Grays Peak Elevation: 14,270 feet

Nearest Town or Resort: Georgetown, Keystone

Hiking/climbing Colorado's 14ers can be very dangerous and all climbers need to be aware of the risks that are associated with this inherently dangerous activity (there have been fatalities and serious injuries by people climbing Colorado's 14ers). All hikers/climbers should be knowledgeable about; weather, terrain, altitude, necessary gear/equipment, avalanche hazards, their personal health/fitness levels and the difficulty ratings associated with the routes they have chosen. If you are new to climbing Colorado's 14ers, educate yourself by reading Colorado mountaineering publications or taking courses. Finally, be sure that your basic navigation skills are up-to-date and that you can use a map and compass. Do not rely upon a GPS device or a cell phone map application as your only navigation tool. To prepare for your 14er climbs we recommend that you go to www.14ers.com/safety.php and review the Mountaineering section of this website. It is an excellent source for safety information and provides checklists for climbing Colorado's 14ers.

### **Difficulty Rating System:**

The difficulty of a route can be determined by a combination of: class, snow steepness, length of route, elevation gain/loss and weather conditions. The following is a brief description of CLASS and SNOW STEEPNESS.

The Yosemite Decimal System (YDS) is used to rate the difficulty of walks, hikes and climbs. The Class denoted for each route is the most difficult Class for that route (in good, dry conditions). Make allowances for other than good conditions, as the Class rating may

<u>Class 1:</u> Trail hiking or hiking across open country on well maintained trails.

- Class 2: Off-trail hiking (bushwhacking) that may include easy snow climbs or hiking on talus/scree. May also include simple scrambling with occasional use of your hands. You are able to face outwards when climbing down.
- <u>Class 3:</u> Easiest climbing, sometimes called scrambling. You are using handholds most of the time as you climb up and will need to face toward the mountain while climbing down. Some Class 3 routes are best done with ropes.
- Class 4: Technical climbing (ropes are often used) requiring more then just handholds. Use of upper body and abdominal muscles is needed. Movements are slower and more thoughtful.
- Class 5: Technical climbing using all of the techniques and safety equipment associated with rock climbing. The climbing involves the use of ropes, belaying and other protective equipment. Most climbers rappel down Class 5 slopes. The Class 5 ranking system has been expanded to decimal notations, from 5.1 (easier) to 5.14 (most difficult) followed by a letter (a-d) to further define the difficulties of the rock climbing. This class is for experienced climbers only.

## SNOW STEEPNESS

If a route has snow or ice, this rating will describe the angle of the snow slope. No rating means that no snow or ice exists.

0 to 30 degrees Easy:

Moderate: 30 to 45 degrees

Very Steep: 60 to 80 degrees Vertical: 80 to 90 degrees

45 to 60 degrees

## Disclaimer:

- Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained on this trail map is up-to-date and accurate. The author and publisher can accept no liability for the consequences of any mistakes or errors in content or representation.
- Most elevation and distance information contained in this trail man has been obtained using GPS technology. Please be aware that the accuracy of this information may vary from your GPS device, as all devices have varying degrees of accuracy.
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## POCKET PALS

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### North (East) Slopes

Route Length: 7.20 miles roundtrip Trailhead: Stevens Gulch Trailhead Snow Steepness: None

Special Considerations: This is the STANDARD route to Grays Peak.

Waypoints: @ 0.00 Mi. - Stevens Gulch Trailhead. Cross over bridge to the west side of creek. Begin moderately steep climb out of Stevens Gulch.

@ 0.83 Mi. - Trail levels out and proceeds along the contours. @ 1.36 Mi. - Before trail sign, intersection with Lost Rat Couloir Route on left (a gravel road). Go straight.

@ 2.76 Mi. - Intersection with Torreys South Slopes Route, go left.

@ 1.55 Mi. - Begin climbing again. @ 2.57 Mi. - Trail steepens and crosses talus (rock) field.

Elevation Gain/Loss (one-way from trailhead): +3,019' Gain; -70' Loss Starting Elevation: 11,233'

4 @ 2.95 Mi. - Trail intersection. Go right for Grays Peak, the left goes to the Lost Rat Couloir and the Continental Divide. 6 3.60 Mi. - Grays Peak summit.

Each bar in the profile (lighter blue or darker blue) = 500' of elevation gain.

Elevation Gain/Loss (one-way from trailhead): +2,185' Gain; -0' Loss

### **Lost Rat Couloir**

Route Length: 3.46 miles roundtrip

<u>Trailhead:</u> Waypoint on the N. Slopes Route <u>Snow Steepness:</u> Moderate (seasonal) Starting Elevation: 12,073' Special Considerations: Initially follow the North (East) Slopes Route for 1.36 miles to the intersection with Lost Rat Couloir Route.

@ 0.00 Mi. - Before a trail sign (on the North Slopes Route) there is an intersection with the Lost Rat Couloir Route on the left (a gravel road).

1 @ 0.93 Mi. - End of gravel road, proceed straight ahead.

- 2 @ 1.19 Mi. Couloir splits, stay left. A pinnacle will be just west of the couloir.
- 3 @ 1.29 Mi. Couloir turns south.

4 @ 1.37 Mi. - Top of Lost Rat Couloir, head along ridge to summit. 5 @ 1.73 Mi. - Grays Peak summit.

> Each bar in the profile (lighter blue or darker blue) = 500' of elevation gain.

### **East Slopes** (South Ridge)

Class: 2 Route Length: 6.36 miles roundtrip

**Trailhead:** Horseshoe Basin Trailhead Snow Steepness: None Special Considerations: This is the shortest route up to Grays Peak.

