



U. S. Department of Agriculture  
 Dillon Ranger District  
 680 Blue River Parkway  
 Silverthorne, CO 80498  
 (970) 468-5400



## Upper Peru Creek Trail System

Argentine Pass Trail - #77      Upper Peru Creek Trail – 9173  
 Paymaster Mine Trail – #9172      Peruvian Mine Trail – #9174

**Difficulty:** MODERATE TO MORE DIFFICULT

**Trail Use:** Low

**Length:** Argentine Pass Trail – 2.2 mi., Upper Peru Creek Trail – 2.6 mi., Paymaster Mine Trail – 0.6 mi., Peruvian Mine Trail – 0.2 mi.

**Elevation:** The Upper Peru Creek Road Trailhead is at 11,280 feet. Argentine pass is at 13,207 and Grays Peak is a 14,270 feet. The end of the Upper Peru Creek Trail is at 12,200 feet.

**Elevation Gain:** Argentine Pass – 1,927 ft., Grays Peak – 12,990 ft., Upper Peru Creek Tr. – 920 ft.

**Open In Winter To:** X-C SKIING, SNOWSHOEING

**Open In Summer To:** HIKING, HORSE, MTN. BIKING

**Access:** Peru Creek Road Trailhead

- From I-70 take Exit 205, Silverthorne / Dillon, and travel east on HWY 6 toward Keystone.
- Just past Keystone, turn right onto Montezuma Road (County Road 5).
- Follow Montezuma Road for approximately 4.6 miles to the junction with Peru Creek Road (FDR 260). Turn left and follow Peru Creek Rd (4WD) for approximately 4.5 miles to the end of motorized access just before the gate and the Shoe Basin Mine. Hike on the road past the gate to access the routes.

### **Trail Highlights:**

- Historic relics are most meaningful in their natural settings. Please leave items where they lay.
- Most of the mines are privately owned. Respect all private property and do not illegally remove artifacts.
- Spectacular views are to be had from both sides of the Continental Divide upon reaching the summit of Argentine Pass. You can continue on to Grays Peak on the Continental Divide Trail.
- Most of the Argentine Pass Trail crosses talus slopes dotted with fragile alpine flowers. Please walk on the rocks whenever possible to prevent resource damage to the delicate alpine tundra.
- This Argentine Pass Trail originated as a wagon road in 1867 connecting towns across the Continental Divide

### **Important information:**

- The Continental Divide Trail is closed to mountain bikes starting at Argentine Pass.
- The Upper Peru Creek Tr. is an old road that is occasionally used by Forest Service full sized vehicles.
- The Argentine Pass Trail is not recommended for cross-country winter travel due to avalanche danger.
- Because the trails are above tree line, you should begin your hike early in the day because of the ever-changing mountain weather. There is always a strong chance of afternoon thundershowers accompanied by LIGHTNING.
- The Peru Creek drainage is rich in mining history with numerous underground mine shafts, so be careful where you walk. STAY OUT AND STAY ALIVE!

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS INTENDED TO BE A GENERAL GUIDE ONLY, **NOT** FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES.

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