

# Aiken Canyon

*Designated Natural Area*

## Location

El Paso County, South Central Colorado, about 16 miles south of Colorado Springs.

## When to Visit

The preserve is open year-round, dawn to dusk, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday.

The Field Station/Visitor Center is open Memorial Day to Labor Day on Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 10am - 6pm. During the rest of the year, it's open on Sunday only, from 10am - 3pm.

## Size

1,621 acres

## Highlights

Named after ornithologist Charles Aiken, this is a great destination for birders - more than 100 species have been seen. Aiken, a U.S. surveyor, taxidermist and collector, first surveyed this region in the 1870s.

Striking images can be found here - the zone between the plains and mountains where dramatic red spires and outcrops collide with rich green flora. This is a high-quality foothills ecosystem along the southern Front Range. A good diversity of plant and animal communities call this home.

## What to Expect

A well-maintained, four-mile-loop hiking trail begins at the entrance. Interpretive signs highlight important features along the trail.

## Camping

Camping is not permitted at this location.

## How to Prepare for Your Visit

You will encounter rocky areas with low brush and cactus - and maybe even a rattlesnake! - so please wear a pair of sturdy leather boots.

Please leave pets at home while you enjoy the native fauna at Aiken Canyon.

## Directions

From Denver:

- Take Interstate 25 South toward Colorado Springs
- Take exit 135 (Academy Blvd.) west to State Highway 115
- Take 115 south 11.5 miles to Turkey Canyon Ranch Road (It's located 0.1 mile south of milepost 32.)
- Turn right (west) and drive 200 yards to the preserve parking area.

**For more information contact:**



The Nature Conservancy  
303-444-2950



Colorado Natural Areas Program  
303-866-3203



Colorado State Land Board  
303-866-3454



*Autumn at Aiken Canyon*



*Oneseed Juniper at Aiken Canyon*