Waypoints:

@ 0.00 Mi. - Horseshoe Basin Trailhead.

- @ 0.05 Mi. Pass through a gate. Trail initially goes along a road.
- @ 0.40 Mi. Trail intersection. Argentine Trail is on the right, go left.
- @ 1.61 Mi. Intersection with a road on the left, go right.
- @ 1.83 Mi. End of road. Trail goes left (heading west) climbing up slope.
- @ 2.20 Mi. Head westward towards Grays Peak.
- @ 2.65 Mi. Climb begins to get steeper, trail is faint in places.

Elevation Gain/Loss (one-way from trailhead): +3,077' Gain; -0' Loss **Starting Elevation: 11,104** 

7 @ 2.98 Mi. - Top of ridge at 13,700'. View of saddle. Head north

5 @ 3.18 Mi. - Grays Peak summit.

Each bar in the profile (lighter blue or darker blue) = 500' of elevation gain.

Elevation Gain/Loss (one-way from trailhead): +3,694' Gain; -0' Loss

## **Southwest Ridge**

Route Length: 9.62 miles roundtrip Trailhead: Chihuahua Gulch Trailhead

Snow Steepness: None

Starting Elevation: 10,484'

Special Considerations: A large portion of this route follows a 4WD road. It is possible to drive up this route for almost 2 miles with a 4WD vehicle.

Waypoints:

- 🚺 @ 0.00 Mi. Chihuahua Gulch Trailhead. @ 1.06 Mi. - Start of wetlands area.
- 2 @ 1.86 Mi. Road intersection, go right.
- @ 2.87 Mi. Turn left into Ruby Gulch.
- 4 @ 3.50 Mi. Abandoned Mine. Continue past the mine going along the road and head N/NW towards the ridge

5 @ 4.14 Mi. - Turn right and continue along the ridge crest towards the summit. 6 @ 4.75 Mi. - Route steepens. Be careful of loose rocks.

5 @ 4.81 Mi. - Grays Peak summit.

Each bar in the profile (lighter blue or darker blue) = 500' of elevation gain.

## **Torreys South Slopes (Combo)**

<u>Class:</u> 2 Route Length: 1.38 miles roundtrip Trailhead: 1 Torreys Peak Snow Steepness: None

Special Considerations: This is the route used to summit both Torreys Peak and Grays Peak.

Elevation Gain/Loss (one-way from Torreys): +452' Gain; -512' Loss Starting Elevation: 14,267'

Waypoints:

@ 0.00 Mi. - Torreys Peak.

@ 0.44 Mi. - Intersection with the South Slopes connector to the North (East) Slopes Route. Continue straight ahead for Grays Peak.

5 @ 0.69 Mi. - Grays Peak summit.



## <u>CHIHUAHUA GULCH TRAILHEAD</u>

Road Type: Rough 2WD gravel road to trailhead. High clearance vehicle recommended. 4WD gravel road up Chihuahua Gulch Rd.

From the east: Going west on the I-70 take Exit 216 south onto US-6 (Loveland Pass Rd.). Entering the Keystone Ski Resort area take a left onto E. Keystone Rd., take a quick left onto Gondola Rd. At the T-intersection go right onto Montezuma Rd. Continue for 4.2 miles to the intersection with County Rd. 260 (Peru Creek Rd.). Turn left and proceed for 2.15 miles to the trailhead on the left.

From the west: Going east on the I-70 take Exit 205 (Silverthorne) and head east on US-6. Take the Montezuma Rd. exit and proceed for 4.2 miles to the intersection with County Rd. 260 (Peru Creek Rd.). Turn left onto Co. Rd. 260 and continue for 2.15 miles to the Chihuahua Gulch Trailhead on the left.

Winter Access: Closed at the start of County Rd. 260 (Peru Creek Rd.).

## STEVENS GULCH TRAILHEAD

Road Type: Rough 2WD gravel road to trailhead. High clearance vehicle

# **Directions:**

From the I-70 take Exit 221 (Bakerville). Go south on Stevens Gulch Rd. (F.S. 189) for 1.15 miles to the intersection with Grizzly Gulch Rd. Go left at this intersection and proceed for 1.85 miles to the Stevens Gulch trailhead and parking area. There are restrooms here. The trail starts over the footbridge

Winter Access: Usually closed at F.S. Rd. 189 at I-70.

## **HORSESHOE BASIN TRAILHEAD**

Road Type: Rough 2WD gravel road to trailhead. High clearance vehicle recommended.

## **Directions:**

From the east: Going west on the I-70 take Exit 216 south onto US-6 (Loveland Pass Rd.). Entering the Keystone Ski Resort area take a left onto E. Keystone Rd., take a quick left onto Gondola Rd. At the T-intersection go right onto Montezuma Rd. Continue for 4.2 miles to the intersection with County Rd. 260 (Peru Creek Rd). Turn left onto Co. Rd. 260 and drive 4.6 miles to the trailhead at Shoe Basin Mine. The road is gated at the trailhead.

From the west: Going east on the I-70 take Exit 205 (Silverthorne) and head east on US-6. Take the Montezuma Rd. exit and proceed for 4.2 miles to the intersection with County Rd. 260 (Peru Creek Rd.). Turn left and continue for 4.6 miles to the trailhead at Shoe Basin Mine. The road is gated at the trailhead.

Winter Access: Closed at the start of County Rd. 260 (Peru Creek Rd.).



