Reservations are required. Please call (970)479-2291 or email that allows participants to enjoy the flora and fauna along the trail.

Join a Vail Nature Center naturalist on hikes throughout Gore Creek and Eagles Nest Wilderness. Hikes are at a pace that allows hikers of most ages and abilities to participate. A good pair of sturdy shoes is recommended as well as the appropriate clothing for the season and weather conditions. Hikers are encouraged to bring a backpack and water bottle. A good pair of sturdy shoes is recommended, as well as the appropriate clothing for the season and weather conditions. Hikers are encouraged to bring a backpack and water bottle.

Welcome to Vail. Vail is home to some of the most beautiful hiking in Colorado. The trails in East Vail, West Vail, and on Vail Mountain provide gorgeous hiking along mountain streams, past waterfalls, through aspen forests and much more. There is something for everyone, with hikes ranging from easy, paved trails, to difficult, uphill hikes. Happy hiking!
**CORTINA LANE TO BUFFEHR CREEK (NORTH TRAIL)**

Length: 3.8 miles (one way)

**Trail Use:** High

**Difficulty:** Moderate

Open To: Hiking, Biking, Horseback

**Beginning Elevation:** 8,210 ft.

**Ending Elevation:** 6,127 ft.

**Elevation Gain:** +2,083 ft. (+636 M)

**USGS Map:** Valley West

**Trail Highlights:** Walk 1/4 mile to the Davos singletrack, take the right fork onto Davos singletrack. After 1 mile, at the signed junction, turn right onto the North Trail. The trail climbs gently and then curves around into a grove of pine and aspen. Travel straight through the grove until you reach the section’s high point. From here the views to the south and west of Holy Cross Wilderness and the Gore Range are excellent. After winding through another drainage, the North Trail begins its descent into Buffehr Creek via a series of switchbacks. At a pile of downed aspens, turn right to continue the descent to Buffehr Creek. Staying straight takes you to Red Sandstone via the Buffehr Creek-Singletrack. At the bottom of the descent, turn left onto Garmisch Trail, follow it to the Buffehr Creek bridge.

**Access from Vail:** Travel west on I-70 to exit 173 for West Vail. Proceed north from the roundabout on the north side of I-70. Turn left at the yield sign on Chamonix Lane. At Arosa, turn right and veer right onto Davos Trail. Take the next right onto Cortina, which will take you to the trailhead. There is limited parking at the end of the road.

**BUFFEHR CREEK TO RED SANDSTONE (NORTH TRAIL)**

Length: 7.5 miles (one way)

**Trail Use:** High

**Difficulty:** Moderate

Open To: Hiking, Biking, Horseback

**Beginning Elevation:** 8,827 ft.

**Ending Elevation:** 6,127 ft.

**Elevation Gain:** +2,700 ft. (+827 M)

**USGS Map:** Valley West

**Trail Highlights:** From the Buffehr Creek Bridge, proceed about 1/4 mile on the Buffehr Creek Trail before turning right at the first junction (the trail to the left is the snack road). Continue north approximately 1/2 mile, ascending a series of switchbacks, to the North Trail junction and take a right. This section is now both the Buffehr Creek Trail and North Trail. After passing a beaver pond on the left, the trail ascends a series of0 avulsion terraces. From Buffehr Creek, climb steeply for approximately one mile on an open hillside. At the top of the switchbacks, take the right fork onto the North Trail. The trail to the Buffehr Creek Trail departs to the North Trail and heads left/north. From here the trail enters an aspen stand, and opens along the way provide scenic views to the south and east. Take note of the old trail to abandon the trail to the left of the drainage. Begin the descent to Red Sandstone via a series of switchbacks where the stand of aspen begins to fin. The first couple switchbacks offer outstanding views of the Gore Range and the Red Sandstone drainage.

**Access from Vail:** Travel west on I-70 to Exit 173 for West Vail. Turn right and proceed east on the North Frontage Road for 0.5 miles to Buffehr Creek Road. Turn left at the signed junction and continue to the bridge. There is limited parking at 2 pull-offs just beyond the bridge. Bus route: Stop West Vail Green Bus – Buffehr Creek.

**GORE CREEK TRAIL**

Length: 2.4 miles (one way)

**Trail Use:** High

**Difficulty:** Moderate

Open To: Hiking, Horseback

**Beginning Elevation:** 8,711 ft.

**Ending Elevation:** 11,336 ft.

**Elevation Gain:** +2,625 ft. (+767 M)

**USGS Map:** Valley East

**Trail Highlights:** The first 4 miles of the trail climb alongside Gore Creek. Trail passes through short steep sections along the way. The trail winds through meadows and aspen groves which change to choker stands as the elevation increases. At mile 4, the trail fork; straight ahead goes over Red Buffalo Pass. Right gets you to the Gore Lake, left to the trail climbs through spruce and fir forest into the alpine tundra to Gore Lake. To the right.

**Attractions:** A short hike along Gore Creek can provide pleasant picnic spots or great fishing opportunities. This trail is one of the most popular in the Eagle’s Nest Valley. Please help lessen the impact of this area by picking up your trash and trash that has left by others. If you are camping overnight at the lake, please use a backpacking stove - there is little wood left in the vicinity.

**Access from Vail:** Take Exit 180 from I-70 to East Vail. If traveling eastbound, turn right at the bottom of the off-ramp. If traveling westbound, turn left at the bottom of the off-ramp. Continue east down Bighorn Road almost to the end, and then make a left on the 2.5 miles. The trailhead is on the left of the road at mile 1.8. If you are camping overnight at the lake, please use a backpacking stove - there is little wood left in the vicinity.

