

**MAROON BELLS – SNOWMASS WILDERNESS -
COLORADO
LYC ADVENTURE TRIP ITINERARY – 2018**

Tuesday, July 31, 2018

3:00 – 6:30pm	Check-in & Dinner Preparations – at accommodations
3:00 to 5:00pm	Staff & Camper Arrival (<i>Airport pick-up – Denver International Airport – Denver, Colorado</i>)
3:00pm	Last airport run for the day (<i>Airport pick-up – Denver International Airport – Denver, Colorado</i>) – departing from the airport @ 3pm
6:30pm	Arrive at accommodations – by not later than 6:30pm
6:30 – 7:30pm	Dinner at Two Rivers Park (<i>Playground Shelter – within eyesight and easy walking distance of the hotel</i>)
7:30 – 9:00pm	All camp orientation meeting
9:00 – 9:45pm	Camper free time for swimming pool (<i>pool at the hotel</i>)
9:00 – 9:45pm	Staff orientation meeting
10:00pm	Campers must be in rooms
10:15pm	Lights out!

Wednesday, August 1, 2018

6:30am	Breakfast begins (<i>Downstairs Meeting Room</i>)
6:45 – 7:30am	Bible Study (<i>you may eat breakfast during Bible Study</i>)
7:30 – 7:45am	Load vans & prepare to leave for Day Hikes – first hike = Hanging Lake; second hike = Grizzly Creek Trail (<i>Bring water bottles & snacks – small day-pack optional</i>)
7:45am	Depart for Day Hike – Hanging Lake (30 minutes east of Glenwood Springs – just off of I-70 (<i>follow signs</i>))
7:45 – 8:15am	Drive to Hanging Lake parking lot
8:15 – 11:15am	Hike up to Hanging Lake and back to parking lot
11:15 – 11:30am	Drive to Day Hike #2 put-in at Grizzly Creek Trailhead
11:30 – 12:00noon	Lunch at put-in – Grizzly Creek.
12:00noon – 3:00pm	3 hour hike at Grizzly Creek (<i>in and back out</i>)
3:00pm	Meet at parking lot – Grizzly Creek Trailhead. 3:00 – 3:30pm Drive back to hotel
3:30 – 5:30pm	Free time for swimming at hotel pool & Dinner preparations
5:30 – 6:15pm	Dinner (<i>Dinner @ downstairs Meeting Room</i>)
6:15 – 6:30pm	Dinner clean up
6:30 – 7:30pm	Group meetings & packing for morning departure
7:30 – 9:45pm	Free time and packing
9:45pm	Camper lights out! Go to sleep! (<i>We have an early morning departure.</i>)

Thursday, August 2, 2018

IMPORTANT: We will be hiking the: **“Maroon Bells – Four Passes Loop.”**
The loop begins and ends at the Marron Bells – Snowmass Trailhead, near Maroon Lake, at the end of the Maroon Creek Road.

Start/Finish: Maroon-Snowmass Trailhead
Nearest Town: Aspen, Colorado
Duration: 5 days in backcountry total (4 hiking days plus a Sabbath rest in the wilderness)
Distance: 30 miles (47 km)
Difficulty: Difficult
Summary: This very high-level route is largely above 11,000 feet, and crosses four passes exceeding 12,000 feet. At the center-point of the hike we will encounter the majestic twins of Maroon Peak (14,156 ft.) & North Maroon Peak (14,014 ft.).

5:45am	Wake up! Pack final items, check out, and prepare for backpacking trip. Weigh packs!
6:00 – 6:30am	Breakfast & Bible Study (<i>Breakfast continues throughout the Bible Study</i>)
6:30 – 6:45am	Breakfast clean up and load vehicles
6:45am	All groups depart for Aspen Highlands Ski Area (<i>near Aspen, Colorado</i>) to park vehicles. From there we will catch a shuttle to the put-in and put-out point for the hike – the Maroon Bells – Snowmass Wilderness Trailhead.
6:45 – 7:45am	Drive to Aspen Highlands Ski Area and park vehicles
7:45 – 8:00am	Catch shuttle to put-in/put out point – Marron – Snowmass Trailhead
8:00 – 8:30am	Once arriving at the Trailhead – take a group photos before departing into the backcountry for more than 5 days!
8:30am	All groups should be on the trail by not later than 8:30am. This is where the backpacking begins!

