

# Sugarite Canyon Trails




Sugarite Canyon State Park  
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## DISTANCE

**15** Miles, Total

## ACTIVITIES

-  Hiking
-  Mountain Biking
-  Cross-County Skiing
-  Snowshoeing
-  Horseback Riding

## AMENITIES

-  Restrooms
-  Benches

## ELEVATION

6,900' - 8,320'

## Difficulty:

Trails range from easy to strenuous

## Visitor Center

N 36°56'25.70"  
W 104°22'48.20"

**What to Expect:** Look for mule deer, elk, turkey and bear. There have been rare sightings of mountain lions. Some areas in the northern part of the park, particularly along Opportunity Trail, burned in the 2011 Track Fire. These areas are now recovering and new vegetation is coming up.



## Precautions:

Be prepared for sudden and extreme changes in weather. Summer can bring severe thunderstorms, and winter can bring unexpected snows.

The Track Fire of 2011 affected many trails in the park. So, look up, look down and look all around.

- Burned trees can fall anytime, but especially when it is windy.
- Rain can cause flash flooding/debris flows.
- Burned tree roots cause stump holes.
- Cut trees leave stumps.

People sometimes encounter black bears at the park. Don't panic, just follow these rules:

- Never run. If you see a bear stay calm.
- Stand facing the bear and slowly wave your arms.
- Slowly back away from the bear.
- Look out for cubs. Do not come between a mother and her cubs.
- If attacked, fight back aggressively.

Some general hiking safety tips:

- Know the weather forecast.
- Find out current trail information and conditions.
- Let someone know where you are hiking.
- Give yourself plenty of time and set a comfortable pace when hiking.
- Bring a first aid kit, plenty of water, a snack, a whistle and a map.
- There is bow hunting at the park April 15th-May 10th (turkey), September 1st-30th (elk and turkey) and November 1st-30th (deer and turkey). During these times hikers (and their dogs) should wear bright colors, such as blaze orange.

## Park Rules:



Please pack out all trash



Keep dogs on a leash



**NO** motor vehicles on the trail





# Sugarite Canyon Trails

## From the Visitor Center:

### Chicorica Boardwalk Birding Trail:

Distance: 0.18 mi. round trip

Difficulty: Easy

Elevation: 6,900'

The Boardwalk is an elevated walk that runs north from the visitor center. This trail is great for bird watching, with a built-in bird blind. The boardwalk is wheelchair accessible.



### River Walk Trail:

Distance: 0.56 mi. round trip

Difficulty: Easy

Elevation: 6,900'

The River Walk is a delightful loop through a forested riparian area along Chicorica Creek. The west side of the creek is heavily wooded with a wide variety of birds and wildlife. Ruins of "New Town", part of the Sugarite Coal Camp, are on the east side of the creek.



### Coal Camp Interpretive Trail:

Distance for loop trail: 0.9 mi. round trip

Distance to Mine #2: 1.8 mi. round trip

Distance to Mine #3: 2.08 mi. round trip

Bikes OK only on overlap with Lake Alice Trail.

Difficulty: Moderate to strenuous

Elevation: 6,900' to 7,300'

Interpretive trail brochures for self-guided tours are available at the visitor center. The ruins of Sugarite Coal Camp lie just above the visitor center across the bridge. For a short walk, follow the loop through the town. For a longer walk, take the trail going up to Mine #2 or Mine #3. This is a historic site, so please leave everything where you find it.



