

# Hiking in Summit County

Welcome to Colorado's playground!! To offer you the best hiking opportunities, the Beaver Run Concierge has put together this helpful packet to get you started. Please take a look at it and if you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask us!!

**Elevation**~~~ The Beaver Run Resort lobby sits at just under 10,000 feet. Many people coming from lower altitudes struggle with adjusting to such a high elevation. You'll probably experience shortness of breath, tiredness, and sometimes altitude sickness. Altitude sickness consists of flu like symptoms and the last thing you want to do is over-exert yourself in your first few days and ruin the rest of your vacation. Instead of climbing mountains on your first day, start out slowly and allow yourself to acclimate. Take a look at some of the easy rated hikes to get you going and if you do well on those you may want to try out some moderate ones. If you're interested in anything harder than these see the concierge staff to learn more.



*Helpful Hints:* Drink **plenty** of water (you can't drink too much!), get lots of rest, take aspirin for headaches (or anything anti-inflammatory), and avoid caffeine and alcohol.

**Hydration**~~~ The best way to help you acclimate is to keep yourself hydrated, especially when doing any physical activities. Water helps get the oxygen into your system faster. *Always* carry plenty of water with you and be sure to drink it as much as possible. The climate here is very arid and hydrating yourself will help your body adjust to the dryness. While out hiking be sure to bring along plenty of high-energy snacks. Eat enough foods high in carbohydrates and low in fat.

**Weather**~~~ The weather in Colorado changes constantly. A typical day starts with sunny skies and warm temperatures and around mid to late afternoon we'll have a few showers. Keep this in mind when hiking and be prepared with water resistant boots, extra layers, and wind/water resistant jacket. If you do get caught in a storm, watch for lightning. Also remember that the sun at this altitude is intense and getting burned won't take very long. Make sure to apply and reapply, to any exposed skin, a sun block of SPF 30 or more. Also bring a hat and sunglasses along to protect your scalp and face. In the summer months be sure you bring along insect repellent to protect yourself from those pesky mosquitoes!!



**Finding your way**~~~ In this packet you will find descriptions of all the hikes to help you along the way. Be sure to follow these and do not wander off the trail. You may end up getting lost or disturbing the vegetation. If you find yourself not knowing where to go, look for cairns (rock piles) or any other kind of trail markers, such as markers on trees or signs. It is always smart to carry a topographic map and compass with you to help find your way. These can be purchased at many stores in town. Check out the local bookshops and outerwear stores. Hiking alone is not recommended and

before you leave for a hike it is extremely important to tell someone where you are going and when you plan on being back. You may also want to purchase a Colorado fishing license, as it is good for one backcountry rescue. If there is a registrar at the trailhead be sure to sign in.

**Wildlife**~~~ Colorado has many creatures inhabiting its wilderness. Along with all the little critters it is possible you may stumble across larger fauna such as deer, moose, elk, bears and foxes. If you do encounter any of these animals keep your distance and do not disturb them or feed them.

**Environment**~~~ There is a lot to see here in the high country and we want to preserve the natural beauty that surrounds us. **Respect the trails!!!** Be sure to pack out everything you bring in. Do not leave *any* trace that you were there!! Stay on the trails and leave everything as it is!!





## Easy Hikes

### Burro Trail

A great hike to start off with begins just outside the resort. Follow the Burro trail through forest and streams crossing Crystal Lakes jeep road. A bit further you will merge with Spruce Creek Road. Here you have a few options. You can either turn around and come back the way you came, or continue up (right) Spruce Creek Road loop. If you continue on you will reach a 4-way junction. If you turn right onto the Wheeler Trail it will take you over a ridge and into McCullough Gulch (see moderate hikes). If you go to the left you may continue on the loop. At each fork you approach on the loop you will need to take a right.

*To Get There:* Walk outside of the resort onto the slopes and under the Quicksilver chairlift. Look for the brown sign.

### Sapphire Point Loop

More of a short walk than a hike, Sapphire Point offers some of the greatest views in Summit County. Just under a mile, the loop takes about 15 minutes to walk. Be sure to bring your camera and stop at the stonewalled lookout area above Lake Dillon for some wonderful views.

*To Get There:* Head north (left) on CO 9 (South Park Ave.) towards Frisco. After about 6 miles you will come to Swan Mountain Rd. Go east (right) at the stoplight over Swan Mountain. At the top there will be a small parking area. Park here and begin the loop from either corner of the parking area.



