

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



United States Department of Agriculture

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### **HAYDEN PEAK 13,561 feet**

**LENGTH:** 9 ½ miles round-trip from trailhead

**ELEVATION GAIN:** 4,200 feet

**AVERAGE HIKING/CLIMBING TIME:**  
12 hours round-trip

**USGS MAP(S):** Hayden Peak;

**SKILL FACTOR:** moderate

**RECOMMENDED SEASON(S):**  
Summer/ Early fall

**ATTRACTIONS/CONSIDERATIONS:** Hayden Peak is one of the areas most prominent peaks. It is a relatively easy climb but has much elevation gain. If you are in good shape you can climb it in one day, but most people backpack into American Lake, camp and climb the next day.

**ACCESS:** Drive ½ mile west of Aspen on Highway 82 to the Roundabout. Turn right onto Castle Creek Road. Drive 10 miles up Castle Creek Road to the Elk Mountain Lodge. On the right side of the road is the trailhead to American Lake and Hayden Peak.

**NARRATIVE:** Hike 2 ¾ miles up the trail (1/4 mile down from American Lake). The trail crosses a ridge near timberline. Turn right and work your way up the cirque about 1 mile. Keep working your way up so that you finish on the east ridge near the summit. The summit is approximately 1 mile from the cirque. Return the same way. Allow yourself plenty of time to complete this hike in one day.

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**