**LOS ALASKA TRAIL**

Length: 7.3 miles between trailheads

**Trail Use:** High

**Difficulty:** Moderate

Open To: Hiking, Biking, Horseback

**Beginning Elevation:** 9,651 ft.

**Ending Elevation:** 6,672 ft.

**Elevation Gain:** +2,979 ft. (+853 M)

**USGS Map:** Valley East

**Trail Highlights:** From the west trailhead, the trail follows a ridge dividing the Piney and Red Sandstone drainages while traveling though lodgepole pine and aspen groves. Where some of the trail, turn right to the Piney Lake, go straight. The trail climbs a gentle 600 feet to the high point then drops slightly to Lone Pine Meadow. Continue to the Highpoint on the trail to reach this point. This portion of the trail passes through forests and meadows and crosses Red Sandstone Creek. Access from Vail: From I-70, take Exit 176 for Vail. Turn to the north and proceed on North Frontage Road to Red Sandstone Road #700:

- **WEST TRAILHEAD** – continue up Road #700 for 6 miles to the trailhead parking on the right.
- **EAST TRAILHEAD** – proceed up Road #700 to the first turn right. Lost Lake Road #786. Follow this very rough 4WD road to the trailhead parking at either fork.

**PITKIN CREEK TRAIL**

Length: 4.5 miles (one way)

**Trail Use:** Moderate

**Difficulty:** Moderate

Open To: Hiking, Horseback

**Beginning Elevation:** 8,551 ft.

**Ending Elevation:** 7,030 ft.

**Elevation Gain:** +1,521 ft. (+455 M)

**USGS Map:** Valley East

**Trail Highlights:** The first mile of the trail is strenuous as it climbs steeply out of Vail. Fallen trees along the trail are evidence of past avalanches. The grade lightens near mile 1.5 as the trail passes through lodgepole pine and spruce-fir forests and a series of moraines from an ancient glacial retreat. After about 2.5 miles, steep switchbacks reveal the first of two waterfalls on Pitkin Creek about 200 yards to the east. After a number of false summits, the trail reaches Pitkin Lake, nestled beneath an arc of gray granite in the alpine tundra.

**Access from Vail:** Travel east from Vail on I-70 to Exit 180 for East Vail. Exit here, turn left, and pass under the interstate. Turn right onto the 2.1 mile of the trail. You will pass through stands of aspen and pine. The trail passes beaver ponds and the remains of old mining camps as well as Bighorn Falls. Near mile 2, the views of Vail and Bighorn drainage are exceptional. Around mile 3, the trail passes through meadows and stands of subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce, offering a chance to see the Grand Traverse, a continuous 12,000 foot ridge connecting all the peaks and high drainages of the river basins. The trail ends at an old homestead cabin located on private property.

**Attractions:** The Bighorn Creek Trail is less steep than the other East Vail trails and may be a safely trail for beginners, but note that people and horses use the trail and area becomes increasingly remote.

**Access from Vail:** Travel east on I-70 to exit 180, exit left and turn right onto West Vail Road. Proceed 1 mile to Columbia Drive, turn right. Continue to the end of the pavement as the road passes under the interstate through a narrow passage. There is limited parking at the end of the road. Bus route: Stop West Vail Bus – Columbia/Bighorn Rd.

**BOOTH CREEK TRAIL**

Length: 4.1 miles (one way)

**Trail Use:** High

**Difficulty:** Difficult to more difficult

Open To: Hiking, Horseback

**Beginning Elevation:** 8,400 ft.

**Ending Elevation:** 7,060 ft.

**Elevation Gain:** +1,340 ft. (+326 M)

**USGS Map:** East Vail

**Trail Highlights:** The trail climbs steeply from the trailhead through aspen groves for the first mile. Then, the trail climbs more gradually following Booth Creek. At mile 2, the trail passes 60 foot Booth Creek Falls. Beyond the falls, the trail descends through forested snow patches of Subalpine Fir and Engelmann spruce forest through coniferous forests and meadows filled with wildflowers. Above 10,000 feet, the trail becomes more rugged, offering a chance to see the Gore Range. The last 1/4 mile to Booth Lake is steep and rocky.

**Access from Vail:** Travel east from Vail on I-70 to Exit 180 for East Vail. Exit here and turn left, pass under the interstate and turn left onto the north frontage road. Proceed about 1 mile to Booth Creek Road, turn right. Continue this road about 1 mile, turn right if you see the lake. Continue up this road to the parking area at the end of the road. Bus route: Stop East Vail Bus – Booth Falls.

**EAGLE VALLEY REGIONAL TRAIL**

Length: 7.6 miles (one way)

**Trail Use:** High

**Difficulty:** Difficult to more difficult

Open To: Hiking, Horseback

**Beginning Elevation:** 9,334 ft.

**Ending Elevation:** 8,608 ft.

**Elevation Gain:** +726 ft. (+213 M)

**USGS Map:** East Vail

**Trail Highlights:** The Eagle Valley Regional Trail runs the length of the Gore-Creek Valley Valley. The trail includes a mix of paved trail alongside the frontage road, trail separated from roads and running alongside Gore Creek and road shoulders designated as trail connector sections. The trail is accessible throughout Lionshead and Vail Village along gore creek. The trail enters into Vail Golf Course area and continues up Vail Pass to the East, and continues approximately 10 miles west of Vail to Edwards.