

# **Kaiyote Tours**

## **Hiking Trails of Rocky Mountain National Park**

### **Eastside and Estes Park area**

#### **Full day moderate and difficult mountain treks and summit hikes**

- 1) Flattop Mountain: It is 4.4 miles each way and summits at 12,324 feet. The trail is wide, not extremely steep and there is no exposure to falls. The tundra walk on top is wonderful and has incredible views! There is a lot of exploring to be done on top of Flattop. Once on top we can view Tyndall Glacier from above and a 1/2 a mile further walk, we can view the Ptarmigan Glacier as well. From the top of Flattop, you can see Estes Park, as well as the Grand Lake area. Also from the top of Flattop, we can hike .5 mile further to the top of Hallett's Peak (12,713 feet). The trail starts at Bear Lake at 9,475 feet.
  
- 2) The Keyhole: This is along the Long's Peak trail. It is 6.25 miles each and up to 13,160 feet. Incredible views and hiking right below the Long's Peak summit, which is the highest peak in the area at 14,200 feet. We can also hike over to Chasm overlook to view the lake below. Because of parking and lightning issues, we like to start this hike very early, usually by 5:00am. Trailhead starts at 9,400 feet.
  
- 3) Mummy Range Hikes: There are three summit trips that start at Chapin pass on Old Fall River Road. The trail starts at 10,640 feet and goes to Chapin Peak (12,454 feet), Chiquita Mountain (13,069) and Mount Ypsilon (13,514). Mileage: 1.5 – 4.0 miles each way.
  
- 4) Mount Ida (12,880 feet): Starting at Milner Pass (10,700 feet) and 4.5 miles each way, this is a great tundra walk with incredible views, wildflowers and a good chance to see Bighorn Sheep.
  
- 5) Mount Meeker (13,911 feet): 5.5 miles each way and steep. This is a very interesting trail with amazing views. A great alternative to Longs Peak. Meeker is the second highest peak in the park. Because of parking and lightning issues, we like to start this hike very early, usually by 4:00am. Trailhead starts at 9,400 feet.
  
- 6) Boulder Grand Pass (12,061 feet): 7.8 miles each way. This is a great mountain adventure. Starting at Wild Basin (8,500 feet) the trail passes by several waterfalls and then to Thunder Lake. Sitting high above Thunder Lake is the continental divide. We will hike to the top of the divide call the Boulder-Grand Pass. From there it is also possible to summit Mount Alice (13,300 feet) with an additional 1.2 miles each way. To the south of the pass is Tanima Peak (12,420) with an additional .6 miles each way
  
- 8) The Saddle (12,398 feet): 8.6 miles each way. Starting at the Lawn Lake trailhead (8,540feet) the trail goes past Lawn Lake and up to the saddle between Hagues and Fairchild peaks. Great hike and great views with the possibility to see Bighorn sheep.

**Over the continental divide hikes:** One of our favorite things to do in the summer is hike from Bear Lake to Grand Lake. There are three main trail routes that travel over the top between Bear Lake or Wild Basin to Grand Lake and vice versa. The hikes are easier if hiked from east (Bear Lake) to west.

1) Wild Basin: This is the most difficult and maybe the most spectacular. We start at the Wild Basin trailhead (8,500 feet) and hike to Thunder Lake and then cross the continental divide over the Boulder-Grand pass at 12,061 feet. Then we hike out the east inlet trail to Grand Lake. Along the East Inlet trail we will pass by several beautiful lakes and the views are incredible. It is 7.8 miles to the top of the pass and 9.5 miles from the top down to the East Inlet trailhead. Total mileage: 17.3 miles

2) North Inlet Trail: Starting at Bear Lake (9,475 feet) It is 4.4 miles to the summit of Flattop Mountain. From the top of Flattop, it is another 13.3 miles down the North Inlet trail in Grand Lake. The trail follows the North Inlet river and there are beautiful views and waterfalls to see along the way. This is the most popular route across the top. Total Mileage = 17.7 miles

3) Tonahutu Trail: Starting at Bear Lake (9,475 feet) It is 4.4 miles to the summit of Flattop Mountain. From the top of Flattop, it is another 13.7 miles down the Tonahutu trail to Grand Lake. Total miles = 18.1. The trail follows Tonahutu Creek and there are beautiful views and waterfalls to see along the way. The trail passes by Big Meadows and there is an option to get off the trail from there. Making the trip shorter by 2 miles for a total of 16.1 miles.

### **Full day moderate and difficult hikes to Lakes and Glaciers**

1) Chasm Lake (11,780 feet): 4.2 miles each way. Sitting at the base of the diamond face of Long's Peak, this is a great hike with lots of exploring to do at the lake. Because of parking and lighting issues, we like to start this hike very early, usually by 6:00am. Trailhead starts at 9,400 feet.

2) Glacier Gorge Trailhead (9,180 feet): There are numerous lakes to hike to that range in distances from 2.5 – 6 miles each way at elevations of 9,940 to 11,500 feet. Due to glaciation, this is a very dramatic area of the park.

3) Andrew's Glacier (Glacier Gorge): Hike to the base of Andrew's Glacier and Andrew's Tarn (11,390 feet). It is 4.7 miles each way. The last mile is a little steep. To stand at the base of the glacier is amazing. Andrew's glacier is the most active glacier in the Rocky Mountain National Park.

4) Sky Pond (Glacier Gorge): 4.4 miles each way. This hike goes past Alberta Falls, Loch Vale, up and over Timberline Falls to Glass Lake and ends at Sky Pond. A perfect day in the mountains! Elevation at the lake is 10,900 feet.