## From Lake Alice Trailhead:

### Lake Alice Trail:

Distance : 1.32 mi. one way

Difficulty: Moderate

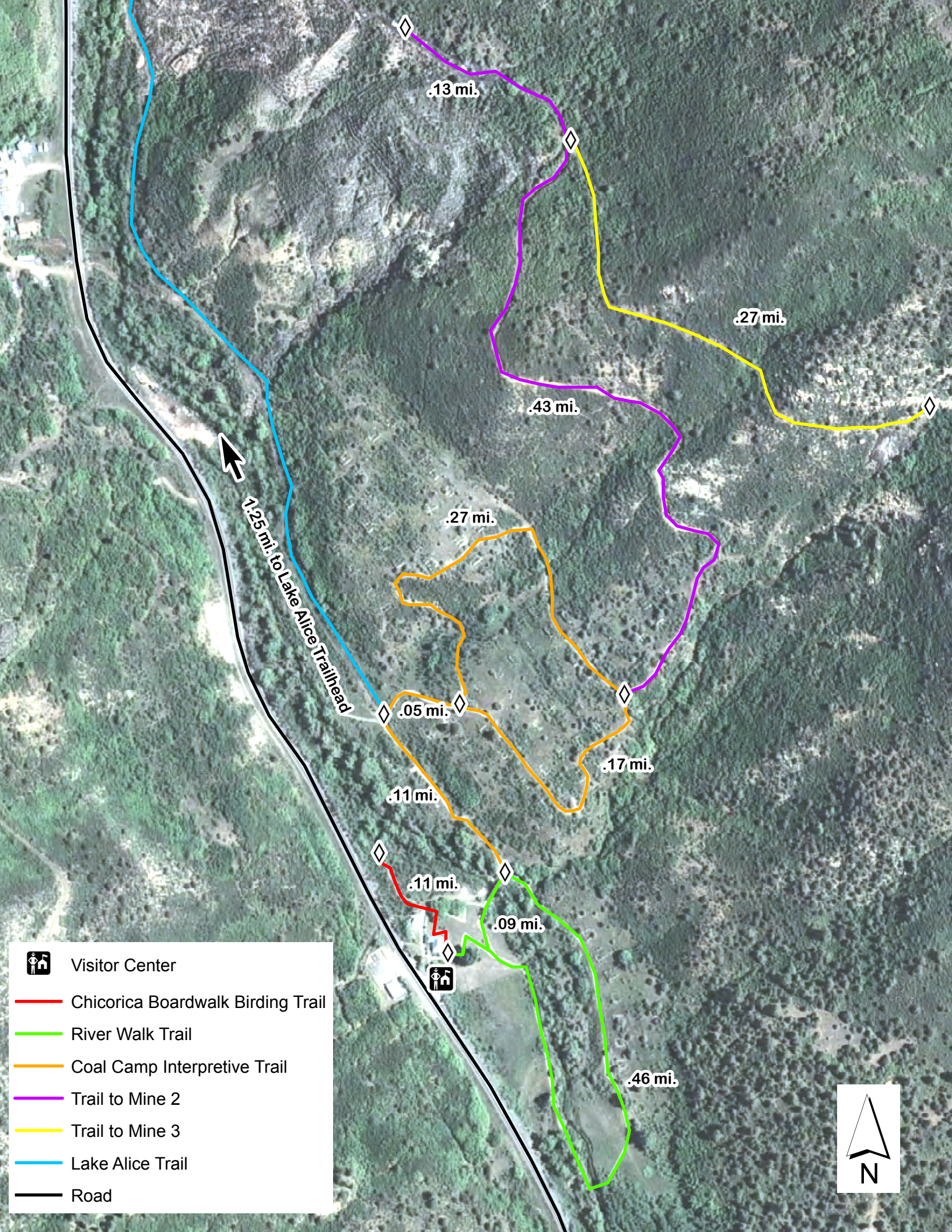
Elevation: 6,900' to 7,200'

This trail connects the visitor center and Lake Alice, where Coal Camp miners harvested ice.

From Lake Alice, start at the south side of the overflow parking area and cross the creek. From the visitor center, cross the bridge and go left (north).









# Sugarite Canyon Trails

## From Lake Alice Trailhead:

### Deer Run Trail:

Distance : 1.4 mi. one way

Difficulty: Moderate to strenuous

Elevation: 7,500' to 8,200'



The trailhead is at the north end of Lake Alice Campground's overflow parking area. The trail ascends a steep slope behind the Lake Alice Campground and continues to the Soda Pocket Campground. The hiker is rewarded with views of the canyon, wildlife and solitude. Watch for deer, wild turkeys and the branchy tree nests of tassel-eared squirrels.

## From the Soda Pocket Trailhead:

### Opportunity Trail:

Distance: 3.7 mi. one way

Difficulty: Moderate to Strenuous

Elevation: 7,500' to 8,250'



This trail can be accessed from Soda Pocket or Lake Maloya. From Soda Pocket, a wooded trail of Gambel oak tops out in an aspen grove before descending through an area burned in the 2011 Track Fire. At the bottom of the switchbacks, the trail turns east to follow Segerstrom Valley to Lake Maloya. It can be a 6-mile loop hike if you return via Ponderosa Ridge Trail.

### Ponderosa Ridge Trail

Distance: 1.9 mi. one way

Difficulty: Moderate to Strenuous

Elevation: 7,500' to 8,000'



This trail can be accessed from Soda Pocket or Lake Maloya. From Soda Pocket, Ponderosa Ridge Trail descends gradually to Lake Maloya through an area that is regenerating after the 2011 Track Fire. It can be a 6-mile hike if you return via the Opportunity Trail.



### Little Horse Mesa Trail

Distance: 0.12 mi. one way

Difficulty: Strenuous

Elevation: 8,000' to 8,320'



To access Little Horse Mesa Trail from Soda Pocket Trailhead, follow Opportunity Trail northwest for about 1/4 mile to the Little Horse Mesa Trailhead. The ascent to the top is steep, but very short. You will be rewarded with incredible views of Sugarite Canyon and the plains beyond. Explore the pine-dotted grassy mesa for elk, grouse and other wildlife.



# Sugarite Canyon Trails

## From Soda Pocket Campground:

### Vista Grande Nature Trail

Distance: 0.5 mi. round trip

Difficulty: Moderate

Elevation: 7,900' to 8,050'



Interpretive brochures for self-guided tours are available at the trailhead. This nature trail is located off the loop at the south end of Soda Pocket Campground. The brochure explains how wild animals use the plants and other features along the trail for food and shelter. There is a spring in the area, which provides for a nice diversity of plants and wildlife. A branch off the main loop heads upslope to a bench with a panoramic view of the canyon and plains country.

