

Lamoille Canyon Route

Time: 56 minutes

Distance: 60 miles roundtrip

Please note, after leaving the Spring Creek area, there are no gas stations along this route.

Description:

Called Nevada's Yosemite, u-shaped Lamoille Canyon was carved by two merging glaciers. This U.S. Forest Service-designated national scenic byway is a picturesque ride that rises and dips along winding roads, offering alternating expansive views of the majestic Ruby Mountains and narrow canyons. The route has turnoffs for campgrounds, some of which require permits and have dirt road access only.

Directions:

Head east on Idaho Street and turn south on 12th Street which eventually becomes 4-lane Lamoille Highway, offering views of sage-covered foothills in every direction. At the Lamoille summit (elevation 5,761 ft), the road curves, giving you your first view of the Ruby Mountains (highest peak 11,210 Mt. Fitzgerald). At Mile 9 is the Elko suburb of Spring Creek (pop. 14,320/elevation 5,518 ft), with grocery store and shopping mall.

Detour: Turn right on Hwy 228 to tiny town of Jiggs. Founded in the 1800s, the tiny town gained its fifteen minutes of fame in a Volkswagen commercial that showed the entire population fitting into a vehicle. Libations available at the Jiggs bar.

At Horse Palace, the road narrows from four lanes to a more primitive paved two-lane road with occasional bumps.

At Mile 17, you'll come to Junction 227. Turn right at entrance to Lamoille Canyon Recreation Area. You'll now be heading straight towards the mountains. Part of the route follows Lamoille creek.

Detour: If you keep going straight at Junction 227 (instead of turning right into Lamoille Canyon), you'll immediately come to the town of Lamoille set at the foot of the Ruby Mountains (elevation 5,890 ft) where you'll find Ocarroll's, a full-service restaurant/bar, as well as the Pine Lodge, a restaurant/bar and a three-room hotel, a popular picnic area, art gallery, community church and many nearby recreation opportunities. The general store located at the Hwy 227 junction can only be reached by dirt road.

Scenic stop along route: Powerhouse Picnic Area on right has riverside picnic sites equipped with tables, grills and fire pits. Mile 20, 23 and 27 offer paved scenic lookouts. At Mile 30, the road ends at the parking lot for the Ruby Crest trailhead and a trail to Liberty Lake.

