

Coldwater Peak, Harry's Ridge

13 1/2 miles total, 2,500' gained

Find the trailhead in the northeast corner of the Johnston Ridge Observatory parking lot where there is a reader board present. The trail's first ¼ mile or so is paved.

At the intersection with the heavily used trail coming from the Observatory itself, go left. Proceed on the Boundary Trail #1, passing by the junctions with Devil's Elbow viewpoint and Truman Trail #207 (both going right).

At about 3 ½ miles from the parking lot, Harry's Ridge trail #1E goes right, uphill. (Round trip from Observatory to top of Harry's Ridge is about 8 miles). Either take this 1 mile out and back side trip now, or do it on the way back. In either case, the few hundred feet of elevation gain to the ridgetop provides a great – but potentially crowded – viewpoint.

Continuing further on the Boundary Trail, make a substantial uphill grind, then pass through a natural arch on a quick descent. A short distance later, go straight past the Coldwater Trail #230, and then after about ½ mile further, look for the signed Coldwater Peak trail #1G to the left. It's about ¾ of a mile to the top from this point. Return the way you came.

To explore into the Mt. Margaret Backcountry, after making the descent down Coldwater Peak, instead of turning right and retracing your route back on the Boundary Trail, go left, about 3 ½ miles to the signed left turn up Mt. Margaret. It's less than ¼ mile up this spur trail to the summit. With Coldwater Peak, Harry's Ridge and then the trip to Mt. Margaret, total mileage is around 19 ½ miles. (Just out and back to Mt. Margaret is around 17 miles).