5) Lawn Lake and Crystal Lakes: These beautiful lakes sit at the base of Mummy and Fairchild Mountains at an elevation of 10,789 and 11,520 feet. Great

wildflowers and chances to see Bighorn Sheep. Mileage: 6.2 – 7.7 miles each way.

6) Wild Basin: Great all day hikes to Ouzel, Thunder, Bluebird and Finch Lakes (5.0 – 6.8 miles each way). Wild Basin is a very beautiful area of the national park with lots of cascading waterfalls and great views of the continental divide. We love hiking in Wild Basin.

7) Fern Lake (9,540 feet): 3.8 miles each way. Starting at the Fern Lake trailhead (8,150) the hike passes by the Big Thompson pool and Fern Falls. The lake is below the continental divide with great views. One mile further is Odessa Lake (10,200 feet).

### **Easy and moderate half day Hikes**

1) Cub Lake, moderate level hike: This is our best hike for birds and wildlife. Trailhead 8080 feet: 4.6 miles round trip and 540 foot elevation gain. Cub Lake is a large lily covered pond where Ring-necked ducks nest and bears like to swim. The trail starts along Moraine Park and follows along marshy ponds before it heads up to Cub Lake.

2) Wild Basin: The trail follows the St. Vrain River and there are numerous waterfalls and cascades along the way. Mileage: 1.8 – 3.4 miles each way. An easy and relaxing hike.

3) Mummy Range Tundra Hike: The Chapin pass trail starts on Old Fall River Road at 10,640 feet and goes to the saddle between Chapin Peak and Chiquita Mountain. Elevation at the saddle is at approx. 12,000 feet. Beautiful tundra flowers and lots of Marmots to see, 1.5 miles each way. Moderate difficulty. The trail is steep in the beginning, but well worth the views at the saddle.

4) Easy Tundra Hikes (0.5 – 2 miles each way): If you want to experience high altitude, there are hikes where we can drive up to 11,000 – 12,000 feet and hike from there. These hikes have great views and you will get to know what it feels like to be on top of a mountain.

5) Dream and Emerald Lake: Starting at Bear Lake (9,450 feet) this is an easy and beautiful hike. It is .6 miles to Nymph Lake (9,700 feet), which is a small lily covered pond. Another .5 miles further brings us to Dream Lake (9,900 feet) a deep lake where lots of big trout live. Hiking another .7 miles will bring us to Emerald Lake (10,100 feet). Emerald sits in a very dramatic Tyndall Gorge. From Emerald Lake a portion of the Tyndall Glacier can be seen. This is a wonderful and easy hike. From Dream Lake it is also possible to visit Lake Haiyaha.

6) Lake Haiyaha (10,220): 2.1 miles each way. Starting at Bear Lake (9,450 feet) this is a moderate level hike. It is .6 miles to Nymph Lake (9,700 feet), which is a small lily covered pond. Another .5 miles further brings us to Dream Lake (9,900 feet) a deep lake where lots of big trout live. Hiking another 1.0 miles will bring

us to Lake Haiyaha. Haiyaha sits at the base of Chaos Canyon. It is a very wonderful spot with a lot of huge rocks!

7) Upper Beaver Meadows Ute Trail, moderate level hike: Trailhead 8,440 feet; 4.3 round trip and 870 foot elevation gain to 9,310. This hike is great for birds, elk, coyotes and little critters. The trail starts out at the Upper Beaver Meadows picnic area and follows the Ute Trail to the top of the moraine with great views of Longs Peak and Moraine Park.

8) Moraine Park, easy level hike: Trailhead 8080 feet: 2.5 miles round trip and 50 feet elevation gain. We begin at the Cub Lake Trailhead, following the trail for about .5 mile and then we head east along the south side of Moraine Park. This hike is great for birds, elk, coyotes and little critters.

9) Hollowell Park and Mill Creek Basin Loop, easy level hike: Trailhead 8400 feet; 3.4 miles round trip and 620 foot elevation gain. This is a great hike for birds and wildflowers. The trail starts out in a small meadow where beavers have dammed up the creek and willows are filling in the area. The trail then follows the creek, which has many beautiful little cascades. The trail rises through an aspen grove and then through pine where it drops down into Mill Creek Basin.

10) The Big Thompson Pool, easy level hike: Trailhead 8155; 3.4 miles round trip and 245 foot elevation gain. This is a good hike for plants, birds and small mammals. This hike starts at the Fern Lake Trailhead. The trail follows the Big Thompson River. Along the way we will see signs of beaver activity and lots of very interesting rocks left behind from the glaciers.

11) Mills Lake (9,940 feet), 2.7 miles each way: Starting at Glacier Gorge trailhead (9,180 feet). This is a wonderful, easy hike and not a lot of elevation gain. The trail passes by Alberta falls. Mills Lake is located in Glacier Gorge, which is a very dramatic and scenic area.

12) Odessa Lake (10,020 feet): Starting at Bear Lake (9,450 feet), it is 3.9 miles each way to the lake. The trail follows the base of Flattop Mountain and there are great views of the Ptarmigan Glacier and the continental divide.

13) The Loch (10,180), 2.9 miles each way: Starting at Glacier Gorge trailhead (9,180 feet). This is a moderate level hike. The trail passes by Alberta falls and great views of the surrounding mountains above.

Kaiyote Tours  
www.KaiyoteTours.com  
970-556-6103  
Estes Park and Grand Lake, CO 80517