/3 Lake Constantine

Lake Constantine is a beautiful, moderate hike to a large subalpine lake at the base of Notch Mountain. Featuring a more moderate ascent than many of the other lakes hikes in the region, this is a great, less strenuous option, for those that want to experience one of Colorado's alpine lakes.

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 8 / 2,054 / 11,437

9/8 Bowman's Shortcut

Another Walking Mountains favorite, this moderate hike takes you into the alpine zone with up-close views of Vail's back bowls. The trail climbs steadily in the first 1.5 miles, up a series of switchbacks, before attaining the ridge and continuing along moderate terrain to the high point at 11,700 feet.

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 5.2 / 1,000 / 11,696

9/10 Lonesome Lake

This long, but moderate hike takes you to, as the name implies a remote and gorgeous lake high in the Holy Cross Wilderness. While this hike boasts longer mileage than many in the area, much of the trail is mostly flat. The final climb places you in a beautiful alpine basin, with the lake tucked away at the base of two unnamed 12,000 foot peaks.

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 11 / 1,600 / 11,591

9/15 Cross Creek

Departing from a trailhead off Tigiwon Road just outside Minturn, this trail quickly enters into the Holy Cross Wilderness area. Hikers get to see first-hand the affects glaciers had carving out this tremendous valley. We will hike along Cross Creek, climbing periodically onto granite outcrops with views of the valley and Mount of the Holy Cross. The first miles of this hike feature spectacular fall colors and a lush valley.

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: <8 / <1,700 / 9,868

9/17 Stagg Gulch

Stagg Gulch is a local's favorite, and one of the best Wildflower hikes in June & July. The switchbacks through mixed forests & open hillsides, passing through 2 meadows filled with Mulesear (an iconic wild sunflower). After about 2.5 miles, the trail breaks into a flat meadow with dozens of different wildflower species and views of the Sawatch Mountain Range

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 7 / 1,452 / 9,633

9/22 Bighorn Creek

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 7 / 2,100 / 10,789

9/24 East Lake Creek

East Lake is a gorgeous hike up a remote wilderness valley near Edwards. A 6-7 mile (one way) hike takes us to a small lake and historic mining ruins in the beautiful glacial valley of East Lake Creek. Another one of our favorite fall colors hikes, the East Lake Creek trail travels through some of the largest aspens in the Vail area!

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 8-13 / 2-3,000 / 9,275

9/29 Martin & Cross Creek

Join us for the most spectacular fall colors hike on our schedule. This loop combines two beautiful fall hikes, Martin Creek & Cross Creek, in a point to point trip. Highlights along the trail include the beautiful cascades of Cross Creek, views of Mt. of the Holy Cross, and stunning aspen groves. For those up for a longer day--this is a must hike fall trip!

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 12 / 3,000 / 10,713

10/1 Squaw Creek

The Squaw Creek Loop is a beautiful loop hike near Edwards that features a mix of aspen, pine, and spruce/fir forests as well as the panoramic views of Big Park. The hike begins by following Squaw Creek, before joining jeep trails and connecting to the Stagg Gulch Trail at Big Park, a wide open hill top meadow with beautiful views of the mountains surrounding the Vail Valley.

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 10.1 miles / 2,223 ft / 9,727 ft

10/6 West Grouse Creek

Beginning just outside of Minturn, this a beautiful fall hike along a forested creek. This moderate trail climbs through spruce & fir forests, with some beautiful aspen groves further up.

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 6 mi / 2,200 ft / 10,000 ft.

10/8 Martin Creek

One of our favorite fall hikes--Martin Creek is the place to be when the aspens are changing color! This hike travels for miles through continuous aspen forest, and the upper reaches of the hike showcases the dynamic nature of our ever-changing

forests, as you can see a young fir forest succeeding an old aspen grove here. This hike climbs steadily, and occasional viewpoints offer vistas of the Cross Creek Valley.

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 6 / 2,400 / 10,302

10/13 Whiskey Creek Loop

The Whiskey Creek Loop combines the beautiful, forested Whiskey Creek trail with a hike down the open meadows of Meadow Mountain. The hike climbs through Aspen forests to the Line Shack, a small hut at the top of Meadow Mountain. The descent down Meadow Mountain features beautiful views of Vail's Back Bowls, the Gore Range, and the Eagle River Valley. The newly opened Evercrisp trail allows us to make this hike a full loop for the first time!

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 10 / 2,332 / 9,751

10/15 Buck Creek

Join us in our very own backyard for an exciting trip up the hills overlooking Avon and Walking Mountains Science Center's campus. Departing from Buck Creek Road, just above Walking Mountains' campus, this trail crosses over Buck Creek a few times as it winds up to a junction with Red and White Road. We will stop for lunch overlooking the town of Avon and Beaver Creek and be rewarded with a whole new vantage point of where many of us call home.

Length / Climbing / Peak Elevation: 7.3 / 2,700 / 10,157