Day 1: Marron-Snowmass Trailhead to Upper West Maroon Creek

Time: 3 hours
Distance: 4.6 miles
Ascent: 1270 feet

It is a minutes’ walk from the trailhead to the shallow **Maroon Lake**, which, set before the majestic backdrop of the Maroon Bells, is one of the most picturesque tarns [*a tarn – is a small mountain lake or pool; usually circular in shape; excavated by a glacier*] anywhere in the Rockies. Head past large beaver mounds to the western shore, where you can take any of several diverging trails; these lead along the north side of West

Maroon Creek (the inlet), or cross and follow the creek's south side to converge roughly 0.5 miles past Maroon Lake.

Climb through mixed conifer forest over a rocky crest to a trail junction in an aspen grove, then turn left and follow the West Maroon Creek Trail directly to **Crater Lake**, around 1 hour from the trailhead. This lake fills a trough (drained only by subterranean seepage) right below North Maroon Peak and Pyramid Peak. To minimize impact on the environment, hikers should only camp at the 11 designated *campsites* (marked by numbered posts) around the lake's eastern shore. Fires are prohibited at Crater Lake.

Head south into the upper valley of West Maroon Creek. The trail climbs over sweeping scree slides and avalanche slopes, strewn with Colorado columbines [*mountain flowers – the Rocky Mountain Columbine is the state flower of Colorado – it's blossoms are most commonly blue and white*] and blue gentians [*vivid blue trumpet-shaped flowers*], as it rises below sheer terraced cliffs on the east face of Maroon Peak. Cut up through the forest where it fringes wild raspberry thickets colonizing the talus slopes on your right, crossing the creek and following its eastern side before you re-cross it near tree line, around 1 ½ hours from Crater Lake. Pleasant *campsites* can be found along much of the upper valley, mostly on the creek's eastern side.

Lunch	On the trail – <i>taken from personal snack packs provided.</i>
Evening	Dinner
10:00pm	Campers in tents

Friday, August 3, 2018

6:15am	Wake up!
6:45 – 7:00pm	Breakfast preparation
7:00 – 7:45am	Breakfast & Bible Study (<i>Breakfast continues throughout the Bible Study.</i>)
8:00am	Start hiking! Be on the trail by 8:00am

Day 2: Upper West Maroon Creek to Hasley Basin Turnoff

Time:	6 hours
Distance:	8.5 miles
Ascent:	1975 feet

Head up over the rolling tundra slopes scattered with willow heath into the valley head, before making a long, sidling ascent southwest to reach **West Maroon Pass** (12,495 ft.) after about 1 ½ hours. From here you get an uplifting view of the ranges to the west, as well as a final look back down the spectacular upper valley of West Maroon Creek.

The muddy trail drops steeply into the open basin below the pass, then cuts right over glorious wildflower meadows to a junction marked only by a cairned pole [*a cairned pole – is a mound of rough stones built as a landmark, typically above the tree-line on a hilltop*]. (The left turnoff goes down to the East Fork of West Maroon Trailhead on the Schofield Pass Road.) Turn right along the North Fork Fravert Basin Trail, traversing

gently northwest over extensive alpine-wildflower meadows surrounding the East Fork of the Crystal River, to reach a tarn on a small shelf.

Make a very steep, direct climb east to reach **Frigid Air Pass** (12,410 ft.) 2 hours from West Maroon Pass. Pikas [*look like large mice and resemble their close cousin the rabbit; a pika is a small mammal with short limbs, very round body, rounded ears, and no external tail*] and marmots [*are giant ground squirrels well-suited for cold environments*] scamper around this spectacular spot, which looks directly across the grassy bowl of Fravert Basin to the staggered, 2000 foot western face of Maroon Peak. The slight point of Snowmass Mountain can be made out to the northwest.

Drop down several switchbacks, then begin a descent left into the spruce forest to meet the meandering North Fork of Crystal River. The trail leads gently past streamside meadows, visited by flocks of mountain chickadees, getting increasingly steeper as the North Fork cascades and plunges over an escarpment into beaver ponds. There are **campsites** on the forested hillock below the falls. Continue more gently through the forest to an unsigned, left (south) turnoff to Hasley Basin, just before the trail crosses the stream, 2 hours from Frigid Air Pass. Many good **campsites** can be found here at the edge of the meadows.

