



Trail 33--Greens Basin via Days Fork

Duration: 2 hours

Distance: 3.13 miles out-and-back

Difficulty: Easy

Trailhead: Spruces Campground

Elevation: Spruces Campground 7500'; Green's Basin 8302'

Avalanche: Low

Map: Mount Aire 7.5' quadrangle

GPS Coordinates: Day's Fork and Green's Basin trail intersection--12 T 446133/4498456; Green's Basin--12 T 446847/4497857

Dogs: Not allowed in Big Cottonwood Canyon

Introduction: Green's Basin is a small basin at the foot of tree-filled slopes. An old below-ground mining cabin sits in the southeast portion of the basin, but is usually covered by snow and thus unseen. Backcountry skiers brave the treed slopes around the basin, and the snowshoe trip to the basin provides a safe climb through moderately spaced trees.

How to get there: Spruces Campground is 9.7 miles up Big Cottonwood Canyon on the south side of the road. Park here.

Trail Description: The trail takes off directly from the southwest corner of the Spruces parking lot. It winds south around a group of trees, and passes a restroom which is open for winter use. Shortly after passing the restroom, you will pass a trail sign for Days Fork trail. The trail winds its way west and south after the sign as it climbs up Days Fork. The trail to Green's Basin breaks off .4 of a mile up the Day's Fork trail. It branches sharply, almost back the way you have just come, on the left side of the trail. Use the GPS coordinate to find the exact spot to exit the trail as there are no definitive markers unless someone has broken trail before you. Once off the main trail, the trail to Green's Basin proceeds up the west face of the mountain through the aspen and conifers. Climb this west face. At .6 of a mile the trees open up and you get views down into Big Cottonwood Canyon and the road below. After the switchbacks up this west face the trail heads across the north face of the mountain rounding into Green's Basin to the east. The safest return trip is to head back the way you came.