



HIKING IN STEAMBOAT



CLOSE TO TOWN

YAMPA CORE TRAIL

Our “town trail” is 6.5 miles long, paved path that runs along the Yampa River. Make sure to stop for a stroll through the Yampa Botanic Park (free) which is adjacent to the Emerald Park soccer fields.

Directions: Parking is available at Rotary Park (Mt. Werner and Hwy. 40), Fetcher’s Pond (behind Steamboat Crossing Shopping Center on Pine Grove Rd), Dr. Rich Weiss Park (across from Steamboat Health & Recreation), Yampa St & 8th St. and Howelsen Hill.

FISH CREEK FALLS

A short .3 mile trail walk on a paved uphill path (wheelchair accessible) to an overlook of the waterfalls or a similar distance down to the base of the falls with an uphill walk back to parking lot. You can also continue (across the bridge) on a strenuous uphill 2.5 mile hike through the woods to the upper falls or for the really ambitious, continue on another 2.5 miles (total of 5 miles from the lower falls) to Fish Creek Reservoir, which is a main water supply for Steamboat.

Directions: From Lincoln Ave. turn right on 3rd then right at the stop sign onto Fish Creek Falls Road 3.2 miles until road dead-ends into parking area. \$5 parking fee.

URANIUM MINE

A steep switchback 1.5 mile trail (800 ft. in elevation) to an old, abandoned uranium mine and short walk down to a creek where the trail ends. This hike gives a bird’s eye view of Fish Creek Falls and its wooded valley.

Directions: Driving directions are same as for Fish Creek Falls except park at lower parking lot before road dead-ends. \$5 parking fee.

THUNDERHEAD HIKING TRAIL

Hike from the ski area base up to the top of gondola (about 2,000 ft. elevation gain) or from the top of the gondola down. Trail is 3 miles each way through the trees with panoramic views of the Yampa Valley.

Directions. Maps are available at the gondola. Starts at ski area base or from top of the gondola.

VISTA NATURE TRAIL

This mostly flat, one- mile loop trail starts and ends at the top of the gondola. Includes interpretive information about wildlife and vegetation. Views of the Yampa Valley and beyond at 9,000 feet elevation.

Directions: Hike starts at the top of the gondola. A guided gourmet hike with lunch is also available Tuesday and Fridays.

GONDOLA TO 4-POINTS HUT

This Hike is a steep, 3 miles round trip from the top of the gondola to the 4-points hut (about 1,000 vertical feet up) and back through forests and meadows with views of the surrounding valley and mountains from 10,000 feet. Hike begins at the top of the gondola.

HOWELSEN HILL

This steady, uphill climb brings you to top of the ski jump area (20min) with views of downtown Steamboat. Parking is at base of Howelsen Hill. Trail maps are available in the lodge. Directions: Hwy. 40 W. to downtown Steamboat, left on 5th St, right on Howelsen Hill Parkway, left at parking lot to wood lodge.

For more information call our Concierge at (970) 870-4287

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EMERALD MOUNTAIN

Your steady uphill climb continues from the top of the Howelsen ski jump onto a service road. The road ends at a rock quarry overlooking the town of Steamboat and the Ski Area (about 2.5 miles or 2 hours).

Directions: Hwy. 40 W. to downtown Steamboat, left on 5th St, right on Howelsen Hill Parkway, left at parking lot to wood lodge.

SPRING CREEK

An easy, short hike on a gravel road leads to ponds followed by a four wheel drive road and then narrow hiking trails that continue for 4.5 miles to the Dry Lake Campground on Buffalo Pass. Very busy mountain biking trail! Directions: Turn right on 3rd St., right on Fish Creek Falls Rd., left on Amethyst and park on Routt 34-dirt road and walk up.

OUT OF TOWN

RABBIT EARS PEAK

This is a great 6- mile round trip hike for families because of the open terrain and the great views of several mountain ranges. This is one of the very best trails for wildflower viewing.

