

## BIG DOMINGUEZ CANYON



### BACKPACKING TRIP

**FYI:** The map on the reverse side is for general orientation, not for navigation.  
**P.S.** Get and post trail updates at [www.facebook.com/oriccolorado](http://www.facebook.com/oriccolorado)

**Location:** Dominguez Canyon  
Wilderness Study Area  
Bridgeport Trailhead

**Contact Info:** BLM Uncompahgre Field Office  
970-240-5300  
[www.blm.gov/co](http://www.blm.gov/co)

**Length:** 6.12 miles one-way (estimate using Nat'l Geo Mapping Software)

**Time:** 1 day backpack with the option of staying longer. The avg. person hikes at a pace of apx. 2 miles an hour. Adjust your time based on terrain, trail and weather conditions and your skill and fitness level.

**Elevation Gain/Loss:** See trail profile on reverse side

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Season:** April - May & September – October (can be hot in the summer)

**Trail Users:** Backpackers, hikers and wildlife (desert bighorn sheep, gray foxes, raccoons, ringtails, golden-mantled squirrels, mule deer, coyotes, mountain lions, black bears and bull snakes)

**Dogs:** Under control

**Permits:** Free use permit required after May 1

**Getting There from Denver:** Take I-70 west towards Grand Junction. At apx. 237 miles, get off I-70 at exit 37, (I-70 Business Loop/ CO 141). Take I-70 Business Loop 1 ½ miles south, turn left onto CO Hwy 141 (32 Rd). Continue on CO Hwy 141 south for 5 ½ miles to U.S. Hwy 50. Take U.S. Hwy 50 south for 13 ½ miles. Turn right on Bridgeport Rd, and drive apx. 3 miles to the trailhead.

**Maps:** Nat'l Geo Trails Illustrated #147W, Triangle USGS 7.5 topographic map.

**IMPORTANT:** Stay found with the aid of a topographic map, a compass, a GPS receiver and the skill to use them.

**Safety Considerations and Supplemental Info:** ■ Watch for rapidly deteriorating weather conditions including thunderstorms and lightning ■ Treat water drawn from sources along the trail ■ The trail can be muddy in March ■ Campfires are allowed ■ No parking fees ■ No bicycles or motorized vehicles in the Wilderness Study Area ■ Camp at least 200 feet from lakes and streams ■ Biting gnats (early June – mid August) ■ No camping in lower Big Dominguez Canyon ■ Rattlesnakes inhabit the canyon and are more active in warm weather

**Trail Description:** Your adventure starts along a railroad track that parallels the Gunnison River. Cross the bridge on your right over the Gunnison River. Turn left and hike apx. 1.25 miles to the junction of the the Big Dominguez Creek Trail. Turn right and follow the trail apx. 6 miles up the canyon and find a good camping spot. Be sure to check out the rock art along the way. Return the way you came.

**Highlights:** ■ Rock art on east facing side of canyon starting apx. 1.5 miles from the trailhead ■ Historical Mine apx. 6.7 miles from trailhead ■ Small waterfalls and pools ■ Spectacular canyon country ■ Red Rock canyons ■ Sandstone bluffs ■ Pinion-Juniper forests ■ Fragile hanging gardens ■ Excellent hiking opportunities

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