

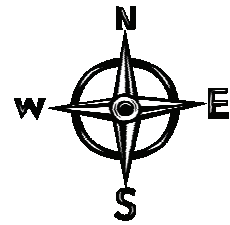
Raspberry Mountain (10,605) (1)

Difficulty: Class 2

Elevation gain: 980'

Distance: Varies, 3.75-8.0 miles roundtrip

Time: 65-90 RP



Introduction:

Raspberry Mountain is an ideal hike for those that want great views with moderate effort. It is unique in that it is very prominent and isolated from surrounding ridges and peaks. Thus it is also aptly named Sleeping Giant. These attributes allow hikers of Raspberry to view the western side of the Pikes Peak Massif intimately as well as take in the far away Sawatch, Ten Mile, Mosquito, and Sangre de Christo Ranges of the Rocky Mountains. It is also an ideal spot to take in a sunset. Raspberry was named such because raspberries sprouted after a fire in the early 1900s.

Description: There are several ways to hike Raspberry Mountain; I will describe three of them.

The first way starts at main camp. Take the dirt road from Staffville (hike uphill past Eiger bathhouse and the quansets until you reach a group of rustic cabins, the road is to the left of the cabin furthest from main camp). It is a gentle climb through two meadows with patches of forest in between. After the second meadow you will climb steeply on the washed out road for about .1 mile and reach an intersection. Take the road that climbs steeply to the left for about .2 mile. Turn right onto another dirt road and follow it downhill. After about .3 mile you will begin to climb again and the road will turn into a trail. Follow this trail to some boulders near the top. Climb the boulders and enjoy the view.

The second way also starts at main camp. Take the dirt road to the north of the lodge up past the maintenance shop and past Emmental. Continue past Emmental and continue until you see a wooden sign for Rocky Ridge, Sky-Hi View, Eagles Nest, Solitude Center, and Park Ridge. There is a faint trail/dirt road to the left of this sign. Take this trail, you will have to bypass a wooden fence, and continue up it for about .2 miles until you reach a well defined dirt road. Turn right on the dirt road and begin a moderate climb up it for about .9 mile. From here you will descend the ridge you just climbed for about .2 mile then continue uphill once again. At this saddle in the ridge the road is no longer a road but a trail. This is the steepest part of the hike, but it is over quickly. Once you reach some boulders after hiking about .6 mile from the saddle you are almost there. Find a way up the boulders and enjoy the top of Raspberry Mountain.

The third way is the longest way to ascend Raspberry. From main camp you will take the main road (FS 383) downhill for about .5 mile until you reach what is called the Horseshoe, a 180 degree turn in the road. You will see a makeshift parking lot and a USFS trail sign saying "no motor vehicles". Take this road north and zig-zag on a gentle slope up the ridge. You will reach the top of a ridge and circumnavigate, heading east, the valley you just hiked. You will see some power lines that head north as well as old mine tailings. Stay on this road, do not turn right on the road to Rocky Ridge. This road eventually merges with the road to the north of Sky-Hi View. You will begin a moderate climb up the road after a relatively flat section directly north of main camp. After about .9 mile you will reach the high point of the ridge. The road gently descends then begins to ascend Raspberry on a well marked trail. After hiking about .6 mile from the saddle up a relatively steep slope you will notice some boulders and thin forest cover. Scramble up and enjoy the view from Raspberry Mountain.

