

Aspen Ranger District
806 West Hallam
Aspen, CO 81611
(970) 925-3445
(970) 925-5277- Fax



United States Department of Agriculture

CATHEDRAL PEAK 13,943 feet (4249 meters)

LENGTH: 8.5 miles round trip

ELEVATION GAIN: 2,077 feet

AVERAGE HIKING/CLIMBING TIME:
5.5 hours one-way

USGS MAP(S): Hayden Peak

SKILL FACTOR: All 14'ers within the Aspen District are for experienced mountaineers only.

RECOMMENDED SEASON(S):
Late spring and summer

ATTRACTIONS/CONSIDERATIONS: Cathedral Peak is a good example of the sedimentary rock found in the Elk Range. If you are thinking of trying the Bells or Pyramid and haven't climbed them before, try Cathedral Peak first. It's twice as hard to climb the Bells as it is to climb Cathedral Peak. Camping at Cathedral Lake and climbing from there affords a less strenuous climb.

ACCESS: Drive ½ mile west of Aspen on Highway 82 to the Roundabout. Turn right onto Castle Creek Road. Drive 13 ½ miles south (1 ½ miles past Ashcroft) to the Cathedral Lake Trail turnoff. Turn right and drive ½ mile to a small parking area.

NARRATIVE: The peak is reached from the trail to Cathedral Lake which is 3 miles long and gains 2,200 feet. From the lake, circle around the north side and head for the basin to the left of the east ridge. Once you're in the basin, work your way up the loose rock until you get to the head of the bowl- one mile further and 1,200 feet higher. Pick one of the gullies on the southwest face which looks like one you can climb up. The top is ¼ mile further with a 800 foot elevation gain. **The route is loose and dangerous.** Return the same way.

It is your responsibility to know the hazards involved in your activities and to use the proper safety procedures and equipment to minimize the inherent risks and hazards related to your activity. As a user of National Forest System Lands, you have significant responsibility for your personal safety during any activity you might pursue. The Forest Service installs signs and other information devices at various locations where conditions limit placement of signs or other specific warnings and necessitates the use of more general education efforts. Hazards are not limited to, but include: changing weather conditions, snow, avalanche, landslides and falling rock, caves, overlooks, falling trees or limbs, high or rushing water, contaminated water, wild animals, becoming lost or over exerted, hypothermia, remnants of mining and other activities involving excavation, tunnels, shafts, decaying structures and a variety of equipment, and changing road and trail conditions. You may also be exposed to unreasonable acts of others. **The Forest Service does not manage or control all of these occurrences.**

The peaks in the White River National Forest do not have designated routes to the top. The Forest Service is currently studying the present, user-created trails to determine the feasibility and desirability of designated routes. For further sources on information and routes to the peaks, please call the office at (970) 925-3445.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL - PITKIN COUNTY SHERIFF - 920-5310

