

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



United States Department of Agriculture

PETROLEUM PEAK 13,505 feet

LENGTH: 7 miles round-trip from trailhead

ELEVATION GAIN: 2,300 feet

AVERAGE HIKING/CLIMBING TIME:
6 hours round-trip

USGS MAP(S): New York Peak;
Independence Pass

SKILL FACTOR: easy to moderate

RECOMMENDED SEASON(S):
Summer/ Early fall

ATTRACTIONS/CONSIDERATIONS: Petroleum Peak can be done in a day or it also makes a nice easy pack/climbing trip.

ACCESS: Drive 10 miles east of Aspen on Highway 82 to Lincoln Creek Road. Turn right and drive 7 miles to Portal Campground. From here either walk or drive the 4WD road to the Petroleum Lake trailhead. A high clearance vehicle is needed for the last three miles.

NARRATIVE: From the trailhead walk approximately 1 ½ miles and gain 800' to a fork in the trail. The right fork goes to Petroleum Lake and the left to Anderson Lake. Take the right fork and follow the trail approximately 1 mile gaining 400' to Petroleum Lake.

From the lake, Petroleum Peak is west. You may approach the top via either side of the peak via the saddles that are there. There may be snow so an ice axe may be helpful. The easiest route is south of the summit.

For either route walk west approximately ¾ of a mile and head for either ridge. Then follow the ridge ¼ mile to the summit. The distance from the lake is 1 mile with an elevation gain of 1,000 feet.

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

