



Trail 29-- Scott's Pass

Duration: 3 hours

Distance: 4.6 miles out-and-back

Difficulty: Easy

Trailhead: Lower Solitude parking lot

Elevation: Solitude Parking Lot 8129'; Scott's Pass 9503'

Avalanche: Low

Map: Brighton 7.5' quadrangle

GPS Coordinates: Scotts Pass Trailhead--12 T 0449601/4497096; Scotts Y--12 T 0451344/4496131; Scotts Pass--12 T 0452841/4496140;

Dogs: Not allowed in Big Cottonwood Canyon

Introduction: Scotts Pass is a pleasant traverse. On clear sunny days it affords views of Solitude Ski Resort to the right and casual trekking through aspen and evergreens. The elevation gain comes primarily during the last pitch up to the pass.

Scott's Pass straddles Big Cottonwood Canyon and Park City Ski Resort on the other side of the mountain. Skiers literally zip by you as you reach the pass since it sits at the top of a run.

A map and GPS will be helpful if you are the first to establish the trail up the Big Cottonwood side of the mountain.

How to Get There: The Solitude parking area sits 11.6 miles from the base of Big Cottonwood. Park by Moonbeam Lodge. Cross the street to the north and head up over the berm of snow on the north side of the road. This is where the trail begins.

Trail Description: Scott's Pass sits east of the Solitude parking lot in the saddle to the southeast of the cell phone towers prominently sticking out from the mountain. You can see these from your starting point at the road. There may or may not be a trail to follow to Scott's Pass. If there is, no navigating required, if not, head north a few hundred yards through the trees, approximately to the point where the mountain starts to steepen. At this point make your way east. At .27 miles you come to a groomed cabin access road. Follow either parallel to the road in the unpacked snow, or if you prefer, hop down to the packed road. Follow in this vein for another .4 of a mile where the road takes a turn to the right near a big cabin. At this turn you will discontinue following the road and instead continue straight east into the trees. To check and make sure you're in the right spot – once you are one mile up the trail you will see a nice cabin right off the left side of the trail. At 1.16 miles the single track breaks onto a groomed trail that makes a 'Y'. Take the left fork. If the groomer has not been present, you will recognize the natural 'Y' in the terrain. Head to the left through the break in the aspen and fir. The Scott's Y GPS coordinate marks this spot. From here it's a straight eastern haul to the pass. The approach is slightly over 2 miles to Scott's Pass. When you reach the top you'll see the rope that designates the Park City Ski Resort. When you stand atop the ski resort at Scott's Pass, the big bowl to the right is Scott's Bowl. The base of Pinecone Ridge – a backcountry ski hill sits to your left. Straight to the northeast from Scott's pass sits Jupiter Hill.

Options: On your return you can either come back the way you came or head down to the left as indicated on the map. This detour allows you to take in any untracked powder through the trees before connecting again with the original trail