

Gold Hill Trail #64

Type: Out & Back

Length: 3.7 miles (from Bull of the Woods Pasture)

Difficulty Level: Moderate to Difficult

Elevation Gain: 1,835 ft.

Trail Beginning: 10,876 ft. (from Bull of the Woods Pasture) & 9,390 ft. (from Wheeler Peak Trail #90 trailhead)

Trail Ending: 12,711 ft.

Access:

Gold Hill Trail (USFS Trail #64) is accessed less than two miles up Wheeler Peak Trail (USFS Trail #90) from the Twining Campground in the Village of Taos Ski Valley. Parking is available below the campground, at the upper end of the ski resort parking lot.

Hike up Wheeler Peak Trail (sometimes called Bull of the Woods Trail). Less than a mile from the parking lot you will pass Long Canyon Trail (USFS Trail #63) to your left. Continuing on Trail #90, it is approx. a mile further to Bull of the Woods Pasture. Just past where Wheeler Peak Trail turns right at the pasture to cross the creek, you will find the sign and the start of Gold Hill Trail on your left. This area is well signed.

Trail Description:

The trail climbs steeply for the first mile, then levels out and follows a wide ridge line. This is an enjoyable climb to a large open area near tree line with some interesting old mining relics at 11,922 ft. Great place to enjoy a snack and the view before pushing to the summit!

At the relics, the trail will make an abrupt left to a sign at the intersection of Long Canyon Trail. If summiting Gold Hill is not desired, hike back down Long Canyon Trail for a beautiful loop hike.

From the intersection where you see the sign pointing you to Long Canyon, turn right and Gold Hill Trail begins to climb again, the views are spectacular all the way to the summit. Goose Lake Trail (USFS Trail #65) intersects Gold Hill Trail about a quarter mile above the sign pointing to Long Canyon. Lobo Peak Trail (USFS Trail #57) intersects another quarter mile up Gold Hill Trail (no sign). At the summit of Gold Hill, you'll find a low rock shelter for getting out of the wind.

One can follow the trail north, hiking downhill from the summit for 1.3 miles to the intersection of Deer Creek Trail and Pioneer Creek Trail on the Red River side of the mountain.

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