

Aspen Ranger District
806 W. Hallam
Aspen, CO 81611
(970) 925-3445—Voice
(970) 925-5277—Fax



United States Department of Agriculture



HIKING

EAST MAROON TRAIL #1983

Length: 10.5 miles one-way (16.9 km)

Difficulty: Difficult

Trail Use: Heavy

Beginning Elevation: 8,709 feet (2655 m)

Ending Elevation: 11,800 feet (3597 m)

USGS Map(s): Maroon Bells, Highland Peak

PERMIT INFORMATION: In order to provide quality recreation experiences and to protect the wilderness lands the Forest Service must gather data regarding visitor use and travel patterns. **Each party overnighing** in the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness is **required to self-register at the Trailhead and to carry a copy of the registration with them** during their visit. There is no fee charged and no limit to the number of permits issued.

DAY/BACKPACKING OVERVIEW: A scenic wilderness trail that provides outstanding views of Pyramid Peak with good day hiking, backpacking and horseback riding opportunities as well as two challenging river crossings. Also used as an entry for extended hikes into the wilderness and as the starting point of one of the preferred trails to Crested Butte. **Wading the streams in late spring and early summer can be treacherous. Sandals or boating shoes are strongly recommended. Wading barefoot can be extremely dangerous. Be sure to unbuckle your pack when navigating any high stream crossing. This trail is heavily used by those on horseback.**

ACCESS: From mid-June through September, Maroon Creek Road is restricted to vehicles 9:00 a.m.—5:00p.m. beyond the T-Lazy 7 Ranch. Take the shuttle from Aspen Highlands Ski Area, which leaves every 20 minutes; dogs are allowed on the bus.

The Maroon Bells Scenic Area is a recreation fee area; there is a *mandatory* fee. The Interagency, Senior & Golden Access Passes are honored. From the Hwy 82 Roundabout, just west of Aspen, take the Maroon Creek Road turn. In approximately 1 mile is Aspen Highlands, *turn left here for the shuttle*. If arriving during non-bus hours, continue another 4 miles to the Welcome Station. The use fee will be collected here, or deposited in the fee tube immediately behind the station if un-manned; continue another 5 miles to the parking lot at Maroon Lake.

NARRATIVE: From the East Maroon Portal cross the bridge and bear right. In 1-1/2 miles the trail branches, continue left for the East Maroon Trail (the Maroon Creek Trail to Maroon Lake goes to the right). At 4/1/2 miles, the trail branches again, keep straight. The right trail leads to a horse camp. A mile or so further two old cabins can be seen. At about the six mile mark, just past a large avalanche area, is the first of two stream crossings. During spring runoff these crossings can be very treacherous and are often impassible. The second stream crossing is about a mile farther. Two miles beyond the second crossing, at approximately 9 miles, the trail forks. Take the right fork to East Maroon Pass (the left goes to Copper Pass, Triangle Pass and Conundrum Hot Springs). Cross a small stream and continue heading right on the main trail as several false trails go off to the left. The trail continues for another mile or so then curves left and traverses uphill to East Maroon Pass.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: The East Maroon Trail is within the Maroon Bell-Snowmass Wilderness, please educate yourself a Wilderness Ethics and the following rules:

- * **DOGS MUST BE LEASHED** out of consideration for both other people and wildlife.
- * Limit group sizes to 10 people and 15 stock/pack animals.
- * **SANITATION** - bury human waste 100 feet from water and 6 inches in the soil.
- * Lightweight campstoves are recommended and required above the timberline.

PACK IT IN—PACK IT OUT!! LEAVE NO TRACE!!

This map is intended for use as a general guide only, not for actual land navigation. The White River National Forest suggests purchasing a topographical trail map prior to your hiking trip.

ASPEN-SOPRIS RANGER DISTRICT WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST EAST MAROON TRAIL #1983

