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Continental Divide Trail (Colorado) Section Hike

Itinerary (subject to change)

Seven Days/Six Nights

August 28 to September 4, 2020

Friday, August 28th – Meet and Greet – to be scheduled

Participants will meet the Lead Guide. During our Meet and Greet we will discuss the chosen route, safety perimeters, *Leave No Trace*, review and distribute gear and equipment and pack our backpacks. A goal for this evening will be to have everyone packed and ready to go for an on-time Saturday morning departure.

Saturday, August 29th – Day One/Night One

Approximately 1-hour drive to the trailhead. Focus is to get into backcountry and away from easier hiker accesses for the quiet landscape. We will hike a manageable pace for all participants as we adjust to the altitude and routine of carrying a pack. Camp is in the tree edge at an obscure pass. *Hike approximately 8.9-miles.*

Sunday, August 30th – Day Two/Night Two

The meandering continues with grassy meadows and high points unfolding their distant views. We are likely to meet other trail users late today but might sneak through unseen as we dip in and out of saddles. Early evening, we will want to connect for a food drop and continue further to a camp in high meadows. *Hike approximately 10.2-miles.*

Monday, August 31st – Day Three/Night Three

Most of today will be spent high and above treeline. We have several side higher peak options for consideration and will choose accordingly. We will carry water from the last stream for dinner and next day breakfast. Camp is in high meadows. *Hike approximately 11.3-miles.*

Tuesday, September 1st – Day Four/Night Four

The trail is big and full of views with remnants of avalanche slides, switchbacks and views deep into New Mexico and its valley beyond. We will waggle, ohhh and ahhh in a landscape that is obscure and only for those who are willing to hike to get there. Camp is in high meadows. *Hike approximately 12.1-miles.*

Wednesday, September 2nd – Day Five/Night Five

Scenic ponds spread across the landscape with opportunities to wallow in their shallow depths. Oversized boulders are tucked away but near enough to capture attention as the trail drops in and out of sags and draws. Camp in high meadows. *Hike approximately 11.6-miles.*

Thursday, September 3rd – Day Six/Night Six

Still above the trees our general tread line is descending but we aren't entirely relaxed because the ridges are ongoing as our hike tracks southward. Sloping ridges and small krummholz holds are spaced between rocky treads of ascending and descending. Camp in high meadows. *Hike approximately 11.5-miles.*

Friday, September 4th – Day Seven/Final Day

Fast hiking for part of the day as the trail makes a continuous gradual descent with views down to where the Cumbres Toltec Train rides. *Hike approximately 7-miles.*