

Directions to Colorado Mountain Ranch

From anywhere in the Midwest:

Bring plenty of caffeinated beverages and a sense of humor. It's a long drive.

From I-80:

Stop for gas, drinks, and bathrooms in Ogallala, Nebraska. You won't be seeing any for a while after that. Several miles past Ogallala, get onto I-76 towards Denver. Cheer for the 75 mph speed limit when you enter Colorado. Take I-76 to state highway 52 in Huron, Colorado. This takes about 2 to 2.5 hours—be sure to say hello to the sagebrush and cows as you go by. You can first see the mountains somewhere around Fort Morgan.

Take highway 52 west to the intersection with highway 119, also called the Diagonal Highway. There will be a stoplight at this intersection. Turn left to head towards Boulder. After you pass the intersection with Jay Road, move into the far right lane, and take the exit for Highway 119 south. When you get off the ramp, you will be heading west on Iris. Follow this street until it dead ends at Broadway. Go left on Broadway. Take Broadway to Mapleton street, and turn right.

Mapleton turns into the Sunshine canyon road, which takes you all the way to Gold Hill. Drive through the town's main street, past the school. There is a fork in the road just at the fire station. Take the left-hand fork. The camp will be on your left. Drive in to unload your things, then drive back across the road to the parking lot.

From I-70:

The I-70 route is a little more populated than I-76, but gas, food, and bathroom stops are fairly far apart. Oak Apple may wish to take their hobby to visit the peaceful hamlet of Bovina. The 75 mph speed limit applies to this road as well. Take I-70 to I-270 West. This exit is several miles past the I-225 interchange. Follow the signs for US 36. You will take a two-lane exit—use the left exit lane so that you can easily get onto US 36 towards Boulder. It's about 25 miles.

As 36 comes into Boulder, it becomes 28th Street. Take 28th to Canyon (the first traffic light after Arapahoe) and turn left. Take Canyon to 9th street, and turn right. Go five blocks to Mapleton (at the top of a hill, just after Pine), and turn left.

Mapleton turns into the Sunshine canyon road, which takes you all the way to Gold Hill. Drive through the town's main street, past the school. There is a fork in the road just at the fire station. Take the left-hand fork. The camp will be on your left. Drive in to unload your things, then drive back across the road to the parking lot.

From I-25:

Head north through Denver. Stay out of the farthest right-hand lanes, which must exit to I-70. A few miles past I-70, take 36 west to Boulder. Follow the directions in the last two paragraphs of the I-70 directions.

From the Airport: Ask at the rental car place for directions to get on Quebec, heading North to I-270. you will be taking 270 West, the exit from Quebec to 270 is from the left lane. As you approach I-25, think quickly, as the following happens rather fast. Take the turn-off for Boulder and Cheyenne, and after turning get in the left lane, and take the left turn off (over the bridge) for Boulder (Route 36). You do not want to end up on I-25. 36 runs all the way to Boulder, where it becomes 28th street. Turn left on Arapahoe or Canyon, turn right on Folsom, and left onto Pine. Find 1810.

From Boulder to Gold Hill

There are two ways to Gold Hill from Boulder, you have your choice. *Sunshine Canyon* is shorter, but a bit more challenging for first-time mountain drivers. *Four-mile Canyon* is a bit longer, but has grades which are a bit less steep, and dramatic canyon scenery.

Sunshine Canyon. Head West on Arapahoe, Canyon or Pine street until you reach 9th. Turn right (North) and drive to Mapleton avenue, at the top of a hill. Turn left (West) onto the divided street. Continue West on Mapleton, and it will eventually turn right and start climbing the mountains into Sunshine Canyon. Keep driving about twelve miles along a winding road, which becomes unpaved part way along. Eventually you will descend into Gold Hill, and meet the Four-mile Canyon road from Licksillet Gulch. Drive straight through town, and pass to the left of the Volunteer Fire Department. You will leave town, and after half a mile, see the Trojan Ranch on the left.

Four-mile Canyon: Head West on Canyon (a few blocks South of Pine), out of town into the Boulder Canyon. At about four miles, take the Four-mile Canyon road to the right towards Gold Hill. You will pass a turn-off to Wall Street, and continue climbing. When you reach Gold Hill, the road comes to a "T". Head left through town, and pass to the left of the Volunteer Fire Department. You will leave town, and after half a mile, see the Trojan Ranch on the left.

