



Skyline Soaring

Silver West to Aspen-Pitkin Co/Sardy Field

This new adventurous VFR flight departing Silver West Airport in Custer County, Colorado and continues fly over of the picturesque towns of Westcliffe, Coaldale and Salida, before crossing the Arkansas Valley. Along the way, we approach towering peaks and breathtaking views of the Rocky Mountains. You then continue to Clear Creek Reservoir and Twin Lakes, where clear lake waters are surrounded by towering mountain ranges.

Next, we fly over the Grottos Trail, with its stunning gorge formed by the Roaring Fork River Falls, and Dunbar Ranch, a natural conservation area that is home to numerous wildlife such as moose, bears, and coyotes. The flight ends at the Aspen.

Aspen Airport is known for its unique landing challenges because of its location in a valley surrounded by high mountains. Approach procedures require considerable pilot experience and training and special attention to weather conditions, especially during the winter months when the airport is often subject to heavy snowfall.

- **No. of Legs:** 1
- **Total distance:** 108 nm

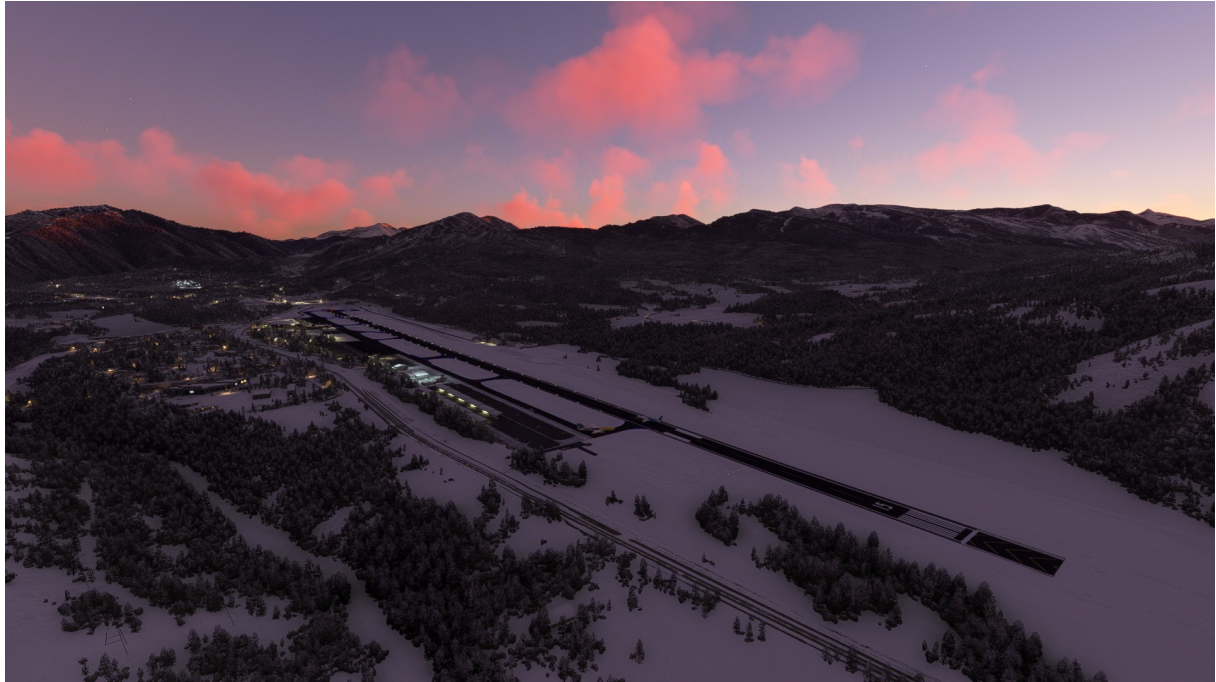
Legs

Leg 1: C08 - KASE

Departure: Silver West (C08)

Destination: Aspen-Pitkin Co/Sardy Field (KASE)

Distance: 108,1 nm



POI1-Westcliffe

Distance: 8,4 nm

Dist. from Dept.: 8,4 nm

Dist. to Dest.: 99,6 nm

True Course: 328°

Magnetic Course: 320°

Take off from runway 31 at Silver West Airport and follow route 69. Begin climbing to a safe altitude of 15,000 feet.

Westcliffe is located in Custer County, in the Wet Mountain River Valley, surrounded by the Rocky Mountains. It was founded in 1881 and named after William Shakespeare's character in his play 'Henry IV.'