Directions: U.S. 40 up Rabbit Ears Pass, left at Dumont Lake sign, left at old stone monument which is FSR 131 to marker that reads 291 and park here. Approximately 19 miles from Steamboat.

MAD CREEK

There are four hikes to choose from however most enjoy the 1.5 mile loop which meets the creek . Children can enjoy splashing, picnicking and rock throwing just off the hot, rocky trail. The boulders in the area are about 1.7-million years old!

Directions: Drive west on U.S. 40, right on RCR 129 and drive for 5.5 miles and look for Mad Creek sign and parking lot on the right.

HAHN'S PEAK SUMMIT

This climb is recommended for strong hikers due to its steepness and loose rocks. It is 1.7-miles each way and takes about an hour and a half to reach the summit at 10,839 ft!

Do not climb if dark clouds are around (lightning strikes frequently). This hike offers views of Steamboat Lake, the town of Columbine and a good mixture of Colorado trees.

Directions: Drive west on U.S. 40, right on RCR 129 for about 29 miles to Columbine and then right on FDR 490(dirt road). At the intersection of 490 and 418 go left on 490 to reach the parking lot.

PEARL LAKE

This hour long hike (about 1.5 miles round trip) starts in the picnic area and heads to the dam on the southern end of the lake-great for children! Hikers will encounter waterfowl, deer and beaver throughout this pristine State Park.

Directions: Drive west on U.S. 40, right on RCR 129 for about 23 miles. Turn right at the Pearl Lake sign and drive for two more miles. \$5.00 fee.

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STEAMBOAT LAKE

Steamboat Lake State Park offers the Tombstone Nature Trail (0.75-mile round-trip) and the Willow Creek Trail (about 45-minutes each way). Make sure to stop in the Visitor Center for brochures and trail maps of the park! The park also offers fishing, boating and swimming with spectacular views of surrounding mountains. Directions: Drive west on U.S. 40, right on RCR 129 for about 27 miles and you'll see the lake on the left.

HAHN'S PEAK LAKE

This easy trail circles the lake (3.25 miles) at an elevation of 8,400 ft. A shorter way (1.5 miles) is another option which begins at the day use parking area and continues through the trees to the picnic tables above the dam. Turn and go back the same way. This area is great for hiking, picnicking and fishing with young children! Directions: Drive west on U.S. 40, right on RCR 129 past Steamboat Lake to FDR 486(Westside access) and go left.

STAGECOACH RESERVOIR

Elk Run Trail and Wetlands Angler Trail

Elk Run Trail is a 5-mile, long flat trail along Stagecoach Reservoir. Wetlands Angler Trail is .5 mile roundtrip through a wetland area near the reservoir. Views are of lake and surrounding mountain ranges. The park also offers fishing, boating and swimming.

Directions: Take hwy 131 south 5.5 miles and turn left on CR 14. Stay on CR 14 till you reach the reservoir. There is a fee to enter the park area.

THINGS TO BRING

Plenty of water
Sunscreen (High altitude sun is very intense)
Sunglasses
Jacket (Colorado weather can change quickly)
Good hiking shoes (no sandals!)
Maps of the area
Bug repellent
Compass
Snacks for energy
Remember, cell phones do not always work in many areas of the mountains.



REFERENCES

“Hiking the ‘Boat II” by Diane White-Crane is an excellent hiking guide with hike descriptions, directions and some maps. It can be purchased at Off the Beaten Path Book Store at 7th and Lincoln. Topo maps are available at the Forest Service building on Hwy 40 just south of the Walton Creek Road intersection.

ALTITUDE

It may take several days to acclimate to altitude, so give your self time to adjust before taking a long hike. Drink plenty of water and be aware of signs of altitude sickness; headache, nausea, cough or loss of appetite. Do not ignore these symptoms as sickness can progress.

TIME TO HIKE

It's best to begin hikes in the morning as afternoon sun can be very intense and lightning and thunderstorms are common in the afternoon.

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