

Ride Name: Engineer Mountain Trail to Engine Creek Trail (waterfall!) to Cascade Creek Trail loop

Ride Area: North County

Ride Distance 17 mile loop

Useful maps: Durango Trails Recreation TOPO map

Difficulty: Moderate to difficult due to going down Engine Creek toward Cascade Creek which has some rocky steps down and a few narrow stretches, some timber to go around. It would be easier going up Engine Creek trail by just reversing the directions. There is a safe wood bridge on the Cascade Creek portion (photo). If it has been raining, it would be best to reverse the ride.

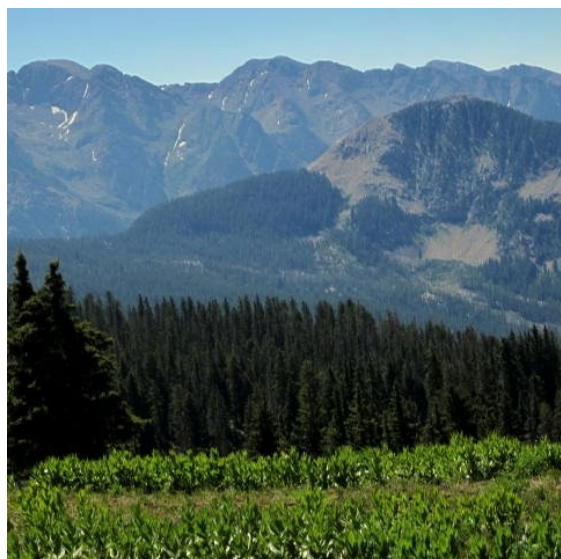
Summary of Ride: This is a combination of three trails to make a loop, starting and ending on the Engineer Mountain trailhead which is on the first road to the left 1&1/2 miles past the Cascade Creek access road. It is a fairly steady climb to Engineer, then around the base of Engineer to the right where it forks with the Pass Trail (from Coalbank Pass) to the trailhead sign for Engine Creek trail. This trail connects Engineer Mountain trail to Cascade Creek trail. There is a beautiful waterfall on the Engine Creek trail portion and a nice stream to follow out of Cascade Creek.

Driving Directions: From Main avenue in Durango go north 26 miles and pass Durango Mountain Resort and beyond a few miles pass Cascade Village. Just a little further you will pass a sign on the left for Cascade Creek. Go about 1½ miles further to the next left where there is an unmarked gravel road. Turn here and go about ¼ mile to a parking area near a trailhead for Engineer Mountain Trail and Cascade Creek Trail. There is ample parking.

Ride Directions: Engineer Mountain trail is about 6 miles long to the base of Engineer Mountain. The trail climbs steadily through aspen and ponderosa with nice views of the valley toward Durango below. It is not very rocky. The trail meets the Pass trail which comes up from Coalbank Pass from Highway 550 at about 7 miles. Continue north to trail signs but stay on the Engineer Mountain trail to the Engine Creek trailhead. At this sign, take a hard left. The easy left is the continuation of Engineer Mountain trail. About half way down there is a waterfall. There are some fairly steep steps for the horse to maneuver and might be difficult if it is wet. Once you reach the Cascade Creek trail, things flatten out. Down the Cascade Creek trail there is a small cascade and nice stream near a bridge for a refreshing horse and human foot soak. The Cascade Creek portion is about 4 miles to a path that heads off to the left, then another 2 ½ miles to the parking lot.



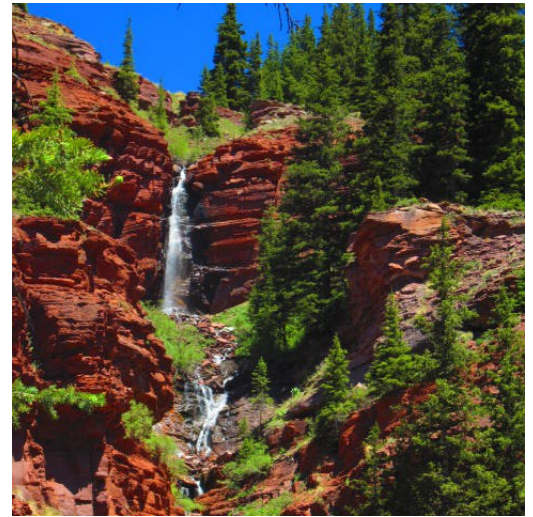
Plentiful parking



Engineer trail view



Take a sharp left here



Falls on Engine Creek trail



Bridge over Cascade Creek



Ahh! Cool Stream near the bridge



Engine Creek had a few downfalls

Engineer Mountain

