

Route 3 - Squaw Pass Road and Mount Evans. This is another route that you should start early. You can count on some traffic when you get onto US 285, Hwy 73 and the Evergreen Parkway (Hwy 74). Once you hit Squaw Pass road, traffic should diminish. You will want to spend some time at the summit of Mount Evans (14,271 ft). Watch out for goats as you ascend the mountain. Also, be aware that this road is highly susceptible to serious frost heaves and you will undoubtedly encounter a few (or a lot) on your ascension to the summit. You will usually see several goats at the summit too. The Mount Evans road is the highest paved road in North America. There is a \$10.00 (per vehicle) fee to ascend the road, although there is some discussion on raising that to \$15.00. Check at the Forest Service kiosk. In any case, it is definitely worth it.

Lunch at the Echo Lake Lodge is definitely in order on this trip. The Lodge looks out over Echo Lake. If you did not get enough twisty roads on this trip, take a ride down HWY 103 towards Idaho Springs for a few miles - worth the short detour.



Approaching the summit (Harry Hemstreet)



Mt. Evans goats (Harry Hemstreet)

Squaw Pass Road and Mount Evans Road are considered G1 roads (the best of the best) by Butler Maps.

If you want to do this ride, but have limited time, head north on I-25 to C470 to I-70 West and exit at Hwy 74 (Evergreen Parkway). Hwy 74 south will take you to Squaw Pass (Hwy 103) road in a couple of miles or - just plug Bergen Park into your GPS and follow it.

The same advice applies on your return, if you want to get back fast, follow CO-103 to Idaho Springs, hop on I-70 east to C470, east to I-25 and back down to Colorado Springs.



