Black Canyon

Distance: 18.4 miles round-trip (you can make this run much longer or shorter)

Elevation gain/loss: +4,500 ft. / -4,500 ft.

Recommended Time of year: Spring and Fall (can be hot in the Summer)

Location: White Mountains, 8 miles SSE of Bishop, CA

Directions from Bishop: Heading south on Main St/HWY 395, turn left on Line St and continue east out of town, passing the White Mountain Research Station just before you reach the base of the White Mountains. Line St makes a sharp right curve and becomes Eastside Rd; continue south on Eastside Rd until you reach a junction with Warm Springs Rd and Black Canyon Rd (you will find an old horse corral at this junction). Make a left onto Black Canyon Rd (dirt road). The road heads east, then south towards Black Canyon (the canyon is prominently visible from the road). After a little less than 3 miles, you will reach a junction- make the left fork, beginning your climb up to the mouth of Black Canyon. Once near the mouth, seek out a safe dirt pullout to park in (there are only a handful of pullouts near the mouth of the canyon). PLEASE NOTE: high-clearance vehicles are recommended on Black Canyon- four-wheeled drive vehicles are strongly recommended beyond the start of the canyon.

Route Description: Begin your long, gradual ascent up Black Canyon Rd. The road continues east, then curves and heads north through narrow, colorful canyon walls. Enjoy old mine shafts along the way up. Continue your climb up through sagebrush and pinyon pine zones. After about 7 miles up, the road emptys out of the narrow canyon and White Mountain Rd can be seen high up on the ridgeline. For those seeking a longer outing by connecting up to White Mountain Rd, be sure to study a map of this area as the road forks multiple times (with many of those forks terminating soon thereafter). One can make this run as long or short as he/she pleases, but be prepared for a solid uphill run with anywhere from 300 to 600+ feet of elevation gain per mile.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Be prepared for all weather conditions; at lower elevations, the canyon is hot and exposed. Chilly temps can be expected at higher elevations.
- -Wear proper footwear, as much of Black Canyon Rd is rocky and uneven.
- -Watch out for snakes during the warmer times of year.
- -If you are running the road for the first time, a map highly recommended.
- -Make sure to outfit yourself at Sage to Summit beforehand...this is by no means an easy run!



Elevation Close ⊗

