

Kelso Mountain (13,461 Feet) - Bakerville, Colorado

A 13er Most People Have Never Heard Of ...

Kelso Mountain (elevation 13164 feet) sits in the shadows of neighboring 14ers [Grays Peak and Torreys Peak](#). On an average summer day, when there are hundreds of people hiking to "Grays and Torreys," you might only see one or two people ascending Kelso Mountain. The route is straightforward; you'll see it on your topographical map. Begin at the trailhead for the standard route for Grays and Torreys Peak, then turn right on the steep and grassy slope. You can turn right near the turnoff for the Kelso Ridge route to Torreys Peak, or begin your climb sooner (as I did) where there's a break in rocky cliffs.

NOTICE: As of July 13, 2014, Stevens Gulch Road up has one terrible spot where only a 4WD vehicle with some high clearance will get you through. (Three years ago I drove my Honda Civic all the way to the trailhead, but not today.)



The view of Kelso Mountain from Torreys Peak.



Facing Kelso Mountain from Interstate 70 at Bakerville. (Exit 221)

Photos and videos by Steve Garufi in Buena Vista, Colorado. [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#) - [Pinterest](#) - [YouTube](#)

AdChoices

[1. Mountain Hike](#)

[2. Colorado Mountain](#)

[3. Colorado Map](#)

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Photos

My alarm went off at 4 a.m., I was out of bed at 4:10 a.m., and I was driving out of [Buena Vista](#) at 4:50 a.m.

North of Leadville and approaching [Fremont Pass](#), the sunrise was pretty!

I hiked on the main trail to Grays and Torreys, and then turned right way before the Kelso Ridge turnoff. There was a grassy slope that was steep but doable, and I went for it.

This was my view early on. Notice the hikers in the bottom left of the image.



There were plenty of wildflowers all over Kelso Mountain.
The higher I climbed, the better my view of Grays and Torreys became.

Snow in July

Check out the wonderful patches of unmelted snow. I am very [pro-winter!](#) :)

I even made two videos ...

Snow in July - Not Too Shabby



 AdChoices

1. Mount Snow Mountain

2. Mountain Peak

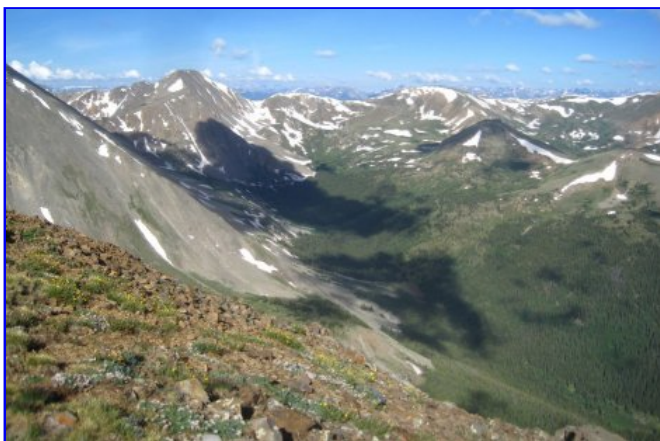


Snow on Kelso Mountain



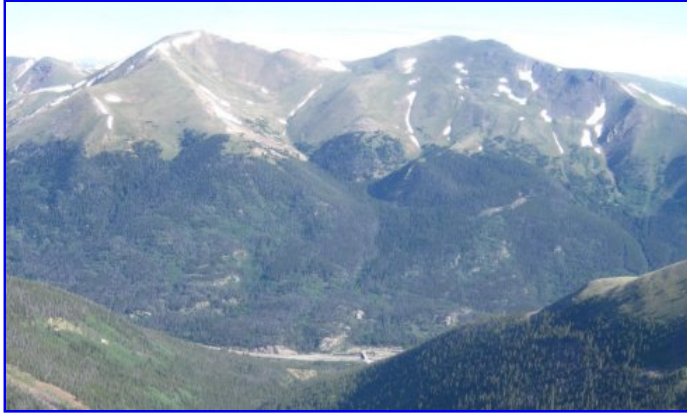
On The Summit

A rock pile on top. Grays Peak and Torreys Peak appear grand and imposing!



TOP: Looking down into Grizzly Gulch. Grizzly Peak (elevation 13427 ft) is the tall peak on the left.

SECOND: [Mount Sniktau](#) was front and center. That's a popular 13er hike because of its easy trailhead access at [Loveland Pass](#).



Mount Parnassus (13574') and Bard Peak (13641') to the north with [Interstate 70](#) below.



A picture of me that I actually like. :)



A mound of snow and mountains.

Clouds rolled in, dulling the colors, but I really like this image of Grays Peak and Torreys Peak with wildflowers in front.



Columbines. This is the state flower of Colorado.



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Videos

Hiking To Kelso Mountain



Hiking up the grassy slope.

Kelso Mountain 13164'



On the summit.

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