

**Route 4 – Pikes Peak and Garden of the Gods.** This route should be at the top of your ‘Must do’ list. The toll to use the Pikes Peak Toll road is 12.00 per person. It is important to get an early start up the mountain – the later you wait, the more traffic you will encounter on the mountain. The route is set up so you will ride up Pikes Peak first, then ride through Garden of the Gods. Of course you can reverse those priorities if desired or make the Garden of the Gods visit as part of any other route that includes US-24, since Garden of the Gods park is just off US-24. Pikes Peak toll road is a Butler G1.



[Pikes Peak Toll Road - PP website](#)

Be sure to allow time to linger at the summit of Pikes Peak – 14,115 ft elevation. Note that you are not allowed to pull a trailer – on any vehicle – up the Toll Road. According to the Pikes Peak website, if you have an automatic transmission, you must be able to demonstrate that it has a low gear!

The Ute Indians referred to the mountain as ***Sun Mountain Sitting Big*** and believed the entire world was created at this location by the Great Spirit who poured ice and snow through a hole in the sky to make the mountain. The first white man to ‘discover’ the mountain was Lt. Zebulan Pike, operating under orders from Thomas Jefferson as part of the exploration of the Louisiana Purchase (1806). The first white man to climb the mountain was Dr. Edwin James, also on an exploratory mission, in 1820.

The first road to the summit was finished in 1887. The toll was 1.00 on your own horse or buggy, but for 5.00 you could ride up on the Pikes Peak Carriage line. The cog railway was completed in June of 1891 – it cost 5.00 for a round trip to the summit.

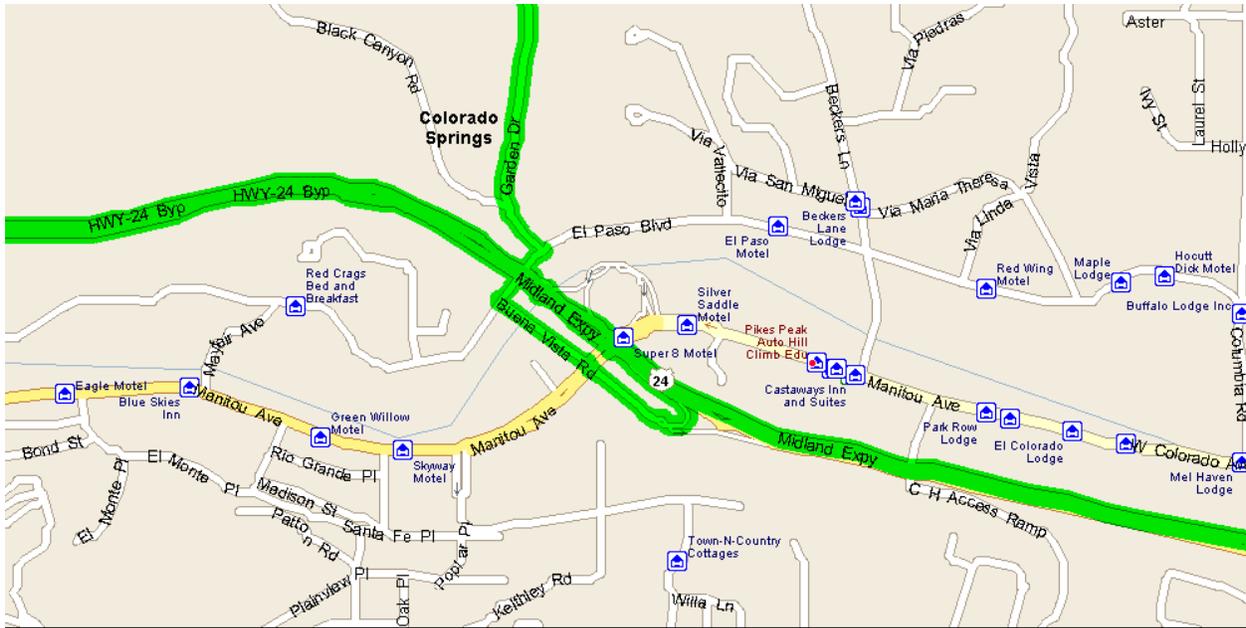


Rail workers started building ‘Go Devils’, shortly after the rails were in place. These were homemade sleds that you could use to slide down the entire length of the track, 8.9

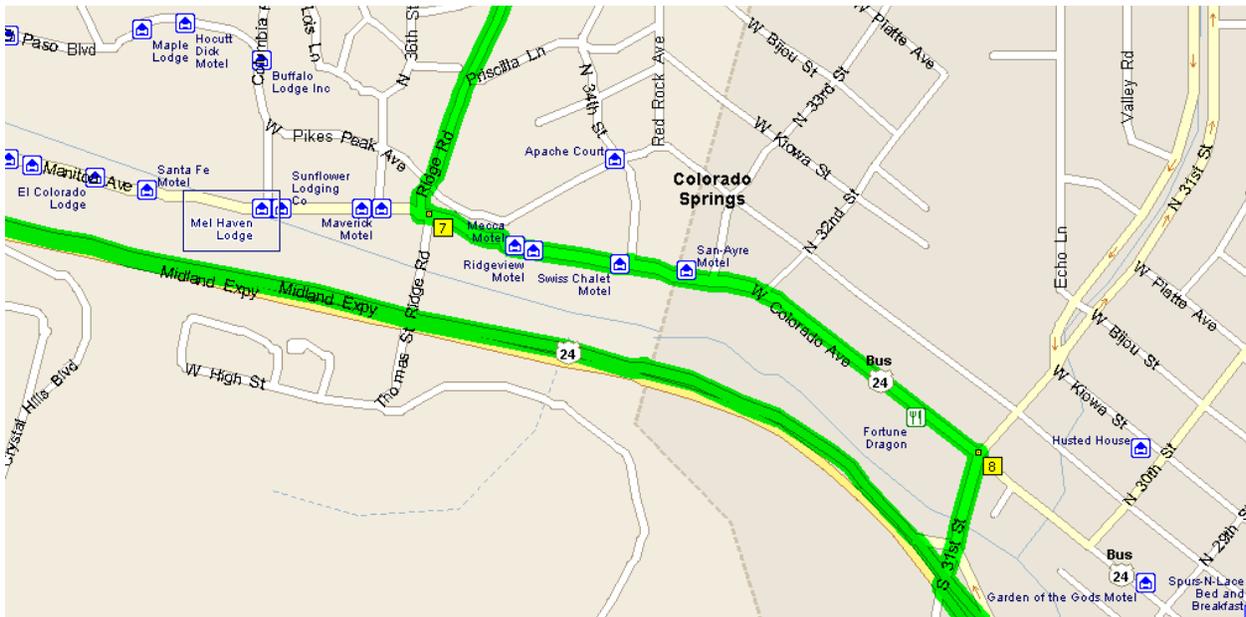
miles. These were totally illegal, but were undoubtedly a blast and much more exciting than walking to the bottom. Unfortunately there were several fatalities. There is an exhibit of these contraptions in the Old Colorado City Historical Society (24<sup>th</sup> St. in Colorado Springs). These sleds were being surreptitiously used into the 1990's.

It is very important that you acclimate yourself a bit before tackling Pikes Peak or Mount Evans. Drink lots of water and go very slow your first day or two. Flatlanders can have serious difficulties when they rush to 14,000 ft!





Exit US 24 on your way from Pikes Peak to Garden of the Gods.



Exit Garden of The Gods – return to US 24.