



Red Rock Canyon Open Space (East Side Route)



Hike Information

Rating: 4 - Easy/Moderate

Distance: 4.0 Miles

Total Elevation Gain*: 554 feet

Starting Elevation: 6,191 feet

Hike Time: ~2.0 Hours

Total Event Time: ~2.0 to 2.5 Hours**

Dog Friendly: Yes (on leash)

* Total Elevation Gain includes total feet climbed throughout hike and does not represent difference between low and high points.

** Total Event Time includes Hike Time plus transportation to and from the initial meeting point.

Hike Description

This is a 4-mile loop hike which includes a picturesque valley walk climbing up to a great overlook within Red Rock Open Space near Manitou Springs.

Hikers begin by climbing steeply up to the Lower and then Upper Hodgeback trails, eventually continuing steadily uphill along the Rim Trail to the saddle separating this valley from the main canyon. Hikers then descend through the upper section of the Red Rock Canyon Trail and enjoy a relaxing walk back to the parking lot.

One of the interesting benefits of this location is the varied outdoor activities, including mountain-biking and rock climbing. In the final stretch of the walk, hikers typically see multiple rock-climbing groups along the main canyon, some which are taking on very difficult routes along the canyon walls.

This hike consists of dirt and rock, sometimes involving stepping up and around obstacles in the rougher places of the trail. The views are excellent along the entire route, including Garden of the Gods, an overlook of downtown Colorado Springs, and splendid views of the surrounding front range mountains.

This location includes a wide variety of trees and plants, including ponderosa pines, Douglas fir, Rocky Mountain juniper, cottonwood, aspen, and even yucca. Visitors commonly find mule deer, coyotes, as well as hawks and songbirds. Although rare, foxes, black bears, and mountain lions can also be spotted here, so hikers are encouraged to remain with the group.

This is a fantastic hike which can be done by hikers of nearly all ability-levels. With ample parking and incredible views, this hike is sure to provide a memorable adventure!

What To Bring

- Water:  = 40 ounces
- Food: Light, Healthy Snack
- Clothing: Breathable Layers (adjust for daily temps)
- Footwear: Comfortable hiking boots or shoes
- Headgear: Hat
- Safety: Sunscreen, Sunglasses
- Optional: Hiking Poles



To learn more about this location, visit:
<https://coloradosprings.gov/redrockcanyon>

See Next Page for Maps and Meeting Point Information

Hikers may meet at the carpool meeting point or the hike location
(Both meeting times are indicated on the Event Schedule)



Carpool Meeting Point

Buffalo Lodge Resort

2 El Paso Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80904



Buffalo Lodge can be a little tricky to navigate the first time you visit. This is a 5-acre self-enclosed lodge with numerous buildings. As you first pull into the property, you will see the main Lodge Office on the right...**this is where the group meets for the hike.**

However, please do not park up front as this is only for lodging guests. Instead, drive through the lot to the rear area and park in the large dirt lot marked "Event Parking". You will then walk to the front of the lot and meet us at the main Lodge Office.

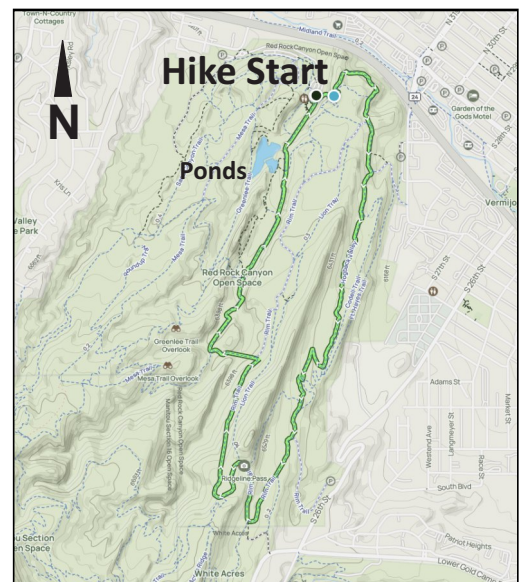
Mountain Trails members may choose to ride with someone, offer a ride to other hikers, or simply follow the caravan in their own vehicle. The priority for this hike series are the Buffalo Lodge guests; if any guest needs a ride, we will provide them with transportation.

Regardless where you choose to meet the group (Buffalo Lodge or hike meeting point), hiking club members are encouraged to visit Buffalo Lodge as they have a lounge with interesting decor, a variety of activities, a bicycle shop, and live music most nights of the week.

About the Buffalo Lodge Hike Series:

This hike is part of a partnership with the Buffalo Lodge Resort, offering guided hikes to lodge guests and members in the Manitou Springs area. Mountain Trails members are encouraged to meet here and learn more about Buffalo Lodge before proceeding to the hike (but may also choose to meet the group at the hike as shown below.)

Hike Meeting Point & Map



This hike begins and ends Red Rock Canyon Open Space (eastern parking lot) (3550 W High St, Colorado Springs, CO 80904). Map above shows the correct parking lot; the hike will begin and end there.