### Old Dillon Reservoir

Take a stroll around the “lake above the lake”. It’s only a short climb to the reservoir and views of Buffalo Mountain and the Continental Divide. At the right time of year wild flowers grow throughout the meadow.

*To Get There:* Head north (left) on CO 9 (South Park Ave.) towards Frisco. After about 9 miles you will come to the town of Frisco. Continue going straight and just before approaching I-70 go east (right) on Dillon Dam Road. Follow the road for about 1.5 miles. Look for the sign at the trailhead. Parking is available.



### Lower Cataract Lake

This hike takes a bit of driving to get there, but is well worth it. About a 2-mile hike, the loop circles a peaceful mountain lake settled in a beautiful, forested valley. A great hike for springtime!!

*To Get There:* Head north (left) on Co 9 (South ark Ave.) towards Frisco. After about 9 miles you will come to the town of Frisco. Continue going straight and go east (right) on I-70. Exit at the Dillon/Silverthorne exit #205. Go north (left) on CO 9 (Blue River Pkwy) and follow for about 16 miles. Turn left on Heeney Rd. (No. 30) and follow for about 5 miles to County Rd. 1725. Turn left and drive about 2 miles to a fork past the Cataract Creek Campground. Take the left fork past the Surprise trailhead. You may park there.

### Lily Pad Lakes

This popular route meanders through the forest at the foot of 12,777 foot Buffalo Mountain. The trail is a well worn rollercoaster through lodgepole and aspen to two small lakes. Ideal for everyone!

*To Get There:* Head north (left) on CO 9 (South Park Ave.) towards Frisco. Get on I-70 east (right), 1 exit, to the Dillon/Silverthorne exit #205. Turn left at the light onto Hwy 9 north. Turn left at the 2<sup>nd</sup> light onto Wildernest Rd. (which becomes Ryan Gulch Rd) and drive 3.5 miles through the subdivision to a parking area. The Lily Pad Trail begins beyond the gate on the dirt track that climbs to the right.



## Easy to Moderate Hikes



### **Mt. Royal to Masontown**

This 3 mile roundtrip trek is perfect for families. Take in some mining history while you enjoy the views of Lake Dillon.

*To Get There:* Head north (left) on CO 9 (Main St.). After about 9 miles you will come to the town of Frisco. At the second stoplight, go west (left) on Main St. Follow Main St. through the town and before reaching I-70 turn south (left) into the bikeway parking area. Park here and walk across the small bridge to the paved bike path. Take a left onto the path and follow it for about half a mile. Look for the Mt. Royal trailhead. The trail eventually forks as you approach the Masontown site. The lower trail intersects a road leading uphill

to a ghost town and the upper fork takes you right to Masontown. Choose one to follow and the second to return to take in all that this hike has to offer.

### **Tenderfoot Mountain**

This 1.25-mile trek is a perfect trek for beginners and families and provides you with some incredible views. A great autumn hike for colors!

*To Get There:* Head north (left) on Co 9 (Main St.). After 9 miles you will come to the town of Frisco. Continue going straight and head east (right) on I-70. Exit at the Silverthorne/Dillon exit and turn south (right) at the stoplight on US 6 (Blue River Parkway). At the Dillon stoplight turn east (left) towards the Lutheran church and then take your very first right on the eastbound roadway. Drive one half mile past the U.S. Forest Service building. Take the dirt road toward the water tank. Park in the designated trail parking below the tank. Be sure not to block water facility access. A dirt road above the tank and over the hill leads about .25 miles to the trailhead.



### **North Ten Mile Trail**

This 4 mile roundtrip trail is a great starter for intermediate hiking. This trail follows the Ten Mile Creek and passes beaver ponds and meadows of wildflowers and offers great views of the Ten Mile range.

*To Get There:* Head north (left) on CO 9 (Main St.) towards Frisco. After about 9 miles you will reach the town of Frisco. Turn west (left) on Main St. and follow it all the way to the end. You will drive under the overpass and pull directly into a parking area for the trailhead. Hike up the gravel road for about a half a mile. The trail splits off to the right. The first mile of the hike is a steady climb but after that it flattens out and is a perfect hike for families and beginners. The trail has many small trails that split off to go to the creek. If you want to stick to the main trail just stay on the higher trail. This trail can be up to 7 miles round trip but you may turn around whenever you feel like it.

### **Baker's Tank Loop**

Also a great biking trail, this hike is perfect for the entire family. Offering views of Breckenridge and the Ten Mile Range, you won't want to miss this hike! Start out off of Boreas Pass Rd. and follow the wooded trail until it loops you back out onto the road. Once you come to the road you will see Baker's Tank. Take a right back onto the road and follow it back to your car. This hike is about 5.5 miles long. However, there is a fork about half way in that you can take if you want to cut it short.

