

Aspen Ranger District
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United States Department of Agriculture

THE GROTTO TRAIL #2180

LENGTH: Varies

AVERAGE HIKING TIME: Varies

DIFFICULTY: Easy

USE: Heavy

BEGINNING ELEVATION: 9,600 feet
(2926 m)

ENDING ELEVATION: 9,600 feet
(2926 m)

USGS MAP(S): New York Peak

RECOMMENDED SEASON(S):
Summer/Fall

DAY/BACKPACKING OVERVIEW: A popular family area for picnicking and exploring with waterfalls, large boulders and rock formations, an ice cave and numerous short trails. **WARNING: HIGH WATER DURING THE SPRING RUNOFF CAN BE VERY DANGEROUS!**

ACCESS: Drive 9 miles east of Aspen on Highway 82. Continue 0.9 miles past Weller Campground to a trailhead on the right, turn and drive about 200 feet to the parking area.

NARRATIVE: The Grottos Trail divides into three distinct areas which begin at the Grottos Map on the west side of the parking lot:

1. The shortest trail, about 30 yards, crosses the bridge to your left and travels in the woods near the river over a smooth gravel path to a magnificent waterfall and picnic area containing large boulders. This trail is wheelchair accessible.
2. A slightly longer trail to the ice caves is accessed by crossing the bridge on the right and following the rocky path where a trail sign indicates the ice caves to the left. The trail continues through the woods to a series of large boulders on the left. The ice caves are behind the boulders.
3. The longest trail, Old Stage Road, is accessed by crossing the bridge on the right and continuing to follow a path for ½ mile until it reaches the banks of Lincoln Creek.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: The Grottos Trail leads into the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness. Please educate yourself about Wilderness Ethics and the following rules:

- Out of consideration for others and wildlife – **DOGS MUST BE ON A LEASH.**
- Limit group sizes to 10 people and 15 stock/pack animals.
- **Sanitation** – Bury human waste 100 feet from water and 6 inches in the soil.
- Lightweight campstoves are recommended and required above timberlines.

PACK IT IN—PACK IT OUT!! LEAVE NO TRACE!!



ASPEN-SOPRIS RANGER DISTRICT WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST
THE GROTTOS DAY USE AREA #2180