Westcliffe has Western-style architecture, with well-preserved historic buildings and gravel streets. Westcliffe is a popular tourist destination due to the natural beauty of the area, with many outdoor activities such as hiking, horseback riding, fishing, and cultural events. The town is also known for its observatory, Dark Sky, which was built in 2008 and is dedicated to promoting amateur astronomy and preserving natural night skies.

POI2-Coaldale

Distance: 19,4 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 27,8 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 80,3 nm
True Course: 315°
Magnetic Course: 307°

Continue to follow Route 69 to Hillside Village, then go straight toward Coaldale. Look on your right at Round Mountain. Further along, also on your right, Beckwith Mountain.

Coaldale is located in Fremont County. Founded in 1877 as a coal mining center. The city was incorporated in 1910. In the 1950s, mining in the area declined and the population declined. Today, Coaldale is mainly a farming and ranching community.

POI3-Salida

Distance: 15,1 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 42,9 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 65,2 nm
True Course: 312°
Magnetic Course: 304°

At Coaldale, enter the valley following the Arkansas River northward. Fly over the villages of Howard and Wellsville. Salida is located about 15 nautical miles away.

Salida is the county seat of Chaffee County. It is located in the Arkansas River valley at the foot of the Sawatch Range mountains. The city was founded in 1880 as a tin and silver mining center. It is known for its picturesque location, surrounded by mountains and close to numerous outdoor recreation areas, including the Monarch Ski Area and Browns Canyon National Monument. Salida's historic downtown, known as 'The Creative District', is designated as a National Historic District and is dotted with restored historic buildings that now house art galleries, stores, restaurants and bars. The city also hosts numerous festivals and cultural events throughout the year, including the Salida Art Walk and the FIBArk Whitewater Festival.

POI4-Nathrop

Distance: 13,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 56,1 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 51,9 nm
True Course: 344°
Magnetic Course: 336°

Continue flying through the Arkansas River Valley and reach Nathrop. Nathrop is located at the foot of Bald Mountain.

Nathrop is a census-designated place (CDP) in Chaffee County, inhabited by indigenous peoples for millennia, with some traces of settlement dating back about 8,000 years. During the Spanish Conquest era, the area was explored by Europeans and later became part of Mexican territory. In 1850, the area became part of the United States as a result of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo that ended the Mexican-U.S. War.

The town of Nathrop was founded in 1878 as an agricultural community. The name was chosen in honor of one of the first settlers in the area, Nathrop M. Rice. Throughout its history, Nathrop has been an agricultural community based on growing fruits and vegetables, as well as a tourist center due to its location among the mountains of the Collegiate Peaks range.

Today, Nathrop is a popular tourist destination for rafting, kayaking and fishing enthusiasts due to its proximity to the Arkansas River. In addition, the town is home to several natural hot springs, including the popular Mount Princeton Hot Springs Resort hot pools, which attract visitors from all over the world.

POI5-Clear Creek Reservoir

Distance: 18,6 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 74,7 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 33,3 nm
True Course: 334°
Magnetic Course: 326°

Go straight ahead. Pass the Buena Vista airport. Further on, observe Mt Harvard and Mt Belford on your left, just before flying over Clear Creek Reservoir

Clear Creek Reservoir is an artificial lake created in the 1960s as part of the Arkansas River irrigation system. It is fed by Clear Creek, which flows through the Arkansas Valley. The lake offers many recreational opportunities, including fishing, kayaking, sailing and camping. The area around Clear Creek Reservoir is also a popular area for outdoor activities, such as hiking and biking.

POI6-Twin Lakes

Distance: 5,0 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 79,7 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 28,4 nm
True Course: 322°
Magnetic Course: 313°

Continue northwest for about 5 nautical miles. You should already have in sight Twin Lakes, a pair of glacier carved alpine lakes.

Twin Lakes is an unincorporated census-designated place (CDP) located in Lake County. The area was originally inhabited by the Ute and Comanche Native American tribes. The name 'Twin Lakes' refers to the two large natural lagoons in the vicinity, which have been used since the time of gold prospectors to transport minerals. Today Twin Lakes is a popular tourist destination, especially for outdoor enthusiasts, with numerous outdoor activities including fishing, hiking, camping and water sports. The surrounding area offers numerous hiking opportunities, including Mount Elbert, the highest mountain in Colorado, which is located about 20 km from Twin Lakes. In addition, the Twin Lakes Historic District is listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places and consists of several historic buildings, including the Twin Lakes Inn and Twin Lakes Schoolhouse, which date back to the 1800s.

