

High Country Grand Tour

Round Trip Distance:**Option I: 215 Miles****Option II: 185 Miles****Driving Time:****Option I: 5 Hours****Option II: 4 Hours****Difficulty****Option I: 7****Option II: 7****Maximum Altitude: 11,990 (Loveland Pass)****Altitude Change from Breckenridge Altitude: 2,400 Feet**

The Grand Tour will travel north on State Route 9 to Swan Mountain Road, and then turn right on Swan Mountain Road and travel east past Lake Dillon, and to the intersection of US 6. The tour will continue east on US 6, over Loveland Pass, which is 11,990 feet. There are two 14,000 foot peaks to the east as you climb to the summit; Torrey's Peak, 14,267 and Gray's Peak, 14,270. There is limited parking at the Loveland Pass summit, but the view is spectacular. We will continue east from the summit and enter I-70 east just east of Eisenhower Tunnel, and continue on I-70 to exit 232. At Exit, 232, we will connect with US 40 West. We will travel West on US 40 through Empire, then over Berthoud Pass at 11,307 feet where there is a nice rest area and view at the summit. The tour then continues west through Winter Park, past the Mary Jane and Winter Park Ski areas, then stop for a lunch at Sol Vista Ranch near Granby. (A Box Lunch will be provided as part of the Tour.)

After the Lunch Stop, the tour will have two Options. The First Option will travel west through Granby, and connect with US Route 34 for a trip to Grand Lake Village prior to returning to Breckenridge, which is approximately 125 miles and 3 hours driving time. The Second Option will return directly to Breckenridge, which is approximately 95 miles and 2 hours driving time.

The First Option will travel to Grand Lake Village. Just west of Granby, the tour will turn North on US Route 34. The trip to Grand Lake Village will begin an elevation change as we climb toward Grand Lake Village, along the way, passing Grand Lake and Lake Granby. The view of the high mountain lakes with mountains in the background is very serene. After the stop in Grand Lake Village, the tour travel back to US 40 then will continue west, briefly following the Colorado River Headwaters Byway to Kremmling. This route follows the Colorado River as it flows across greenish meadows as it begins its journey to the Pacific Ocean. The tour will connect with State Route 9 in Kremmling and travel south for the return to Breckenridge. This trip is approximately one hour and 30 miles longer than returning directly to Breckenridge.

Those traveling with the Second Option will return directly to Breckenridge. The tour will continue west on US 40 to Kremmling. After an optional rest stop in Kremmling, the tour will take State Route 9 south for the return to Breckenridge.

Please Review the High Altitude Driving Tips and Staying Healthy Tips Handouts.