

DISTANCE 3.2 miles
round-trip

TIME 2 hours

ELEVATION GAIN 323 feet

TRAILHEAD West parking

lot to Castle Trail (1.3

miles, one way) to

Walker's Dream Trail

(0.3 miles, one way)

MAP USGS Morrison

BEST FOR Getting the
kids—and the dog—out
of the house

DIFFICULTY ●

WWII BOMBER CRASH SITE

DISTANCE 5.6 miles
round-trip

TIME 4 to 5 hours, plus
gawking time

ELEVATION GAIN 1,160 feet

TRAILHEAD Stormy Peaks

Trailhead (0.7 miles,

one way) to Twin Lakes

Trail (0.2 miles, one

way) past the reservoir

(1.9 miles, one way)

MAP USGS Pingree Park

BEST FOR Your geeky
college friends

DIFFICULTY ■

MILLS LAKE

DISTANCE 5.6 miles
round-trip

TIME 2 to 3 hours

ELEVATION GAIN 750 feet

3 | WWII Bomber Crash Site

PINGREE PARK

Around 10:45 p.m. October 18, 1943, a B-17 from Lowry Air Force Base crashed just below the timberline of Stormy Peaks Mountain, starting a forest fire in the northeastern reaches of Rocky Mountain National Park. It took two days to haul the eight bodies out of the isolated location, but whole chunks of the bomber, including the tail, landing gear, and engines were left behind. Getting to the rusted remains today is a little easier. Hike along the Stormy Peaks Trailhead for 0.7 miles to the Twin Lakes Trail; from there, stroll past the west side of the reservoir to a burned forest area and a fork in the path (about 0.8 miles). Take the left junction for 0.4 miles to a Comanche Peak Wilderness Area sign. March uphill for 0.5 miles until you come to a wooden sluice box. Turn left and hike for 0.1 miles, over a creek and into a clearing, to find a southern trail—there should be a stone cairn to mark the way. Walk another 0.3 miles, and you'll come across a large boulder field to explore; pieces of the plane are scattered all over the area. —NG