Lunch	On the trail – <i>taken from personal snack packs provided.</i>
Evening	Dinner
11:00pm	Campers must be in tents

Saturday, August 4, 2018 – Sabbath – Rest Day

7:00 – 8:00am	Coffee & drinks available
8:00 – 9:00am	Breakfast preparations
9:00 – 9:30am	Breakfast
9:30 – 10:00am	Breakfast clean up
10:00am – 12:00noon	Fellowship & relax
12:00noon – 12:30pm	Lunch – <i>taken from personal snacks packs provided</i>
12:30 – 2:30pm	Sabbath service
2:30 – 5:00pm	Fellowships & relax
5:00 – 6:00pm	Dinner preparations
6:00 – 6:30pm	Dinner
6:30 – 7:00pm	Dinner clean up
7:00pm – Sunset	Fellowship & relax
10:00pm	Campers must be in tents

Sunday, August 5, 2018

6:15am	Wake up!
6:45 – 7:00pm	Breakfast preparation
7:00 – 7:45pm	Breakfast & Bible Study (<i>Breakfast continues throughout the Bible Study</i>)

8:00am

Start hiking! (*Be on the trail by 8:00am.*)**Day 3: Hasley Basin Turnoff to Snowmass Lake**

Time: 6 hours
Distance: 8.4 miles
Ascent: 2526 feet

Cross the North Fork and pass more *campsites* in the trees to reach a trail junction. (Here hikers with less time can take the North Fork Cutoff Trail to the right, which switchbacks up the slope to join the Geneva Lake Trail after 1 ½ hours.) The trail continues down through meadows fringed by raspberry shrubs and stands of aspen, crossing a small torrent (which may be tricky to cross in early summer) to intersect with the Geneva Lake Trail. (The left branch leads 0.3 miles down to the Geneva Lake North Fork Trailhead.)

Turn right and climb steep, tight switchbacks up slopes facing southwest toward tiny remnant glaciers on Treasury Mountain. The trail levels out shortly before you reach **Geneva Lake**, a pleasant, greenish tarn tucked into a hanging terrace high above the North Fork valley, around two hours from the ignited *campsites* above the steep western shore (no fires – camping otherwise not permitted within 0.25 miles of the lake).

Skirt around to a stand of fir and spruce, where a route departs (left) to Siberia Lake (*see side trip*). The main trail cuts around east to a little saddle, where Maroon Peak reappears, before continuing upward, high above the North Fork to meet the incoming cutoff trail. Climb over grassy hillocks past a reedy pond, then make a final ascent to arrive at **Trail Rider Pass** (12,418 ft.), 2 ½ hours from Geneva Lake. Marked by a thin band of powdery limestone separating the gray and red rock strata, this dip in the ridge offers an excellent overview of the Snowmass basin ahead.

Drop over several broad switchbacks before beginning a high descent to reach the northeastern end of **Snowmass Lake**, around one hour from the pass. There are some ideal *campsites* near the lake outlet. At the lake head vast scree fields sweep down from a mighty trio of semidetached summits: Snowmass Peak (south), Hagerman Peak (middle) and Snowmass Mountain.

Side Trip (optional): Siberia Lake

Time: 3 ½ hours
Distance: 3 miles
Ascent: 916 feet

This side trip takes you up into the head of a wild alpine valley at the western foot of Snowmass Mountain. The mostly prominent trail (not shown on maps) leads north along the slopes high above the western side of the Geneva Lake inlet. After passing the shallow Little Gem Lake, follow the tiny valley stream to **Siberia Lake**, a raw tarn at the upper vegetation line. A rougher route continues over the rocky pass at the head of the valley into the drainage of Avalanche Creek.

Lunch	On the trail – <i>taken from personal snack packs provided.</i>
Evening	Dinner
10:00pm	Campers must be in tents

Monday, August 6, 2018

6:15am	Wake up!
6:45 – 7:00am	Breakfast preparation
7:00 – 7:45am	Breakfast & Bible Study
8:00am	Start hiking! (<i>Be on the trail by 8:00am</i>)

Day 4: Snowmass Lake to Maroon-Snowmass Trailhead

Time:	5 ½ hours
Distance:	7.6 miles
Ascent:	1482 feet

Follow the muddy Maroon-Snowmass Trail gradually southeast through the forest, passing *campsites* beside the marshy meadows just before crossing Snowmass Creek. There are good views south to the west faces of the Sleeping Sexton (ridge) and the Maroon Bells. The trail soon passes a right turn (going to *campsites* on the creek's east side) and winds up past several more *campsites* at tree line, before heading across wildflower meadows and moraine dotted with shrub willow. A long, sweeping switchback over the alpine tundra brings you up to **Buckskin Pass** (12,462 ft.), three hours from Snowmass Lake. The pass gives uplifting views in both directions, including the mighty Pyramid Peak ahead.

