

Easy Durango Hiking Trails

Animas Overlook Trail - Go N. on Main Ave to left on 25th St. then 3 mi. to left at fork. Continue on FS#543 to milepost 7 - parking area on right. This trail is approximately .6 miles over flat terrain. The staff of Clean Canyons & Forests did this hike in August of 2003 with a total hike time of about 30 minutes. Good views of the Animas Valley.

Potato Lake Trail - Go 29 mi N of town to right on Lime Creek (FS#591) then 3.1 mi to trailhead on left. This hike is 1.2 miles with an elevation gain of 450 ft. The staff of Clean Canyons & Forests did this hike in July 2003 with a total hike time of about 1.5 hours. Outstanding views of Twilight Peak!

Taylor Lake Trail - Go 11 mi W of town on Hwy 160 to right at La Plata. 12 mi. to top of canyon - bear left at fork in road. Last 2 mi. is 4x4. Trailhead on left at parking area. This hike is 1.5 miles with an elevation gain of approximately 150 ft. The staff of Clean Canyons & Forests have done this hike many times. Total walk time to the lake and back is about an hour over mostly flat terrain. Outstanding views of the La Plata Mountains and great wildflowers in July and early August.

Moderate Durango Hiking Trails

Animas Mtn Trail - Go N. on Main Ave to left on 32nd St., then right on 4th Ave. to park and trail head. This hike is 2.5 miles to the overlook of the Animas Valley, with an elevation gain of 1400 ft. You can continue on a loop trail back to your car -- making it a 5.6 mile hike. The staff of Clean Canyons & Forests did this hike in March 2004 with a total hike time of about 3.5 hours.

Hermosa Creek Trail - Go 25 mi N of town to Durango Mtn Resort. Trailhead is at end of FS#578 on backside of resort. Trail ends at town of Hermosa 9 mi N. of Durango. It is mostly downhill if you start from the resort. To hike the full length is 21 miles one way, with an elevation loss of about 1,500 ft. Many people choose to mountain bike this trail. The staff of Clean Canyons & Forest did this trail by mountain bike in 1993. Total time from top to bottom was about 6 hours.

Hogback Trail - Go N on Main Ave to 22nd St., turns into Montview Pkwy. Turn W on Glenisle then S on Leyden. Trailhead at end of street across wooden bridge. This hike is approximately 1 mile in

length, but does require a steep uphill climb.

Indian Trail Ridge Trail - Go 11 mi W of town on Hwy 160 to right at La Plata. 12 mi. to top of canyon - bear left at fork in road. Last 2 mi. is 4x4. Trailhead on left at Kennebec Pass parking area. Take right fork in trail. Trail ends at Bolam Pass behind Durnago Mtn. Resort. Short hikes from Kennebec Pass are outstanding! To backpack the full length of this trail is approximately 31 miles with an elevation change of 1000 ft.

Mountain View Crest - Located in the Weminuche Wilderness. N on Main Ave to right on 32nd St., then left on CR250. Go 9 mi. to right on Missionary Ridge Rd then 19 mi to right on Henderson Lake Rd. 4 mi of 4-wheel drive to trailhead. Considered by many to be the most beautiful view in the state, the hike is 5 miles with an elevation gain of 1900 ft. The entire hike is at high elevation. The staff of Clean Canyons & Forests hiked this trail in 1993 and 1996. Total walk time depends on where you start from, but it can be done roundtrip in 3-4 hours. The high elevation is a challenge. Start early to avoid thunderstorms and wear layers to protect against wind and cold.

Vallecito Creek Trail - Go N. from Bayfield on CR 501 - bear left at fork - 21.6 mi to Vallecito Campground. Hiking the full length of this trail is 12 miles.

Difficult Durango Hiking Trails

Chicago Basin - Located in the Weminuche Wilderness Area. The most common access for backpackers heading into Chicago Basin is by D&SNGRR Train. This hike is approximately 8 miles with an elevation gain of 3000 ft.

The Colorado Trail - Go N. on Main Ave to left on 25th St. then 3 mi. to left at fork. Trailhead on left when road enters National Forest. Lower section of trail along Junction Creek is rated easy. This is Colorado's premier backpacking trip. To hike the full length of this trail from Durango to Denver is 470 miles, with numerous passes and mountain ranges to cross. Mountain biking down the Colorado Trail from Kennebec Pass to Durango is very popular.

Molas Pass to Hotel Draw (CO Trail) - Go 40 mi N on Hwy 550 to Molas Pass. Park at Little Molas Lake. Trail comes out on Hermosa Park Rd behind Durango Mtn. Resort. Hiking the full length of this trail is 31.1 miles with an elevation gain of 4600 ft. Shorter hikes thru

wildflower meadows are possible on the upper section.

Perrins Peak Trail - Go N on Main Ave to 22nd St., turns into Montview Pkwy. Turn W on Glenisle then S on Leyden. Trailhead goes W. up drainage just past last house on street. This hike is 2.5 miles and very steep.