



362000m E, 392000m E, 422000m E, 452000m E, 482000m E, 512000m E, NAD27 Zone 12T 592000m E

Trail 31--Peak above Scott's Pass via Guardsman Pass Trailhead

Duration: 2 hours 45 minutes

Distance: 3.35 miles round-trip loop

Difficulty: Easy; Climb up Scotts Bowl-Moderate

Trailhead: Guardsman's Pass

Elevation: Guardsman's Pass Trailhead 8921'; Road Split off Guardsman 9175'; Scott's Pass 9505'; Peak above Scott's Pass: 9800'

Avalanche: Low; The return down the front side has steeper slopes to beware of.

Map: Brighton 7.5 quadrangle

GPS Coordinates: Point where you leave the groomed Guardsman's Pass road and head into the evergreens--12 T 451768/4495839; Scott's Pass--12 T 0452841/4496140; Peak above Scott's Pass--12 T 452785/4495781

Dogs: Not allowed in Big Cottonwood Canyon

Introduction: The peak above Scott's Bowl is a variation on Trail 27—Scott's Pass. Scott's Bowl is a run at the Park City Ski Resort. Scott's Pass sits in the saddle above the bowl. The peak, our destination, sits above Scotts pass, and is the top of the bowl. This trail begins at a different trailhead than Trail 27, at the Guardsman's Pass trailhead in Big Cottonwood Canyon. The highlight of this trail centers on the views on the way up and from the top peak. Guardsman's Pass is one of the few places in the canyon where snowmobiles are allowed. This road is groomed and easy to follow. While traveling along the groomed section of road you may encounter grooming machines or snowmobiles.

How to Get There: The turn-off to Guardsman's Pass sits just below Brighton Ski Resort. A road sign indicates the pass is closed for winter (which it is), but the road to the parking area is not. Turn left past steep banks of snow (hard to see the road because the snow is so high) and follow the road a short way until it dead ends where winter maintenance is discontinued. An outhouse sits at this trailhead/turnaround. Parking in the turnaround is not allowed so vehicles must park down the north side of the road leaving room for snowmobile trailers to use the turnaround. There is a restroom at the trailhead.

Trail Description: From the trailhead, follow the groomed road to the east. As you make your way up the mountain, beautiful views of Brighton Ski Resort open to the south during the first mile. One mile up the trail an offshoot trail heads straight off the Guardsman Pass groomed trail/road into a canopy of evergreens. Don't follow the road here, rather at this curve in the road head straight into the trees. At this point the trail transitions into one of solitude and heads to Scott's Pass. Scott's Pass lies to the east 1.9 miles from the trailhead. Once atop Scott's Pass, the resort is roped off so boundaries are clear, head south up the ridge to the peak atop the bowl. This is the steepest section of trail, but is not far. Stay to the right of the ski resort tracks and enjoy the snow in the trees. As you reach the top 360-degree views open.

On your return trip, if you circle down the southwest side of the mountain you can reconnect with the groomed road while enjoying the powder on the way down. Note that the first groomed road you come to as you head down this side of the mountain will be the continuation of the groomed road to Guardsman's Pass. You can drop below this road, rather than following it back around, and save time getting to the lowest portion of the road you came in on. If you're more comfortable staying on the road, you can simply hook back up and follow it back out to Guardsman's Pass trailhead.

Options: There are three possible descent routes: (1) From Scott's Pass you can head up Pinecone Ridge to the north, out across the highest north ridge for great powder when the conditions are right. Pinecone Ridge is marked with a big ski resort sign. (2) Or, from Scott's Pass the groomed road continues to curve up the mountain taking you horizontally across the south face below the higher Pinecone Ridge. The road heads out to the cell phone towers on the opposite ridge and/or to the saddle where you can drop into Mill Creek Canyon. (3) Or, head south from Scott's Pass to the top of Scotts Bowl and down the back side in a westerly direction to reconnect with the groomed trail that will take you back to the trailhead