## From Lake Maloya:

### Lake Maloya Trail

Distance: 2.2 mi. one way

Difficulty: Easy to moderate

Elevation: 7,500'



The Lake Maloya Trail follows the west side of the lake, overlapping with a segment of Opportunity Trail. Stay to the right to reach the north end of the lake in Colorado. The trail ends at the Lake Dorothy State Wildlife Area trailhead. To make a loop, return along the paved road on the east side of the lake.



### Wapiti Trail

Distance: 2.4 mi. round trip

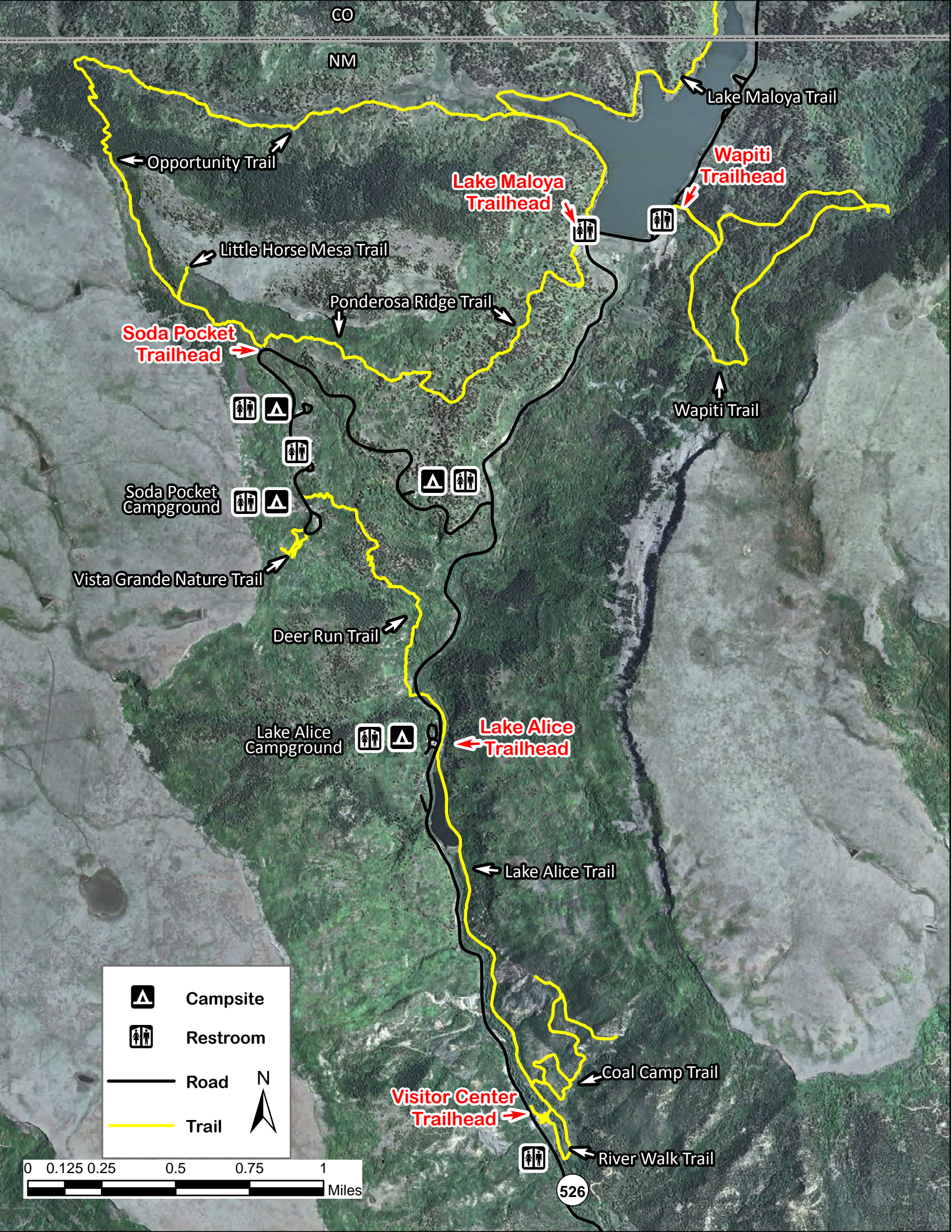
Difficulty: Moderate to strenuous

Elevation: 7,500' to 8,300'



The Wapiti (wah-pee-tee) Trail begins on the east side of Lake Maloya near the boat dock. This trail ascends through a variety of forested areas on the west-facing slope. Watch for deer, elk, turkey and other wildlife as you enjoy amazing views of Lake Maloya, Little Horse Mesa and even Colorado.





CO  
NM

Lake Maloya Trail

← Opportunity Trail

Lake Maloya Trailhead

Wapiti Trailhead

← Little Horse Mesa Trail

↓ Ponderosa Ridge Trail

Soda Pocket Trailhead

↑ Wapiti Trail

Soda Pocket Campground

Vista Grande Nature Trail

↑ Deer Run Trail

Lake Alice Campground

Lake Alice Trailhead

← Lake Alice Trail

← Coal Camp Trail

Visitor Center Trailhead

← River Walk Trail

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Campsite

Restroom

Road

Trail

N

