

Mount Guyot - South-East Ridge (13,370 feet) by Dave Cooper

Mount Guyot is the prominent peak seen at the edge of South Park as you descend from Kenosha Pass, characterized by a sweeping ridge with large cornices visible in the winter and spring.

Spring is my favorite time of year to climb this peak and the south-east ridge is the best route, offering a moderate snow climb with a kick in the tail - a narrow, corniced and knife-edge ridge to the summit.

In early May the approach and lower part of the ridge offers excellent skiing, but by late May snow shoes are preferred, since the snow is no longer continuous. By mid-June the snow will be largely gone. Get an early start to take advantage of the firmer snow.

Mount Guyot, seen from South Park. Guyot is the right-most summit

Hike Description

Make your way north-west up the initially gentle ridge, picking the line of least resistance through the trees. At treeline climb up a steeper snow slope for 200 feet before the slope flattens out for several hundred yards before starting up in earnest.

Getting to the Trailhead

How far you can drive up the road towards Georgia Pass is determined by the snow drifts and your vehicle. As of May 21st, the road was drivable all the way to waypoint "START OF RIDGE", the starting point for the hike.

From the town of Jefferson, head north on County Road 35, signed as "Jefferson Lake Rd." and "Michigan Creek Rd."

After 2.1 miles, go straight at the T-junction. At 2.9 miles bear right on County Road 54. At 5.4 miles CR54 turns left, signed to Georgia Pass. Drive past the Michigan Creek Campground and keep going for a total of 10.0 miles from Jefferson to a point where a clearing allows access to Guyot's SE ridge. It is also possible to continue on the road for another 0.5 miles to where an old logging road takes off to the west. Following this logging road will bring you back onto the south-east ridge.

Note that earlier in May the road is usually not drivable all the way to the trailhead, so expect to walk some distance along the road.

Hike Statistics:

2500 feet of elevation gain in 2.1 miles one way.

Difficulty: Moderate snow climbing, but with an exposed and possibly corniced summit ridge. Ice ax recommended.

USGS Quad: Boreas Pass. CO.



There is some avalanche potential on the broad, lower slopes. Head for the ridge-line on the right margin of this slope and climb moderate snow to join the east ridge at 13,000 feet.

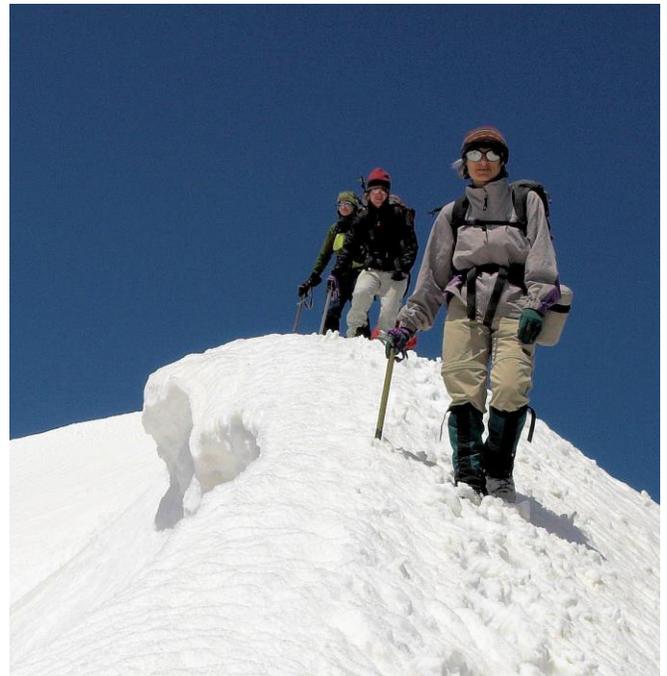
Getting onto the ridge proper.

The final section of the ridge, up to the summit, can be heavily corniced, so be careful not to get too close to the edge.



Looking up towards Mt. Guyot's summit

The descent consists of glissades and plunge-stepping, probably not needing snow shoes until possibly below treeline.



Carefully descending the summit ridge



*Carefully
descending
the summit
ridge 2*

TOPO! map printed on 05/24/06 from "Untitled.tpo"

