

Summit Fever

by Jennaye Derge

For those of us who can't stand the heat, there's a way to get out of the kitchen; just step out our back door and head for the high country.

One of the closest and most prominent options for a daylong getaway above tree line is Engineer Mountain. The 12,968 foot beauty keeps watch over Coal Bank Pass, just north of town. The 4.4 mile round trip offers hikers everything from easy single-track to semi-technical scrambling to an occasional glissade during its 2,378-foot climb to the top. Of course the main attraction, though, are the unparalleled views standing on the tippy top of the shale-covered peak.

Pack a picnic, bring your camera and make sure you check the weather before you go.



The mountain's lower flanks glow verdant green thanks to a cool, wet spring.



The rugged peak of Engineer rewards hardy hikers with sweeping 360-degree views.



The quickest and perhaps more daring way down.