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United States Department of Agriculture



HIKING

Maroon/Snowmass Trail #1975– CRATER LAKE

Length: 1.8 miles one-way (2.9 km one-way)

Difficulty: Moderate

Trail Use: Very Heavy

Beginning Elevation: 9,580 feet (2920 m)

Ending Elevation: 10,076 feet (3071 m)

USGS Map(s): Maroon Bells

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 overnighiting** 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 short and very popular day hike over rocky trails, through aspen groves and around rock formations to a high mountain lake. This trail is often used as a starting point for extended backpacking trips into the wilderness. **This trail is extremely rocky and dry. Good hiking shoes and plenty of water are a must. Camping is permitted only in designated areas and campfires are prohibited. Dogs are not permitted around the lake or at the campsites.**

ACCESS: From mid-June through September Maroon Creek Road beyond the T-Lazy Seven Ranch is closed from 8:30 am to 5:00 PM. You will need to take a shuttle from Aspen Highlands Ski Area. Ask Forest Service visitor information personnel for bus schedule info and September road closure hours. If you get an early start drive 1/2 of a mile west of Aspen on Highway 82 to the Roundabout. Go around the Roundabout and turn right on Maroon Creek Road. Drive 9-1/2 miles to the Day Use parking lot at Maroon Lake. Backpackers may use the road at any time. Stop at the Forest Service Entrance Station to pick up a pass for overnight use in the Overnight parking lot at the lake. If the lot is full you can park 1/4 mile down the road at the West Maroon parking lot.

NARRATIVE: The trail starts at the Maroon Lake parking area. To the right of the Lake, the Maroon Snowmass Trail traverses through a meadow to a Forest Service bulletin board at the far end of the lake. The trail continues to climb through scree fields and aspen groves before a beautiful "rock garden". From here the trail drops down to Crater Lake.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: Crater Lake is within the Maroon Bell-Snowmass Wilderness, please educate yourself about 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.