



Staunton State Park

First Day Hikes and Bike Jan 1, 2024

Warm up and Freebies at the Visitor Center 8a-4p

Bike #1 "Get to Know Staunton State Park on your Bike!"

Planned Bike route: Staunton Ranch to Marmot Passage to Elk Falls Pond / Cabin. We will see if trail conditions are favorable for an optional loop on West Meadow to Chimney Rock if there is interest / ability. Return via Bugling Elk to Staunton Ranch and maybe even a Cabin District detour. If snow is too deep on Marmot Passage we will take Bugling Elk to the pond.

Meeting Location: Meadows Parking Lot

Time of Event: 10am

Length: This will be about an 8.6 mile RT loop / out and back to Elk Falls Pond. Add 3.7 miles for optional West Meadow and Chimney Rock loop. Total max 12.3 miles and about 1,540' cumulative vertical of elevation gain / loss! Plan on 2.5-3.5 hours RT (depending West Meadow/ Chimney Rock addition). A good way to start off the new year!

Things to bring: Fat bikes would be required. Weather appropriate gear, sunscreen, water (at least 1.5 liters), lunch/snacks.

Degree of difficulty: Intermediate (depends on snow conditions)

Volunteer Guide: Shane Matson





Hike #2 "An Adventurous Walk in and out of the Park!"

Trails Hiked: Staunton Ranch, Border Line, Rusty Buckle, North Elk Creek, Staunton Ranch

Time of the event: Depart promptly at 8:30am.

Meeting location: Lazy V Ranch parking lot

Degree of difficulty: Difficult/strenuous

Minimum age or children: 12 years of age and older (exception: kids with backcountry experience) Leashed pets are permitted

Length of hike: 8 mi. 1500 ft elevation gain (approximate time: 5.5 hrs.)

Things to bring: Weather appropriate gear, sunscreen, water (at least 1.5 liters), lunch/snacks. Traction devices highly recommended or possible snow shoes.

Description of the hike: Come join us for a scenic journey that starts in Staunton, travels onto Forest Service land, traverses a small, less visited portion of the Park at the north boundary where the trail enters back onto the Forest Service land and ultimately re-enters the Park. Enjoy a back country feel and the ups and downs of the Rusty Buckle Trail!

Route can be viewed on Colorado Trails Explorer-Cotrex

<https://trails.colorado.gov/routes/116670?t=THyCk7if4NtSGyCBkd+I>

Volunteer Guides: Jenna Yeager and Lisa Lalone





Hike #3

"Davis Ponds Winter Walk Scavenger Hunt"

Starting Point:

Meeting location: Visitor Center

Starting Time: 11:00 am Storytime and 1130a Hike

Time Frame: 1-1.5 hours

Distance: 1.3 miles

Difficulty: Easy Kid Friendly

Description: Join us as we set forth on Davis Ponds Pookah loop for a fun winter scavenger hunt! Scavenger lists will be provided. See how many items you can check off!

Gear: Appropriate layers), good hiking shoes, hat, sunscreen, water and snacks

Route:

Volunteer Leader: Melissa Holtzclaw

Hike #4 "Search for Sasquatch"

What: Loop hike to Red Wall overlook and back via cabin district and Chase Meadow

When: 9:30

Meeting location: Meadow Parking Lot

Difficulty: moderate with some uphill to the summit

Length: approximately 6 miles





Dress for the weather and bring water and snacks

Description of Hike: This hike will begin at the Meadows Parking Lot with Staunton Ranch trail. The trail winds through open meadow with views of Staunton's famous rock formations including its signature Lions Head. The trail also passes the Staunton Ranch cabin where the Staunton family homesteaded in the early to mid 20th century.

Nearly two miles into the hike the trail comes to the junction with Red Wall overlook. The hike will turn right onto this trail and climb to the summit of Red Wall, a rock monolith. A fairly short scramble to the top rewards hikers with spectacular views of the park below and mountains to the west and south including Pikes Peak. Be sure to bring your cameras. The hike will return by way of the cabin district trail which passes historic buildings. This trail connects into beautiful Chase Meadow trail which also treats hikers with open views to the west. On the way a search for evidence of the Sasquatch in Staunton State Park is an adventurous option of this hike. Another option, if time, is a side trip to Davis Ponds. Finally, the hike loops back up to its terminus at Meadows Parking Lot.

Volunteer Guide: Gary Finley and Nancy Coburn

Hike #5 "Staunton Cabin History Hike"

Name of Trail: Cabin District Trail

Time of Event: 12p

Degree of Difficulty: Easy

Length of Hike: 1.5 hours

Things to bring: Water, snacks, weather appropriate gear





Description of Hike: Travel back in time along the Cabin District trail as you visit the Staunton Cabin. Take a magical guided tour inside the cabin. Then continue your journey to Brola, Richardson and Blaine cabins. Your guide will share stories of those who lived here before the land became a park and the history of putting the park together.

Volunteer Leader: Randi Boldra

Hike #6 Overlooks and Big Views!

Name of trail: Old Mill, Border Line, Marmot Pass, Scout Line

Time of the event: Depart at 9am

Meeting Location: Lazy "V" Parking Lot

Degree of Difficulty: Moderate

Length of hike: Approximately 5.5 miles about 3hours

Things to bring: Water, Snacks, weather appropriate gear, traction devices

Description of hike: Travel up the Old Mill trail and visit the Staunton logging mill at the top! Continue the hike further into the Park on Borderline trail and enjoy some lovely vistas at the overlooks! Segue onto Staunton Ranch and connect to Marmot Passage and onto Scout Line where views are almost constant. Then we are headed back to Lazy V Lot.

Volunteer leaders: Jennifer Nickerson





Warm Up and Freebies!!!

Visitor Center 8a-3p

Before or After your hike join us at the visitor center and cozy up by the fire! S'mores, hot coffee and cocoa will be served. Pickup your freebie bling as a "Thank You!" for participating in Staunton's First Day Hikes!!

Dogs are welcome and must be on a 6' leash!

Routes can be viewed on Colorado Trails Explorer - Cotrex (trails.colorado.gov)



