



# SHELF LAKE

## DAY HIKE

**FYI:** The map on the reverse side is not intended for navigation, but rather for general orientation.

**P.S.** More trail maps available at [www.oriconline.org](http://www.oriconline.org)

**Location:** Pike National Forest  
S. Clear Creek County

**Contact Info:** South Platte Ranger District  
303-275-5610  
[www.fs.fed.us/r2](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2)

**Length:** 2.76 miles one-way (est. using the Nat'l Geo Mapping Software)

**Time:** The average person hikes apx. 2 miles an hour. Adjust your time +/- based on terrain and weather conditions and your skill and fitness level and whether you are hiking or trail running.

**Season:** Mid June through early October

**Elevation Gain/Loss:** +1835' -0000' = +1835'

**Difficulty:** Moderate to Strenuous

**Trail Users:** Hikers, marmots, pikas and mountain goats

**Permits:** None required

**Dogs:** On hand-held leash

**Getting There From Denver:** Take US Highway 285 to Grant. Turn right (north) on Park County Road 62 (Guanella Pass Road). After about 7 miles turn left (west) on to Geneva Creek Road (Forest Road 119) Follow this high clearance dirt road apx. 3 ½ miles to the Shelf Lake Trailhead.

**Maps:** National Geographic Trails Illustrated #104 and or the Montezuma USGS 7 ½ topographic map. **IMPORTANT:** Stay found with the aid of a topographic map, a compass, a GPS receiver and the skill to use them.

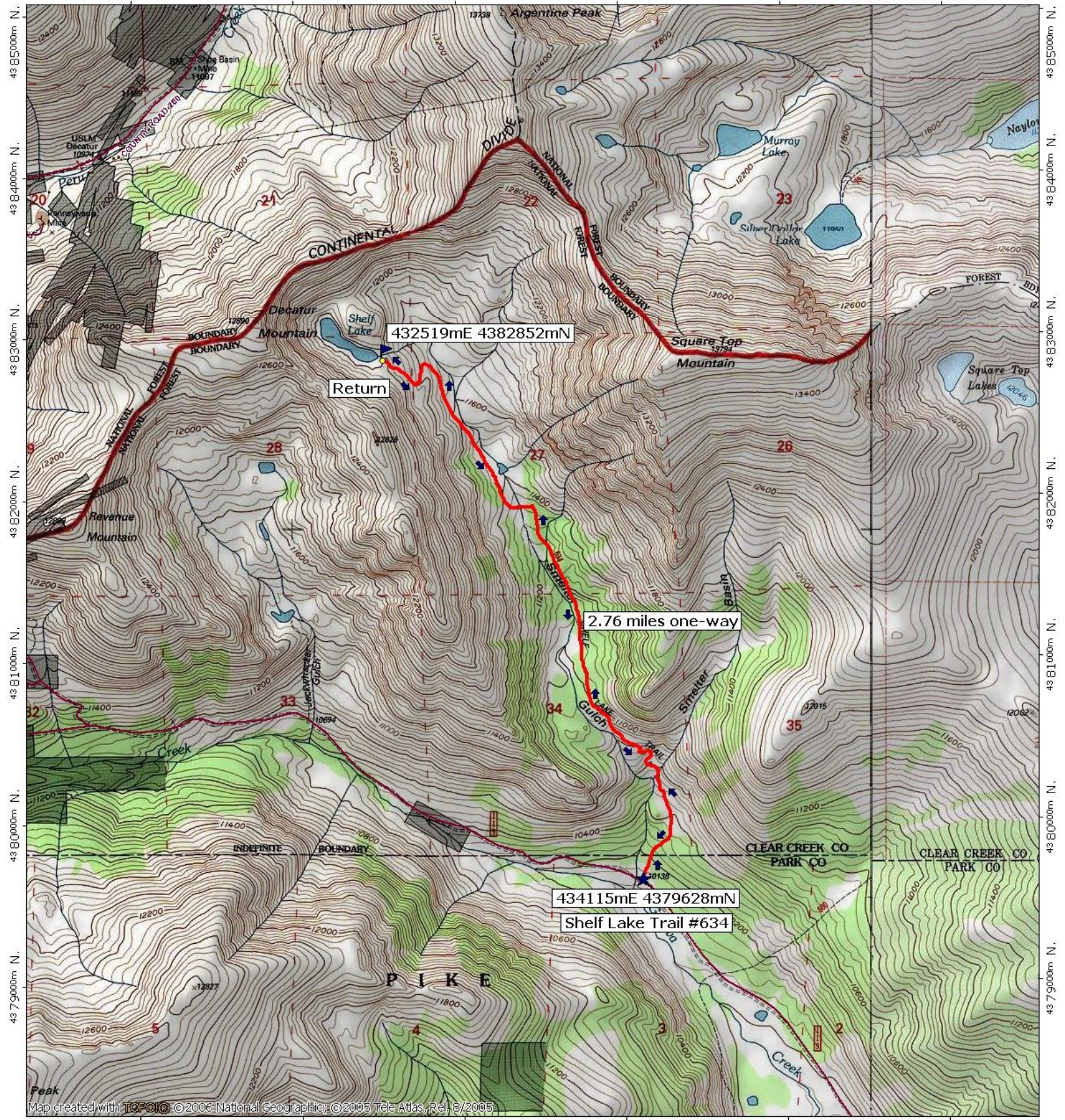
**Safety Concerns and Supplemental Info:** ■ We suggest leaving your hiking itinerary with someone who will be awaiting your return ■ Be prepared for mosquitoes from May through September ■ Check [www.oriconline.org](http://www.oriconline.org) for fire restrictions

**Trail Description:** The Shelf Lake Trail #634 requires a series of five creek crossings beginning about a ½ mile from the trailhead. The trail roughly follows Smelter Gulch. The trail curves to the left (west) to reach Shelf Lake at the point you reach timberline. **TIP:** Contact the South Platte Ranger District for trail conditions and updates.

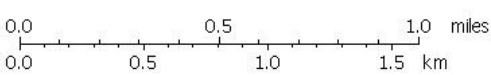
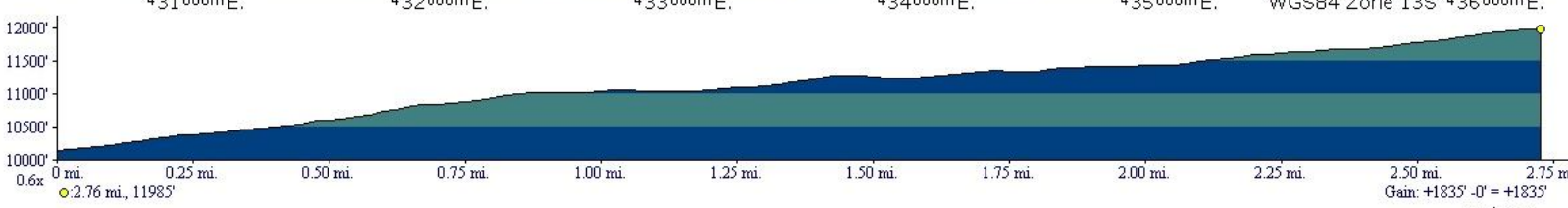
**Highlights:** ■ Rushing water along trail with an alpine lake at the top ■ Relatively unknown ■ Great views — Argentine Peak to the north-northeast and Squaretop Mountain to the east-northeast ■ Look for mountain goats ■ Seasonal wildflowers ■ Cutthroat trout fishing ■ The Continental Divide towers above lake ■ The lake holds ice into July

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