Descend in steep curves past the Willow Lake Trail turnoff, continuing (right) down over alpine meadows into the forest. The trail winds down through Minnehaha Gulch, crossing the stream to pass *campsites* under the eastern walls of the Sleeping Sexton. Descend through groves of aspen to arrive back at the West Maroon Creek Trail junction near Crater Lake, 1 ½ hours from the pass. The hike back to the trailhead at Maroon Lake takes about an hour.

Lunch	On the trail – <i>taken from personal snack packs provided.</i>
3:00pm	Arrive at put-out point – Maroon – Snowmass Trailhead. This is the end of the backpacking portion of this trip!
3:00 – 3:30pm	Catch shuttle back to parked vehicles at – Aspen Highlands Ski Area
3:30pm	Depart for Hotel (<i>we will be spending the night here</i>)
4:30pm	Arrive at Hotel
4:30pm-5:30pm	Take showers & swimming in hotel pool
5:30-6:45pm	Dinner at Two Rivers Park – (<i>Playground Shelter – within eyesight & walking distance</i>)
6:30-6:45pm	Dinner clean-up
6:45pm	Depart on-foot for Glenwood Hot Springs (<i>approximately 15 minute walk</i>)

7:00pm-9:00pm	Relax in the Glenwood Hot Springs (<i>don't forget to bring your own towel</i>)
9:00pm	Depart on-foot for Hotel
9:15pm	Arrive at Hotel
9:15-10:30pm	Free Time
10:30pm	Campers in rooms
10:45pm	Lights out!

Tuesday, August 7, 2018

7:00am	Wake up!
8:00 – 8:45am	Breakfast & Bible Study (<i>Breakfast continues through Bible Study – Downstairs Meeting Room</i>)
9:00 – 11:30am	Equipment cleaning and inventory
11:30 – 12:00noon	Free time
12:00noon – 1:00pm	Lunch (<i>Downstairs Meeting Room</i>)
1:00 – 3:00pm	Swimming at Hotel Pool
3:00pm	Depart for Whitewater Rafting (<i>15 minute walk/short drive</i>)
3:15pm	Check-in & Whitewater Rafting, LLC – Orientation Meeting
3:15-6:30pm	Whitewater Rafting
6:30pm	Depart for Hotel
6:30-7:00pm	Change clothes and prepare to drive to Aspen.
7:00 – 8:00pm	Drive to Aspen (<i>Dinner on the go as we drive to Aspen</i>)
8:00 – 10:00pm	Shopping in Aspen
10:00 – 11:00pm	Drive back to Glenwood Springs
11:00pm	Arrive back at Hotel
11:10pm	Campers in rooms
11:15pm	Lights out!

Wednesday, August 8, 2018

7:45am	Wake up
8:00 – 8:45am	Breakfast & Bible Study (<i>Breakfast continues throughout the Bible Study.</i>)
8:45 – 9:00am	Breakfast clean up
9:00am	Walk to Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park. Park is open 9am – 9pm. Attractions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two walking “Cave Tours” • Doc Holliday & The Kid Performance • Blacksmith Shop • Alpine Coaster

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mine Drop • Wild West Express • Giant Canyon Swing • Giddy Up Ride • Mine Wheel
12:00noon – 1pm	Lunch at Adventure Park
5:30 – 6:30pm	Dinner at Two Rivers Park (<i>Playground Shelter</i>)
6:30 – 9:30pm	Shopping in downtown Glenwood Springs (<i>within walking distance of Hotel</i>)
9:30pm	Arrive at Hotel for the night.
9:30 – 11:00pm	Free time & packing
11:00pm	Campers in rooms
11:15pm	Lights out!

Thursday, August 9, 2018

Before 11:00am (<i>check out</i>)	Morning check-out. Breakfast available.
Not later than 11:00am	Campers & Staff depart for home. Everyone flying out of Denver International Airport will be dropped off prior to 12:00noon – and at least 2 hours prior to the departure time of their scheduled flight home.