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United States Department of Agriculture



**HIKING**

## **MAROON LAKE SCENIC TRAIL #2197**

**Length:** 1.5 miles one-way (2.4 km)

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Trail Use:** Heavy

**Beginning Elevation:** 9,580 feet (2920 m)

**Ending Elevation:** 9,700 feet (2957 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 recreating 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:** This trail is one of the most heavily used trails in the Aspen area. Hikers and picnickers enjoy the wildflowers and views of the Maroon Bells and Pyramid Peak. It is a great family day hike with many photographic opportunities.

**ACCESS:** From mid-June through September the Maroon Creek road is closed from 8:30 am. to 5:00 PM. You will need to take the bus which leaves from Aspen Highlands Ski Area on Maroon Creek Road. Ask Forest Service visitor information personnel for bus schedule info. and September road closure hours. If you get an early start drive 1/2 mile west of Aspen on Highway 82 to the Roundabout. Go around the Roundabout and turn right onto Maroon Creek Road. Continue 9 1/2 miles to the Maroon Lake parking lot.

**NARRATIVE:** The trail starts at the Maroon Lake parking area traversing through a meadow to the far end of Maroon Lake and a Forest Service bulletin board. Take the trail to the left. There are several bridges crossing the creek. The trail skirts around an active beaver pond and loops back to Maroon Lake. The trail is not a complete loop around the lake so you will have to turn back the way you came.

**ETHICS/REGULATIONS:** Maroon Lake Scenic Trail starts at the Maroon Lake Parking area and leads into the Maroon Bells-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!!**