

London Mountain by Dave Cooper



An approaching storm over Mosquito Peak-small.jpg

London Mountain, at 13,192 feet, is one of those peaks that you may pass by on your way to climb its loftier neighbors. Occupying the centre of the high alpine valley below Mosquito Pass, you have probably seen this peak and its steep profile as you drive north on Highway 9, just before reaching the town of Alma.

If you're looking for a relatively easy, short day in a very scenic area, London Mountain is a good choice. The

northwest ridge is a very pleasant high altitude walk. It is possible, with a high clearance four wheel drive vehicle, to drive all the way to the start of the northwest ridge, but passenger cars will park lower at a point just before the road crosses Mosquito Creek.

The peak, like many others in the Mosquito Range, has a rich mining history. As you climb its gentle northwest ridge, stop to examine some of the many rock outcrops which, due to the complex geology of the area, exhibit a wide variety of rock types. The South Park Ranger District has an Automobile Tour pamphlet (available at the Forest Service office in Fairplay or online at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/sopa/automosq.shtml>)

Getting to the Trailhead: One mile south of the town of Alma on Highway 9, turn west onto Park County Road 12, signed to Mosquito Gulch and Park City. Drive 4.5 miles on County Road 12 to an intersection. Stay right on the road to Mosquito Pass. A sign says 4-wheel drive only beyond this point, but passenger cars with reasonable clearance may be able to drive 2.4 miles further to a small parking area just before the road makes a sharp left turn and crosses Mosquito Gulch. The hike is described from this parking area.

Hike Statistics: From the passenger car parking area to the summit of London Mountain you will gain 1610 feet in 2.5 miles one way.

Difficulty: A walk along a four wheel drive road and a simple ridge walk.

USGS Quad: Climax, CO

which describes the mining history of the Mosquito Pass area. Descriptions in the pamphlet are tied to wagon-wheel markers along the Mosquito Pass Road.



The gentle summit ridge of London Mountain-small.jpg

Hike Description

From the passenger car parking area, walk up the rough four-wheel drive Mosquito Pass road as it makes a sharp left turn, crossing a stream before angling steeply up the hillside on its way to the London Mine, one and a quarter miles from the parking area. The lake that you pass to the north of the London Mine is appropriately named Oliver Twist Lake.

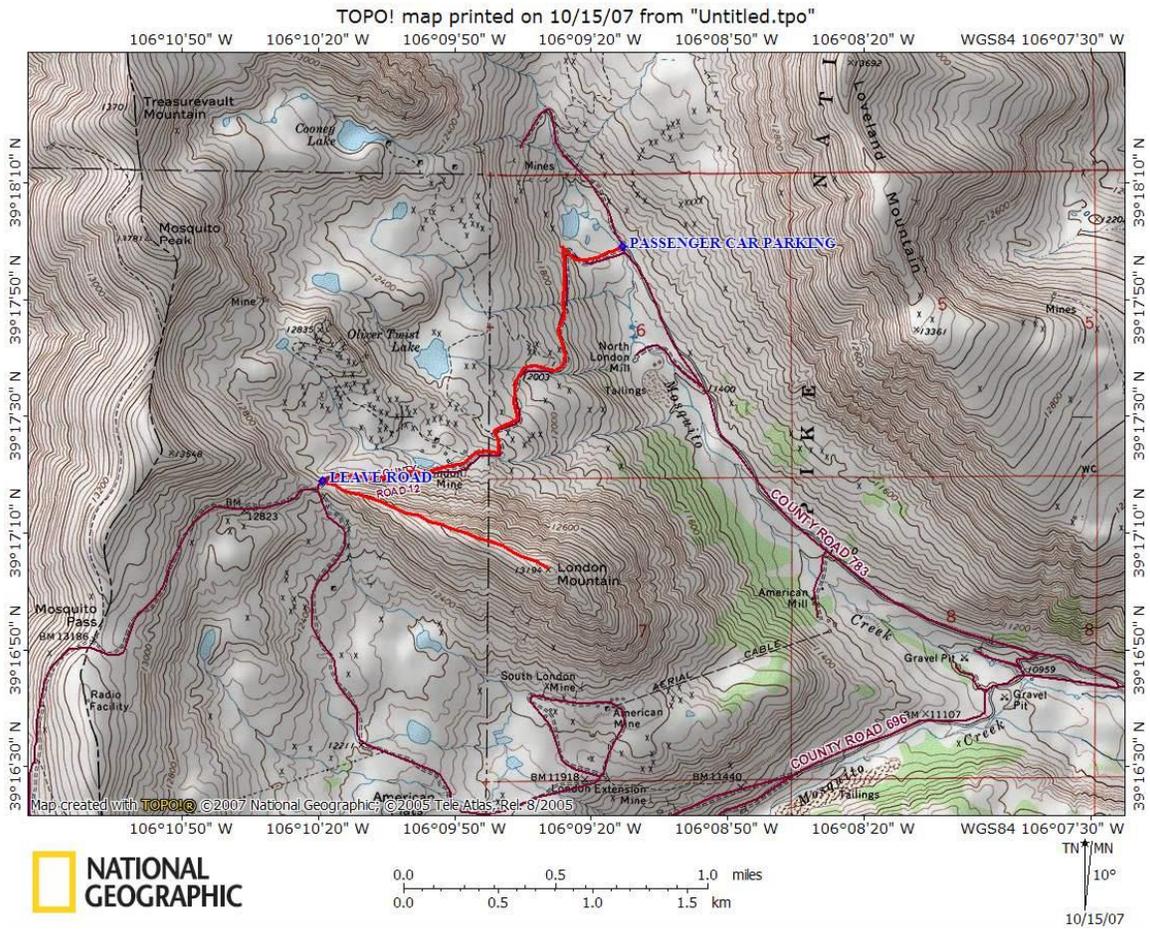
Beyond the London Mine the road narrows and becomes rougher as it hugs the north slopes of the peak before cutting left through a small rocky pass, the low point of the ridge connecting London Mountain with Unnamed 13,548.

High on London Mountain, with Mosquito Peak behind-small.JPG

Leave the road here and start hiking southeast up London's northwest ridge. Follow a climbers trail as it heads up over several false summits, eventually reaching



the true summit after 0.8 miles of hiking and easy scrambling along the ridge.



GPS Latitude / Longitude NAD83 (Deg., Min., Sec.)
 PASSENGER CAR PARKING: 39,17,59N / 106,9,13W, 11581 feet
 LEAVE ROAD: 39,17,19N / 106,10,19W, 12690 feet

