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## Sky pond trail review

Trail features: Outstanding Views, Alpine Lake, Waterfalls Trail Location: Glacier Gorge Length Of Circular Passage: 9.0 Miles Trailhead Altitude: 9,240 feet Total Altitude Gains: 1780 ft Average. Elev Gain/Mile: 394 feet High: 10,900 feet Trail Difficulty Rating: 12.60 (strenuous) latitude parking lot 40.31035 longitude parking lot -105.64038 Trail Description: Rising to the Sky Pool in Rocky Mountain National Park starts from Trailhead Glacier Pass, located on Lake Bear Road nearly 8 miles off Interstate 36. Due to the extreme popularity of the Bear Lake Road area you may want to consider using a free park shuttle to get to the trail during the tourist peak season. Nearly a quarter of a mile from the parking area, just after crossing Chaos Creek, the trail briefly converges with The Glacier Creek Trail. After a very short walk, glacier Creek is divided to the right and heading towards Bear Lake. To continue towards the sky the parking pool must be turned left at this intersection. In just over eight tenths of hiking you will reach Alberta Falls, one of the most popular hiking destinations in Rocky Mountain National Park. This scenic 30-foot waterfall thunders down a small gorge on Glacier Creek, named after Alberta Sprague, wife of Abner Sprague, one of the original settlers in the Estes Park area. The next section of the track, between Alberta Falls and Mills Junction, was rehabilitated by the National Park Service and the Rocky Mountains As part of a major multi-year project completed in 2012. At 1.6 miles, hikers will arrive at the intersection of North Long's Peak Trail. To continue towards the destination your hikers must turn here. About half a mile further from the trail you'll reach Mills Junction. The path leads to the left to Lake Mills and the Black Lake, while the side path to the right leads to the Lake Helhia. As part of the same track rehabilitation project, this unoptimized route was developed in an effort to make it safer and easier to follow as it travels towards the lake. To continue towards sky pool hikers you must proceed directly on the Loch Valley Trail. Above the intersection of the road becomes very steep as it climbs over two short switchbacks through a fairly impressive gorge, while the Brook Glacier Falls down the valley to your left. On the third switch you have to reach a view that offers a nice view of the waterfall falling down the gorge. At approximately 2.8 km hikers will reach Loch Ville, known as Loch Loch. This beautiful semi-basic lake, at an altitude of 10,190 feet, is located within one of the most studied watersheds in the world. For more than twenty years, scientists have monitored chemical inputs in watersheds, from wind and precipitation, in order to distinguish between human impacts and natural processes that occur in this environment. Views directly across from the foot of the lake is 13,153 feet Taylor Peak and Taylor Glacier. The spectacular gorge framing on either side is 12,668 feet Mount Touchtop to the south, and 12,829 feet and Sharkstooth to the southwest. As it moves toward the north shore of the lake, powell's 13,208-foot summit will begin to reveal itself south. The word Loch is the Gaelic, Irish and Scottish term for a lake or sea entrance. Behind the lake the trail begins to climb again, and just over 3.6 miles you arrive at the sky pool/split glacier andrews river. The path to the right leads to Andrews Glacier and Andrews Creek Campscity, the only camp in the area. To continue towards the sky pool hikers must stay on the left at this intersection. Nearly a third of a mile above the intersection you'll have a good first view of Timberline Falls, high above the trail. From this point the best trail begins to climb a series of rocky steps. The perfect word here will be gasping, as you have to gasp for air during this next part of the trail which climbs almost 200 feet at just 0.15 miles. Just over 4 miles from trailhead hikers will reach the base of Timberline Falls. The main part of the waterfall falls nearly 100 feet and continues cascading down the valley below you. Be sure to look across the valley to look the bird's eye from the lake in the long distance. From here the effect continues above an umbrella to the right of the fall. This is a fairly challenging scramble that climbs nearly 100 feet and requires hand holds and use all four limbs while ascending. The first 30 feet or so are the most difficult, but beyond it's a relatively easy scramble. Just to complicate things a little more, parts of the climb may be water flowing down the road. I'm not sure where you can cross the threshold of hiking for mountaineering, and climbing to glass lake may not cross that line, but it certainly does its approach. It's nothing too dangerous, but you'll have to take your time and be very careful. If you have a fear of heights you may want to think twice about going any further. Also, if rain or snow is imminent, it would not be wise to continue beyond this point. At the top of the climb, just over 4.1 km from the trail, hikers will reach Glass Lake, an incredibly beautiful Alpine lake with