

Ride Descriptions

IMPORTANT note:

The difficulty rating for each of the rides should be used only as a general guideline. Each rating is merely the opinion of those who made the assignment and is NOT based on any type of professional assessment. Not everyone has the same opinion of how difficult a particular ride might be. **It is your responsibility to know your riding skills and evaluate trail situations accordingly.**

KEY:	
Easy	
Easy-Moderate	
Moderate	
Moderate-Difficult	
Difficult	

Otto Mears Toll Road to Bonanza

Rating: 

This route has more historic value than most and very different mountain scenery. You'll get up close and personal to several mine sites, many with buildings still standing. Lots of Aspen. A few side routes can be challenging.

Mosquito Pass

Rating: 

This is the highest pass in the United States at 13,186 ft. Prior to summiting you will go through some of the highest concentrations of old mines on the planet, with much of the infrastructure still standing. There isn't a lot of color, there's some exposure, and the critter factor is fairly low, but the history is very high.

Six Pac Ride

Rating: 

You will travel over six passes, Hancock, Tomichi, Black Sage, Wauneta, Napoleon and Tin Cup. For an easier route, you can optionally go over Cumberland Pass instead of Napoleon. These are not that difficult but there is some exposure and a deep stream crossing on the Napoleon section. The difficult rating is primarily for the length of the ride (85 miles) and a steady (meaning not slow), pace is required to complete this ride. High critter factor, lots of history with ghost towns and a high color factor. This is the only guided ride on the schedule. Unless you are VERY familiar with this ride you should travel in a group with a guide.

Mount Bross

Rating: 

Very scenic. This ride will take you through some of the oldest trees in the country, many hundreds to thousands of years old. They were shaped by the winds on Windy Ridge and are quite unique. Then proceed to the top of Mt. Bross at over 14,000 feet.

Hancock/Tin Cup

Rating: 

OVER

This route is a scenic masterpiece with high mountain vistas, old mine sites and ghost towns. You can ride right into the towns of Pitkin, Tin Cup, and Taylor Park. It's a full day's ride.

Mt. Antero/Baldwin Lake

Rating: 

On this route you can ride to 13,700'. The summit is a short hike from there at 14,269'. Although not particularly difficult, some of the steeper climbs may require 4WD on the heavier machines and more hp is a plus. Baldwin Lake trail is optional and very rough, but Brown's Lake is easier and worth the trip. Look around near the summit of Antero for aquamarine and quartz, minerals that are still mined today on active claims. A few aspen areas and occasional moose at Brown's Lake.

Mineral Basin/Ptarmigan Lake

Rating: 

This route begins at beautiful Cottonwood Lake and is not heavily traveled. It and all the side routes are up and back with critter sightings common and lots of beaver ponds. Ptarmigan Lake holds some big and hungry trout and Ptarmigan (Colorado's unofficial state bird) hide in the surrounding rocks. Side trip Hope Gulch is a beautiful up and back route over a saddle looking down into the Chalk Creek drainage.

Twin Lakes/Lost Canyon

Rating: 

Two different routes that require trailering to each, but worth the effort. Aspen trees abound at Twin Lakes and the views from each are incredible. At the top of Lost Canyon you'll stare right into the faces of Mt's. Belford, Oxford, Missouri and Huron ...14'ers all. At the Twin Lakes trail, you'll visit old mines and mills with colorful rocks. From the top of Twin Lakes trail you can look across the valley into the famous California Gulch Mining District and Leadville.

4 Mile Area (North)

Rating:  to 

Named for the creek running through it, it's one of three routes that are on the eastern side of the valley (Ruby Mtn. being the other). These are easy, high clearance roads going through Pinion Forests and high desert. The only difficult parts are on the ATV only trail sections which are easy to avoid for the less experienced. You'll have panoramic views of the Sawatch Range across the valley. Critters here include Big Horns, deer, elk, bear and (rarely) mountain lion.

Ruby Mountain/Aspen Ridge

Rating:  to 

The extreme sections are easy to avoid and the easy ones are loads of fun. ATV trails cut through the Pinions, and Aspen Ridge in the fall will blow you over with color. Similar in terrain, views and critters to 4 Mile (North). Chinaman Gulch is the **Difficult** part.

Route of the Silver Kings, Leadville Mining District

Difficulty Rating:  to   

This route takes you through the main mining areas of California Gulch in the Leadville Historical District. These mostly unmarked roads run all over the place so don't be surprised if you get temporarily lost – But you will easily find your way out. Stay off the **paved trail** running throughout the area. This route can be covered in just a few hours so enjoy a side trip into Leadville (you can ride on the streets) for lunch or to visit the **Mining Hall of Fame Museum**. Or take a jaunt to the top of **Mosquito Pass** and back (with or without the American Mine Loop). The "3" rating is for east slope Mosquito Pass (closer to "4" with the American Mine Loop), the rest is a "1". This route is often guided. Critter factor is fairly low.

Hagerman Pass

Difficulty Rating: 

This route takes off from Turquoise Lake near Leadville and most is the old Colorado Midland Railroad route over the Continental Divide. Highlights include Ivanhoe, Sellar and Deimer Lakes, Hell Gate Canyon, the coke ovens, #532 ATV Trail and Hagerman Tunnel (have a strong flashlight). Scenery is excellent, history abundant and critter factor is fair.

Breakneck Pass

Difficulty Rating:   

Near Fairplay. Four wheel drive required for upper portion of route. Browns Pass is part of the loop, however it is not recommended for use as there is at least one clearly difficult and unsafe section. Large aspen groves can provide spectacular color and photo opportunities. Excellent Mosquito Range views to the west. Color and critters are excellent.

Mt. Princeton

Difficulty Rating:  

A relatively short trip up and back to outstanding views. USFS chalet at end of road is open to public. Usually a Saturday trip including a lunch hot dog roast at the chalet. Most of the road is easy except the exposed portions which may intimidate some. Scenery is tops, history and critters are fairly low, but mountain goats have been know to like the smell of hot dogs.

OVER

Halfmoon Gulch/Champion Mine

Difficulty Rating: 

This is a proposed new route that takes off near Leadville and goes to a couple historic mine sites. Approval is pending. History is tops with scenery and critters a close second. Halfmoon Creek is being restocked with the rare greenback cutthroat trout, catch & release only.