



MICA MINE - GRAND JUNCTION



Rating: Easy Hike

Length: 1-2 hours (3 miles)

Gear: Standard Hiking Gear

Maps: GLADE PARK, CO; ISLAND MESA, CO

Water: None

Season: Any

Waypoints:

Trailhead

12S 706360mE 4318229mN

N38° 59' 20" W108° 37' 03"

Jct - Right

12S 706173mE 4317990mN

N38° 59' 12" W108° 37' 11"

Mica Mine

12S 705124mE 4317067mN

N38° 58' 43" W108° 37' 55"

Hype

It is easy to see why the Mica Mine is one of the more popular hikes for locals, The relatively short 3-ish mile round trip hike visits a lovely riparian canyon, as well as an impressive old Mica Mine. The trail is on an old road, which makes for generally easy hiking. Dogs are allowed, making it popular with dog owners as well.

Historical Note: The mine was known as the Williamson Mine and operated until the 1950s. Mica, the product of the mine, is a thin, clear, layered mineral that was heavily used in paints, electrical insulation, and greases. The ground surrounding the mine is still covered in the mineral and you can also see mica in the walls of the mine

Tags: *hike, dog friendly, family friendly, beginner, access: paved*

Trailhead

From I-70, take the I-70 business loop through Grand Junction. When the business loop meets Grand Ave, go right, toward Colorado National Monument. Grand Avenue crosses the Colorado River and becomes Broadway.

Once over the Colorado River, turn left onto Monument Road. Follow Monument Road about 2 blocks to D Road on the left. After 0.3 miles, turn right onto Rosevale Rd. After 0.9 miles on Rosevale Rd, turn right onto Little Park Road.

Follow Little Park Road 5.3 miles to the Bangs Canyon trailhead on the left side of the road. The large trailhead with a pit toilet is a minute off Little Park Road and well signed.

Route

From the trailhead, follow the trail to Rough Canyon / Mica Mine. The trail follows an old road that passes through a sandstone road cut a few minutes from the trailhead. Once through the road cut, at the canyon bottom, the trail splits. Go right (left visits Rough Canyon).

The trail meanders mostly in or near the canyon bottom and has riparian scenery. A few bends up the skyline becomes jagged with sandstone towers and spires. Magnificent!

A small area of mica is visible on the left at about 1.25 miles, with a small dead-end mine tunnel visible shortly after. Continue past a couple of more minutes to the main mine, a huge undercut on a bend. The scale is impressive.

Return the same way after visiting the mine.