*To Get There:* Head South (right) on Main St. towards Hoosier Pass. At the next stoplight turn left onto Boreas Pass. Continue following Boreas Pass until it turns into a dirt road. Park here. The hike begins to your left.

## Moderate Hikes



### McCullough Gulch

The views on this hike are unsurpassed. If you do one hike in Summit County it should be this one. Waterfalls, meadows filled with wildflowers and alpine lakes are all covered in this hike that travels just over a mile. It will get your heart rate up but is one of the best hikes in the county. This hike is about 3 miles roundtrip.

*To Get There:* Head south (right) on CO 9 (Main St.) toward Hoosier Pass. Drive about 7 and a half miles and turn west (right) onto County Road 850. Turn north (right) onto County Road 851. This road will take you 2 miles to McCullough Gulch. At the y-junction bear left. Park near the water diversion structures. Pass the nearby gate, cross the bridge and head up the old mining road. The trailhead is a 15-minute walk. The trail climbs into the trees. At the y in the trail stay to the left. You will hear the roar of the waterfalls as you near them. Continue up towards the falls and even further up to a lake- a perfect picnic spot!! This hike has many trails that split off and areas that the trail is not too well defined. Watch for cairns (these distinct rock piles will lead you in the right direction!!).

### Blue Lakes-Monte Cristo

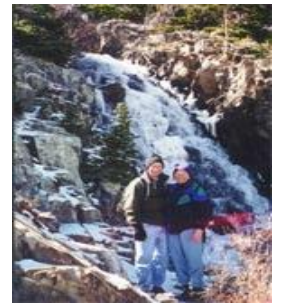
Hike this 2-hour trail through the Monte Cristo Gulch for a taste of mining history. The pristine Blue Lakes offer some incredible views. Great for spring hiking!!

*To Get There:* Head south (right) on CO 9 (Main St.) toward Hoosier Pass. As you start to climb Hoosier Pass, turn west (right) onto Blue Lakes Rd. (No. 850). There is a sign there for the Quandary Peak trailhead. At the fork, continue straight for about 2 miles. This road is fine for a 2WD car. Park below the dam and take the walkway above the dam to the north end. The trailhead is right of the dam. It climbs a very steep slope just west of the concrete structure.

### Mohawk Lakes

A beautiful, clearly marked trail up to some pristine alpine lakes, this 3-hour hike is a favorite with everyone!!

*To Get There:* Head south (right) on CO 9 (Main St.) toward Hoosier Pass. After about two and a half miles turn north (right) onto Spruce Creek Rd. (No. 800). Here you have two options depending on the length of hike you would like to do. About 1.2 miles in you will find the lower trailhead. From here it is 7 miles roundtrip to the upper lake. There is another trailhead 2.7 miles further that requires a high clearance 4WD vehicle to get there. It is a pretty rough ride. From this trailhead the hike is shortened to about 3 miles roundtrip. Follow signs to Mohawk Lakes and if you feel adventurous you may hike on some of the other trails splitting off. First you will find lower Mohawk Lake. Some people choose to turn around here but it is well worth the hike up to the upper lake. All the way up to the lakes you will find evidence of mining. Be sure not to go into any of the huts, as they are very old and dangerous. The trail to the upper lake follows a stream from the lake's south side.





### **Chihuahua Gulch**

This 6.5-mile hike provides you with incredible views everywhere you look. At the top of the gulch you will find a frozen lake at the base of Grizzly Peak. It is best to hike this trail in the dry season. A beautiful autumn hike!!

*To Get There:* Head north (left) on CO 9 (Main St.) toward Frisco. Continue straight until you reach I-70. Head east (right) on I-70 and exit the Silverthorne/Dillon exit. Turn east (right) at the stoplight on U.S. 6 (Blue River Parkway). Go past Dillon and into Keystone. Pass the Keystone Lodge and turn south (right) onto Montezuma Rd. Go left at the fork and continue for about 4.5 miles. Turn left onto Peru Creek Rd. for about 2 miles to the 4WD Chihuahua Rd. on your left. Park along the road and start your hike on the 4WD road.

\*Hike at your own risk. Beaver Run Resort is not responsible if you get lost or injured. This packet is a general guide to trails in the area. We highly recommend carrying a detailed map and compass with you on any hike you go on.