

Kaiyote Tours

Hiking Trails of Rocky Mountain National Park

Westside and Grand Lake area

Full day moderate and difficult mountain treks and summit hikes

- 1) Mount Ida (12,880 feet): 4.5 miles each way, this is a great tundra walk with incredible views, wildflowers and a good chance to see Bighorn Sheep. The hike starts at Milner Pass (10,700 feet).

- 2) Thunder Pass and Lulu Mountain: It is 7.1 miles each way to Thunder Pass (11,331). An incredible spot with amazing views of the Never Summer Mountains. Another .6 miles to the top of Lulu Mountain (12,228) with even more amazing views! The trail starts at the Colorado River trailhead (9,040 feet).

- 3) Nakai Peak (12,216 feet): 9.5 miles each way. The trail starts at the Green Mountain trailhead and passes by Big Meadows, Granite Falls and Haynach Lake. The small canyon that holds Haynach Lake and that sits below Nakai Peak is very tranquil and full of wildflowers. The trail starts at the Green Mountain trailhead (8,800 feet)

- 4) Mount Craig (12,007 feet): 6.4 miles each way. The route we take via Lone Pine Lake is very, very steep, and incredible. The trail starts at the East Inlet trailhead (8,400 feet)

- 5) Green Knoll (12,280 feet): 4.5 miles each way. This hike starts at the Holzwarth Historic Site (8,900 feet). We follow a dirt road up to the Grand Ditch. From there it is off trail to the summit. The top of Green knoll is a beautiful tundra hike.

Full day moderate and difficult hikes to Lakes and Snowfields

- 1) East Inlet trail: This is our favorite trail on the west side. Every part of the trail has something to offer. We often see moose and deer and sometimes beaver. There are five spectacular lakes along this trail. 1) Lone Pine Lake, 5.3 miles each way at 9,900 feet. 2) Lake Verna, 6.9 miles each way at 10,180 feet. 3) Spirit Lake, 7.8 miles each way at 10,300 feet. 4) Fourth Lake, 8.4 miles each way at 10,380 feet 5) Fifth Lake, 9.3 miles each way at 10,860 feet. The trail starts at 8,400 feet.

- 2) Timber Lake (9,060 feet): 5 miles each way. A great day hike to a beautiful lake. One mile past the lake to the top of the ridge offers a great view down to Lake Julian and a steep .6 miles further goes to the top of Mount Ida (12,880 feet). The trail starts at 9,060 feet.

3) Skeleton Gulch (10,580 feet): 7 miles each way. It is a steep hike up to Skeleton Gulch, but well worth it. This is a good area to see Bighorn Sheep. There is a great snowfield here for glissading, a beautiful creek and tons of flowers. From Skeleton Gulch it is possible to hike to the top of the surrounding ridges.

4) Haynach Lake (11,060 feet): 8.5 miles each way. It is a long hike to Haynach Lake, but the small canyon that holds the lake is very tranquil and full of wildflowers, a very special place. The trail starts at the Green Mountain trailhead (8,800 feet)

5) Lake of the Clouds (11,430 feet): 7 miles each way. Beginning at the Colorado River trailhead (9,040 feet) it is a steep hike up to Hitchens Gulch. Then up to the ledge that hold that lake. Hitchens Gulch (5.8 miles each way and at 10,480 feet) is a very beautiful area. It is a nice hike just there.

6) Granite Falls (9,800 feet): 5.3 miles each way. This is a wonderful hike that starts at the Green Mountain trailhead and follows the Tonahutu Trail (8,800 feet). Moderate level hike.

7) The North Inlet Pool (9,160 Feet): 5.0 miles each way. This a good trail to see moose and deer.

Easy and moderate half day Hikes

1) Colorado River trailhead (9,040 feet): It is relaxing and wonderful to hike along the Colorado River. This is a good hike for wildflowers, birds and wildlife. There is very little elevation gain along the way, up to 3.5 miles each way.

2) Onahu Creek Bridge (9,650 feet): 2.9 miles each way. Onahu Creek is beautiful and there are numerous cascades to see along the way. There are also a lot of beautiful plants and flowers. The trail starts at 8,800 feet, a moderate level hike.

3) East Shore trail along the Colorado River: This part of the trail follows the Colorado River between Shadow Mountain Reservoir and Lake Granby. There is very little elevation gain and the hike is very easy. We like this trail because it is a good place to see wildflowers and birds. There is a pair of Bald Eagles that nest along this trail. Elevation 8,400 feet.

4) Big Meadows (9,400 feet): 2.0 miles each way. This is an easy hike to a beautiful spot. Along the trail, to the meadows we often see moose and deer. It is also a great hike for wildflowers. The trail starts at the Green Mountain trail head at 8,800 feet.

5) East Inlet trail: This is our favorite trail on the west side. Every part of the trail has something to offer. We often see moose and deer and sometimes beaver. It is .2 miles to Adams Falls and another 2.9 miles to the East Inlet Falls (8,960 feet). It is an easy and wonderful hike along the river. The trail starts at 8,400 feet.

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