

## Chapin, Chiquita and Ypsilon Mountains from Chapin Pass by Dave Cooper



*Pleasant hiking and grand vistas on the Ypsilon Trail-small.jpg*

Located in the northern part of Rocky Mountain National Park, the Mummy Range offers remote peaks and outstanding vistas.

At this time of year the wildflowers of the alpine tundra are near their peak, and there is no better place to view them than on this trail which starts at Chapin Pass and climbs quite gradually to visit two summits over 13,000 feet and a third summit via a small detour.

Ypsilon Mountain also happens to offer some outstanding technical rock and snow routes on its rugged east face. These provide dramatic views from the summit.

**Getting to the Trailhead:** Drive to the town of Estes Park. From the major intersection of US Highways 34 and 36 in the town of Estes Park, head west through town on US 36. Turn south in 0.4 miles and continue on US36 as it turns west to Rocky Mountain National Park. At 7.3 miles (Deer Ridge Junction) take the right fork on Highway 34 and drive to the Endovalley Road junction at mile 9.1. Turn left (west) on the road signed to Endovalley and the Fall River Road, reaching the Endovalley Picnic Area at mile 11.0. You can also use the Fall River Road Entrance to the Park to get here.

The Fall River Road continues from here, a single lane well-graded dirt road suitable for passenger cars but not for motor homes. The road climbs steeply through many tight turns to the Chapin Pass Trailhead at mile 17.9. Park in the small area on your left. On your return, since Fall River Road is one way, continue west to the junction with Trail Ridge Road and head back to Estes Park.

**Hike Statistics:** Trailhead to the summit of Ypsilon Mountain (13,514 feet): 3000 feet of total elevation gain in 7.6 miles round trip, with 260 feet being climbed on the return over Chiquita.

**Difficulty:** A moderate trail hike to multiple high summits.

**USGS Quad:** Glen Haven. CO

### Hike Description

From the trailhead start hiking north for a little more than one tenth of a mile to a trail junction. Turn right (east) and follow the trail signed to the summits of Chapin, Chiquita and Ypsilon. 0.6 miles from the trailhead, take the right fork at a sign indicating that the trail leads to “All summits”. The sign also says that the trail is unmaintained beyond this point. In fact the trail is in quite good shape until it becomes faint near the summit of Mount Chiquita. Even then there are plenty of cairns to keep you on route.

*Ypsilon's technical snow routes can be seen from near the summit-small.jpg*



The trail emerges above treeline and traverses across the face of a minor summit named Mount Chapin (12,454 feet). A spur trail at mile 1.6 will take you to the summit of Chapin, or continue towards the broad mass of Mount Chiquita (13,069 feet). The summit of Chiquita is distinctive for several reasons. It provides good views of its higher neighbor to the northeast. The summit cairns have also proliferated into “rock-art”.

As you stop on Chiquita’s summit to admire the views, don’t venture too far from your daypack. Those cute-looking marmots show no fear of people and are likely to invite themselves to examine your pack and contents.

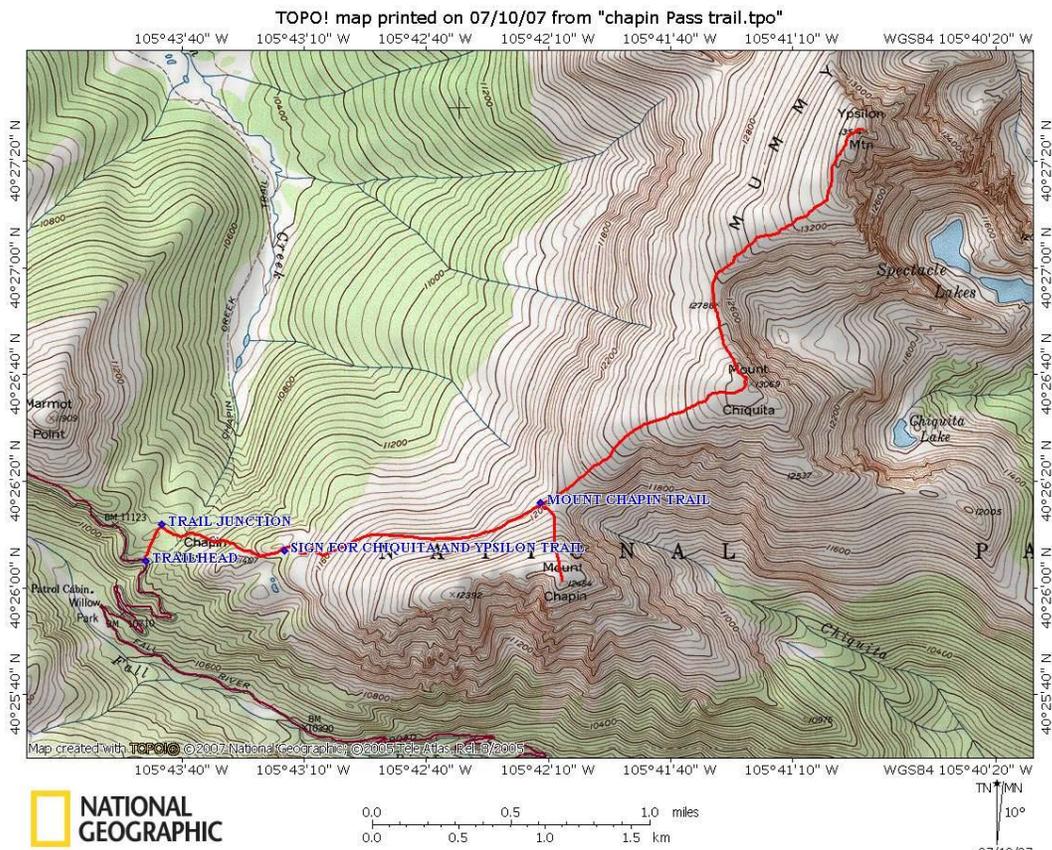


*Watch out for the local residents.jpg*

The trail descends a little less than 300 feet to the saddle with Ypsilon, then climbs gradually to Ypsilon's summit, at 13,514 feet the second-highest peak in the Mummy Range.

Looking down the east face you will have excellent views of the Spectacle Lakes, nestled in the high cirque formed by Ypsilon's two prominent east ridges, known to climbers as the Donner Ridge and Blitzen Ridge. These lakes have no easy access and are rarely visited.

*The remote Spectacle Lakes, guarded by the flanks of Ypsilon Mountain-small.jpg*



GPS Latitude / Longitude NAD83 (Deg., Min., Sec.)  
 TRAILHEAD: 40,26,5N / 105,43,49W, 11053 feet  
 TRAIL JUNCTION: 40,26,12N / 105,43,45W, 11145 feet  
 SIGN FOR CHIQUITA AND YPSILON TRAIL: 40,26,7N / 105,43,15W, 11489 feet  
 MOUNT CHAPIN TRAIL: 40,26,16N / 105,42,12W, 12087 feet