wonderful views of Sharkstooth, Taylor Peak and Powell Peak. This lake is sometimes referred to as the glass lake. From here the trail becomes fairly rocky and rugged as it travels along the western side of the lake. To stay on the road you will have to pay a little closer attention. Just take your time and you should be able to stay on the track without any problems. If you look straight ahead you'll be able to see the moraine that created the sky pond (see picture above). Approximately 4.5 miles hikers will finally reach the sky pond, which lies at an altitude of 10,900 feet. The views here are simply stunning, making this easily one of the best hiking in Rocky Mountain National Park. The Alpine lake is filled with a full basin, surrounded on three sides by sheer cliff walls. To the right are the granite towers of Sharkstooth. Against the backdrop of cobalt blue sky, the scene makes for a very dramatic display. The mountain directly across the lake is 13,153 feet Taylor Peak, and toward the south is 13,208 feet Powell Peak. Located above Timberline Falls in Rocky Mountain National Park are stunning lakes. The top of the two is a sky pond, called less lake of glass. This required altitude begins in the ice lane and takes you past three waterfalls and a beautiful set of cascades. Bonuses await those who lift all the way up the sky pond. Explore your Sky Pond profile below for track details, driving directions, maps and more. Trail Shot: Sky Pool Rise at Rocky Mountain National Park Sky Park Park Park Directions and Trailhead Information Trail up to the Sky Pond begins either in the Trailhead Gorge Ice Pass (see driving directions above), or at Lake Trailhead Bear (Driving Directions). Because the Trailhead Gorge glacier has a lot smaller, you may need to drive farther to Bear Lake. There you'll find a short conductive trail that will put you on the road down and over to the icy arcade system. In case the parking in Bear Lake is full, you'll then need to park in park & ride near the Berstadt Trail and take the bus in the trail. This service operates from 7am to 7pm and more information about RMNP shuttle bus routes can be found at this link. Rising to the sky pool and glass lake is the first destination that you can't and doesn't want to miss is at .8 miles, Alberta Falls. Then he climbs the path towards the ultimate trail intersection. The road to The Sky Pond is to follow the Glacier Pass/Loch Ally Trail that bears right and climbs for another 0.5 miles to the next lane intersection. At this second intersection, the middle of the three tracks leads to the Loch Valley Trail, to Loch, Timberline Falls and eventually beyond the sky pond. Above: Creek between Loch and Timberline Falls. In Timberline Falls, the trail reaches glass lake and the sky pond is a sharp scramble to the right side of the waterfall. Be aware, the rock may be a spot and this area is steep. Hikers should have good shoes and may need patience for those who descend this section of the track. In most of this part, there is only one roaming area at a time to safely negotiate the stampede. Many hikers will find it more difficult to descend this short part of the route from the road to the top. The first lake, a lake of glass, is just about Beyond Timberline Falls. Many people here stop thinking it's Sky Pond, but it's not. From this point of view, it's hard to imagine that there's more. However, nearly another quarter of a mile leads to a sky pond, which is twice the size of a glass lake. There is a waterfall hidden under the glass lake. See our trail profile for this waterfall for details. In the picture below: The teeth sharks in the sky pool. Skypond is surrounded by columbine fields and other wildflowers. A small cliff waterfall spilled from the sky pond (pictured below), the marshes between the two lakes is home to a beautiful collection of swampy marigolds. From the southwestern beaches of The Sky Pool, there are incredible views of The Beit Griboon, Sabre, and Sharkstooth - three prominent peaks that surround this high mountain lake. List and links of destinations along the Loch Valley Trail 1. Alberta Falls - @ 8 2. Loch - @ 2.7 miles 3. Timberline Falls - @ 4 miles 4. Glass Lake and Waterfall -@ 4.2 miles 5. Sky Pool – @4.6 mile tips and resources for the trail to the sky pond and glass lake in RMNP: you may miss: a lot of people stop at the glass lake and think it has made the sky a pond. It's not much further, but it is hidden because of the height difference. Getting there early: There are two important reasons to start your early morning hike at Rocky Mountain National Parking Trail Head early, and 2) in the summer months, thunderstorms will form in the early afternoon. Trail Map for The Bear Lake Trail: Trail Map Link Recommended Map to Rocky Mountain National Park: Trail maps provided by Rocky Mountain National Park are usually adequate. However, if you plan to raise RMNP often, we recommend purchasing a national geographic map. Colorado Road Conditions: Colorado Road Conditions Photo: We would like to express our gratitude to Autumn Bratman for sharing such an amazing picture of this height. 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