POI7-Indipendent Pass

Distance: 11,7 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 91,4 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 16,6 nm
True Course: 277°
Magnetic Course: 268°

At Twin Lakes, turn left and follow State Highway 82, which winds through the narrow valley, between the highest peaks in the area. After about 11 nautical miles you will find yourself above Independent Pass.

Independent Pass is a mountain pass located in the central Rocky Mountains of Colorado. The pass is located in the Roaring Fork River area, between Aspen and Leadville, at an elevation of 3,687 feet. It has historical significance, as it was used as a trade route by Native Americans, gold prospectors, and settlers. In 1879, Spanish railroad engineer Francisco Pando proposed the construction of a railroad across Independent Pass as a link between the Leadville lead and zinc mines and the city of Aspen. However, the project was never realized.

Today, the pass is a popular tourist destination and a favorite route for cycling and motorcycling enthusiasts. The road is open only during the summer months and may be closed during snowfall. The panoramic view of the mountain and its surroundings is spectacular and attracts many visitors each year.

POI8-Grottos Trail

Distance:	6,5 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	97,9 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	10,1 nm
True Course:	276°
Magnetic Course:	267°

Once you're on the Independent Pass, stay on course. Try following State Highway 82 and you'll reach the Grottos Trail. Start the descent to 10,000 feet.

Grottos Trail is a trail located in the White River National Forest. About 4 miles long, it is of moderate difficulty and offers spectacular views of the Grottos Ice Caves, which are located in the area. The caves are formed from sedimentary rocks eroded by stream and snow, which turn into natural ice caves during winter.

The trail begins at a parking lot located on Independence Pass Road (State Highway 82) and follows the stream for about 2 kilometers to the ice caves. The trail is open from May to November, depending on weather conditions.

POI9-Dunbar Ranch

Distance:	2,5 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	100,4 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	7,6 nm
True Course:	286°
Magnetic Course:	278°

Continue to follow State Highway 82, which winds along the Roaring Fork River and fly over Dunbar Ranch.

Dunbar Ranch is an estate located in Pitkin County, about 12 miles north of Aspen. It covers 22 acres and was established in 1927 by Jack Dunbar, an oil industry magnate. It includes a large rustic-style manor house, a barn, stable, garage, and other structures. In the 1930s, the estate was purchased by media magnate William Randolph Hearst, who used it as a summer residence and recreation center. Hearst, famous for his imposing chateau in San Simeon, California, was known to host lavish parties and lavish receptions at Dunbar Ranch.

After Hearst's death, the estate changed hands several times and was used as an aircrew training center and event facility. In 2004, the estate was sold for \$22 million to an anonymous buyer. Today, Dunbar Ranch is known for its historic architecture and its role in the culture and history of the Aspen area,

POI10-Aspen

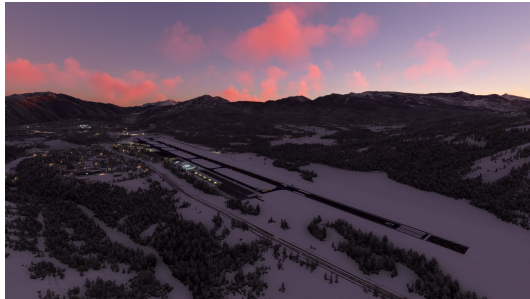
Distance: 4,4 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 104,9 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 3,2 nm
True Course: 319°
Magnetic Course: 311°

Well, turn slightly to the right to stay in the valley. Fly over the downtown area of Aspen.

Aspen is known for its ski slopes, luxury resorts, and Victorian-style architecture. The city is home to four ski resorts-Aspen Mountain, Aspen Highlands, Buttermilk, and Snowmass. Aspen is also famous for the Aspen Festival, an internationally renowned summer music festival held annually since 1949.

The city was founded in 1879 during the Colorado Gold Rush. After the gold rush ended, it became an important silver mining center. Over the years, it has developed into an upscale tourist town.

KASE-Aspen-Pitkin Co/Sardy Field



Distance: 3,2 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 108,1 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 0,0 nm
True Course: 311°
Magnetic Course: 302°

Turn slightly to the left to line up with runway 33 and land at Aspen Pitkin County Airport.

The Aspen/Pitkin County Airport is located about 4 miles northwest of downtown Aspen. The airport serves mainly domestic commercial flights. Because of its mountainous location, Aspen Airport requires experienced pilots and special training for landing and takeoff due to weather conditions and the topography of the surrounding terrain.

Approach procedures to the airport include the use of advanced navigation aids and constant monitoring of local weather conditions.