

# Mount Elbert Northeast Ridge Hike - Quick Guide

Colorado's Highest Peak | 14,440 ft

## Trail Basics

Route: Northeast Ridge (Elbert Creek Trailhead)

Distance: 9-10 miles round trip

Elevation Gain: ~4,400 ft

Trailhead Elevation: ~10,400 ft

Difficulty: Moderate to challenging

<b>Getting There &amp; Parking</b> Trailhead located off Colorado Highway 91, about 6 miles south of Leadville, CO Parking available at Elbert Creek Trailhead (arrive early on week-ends) No fees or permits required (check local regulations before hiking)	<b>What to Expect</b> Start below tree line; brief connection with Continental Divide Trail Steady climb onto the northeast ridge after CDT split Tree line break ~2.5 miles in - first false summit visible Series of switchbacks to first false summit, then climb to second false summit Final push to true summit with expansive west and south views
<b>Recommended Gear</b> Hiking boots with good traction Layered clothing + waterproof/windproof jacket 2-3 liters water + electrolyte replacements Sunglasses, sunscreen, hat Map/GPS or trail app Trekking poles (optional but helpful) High-energy snacks Basic first aid kit + headlamp	<b>Best Time to Hike</b> July to September: Best weather & trail conditions Avoid spring/early summer due to snow Start early to avoid afternoon storms

## Safety & Altitude Awareness

Watch for Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS) symptoms: headache, nausea, dizziness, fatigue

If symptoms occur: stop climbing, rest, hydrate, descend if needed

Check weather forecast before starting

Inform someone of your plans

Pace yourself; take breaks often

## Emergency Contacts & Info

**Local Search & Rescue: 911 or Leadville Ranger Station**

**Cell service may be limited; carry emergency communication device if possible**

***Enjoy the climb, respect the mountain, and take in the incredible views!***